



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

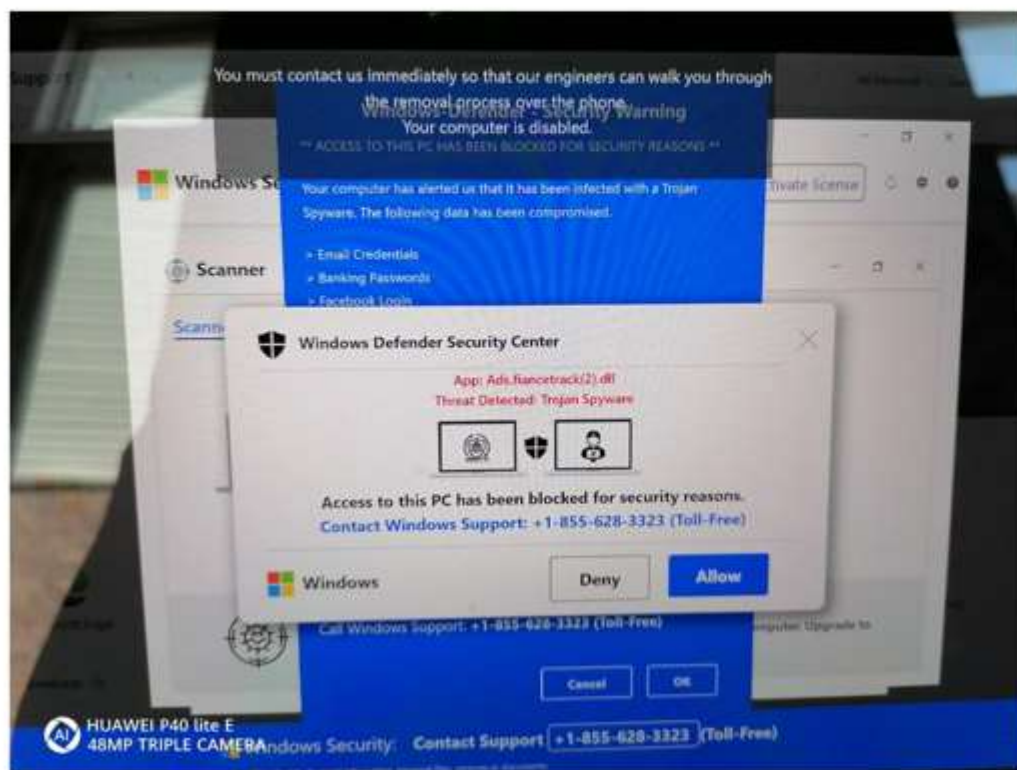
August 9, 2023

Share

Not Spam?

A It's a scam
- the clues

SCAM



You must contact us immediately...

Your computer is disabled.

Your computer has alerted us...



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

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Page 4

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

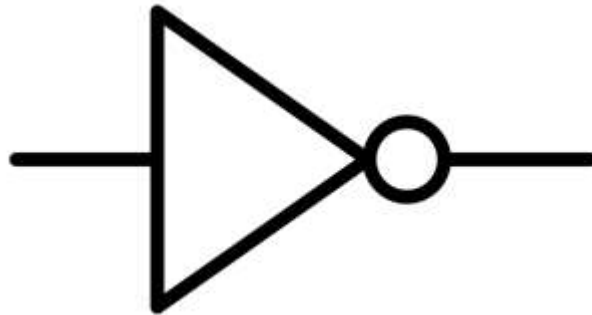
Spam Recognition Guide *by Alan German*

Spam filters seem to have a tough time recognizing Spam. However, it strikes me that this is an extremely simple task. Obviously, all one needs is a Boolean NOT filter, as per the following examples (based on actual message subject lines taken from the author's Spam filter!)

<https://opcug.ca/Articles/0603.pdf>

Spam Recognition Guide

- Spam filters seem to have a tough time recognizing Spam
- However, it strikes me that this is an extremely simple task
- Obviously, all one needs is a Boolean **NOT** filter...



Message Subject

NOT filter output

Re.

Not a reply

Message Subject

NOT filter output

Re.

Not a reply

Don't ignore this notice

Ignore this notice

Message Subject

NOT filter output

Re.

