



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

August 16, 2023

Share

Block ads and trackers

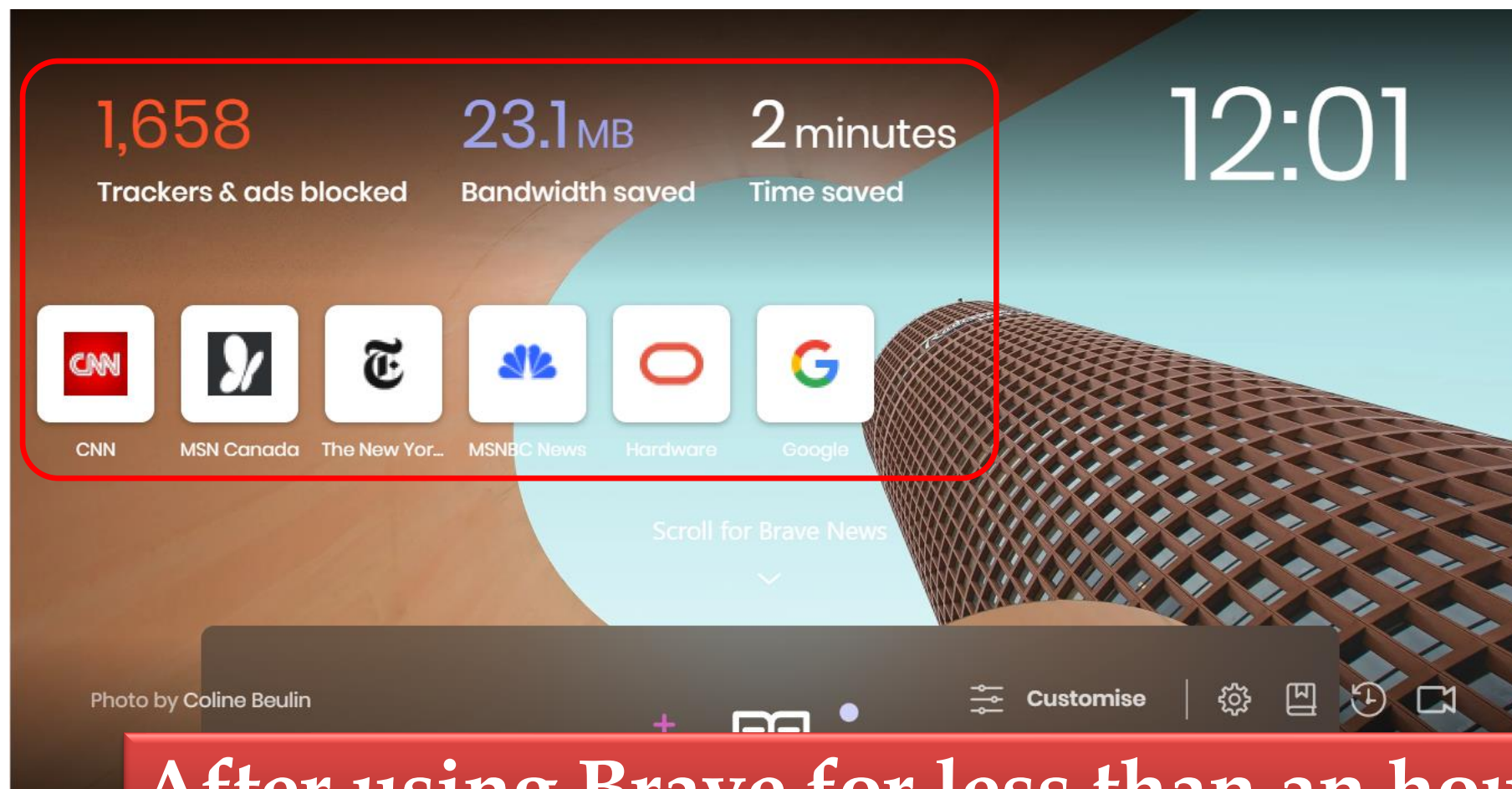
Want a reason block ads, trackers, etc.



Share

OMG...

Default *New Tab* in Brave



After using Brave for less than an hour...

Share

Cast Windows desktop to a TV

- *Windows Intelligence* had an article on how easy it can be to send your desktop to your TV over WiFi
- I thought, *It can't really be that simple! ... can it?*
- Worth noting
 - my TV is pretty simple
50" 4K Sharp Roku
about \$400 on sale 2 years ago
any *smart TV* will probably work
 - I think most laptops should be able to cast

<https://www.androidintel.net/windows>

Share

Casting desktop to a TV

in Windows 10 or 11, press



K

CONNECT

Searching for wireless display and audio devices

Where is my device?