Not a reply

Don't ignore this notice

Ignore this notice

Account compromised

Your account is just fine

Exclusive notice

I sent this notice to everyone

For your benefit

For my benefit

Let us save you money

Let us steal your money

**There's only one message header
where the not filter doesn't work**

**There's only one message header
where the not filter doesn't work**

From	A.Spammer
To	Alan German <alan.german@opcug.ca>
Subject	Spam
Body Text	Variable Width

■ ↶ ↷ ↸ | **B**

Follow Up Paragon Backup & Recovery Community Edition



- 2023-08-02 Q&A
 - discussed different free imaging software for backup
- In Chat: from Serge-Érik
 - *Paragon is a huge program, if I remember. I think that is why I chose AOMEI Backupper back then. But for those who have the space, it is a good program.*
- There was one very interesting feature I found in Paragon Backup & Recovery
 - when evaluating different programs
 - it is good to check all features

Follow Up Paragon Backup & Recovery Community Edition

- One risk when using image backups
 - if your backup drive is always attached to your computer & your computer gets infected with malware
 - the malware could delete all your backups!
- Paragon Backup & Recovery *had* the ability to write backup images to a hidden partition
- I know of no other imaging software that can do this
- But maybe there's good reason no other program does this
- From ChatGPT
 - *As of Sept 2021, Paragon Backup & Recovery did not have a specific feature to save backup images directly to hidden partitions. Hidden partitions, as the name suggests, are usually not meant to be accessed directly by the user. Writing backup images directly to hidden partitions could potentially cause system instability or data loss, so it's not recommended.*

Follow Up Free on-demand Antivirus (AV)



- Q&A 2023-08-02
 - list of free on-demand antivirus products
 - double-check your AV didn't miss something
 - Tom suggested AV software that runs from bootable media
 - detect really bad malware (rootkits) hiding from AV programs
- True, but...
 - can still be valuable — and much easier — to use AV products outlined in last week's Q&A
- But definitely can be an option
 - some options are not terribly more difficult

Follow Up Online AV on-demand

- These programs are the simplest to use
 - browse to the AV vendor's website
 - run the scan directly from there
 - only runs on the computer connected to the website
- ESET
 - <https://www.eset.com/ca/home/online-scanner/>
- Trend
 - housecall.trendmicro.com/
- F-Secure
 - <https://www.f-secure.com/en/online-scanner>

Follow Up Requires download

- Programs need to be downloaded and manually run
 - still pretty simple
 - can be useful to download on one computer & use on another
- Panda Cloud Cleaner
 - <https://www.pandasecurity.com/en/support/card?id=1674>
- Norton Power Eraser
 - <https://support.norton.com/sp/en/us/home/current/solutions/kb20100824120155EN>
- Microsoft Safety Scanner
 - www.microsoft.com/security/scanner/en-us/default.aspx
- Sophos Scan & Clean
 - <https://www.sophos.com/en-us/free-tools/virus-removal-tool>

Follow Up Check for rootkits

- Rootkits: malware buried deep & evades AV programs
- Special mode required to detect
 - runs before your operating system (OS) starts fully
- Microsoft Defender Offline
 - run *Windows Security > Virus & threat protection*
 - under *Current threats*, select *Scan options*
 - select *Microsoft Defender Antivirus (offline scan)* and then select *Scan now*
 - for results, run *Windows Security > Virus & threat protection*
 - under *Current threats*, select *Protection history*
- Norton Power Eraser
 - rootkit detection mode requires reboot
 - <https://support.norton.com/sp/en/us/home/current/solutions/kb20100824120155EN>
- Sophos Scan & Clean
 - claims to be able to remove rootkits (but did not require a reboot)
 - <https://www.sophos.com/en-us/free-tools/virus-removal-tool>