Search



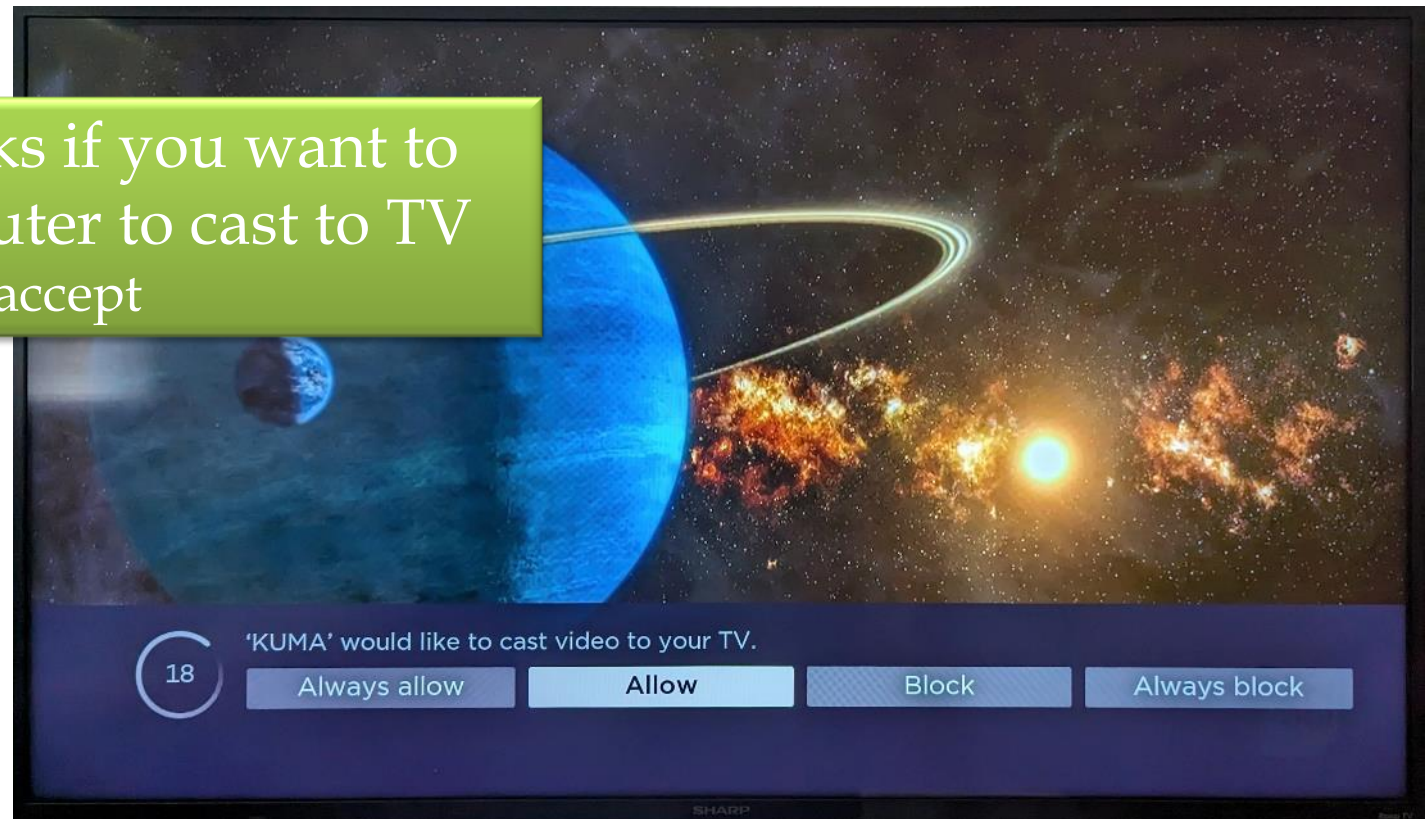
TV
Display

Windows list any display it can cast to

- click device to connect

Prompt on TV asks if you want to allow your computer to cast to TV

- use TV remote to accept

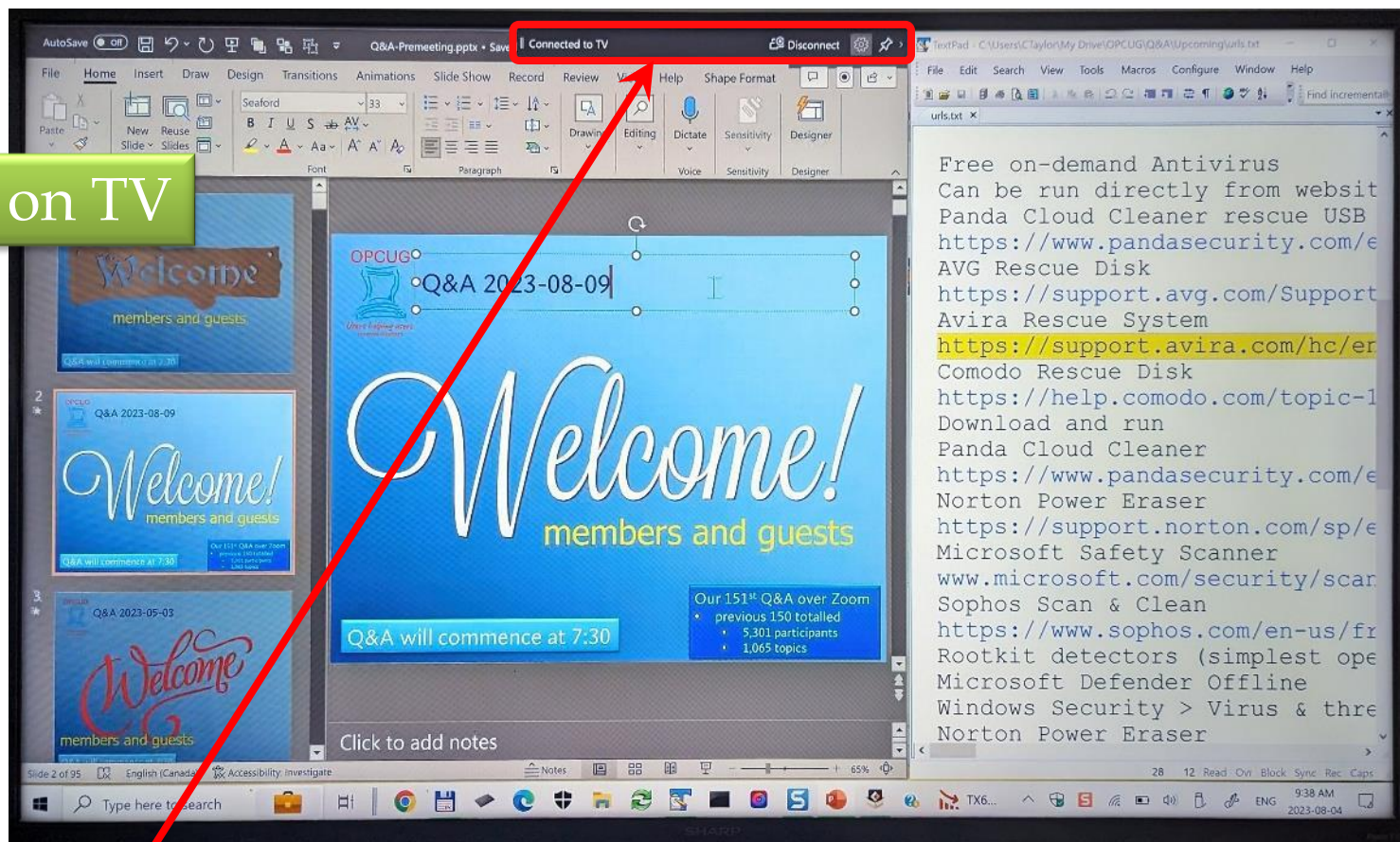


Share

Casting desktop to a TV

Desktop appears on TV

Toolbar



Click to disconnect

Click to unpin toolbar

- toolbar disappears
- Win+K to get option to disconnect



YouTubeTech

GadgetByte

- This is a channel that digs into manufacturers we don't see a lot in North America as well as the mainstream market dominators
- Comparisons help understand the best use case for devices and this Channel often does just that
- There is an emphasis on mobile but other tech is also explored
- The only catch is you might need a currency converter to calculate dollar values when prices are given in rupees

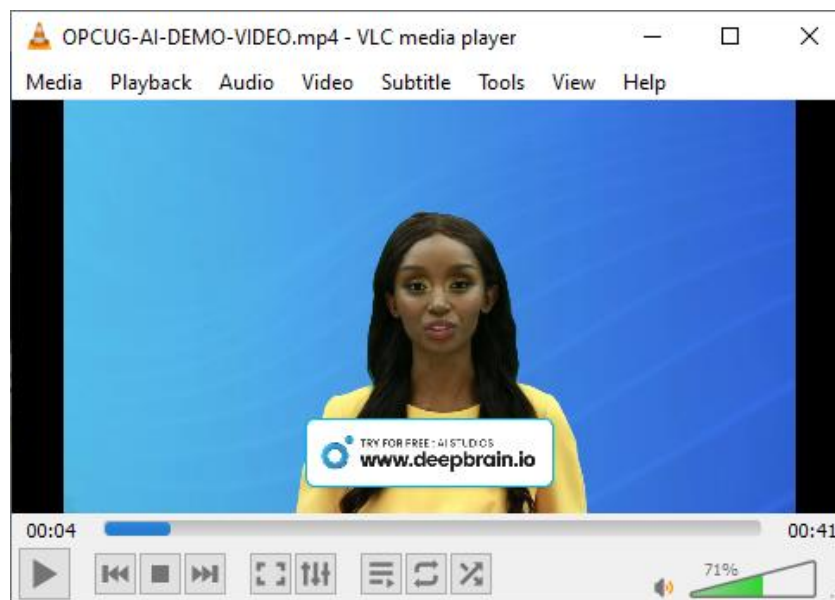
<https://www.youtube.com/@GadgetByte/about>

Stewart Bruce

Share

Deep Brain

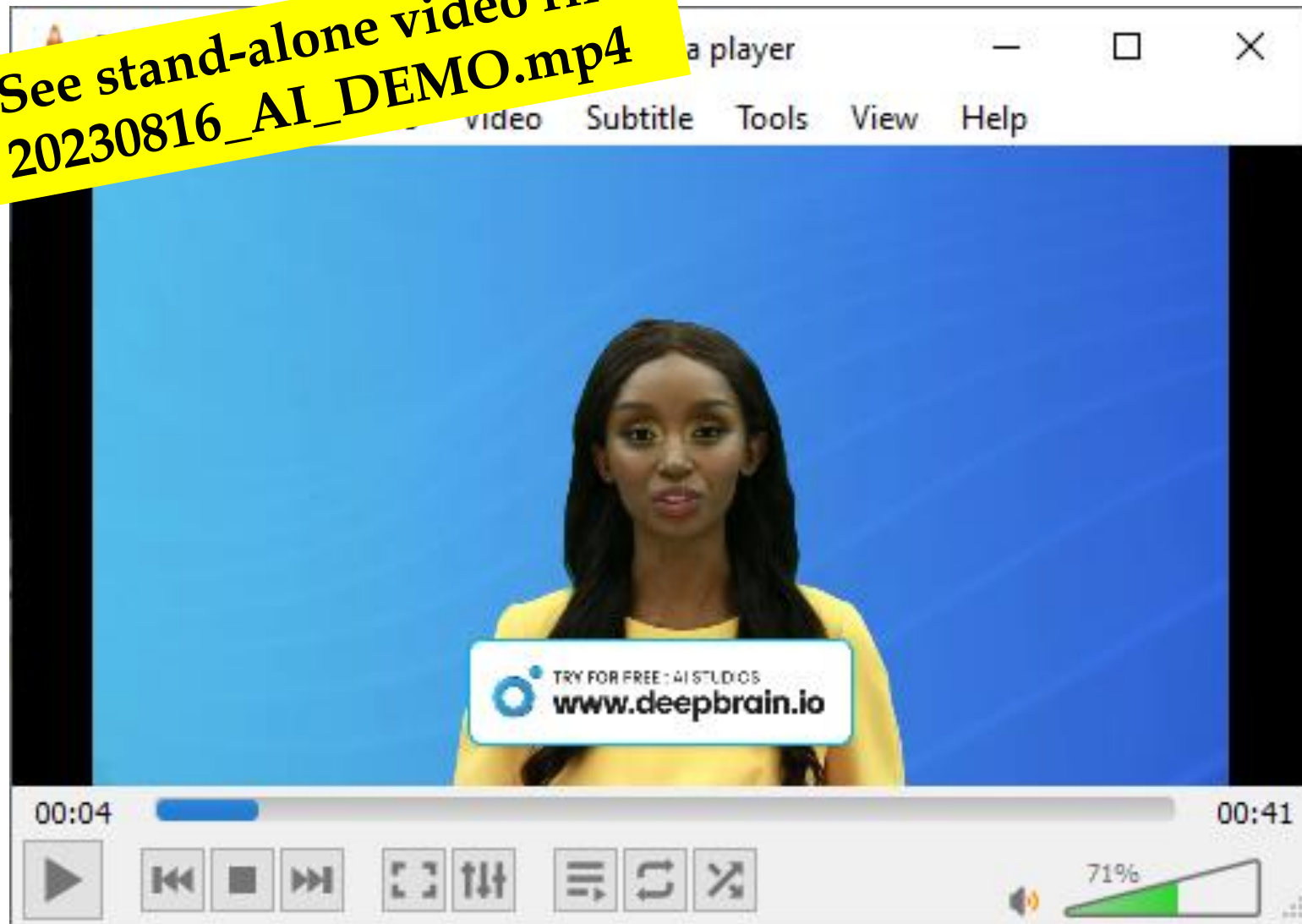
- One of the blogs I sometimes read references Deep Brain - an AI site that can generate videos
- So, I toodled over to <https://www.deepbrain.io> and, in under 10 minutes, cranked this out



 DEEPBRAIN AI

Jeff Dubois

See stand-alone video file:
20230816_AI_DEMO.mp4





Connecting to an LCD projector

- I am giving a presentation with a projector that has a VGA connection
- My newest computer has no such connection
- I was planning on using an older computer, but what if I didn't have one, what would I do?



Carol Pearson



VGA Adapter

- Generally, connecting a laptop to an external display (including an LCD projector) is done using some sort of adapter
- This could be USB to VGA or an adapter from one video format to another (e.g. HDMI to VGA)





Domaining

- Domaining has apparently become a big business
- Good domains are rare and difficult to find
- Most are already taken
- .COM domains are the most sought after
- Is there a forum or a Meetup group where advice/information can be obtained?
- As I am a novice, I would like guidance about buying and selling domains, and about parking domains with advertising companies to earn revenue



Mirza Hossain



Domaining/Domain Parking

- **Domaining**
 - investing in domain names intending to make a profit
 - selling or leasing domain names
 - flipping (buy and sell) domains
- **Domain Parking**
 - active domain name may be “parked” on a landing page with relevant advertising (revenue from click-through’s)



NamePros is the world's largest community of domainers with around 1 million members

<https://www.namepros.com>



Chrome Authenticator



- I attempted to renew my NEXUS membership and discovered that my personal key was declared invalid
- They do not make personal calls to Canada and so a text message could not be performed to permit the authentication of my E-mail
- I turned to the Chrome authenticator extension but, after watching two YouTube videos, I still cannot get this app to perform as indicated
- Can anyone help?

Orion Clark



Authenticator Apps

- Two-factor authentication
- Password plus a one-time security code
- Algorithms:
 - Time-based one-time password (TOTP)
 - HMAC-based one-time password (HOTP)
[Hash-based message authentication code]
- Rather than receiving a code as a text message (SMS) on a smartphone, the authenticator app on the smartphone generates the code

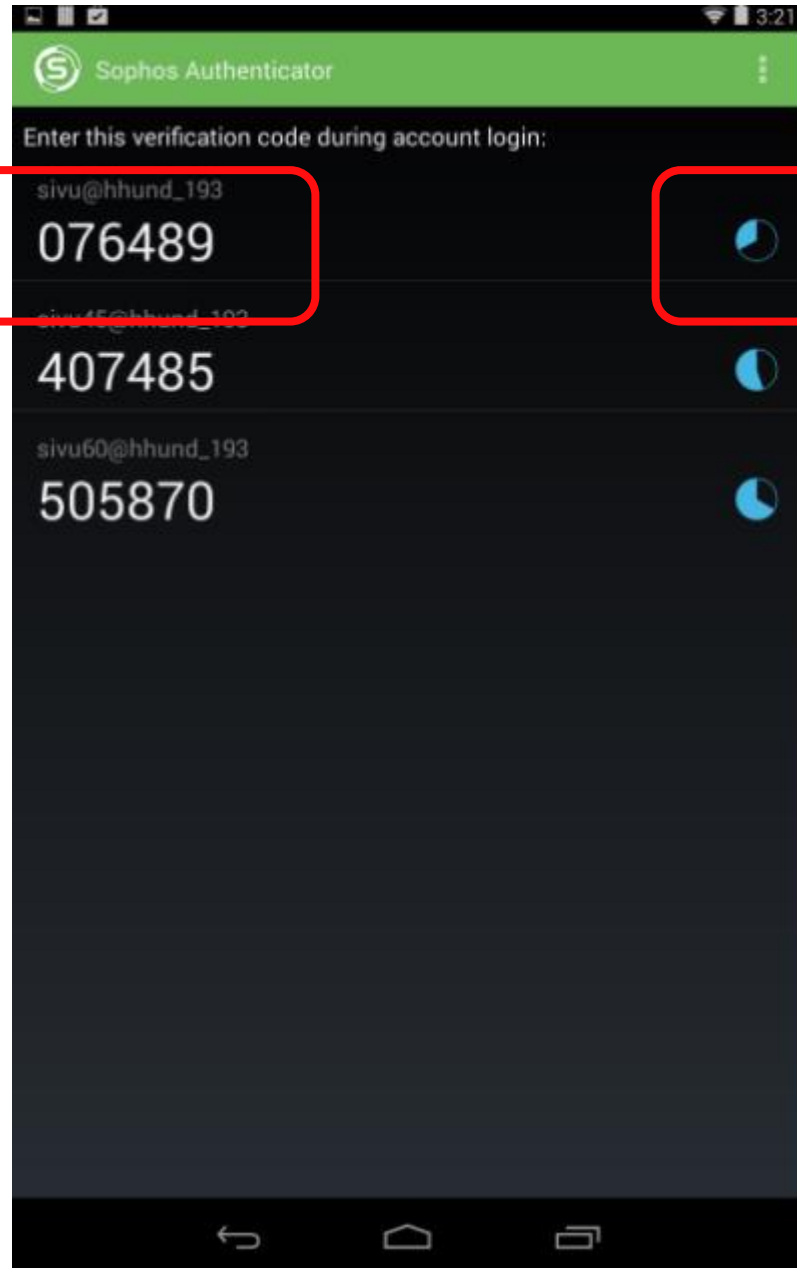
10:39



31%



**One-time
security code**



**Time remaining
for use**

If you choose this secure option, follow these steps to download and install one of the supported applications and configure it to work with Login.gov.

- 1 Choose a device, such as a computer or mobile device (phone or tablet), on which you can install apps.
- 2 Download and install an authentication app to your device. Some popular options include:
 - Android options: [Google Authenticator](#), [Authy](#), [LastPass](#), [1Password](#).
 - iOS options: [Google Authenticator](#), [Authy](#), [LastPass](#), [1Password](#).
 - Windows apps: [1Password](#), [OTP Manager](#).
 - Mac apps: [1Password](#), [OTP Manager](#).
 - Chrome extensions: [Authenticator](#).
- 3 Open a new browser and sign in to your Login.gov account at <https://secure.login.gov/>.
- 4 Select “Enable” next to “Authentication app” and follow the instructions to scan or enter a code associating your authentication app with your account.

You will now be able to use the one-time passcodes generated by the application each time you sign in to Login.gov.

Share

Lenovo mouse & keyboard

- Lenovo Legion KM300 RGB Gaming Combo Keyboard and Mouse
 - list price \$100 (sale \$63.19)
 - free shipping
- Also available separately
- Lenovo Legion K300 RGB Gaming Keyboard
 - list price \$70 (sale \$51)
- Lenovo Legion M300 RGB Gaming Mouse
 - list price \$40 (sale \$23.19)



<https://www.lenovo.com/ca/en/p/accessories-and-software/keyboards-and-mice/keyboard-and-mouse-combos/gx30z21568>

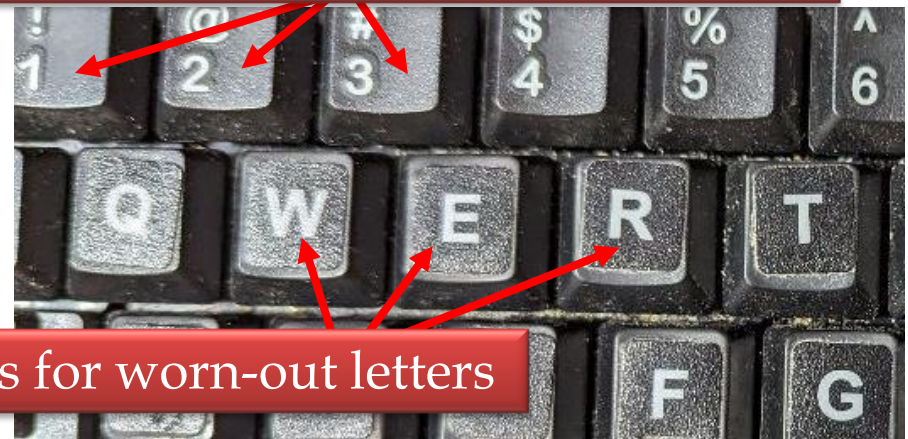
Share

Lenovo mouse & keyboard

- Lynda & I both have this keyboard
 - I also have the mouse
- We *really* like it
 - good solid feel
 - nice heft
 - rigid
 - nice key travel
 - great backlighting
 - *highly* customizable
 - letters won't wear off



Inexpensive keyboard with stick-on letters



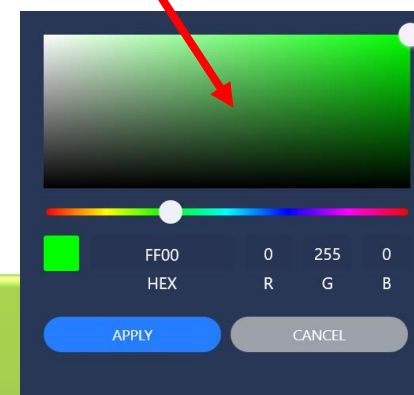
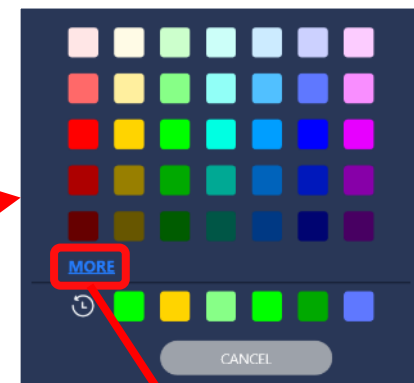
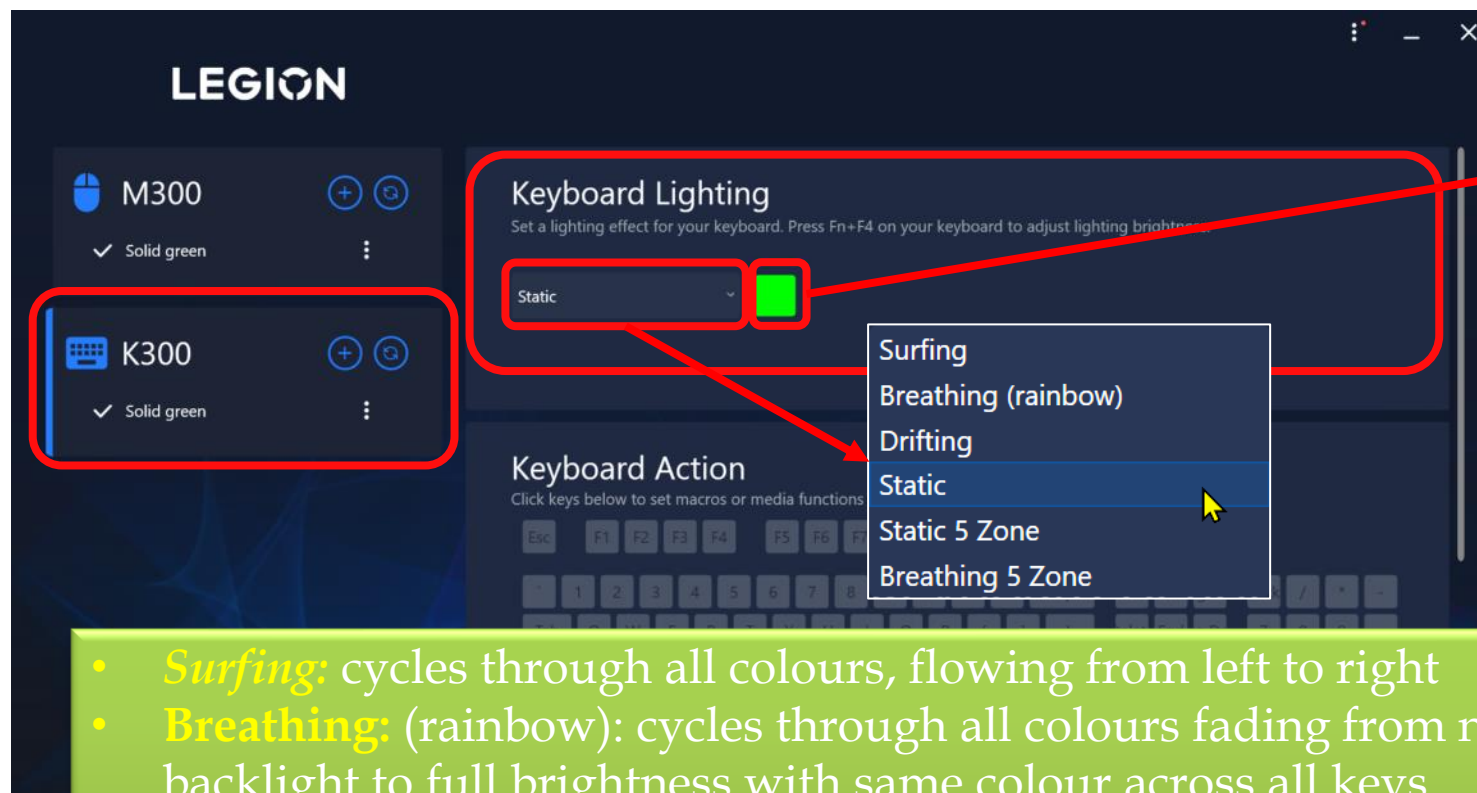
Lynda's keyboard with replacement stickers for worn-out letters