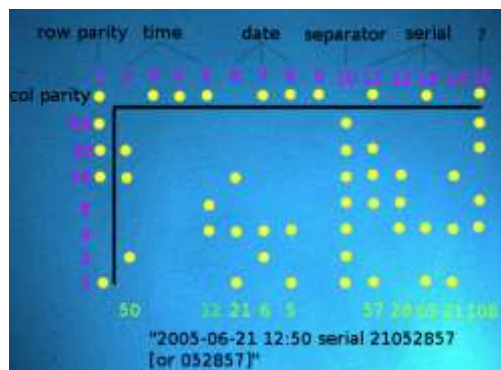
Follow Up Check for rootkits

- These options are somewhat more complex to set up
 - require that you create a bootable flash drive
- Panda Cloud Cleaner rescue USB drive
 - <https://www.pandasecurity.com/en/support/card?id=1678>
- AVG Rescue Disk
 - <https://support.avg.com/SupportArticleView?l=en&urlname=avg-antivirus-rescue-disk-scan>
- Avira Rescue System
 - <https://support.avira.com/hc/en-us/articles/360007776058-Creating-and-using-Avira-Rescue-System>
- Comodo Rescue Disk
 - <https://help.comodo.com/topic-170-1-493-5208-.html>

Share

Printer MIC's (Machine Identification Codes)

- It seems there is an unwritten law in the US that certain printers must be equipped with this feature which (sometimes) creates a visible array of dots on any output
- The origins go back to a concern about the ability to counterfeit currency
- The implications for privacy go way beyond this.



<https://www.makeuseof.com/machine-identification-codes-printer-privacy-risk/>

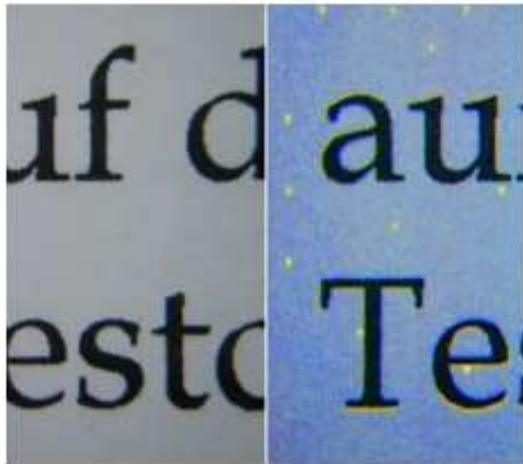
Stewart Bruce

- In the article there is a link to an interesting site called N-Node which lists, among other things, printers that may or may not be affected
<https://h-node.org/printers/catalogue/en>
- The site is also interesting for its overall purpose which is listing hardware designed to function with fully free operating systems.
- Outside of this, a search on printer MIC's will turn up a boatload of info going back quite a while
- My summation could be simply, *"rethink whether or not a colour printer is a wise purchase"*



Search Results:

Printer Tracing Codes



Do Household Printers Leave an Invisible Tracking Code on All Your Printed Documents?

Written by: *Alex Kasprak*

Jun 6, 2017

While not all printers do this, nearly all color laser printers — at the urging of the United St ...

Read More

<https://www.snopes.com>

Rating:



Mostly True

[About this rating](#) 

What's True

Numerous brands of color laser printers leave coded metadata in barely perceptible yellow dots that can be used to trace a printed document to its source, a feature originally intended as a deterrent to counterfeiting currency with laser printers.

What's Undetermined

While a majority of laser printers are designed to produce this secret metadata, it is unclear exactly how many printing companies and models employ the technology.



briantong

- I like Brian
- He is an Apple fanboy with plenty of enthusiasm tempered by realism
- Usually
- Not a daily reviewer
- Just when he has something to say

<https://www.youtube.com/@briantong/featured>



Stewart Bruce

Share

AI Hub



Microsoft Store

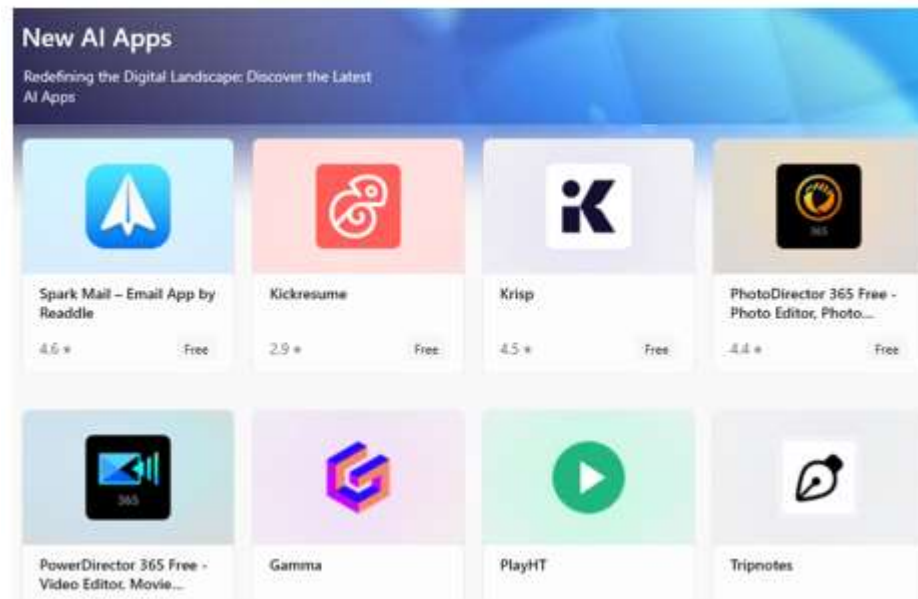
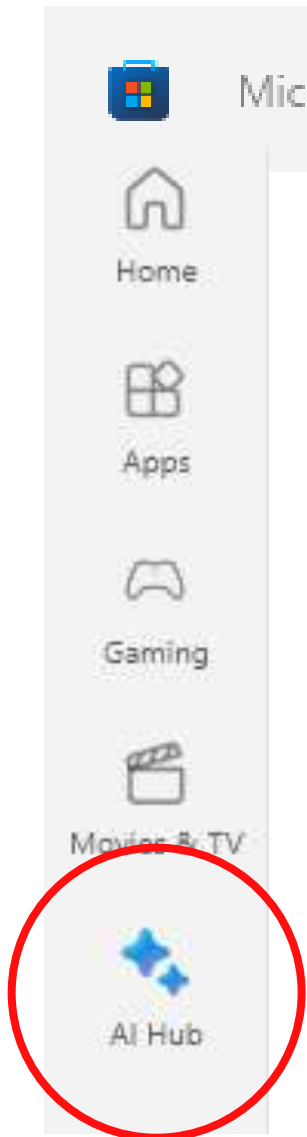
- I see the Microsoft store app now has an AI Hub section
- What is an AI Hub, you may ask?
- Well, it's a Hub, Bub



Stewart Bruce

AI Hub

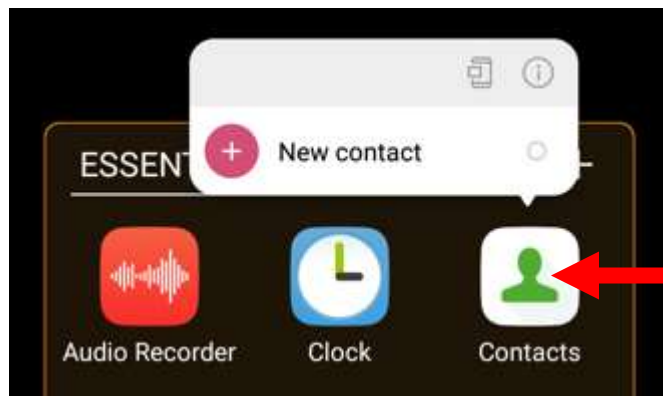
- Announced at the Build Conference in May, 2023
- Dedicated *AI Hub* tab in the Microsoft Store app
- Provides a set of curated AI apps from Microsoft and third-party developers





Android Tip

- Previously, to add a new contact to my address book I would tap “Contacts”, hit the “+” key, and enter the contact information
- If you press-and-hold the Contacts icon, a sub-menu will pop up to add a new contact.
- Depending on your version of Android, the menu options may differ



**Press and
hold**

Jeff Dubois

Follow Up

Microsoft PowerToys



TreeSize Free

Name

▼		26.9 GB	Program Files
>		6.6 GB	WindowsApps
>		7.6 GB	Microsoft SQL Server
>		2.4 GB	PowerToys
>		1.6 GB	JetBrains
>		1.2 GB	GIMP 2

From Chris Taylor 

To Alan German 

2023-08-01, 2:49 p.m.