Share

- Hotkeys to customize RGB colours and *Game Mode*
 - Fn+F4
cycle through 3 levels of backlighting (none, dim, bright)
 - Fn+F5
cycle through 6 different lighting patterns (static or dynamic)
 - Fn+F12
toggle *Game Mode* (disables Windows key)
- But that's just the basics!
- Download Lenovo utility *Legion Accessory Central*
 - customize colours/patterns
 - assign macros to any key
 - adjust DPI and polling rate for mouse
 - more!
 - <https://pcsupport.lenovo.com/ca/en/downloads/legionaccessorycentral>

Share

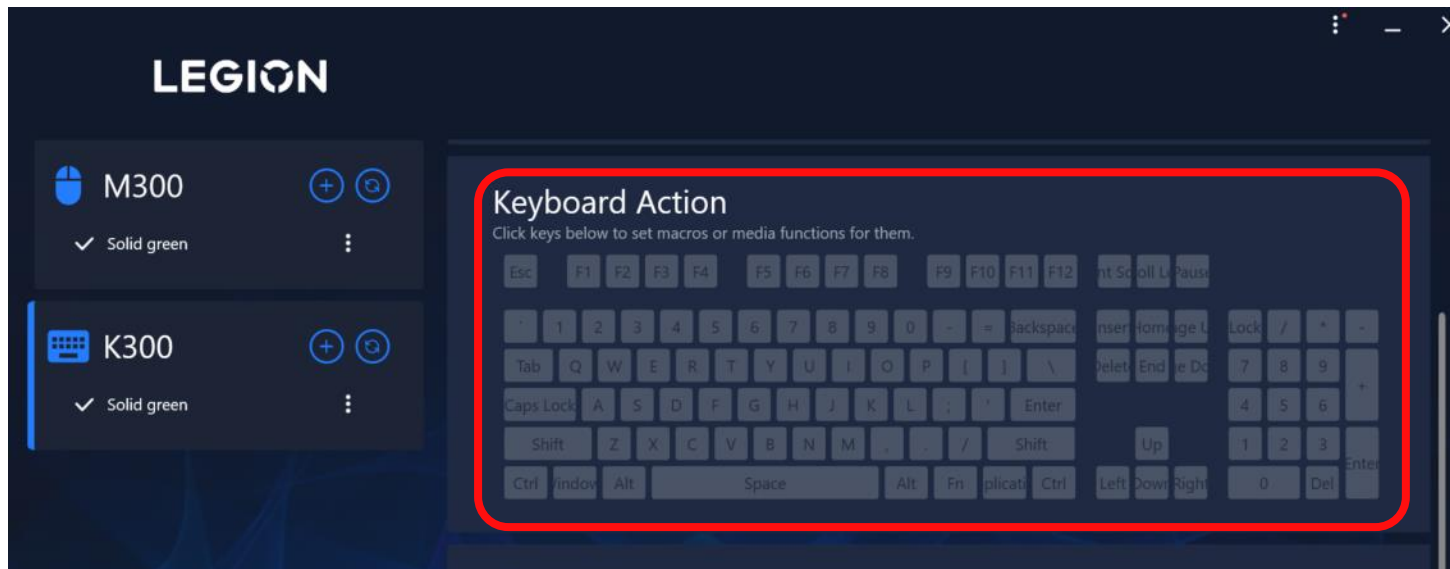
Lighting



- **Surfing:** cycles through all colours, flowing from left to right
- **Breathing:** (rainbow): cycles through all colours fading from no backlight to full brightness with same colour across all keys
- **Drifting:** cycles through all colours, sweeping across keys from center out & back
- **Static:** one solid colour for backlight
- **Static 5 zone:** choose the colour for each of 5 zones across keyboard
- **Breathing 5 zone:** colours cycle from no backlight to full brightness & back. You choose the colour for each of 5 zones across keyboard

- I find all distracting except **Static** (**Static 5 zone** is not toooooo bad)
 - **I really like being able to choose the colour for backlighting**
- But to each their own!

Share



Customize any key

- assign a media control
 - play/pause, previous track, next track, volume up, volume down, mute
- assign a macro

Share

Reassign keys

Nobody uses *Scroll Lock* key (except by accident)

- maybe assign **Mute** to it



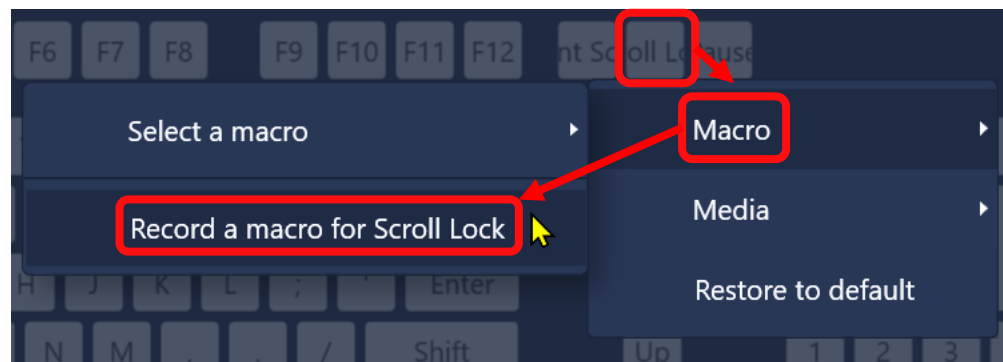
Now you can mute/unmute sound simply by pressing *Scroll Lock*

Share

Scroll Lock key

Assign a macro to *Scroll Lock*
(up to 30 key presses)

- e.g. have it type
- **Chris Taylor**
OPCUG



Type a name

OPCUG signature

- ☐ Record mouse click
- ☐ Record mouse wheel

RECORD

CANCEL

Every keystroke recorded

- even shift key
- even whether it was left-shift or right-shift



Opportunity to modify what was recorded

Share

- insert additional key presses
- re-order key presses
- delete key presses

It even records how long it took you to press & release keys

- play back uses same timings

Click to change timing on one key-press

Signature

Set all intervals

PRESS Right Shift

312 ms

PRESS C

94 ms

RELEASE C

141 ms

RELEASE Right Shift

1437 ms

Reset all timings

Set all intervals to

50 ms

Recommend to set 50 ms minimum for normal press and 0 ms if keys are pressed together.

I had no problem with 5 ms

OK

CANCEL

FINISH

CANCEL

Keyboard Action

Click keys below to set macros or media functions for them.