Subject **PowerToys disk footprint**

When you reported the disk space taken up by the PowerToys at a recent Q&A, I was appalled! I checked my c:\Program Files\PowerToys, and it was taking about 3GB.

From Chris Taylor 

To Alan German 

2023-08-01, 2:49 p.m.

Subject **PowerToys disk footprint**

When you reported the disk space taken up by the PowerToys at a recent Q&A, I was appalled! I checked my c:\Program Files\PowerToys, and it was taking about 3GB.

In the latest update

Greatly reduced the PowerToys installed space by having utilities share the same installed path. When compared to 0.71, the 0.72 x64 machine installed version of PowerToys reduces the size reported in the Installed Apps screen from 1.15GB to 785 MB and the size in File Explorer properties for the installation folder from 3.10GB to 554 MB.

What's new

[See more detailed release notes on GitHub](#)

Release v0.72.0

In the [v0.72 release cycle](#), we focused on stability and improvements.

Highlights

- Greatly reduced the PowerToys installed space by having utilities share the same installed path.
When compared to 0.71, the 0.72 x64 machine installed version of PowerToys reduces the size reported in the Installed Apps screen from 1.15GB to 785 MB and the size in File Explorer properties for the installation folder from 3.10GB to 554 MB.
- Value Generator - A new PowerToys Run plugin that generates hashes and GUID values.
Thanks [@IHorvalds!](#)
- Mouse Highlighter has a new feature to have a highlight always follow the mouse pointer.
Thanks [@hayatogh!](#)
- PowerRename was reworked to support a bigger number of files without crashing.

<https://github.com/microsoft/PowerToys/releases/tag/v0.72.0>

Uninstall or change a program

To uninstall a program, select it from the list and then click Uninstall, Change, or Repair.

Before

	PhotoScape		2020-08-17		
	PocketCloud	Wyse Technology	2014-09-02	15.3 MB	2.7.14
☒	 PowerToys (Preview) x64	Microsoft Corporation	2023-03-14	829 MB	0.68.1
	PyCharm Community Edition 2023.1.3	JetBrains s.r.o.	2023-07-01		231.9161.41
	Python 3.10.8 (64-bit)	Python Software Foundation	2022-10-15	101 MB	3.10.8150.0

After

	PhotoScape		2020-08-17		
	PocketCloud	Wyse Technology	2014-09-02	15.3 MB	2.7.14
☒	 PowerToys (Preview) x64	Microsoft Corporation	2023-08-01	785 MB	0.72.0
	PyCharm Community Edition 2023.1.3	JetBrains s.r.o.	2023-07-01		231.9161.41
	Python 3.10.8 (64-bit)	Python Software Foundation	2022-10-15	101 MB	3.10.8150.0

Before

Name			Size ▾
▼		26.2 GB Program Files	32.3 GB
>		7.2 GB WindowsApps	13.3 GB
>		7.6 GB Microsoft SQL Server	7.6 GB
>		2.4 GB PowerToys	2.4 GB
>		1.6 GB JetBrains	1.6 GB
>		1.2 GB GIMP 2	1.2 GB

After

Name			Size ▾
▼		23.7 GB Program Files	29.8 GB
>		7.2 GB WindowsApps	13.3 GB
>		7.6 GB Microsoft SQL Server	7.6 GB
>		1.6 GB JetBrains	1.6 GB
>		1.2 GB GIMP 2	1.2 GB
>		683.1 MB LibreOffice	663.1 MB

	23.7 GB	Program Files	29.8 GB
> 	7.2 GB	WindowsApps	13.3 GB



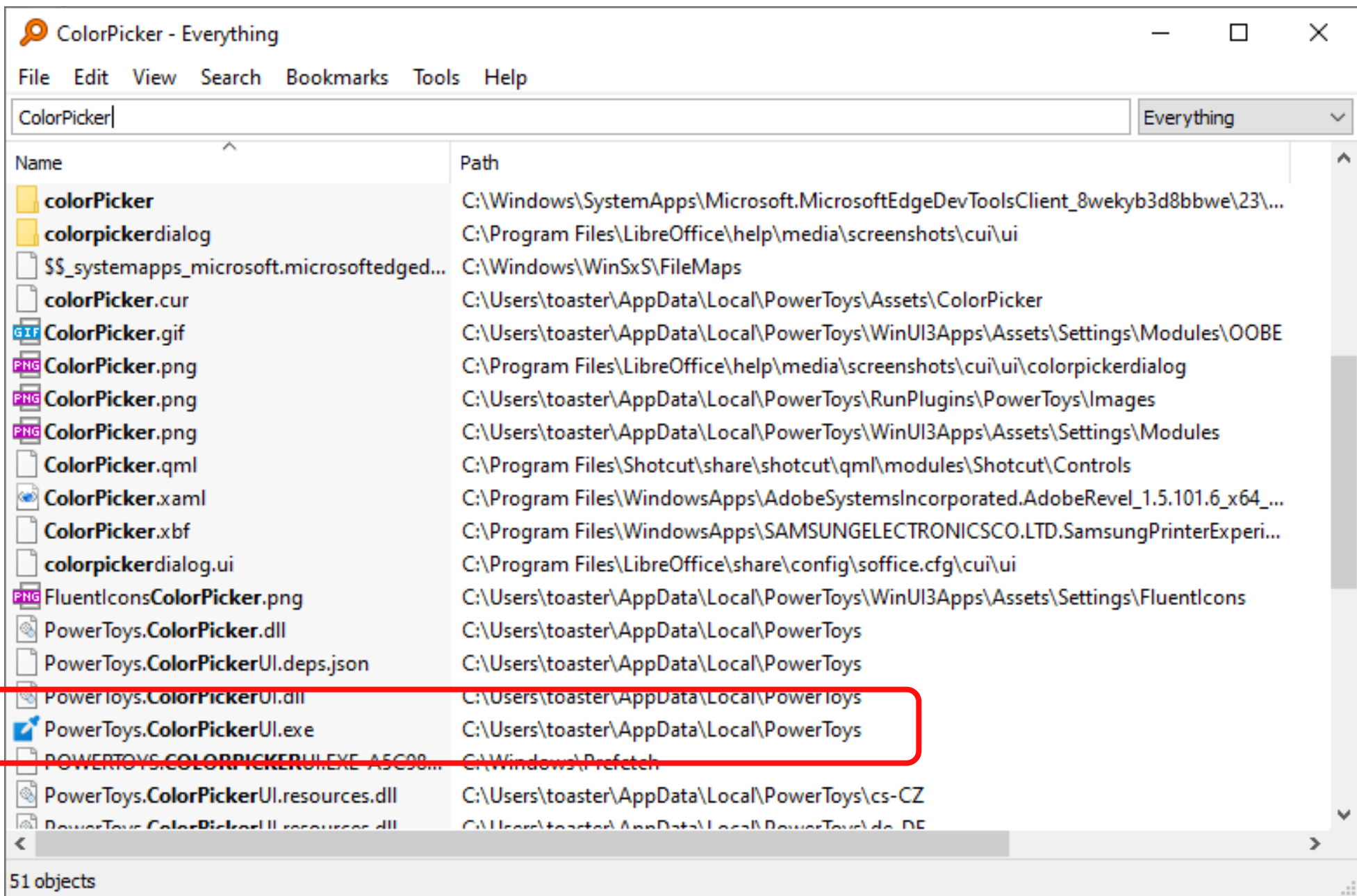
	0 Bytes	Microsoft Update Health Tools	0 Bytes
	0 Bytes	ModifiableWindowsApps	0 Bytes
	0 Bytes	PowerToys	0 Bytes
	0 Bytes	Uninstall Information	0 Bytes
	0 Bytes	Windows Sidebar	0 Bytes
	28.8 GB	Users	28.6 GB
	9.5 GB	Program Files (x86)	11.4 GB