OPCUG Signature

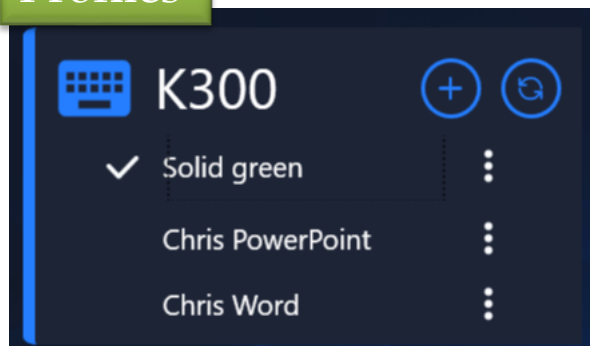
Keys with macros assigned highlighted

- tooltip has full name

Share



Profiles

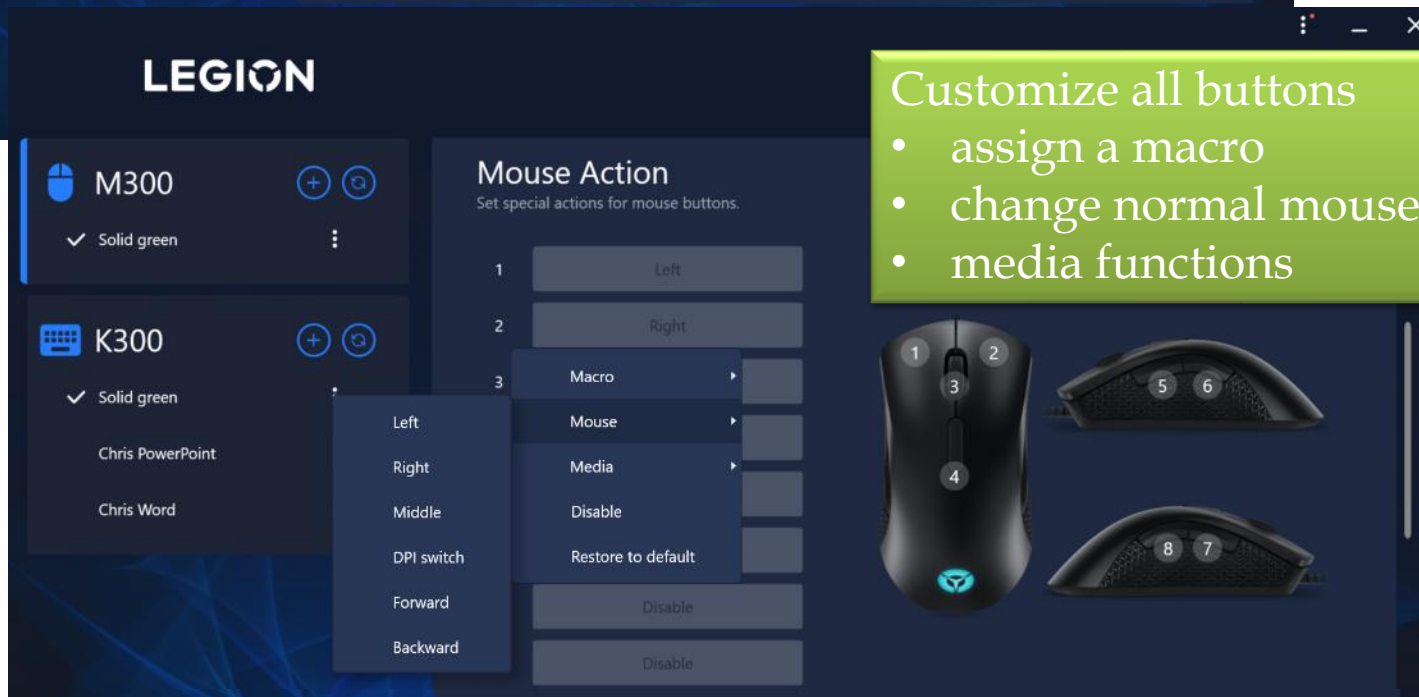
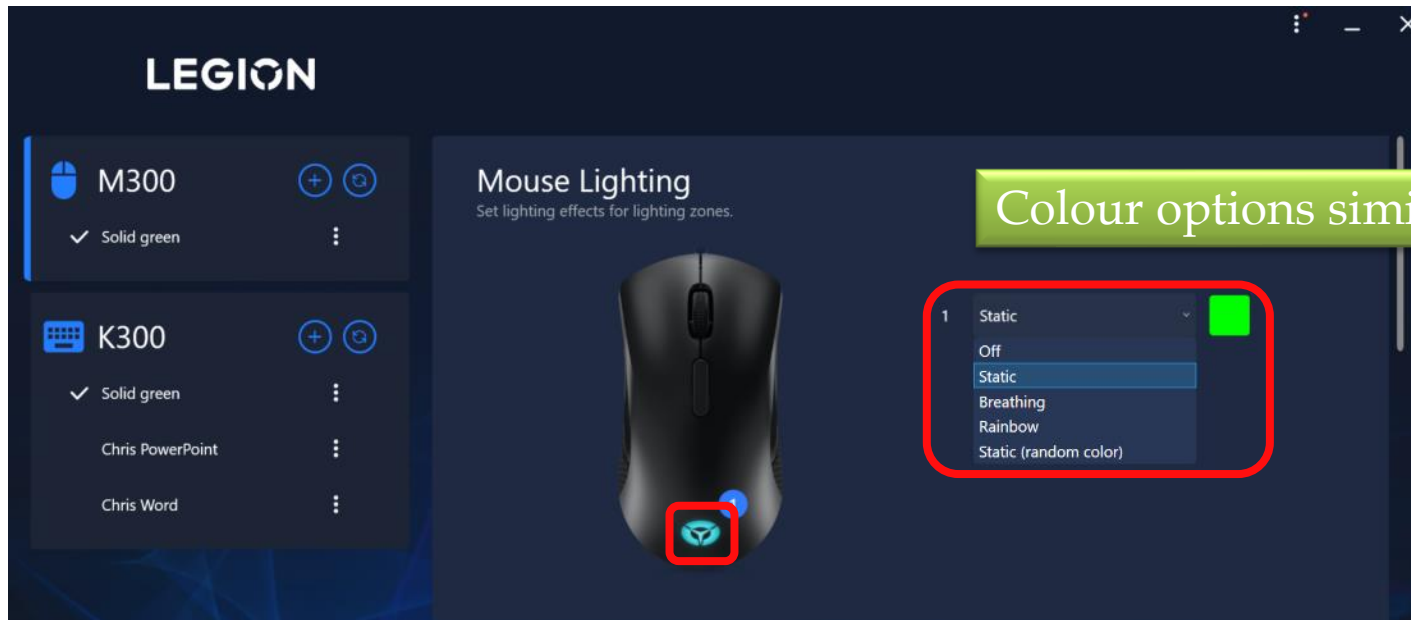


Create profiles & switch between them e.g.

- different colours
 - night vs. day?
 - by mood?
- different macros according to task?

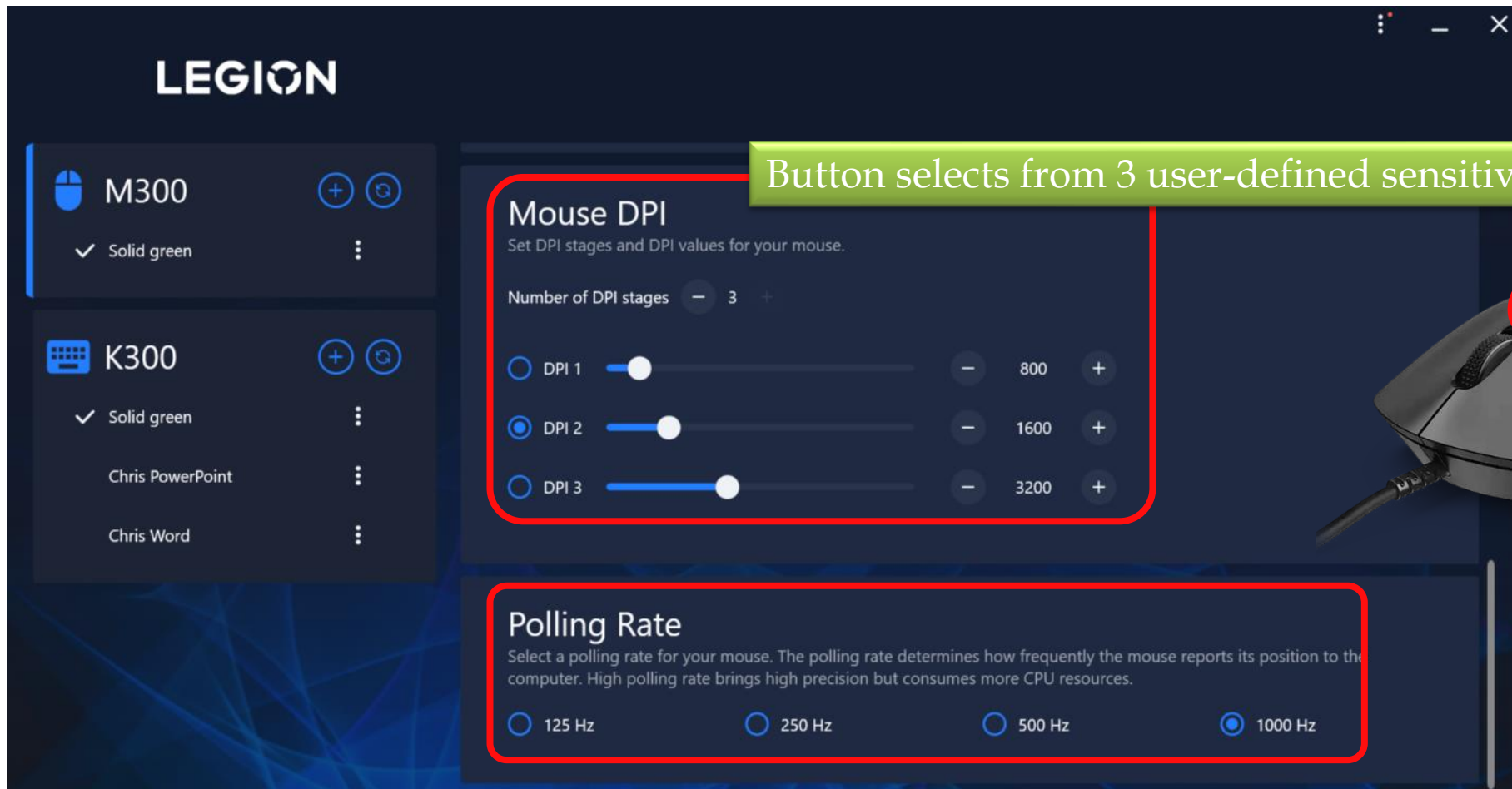
Share

Mouse



Share

Mouse



Button selects from 3 user-defined sensitivities

Polling Rate

Select a polling rate for your mouse. The polling rate determines how frequently the mouse reports its position to the computer. High polling rate brings high precision but consumes more CPU resources.

☐ 125 Hz ☐ 250 Hz ☐ 500 Hz ☒ 1000 Hz

Set polling rate

- how frequently mouse reports position to computer

Share

Lenovo Legion KM300 RGB Gaming Combo Keyboard and Mouse



Share

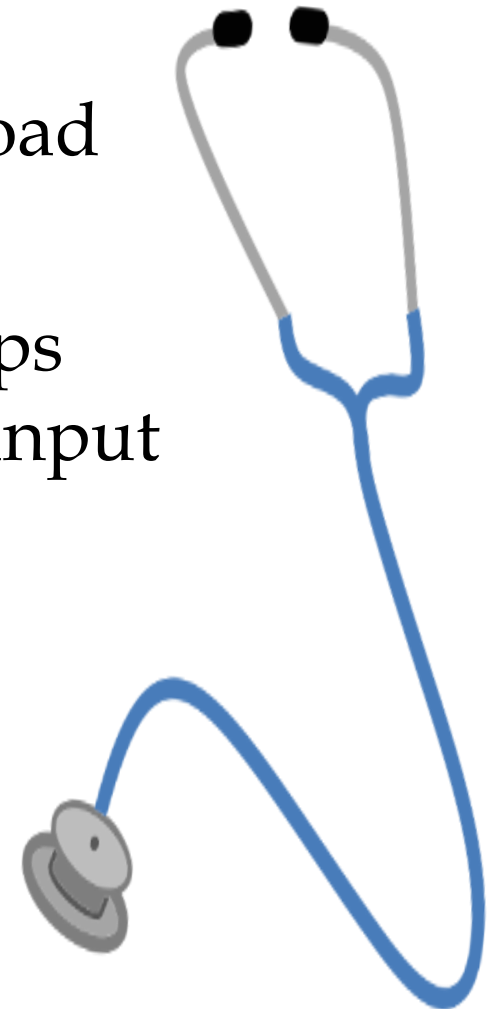
Can We Speed Up An Old Windows Computer?

- Question from a member *“My laptop... takes a while to open, and most of the time it goes in a circle...”*
- Comment from a friend *“My Windows laptop is so sl-o-w...”*



Symptoms can include:

- long time to boot/shutdown
- applications take a long time to load
- browser tabs load slowly
- computer responds slowly or stops responding to keyboard/mouse input



**So, what can we do to
speed up such machines?**



OPCUG

**Windows
Performance Tune-up**

Chris Taylor

Users helping users

This deck: opcug.ca/Windows

Major causes of performance problems

- CPU hogs
- Disk activity hogs
- Memory hogs
- Internet connectivity hogs
- Web browser plug-ins and caches
- Malware
- Disk clutter
- Auto starting programs
- Out-of-date drivers
- Disk indexing
- Crapware



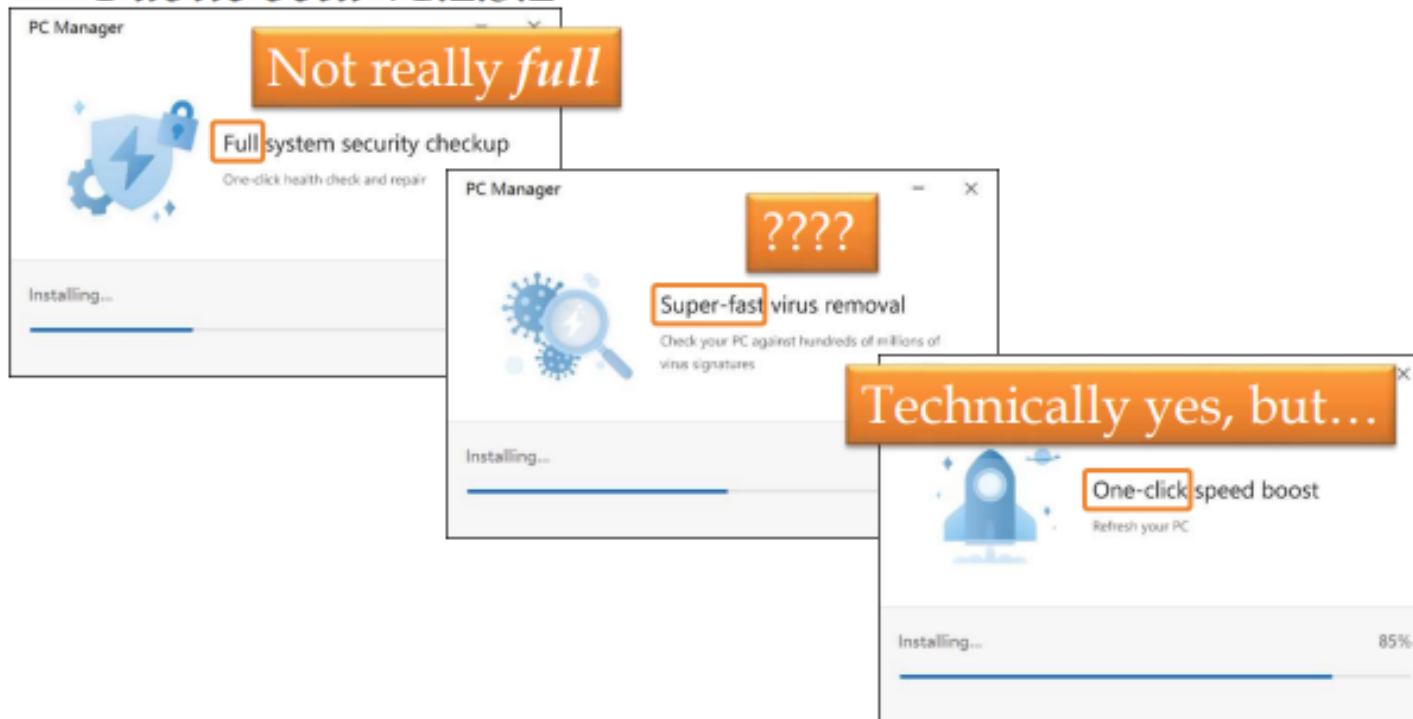
<https://opcug.ca/presentations/WindowsTuneup.pdf>

Share

Microsoft PC Manager



- Interesting-looking PC optimizer/cleanup utility
- *Public beta* v1.2.3.2



https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20221102_PowerPoint.pdf

Antivirus, Cleanup PC, prote +

pcmanager-en.microsoft.com

Search Google

English (US) Download

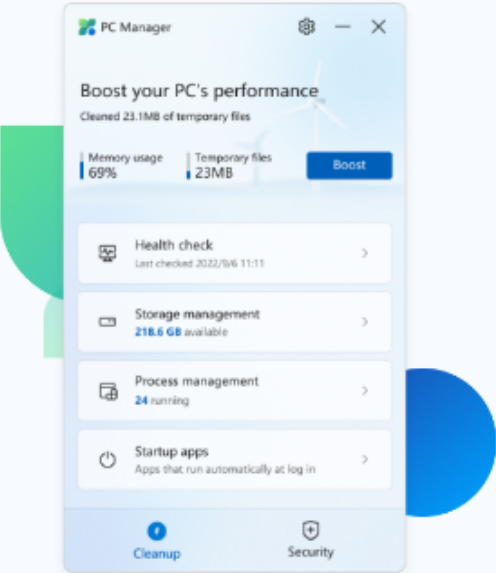
Microsoft | PC Manager

Microsoft PC Manager Beta

Safeguard your PC in a quiet and reliable way

Download

Compatible with Windows 10 (1809 and above), Windows 11.

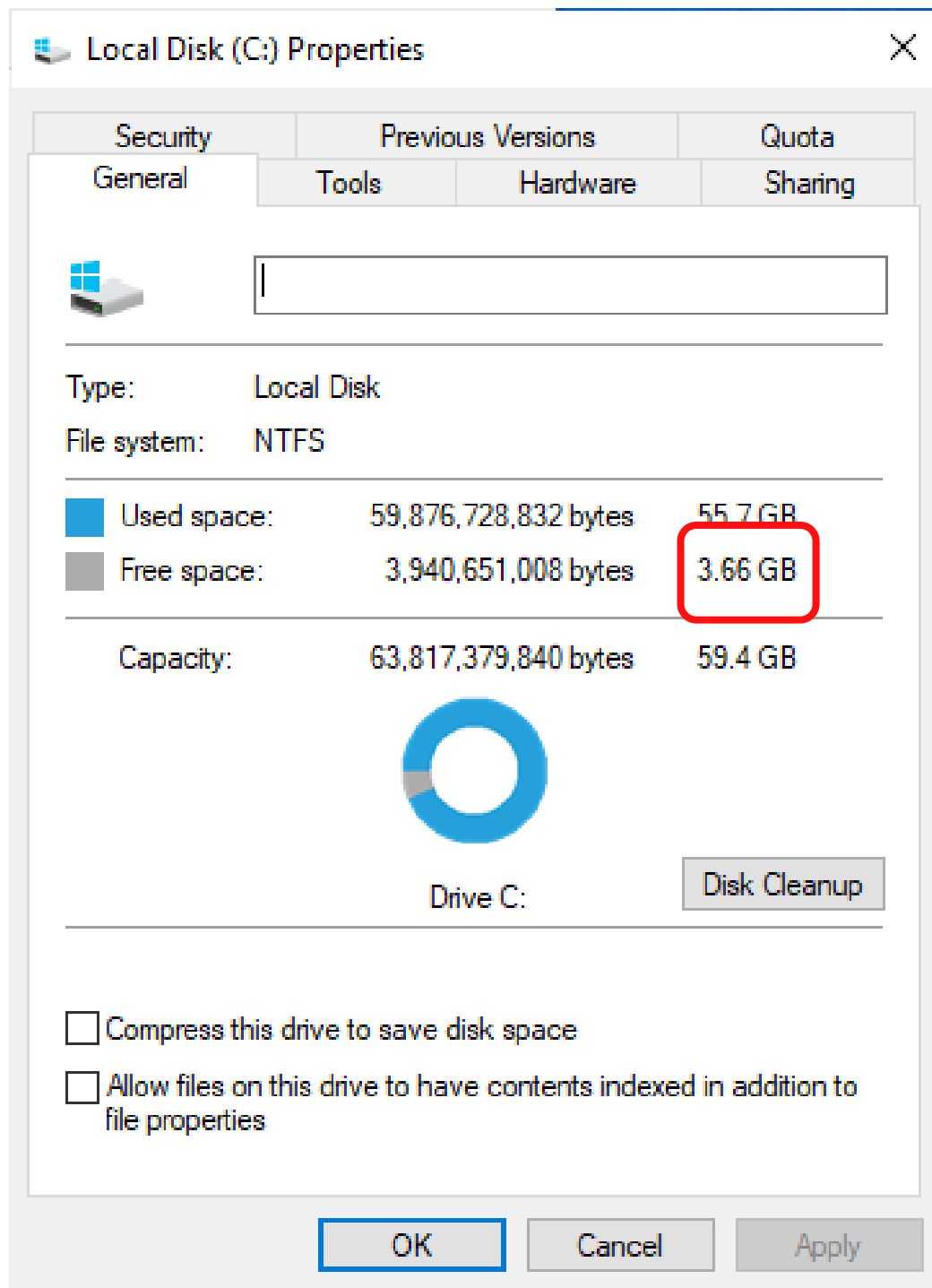


<https://pcmanager.microsoft.com/en-US>

Old Computer Specifications

- Dell XPS-8300 desktop computer
- Purchased December, 2011
- Intel Core i7-2600 CPU, 3.4 GHz
- 12 GB RAM
- 250 GB Samsung 840 EVO SSD
- Windows 10 Home 22H2
- Boot time to desktop 27 s

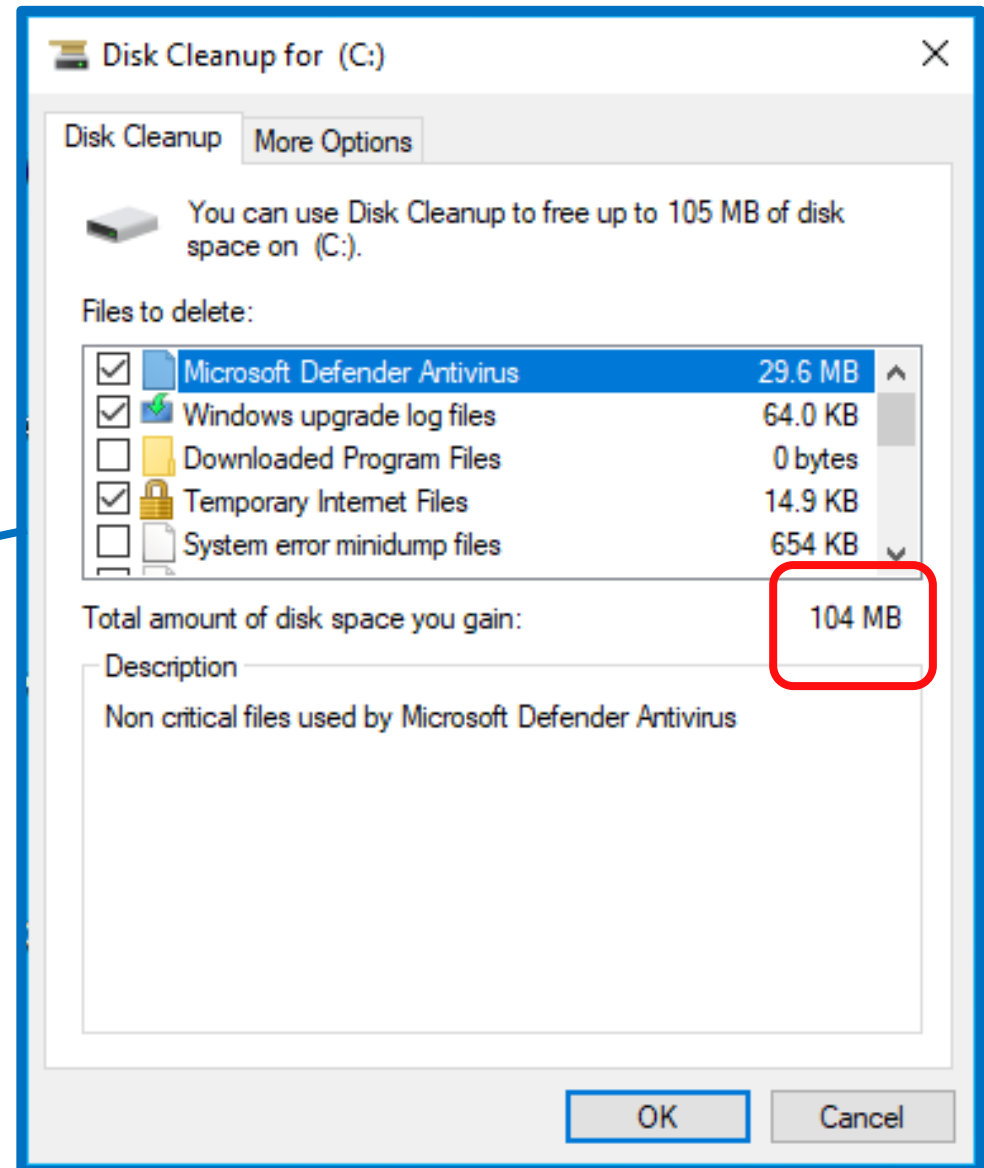
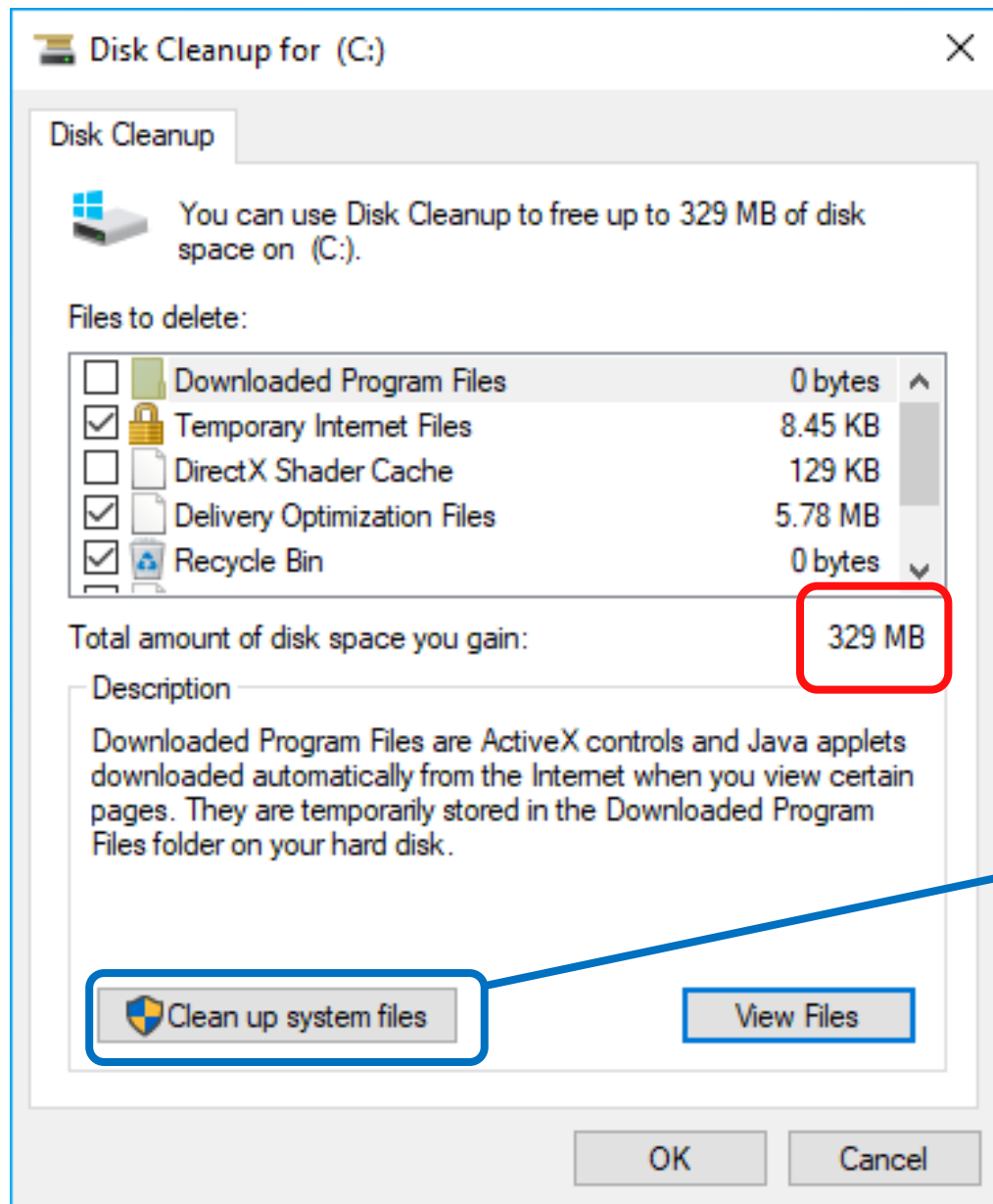




Drive C:

60 GB

3.6 GB free



PC Manager



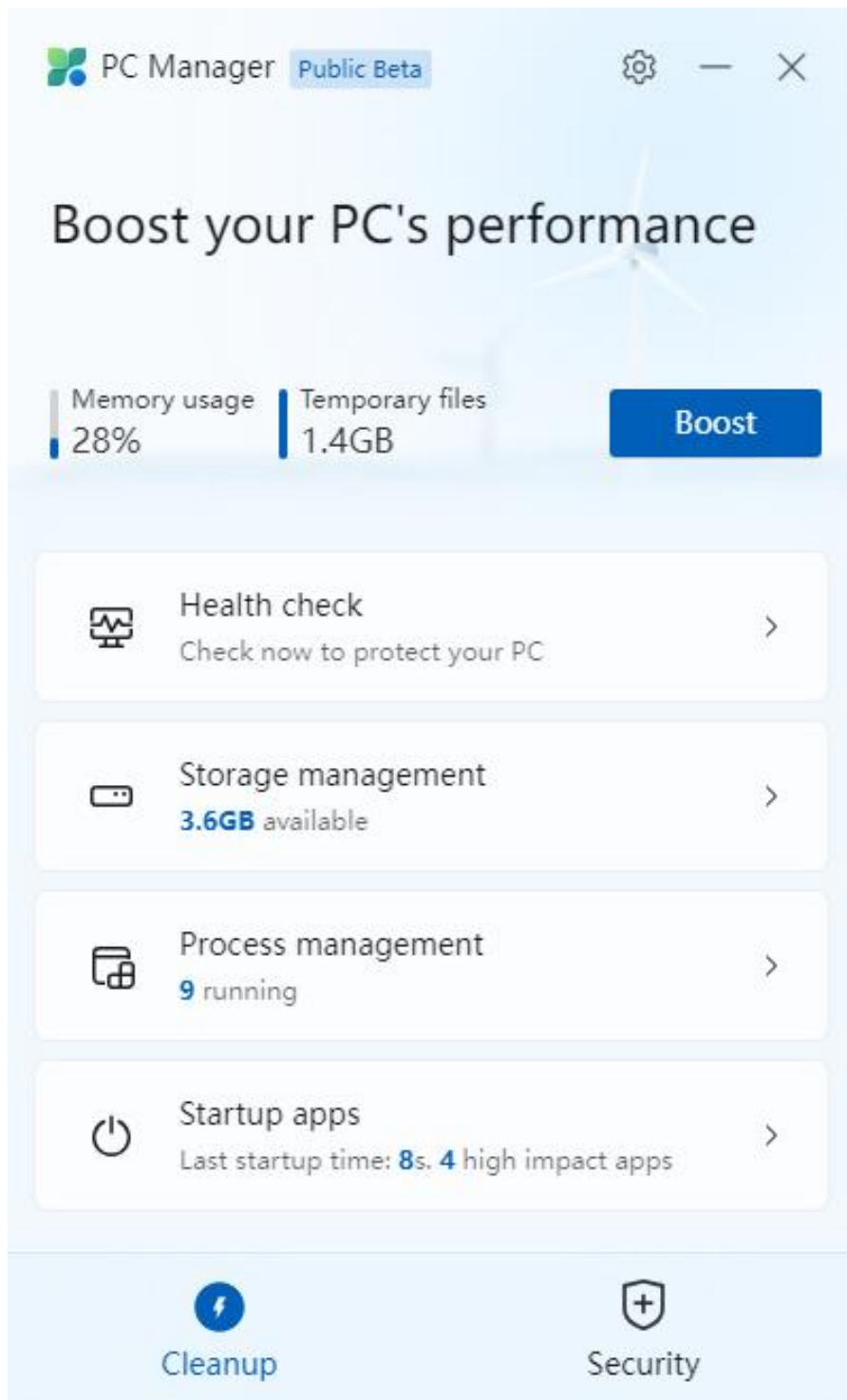
MS PC Manager

Public Beta

Install



I accept End User License and Privacy Agreements



Controls:

- Boost
- Health check
- Storage management
- Process management
- Startup apps
- Cleanup
- Security
- Settings

Boost your PC's performance

Memory usage
28%

Temporary files
1.4GB

Boost



Health check

Check now to protect your PC



Storage management

3.6GB available



Process management

9 running



Startup apps

Last startup time: 8s, 4 high impact apps



Cleanup



Security

Boost your PC's performance

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Storage management

3.6GB available



Process management

9 running



Startup apps

Last startup time: 8s. 4 high impact apps



Cleanup



Security

Performance boosted!

Cleaned 1.4GB of temporary files

Memory usage
22%

Temporary files
0KB

Boost



Health check

Check now to protect your PC



Storage management

3.6GB available



Process management

9 running



Startup apps

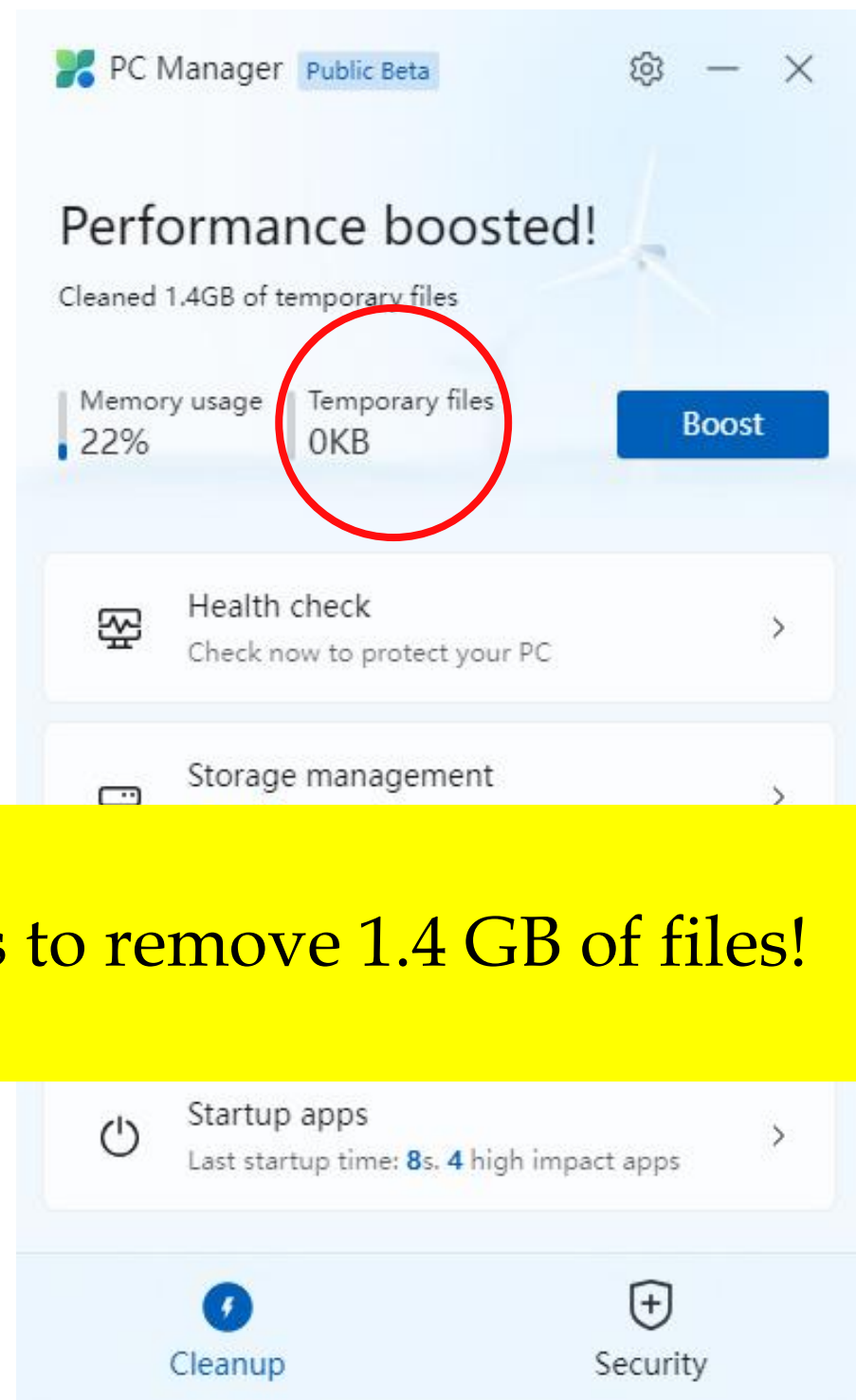
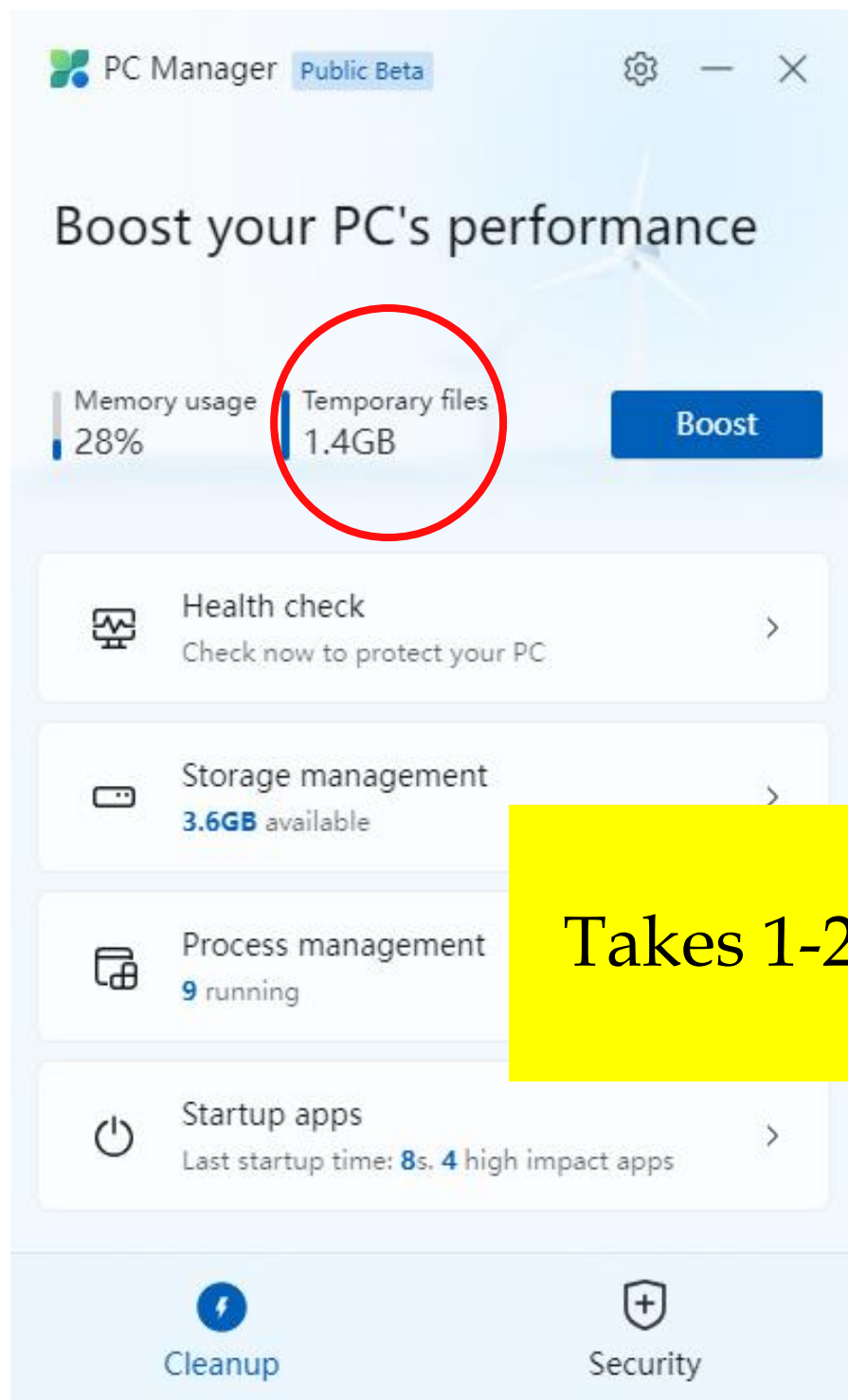
Last startup time: 8s. 4 high impact apps