**Free up 2.5 GB of disk space
simply by updating PowerToys!**

	23.7 GB	Program Files	29.8 GB
> 	7.2 GB	WindowsApps	13.3 GB
	0 Bytes	Microsoft Update Health Tools	0 Bytes
	0 Bytes	ModifiableWindowsApps	0 Bytes
	0 Bytes	PowerToys	0 Bytes
	0 Bytes	Uninstall Information	0 Bytes
	0 Bytes	Windows Sidebar	0 Bytes
28.8 GB		Users	28.6 GB
	9.5 GB	Program Files (x86)	11.4 GB

**BUT, if the PowerToys are not in
C:\ProgramFiles, where are they?**



PowerToys Properties



General

Sharing

Security

Previous Versions

Customize



PowerToys

Type: File folder

Location: C:\Users\toaster\AppData\Local

Size: 554 MB (581,788,688 bytes)

Size on disk: 558 MB (585,437,184 bytes)

Contains: 2,054 Files, 576 Folders

Created: August 1, 2023, 5:22:48 PM

Attributes: ☒ Read-only (Only applies to files in folder)

☐ Hidden

Advanced...

OK

Cancel

Apply

Installation *

Release v0.72.0 Latest

In the [v0.72 release cycle](#), we focused on stability and improvements.

Description	Filename
Per user - x64	PowerToysUserSetup-0.72.0-x64.exe
Per user - ARM64	PowerToysUserSetup-0.72.0-arm64.exe
Machine wide - x64	PowerToysSetup-0.72.0-x64.exe
Machine wide - ARM64	PowerToysSetup-0.72.0-arm64.exe

** Easier to update to new version if already installed*
- double-click the tray icon
- select General
Check for updates

<https://github.com/microsoft/PowerToys/releases/>

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Stop Being Tracked Online



We are tracked online & monitored by

- advertisers
- social media platforms
- even governments

Blog details:

- how tracking works
- why companies track you
- how to avoid being tracked

Regain control of online privacy & limit tracking



<https://reasonlabs.com/blog/sick-of-being-tracked-7-tips-to-stop-internet-tracking-2>

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Killed by Microsoft

- Ever wonder, *Whatever happened to that Microsoft program I used to use....?*
- Website that lists programs Microsoft has killed off

The screenshot displays the 'Killed by Microsoft' website. On the left is a vertical timeline from 2003 to 2022. The main content area lists four discontinued products:

- Microsoft Academic** (2016 - 2021, SERVICE): Microsoft Academic was a free public web search engine for academic publications and literature.
- Silverlight** (2005 - 2021, SERVICE): Microsoft Silverlight (or simply Silverlight) was an application framework for writing and running rich Internet applications, similar to Adobe Flash.
- Minecraft Earth** (2019 - 2021, APP): Minecraft Earth was a Augmented Reality mobile game that allowed its players to collect blocks and build creations.
- Flight Arcade** (2015 - 2021, APP): Flight Arcade was a web-app clone of Flight Simulator game created as a showcase of Microsoft Edge support for modern HTML5 and JavaScript.

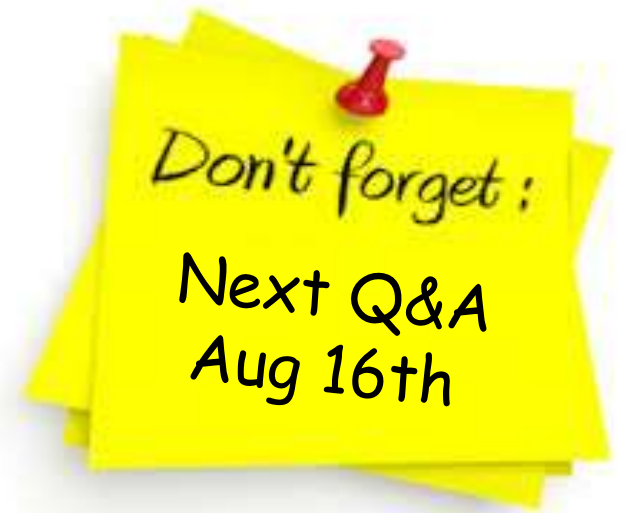
Two red callout boxes provide the website's URL: <https://killedby.tech/microsoft/> and <https://killedby.tech>.

Killed by *
A graveyard for discontinued products from Apple, Google and Microsoft

* All (442) Apple (53) Google (277) Microsoft (93) Other (19)



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca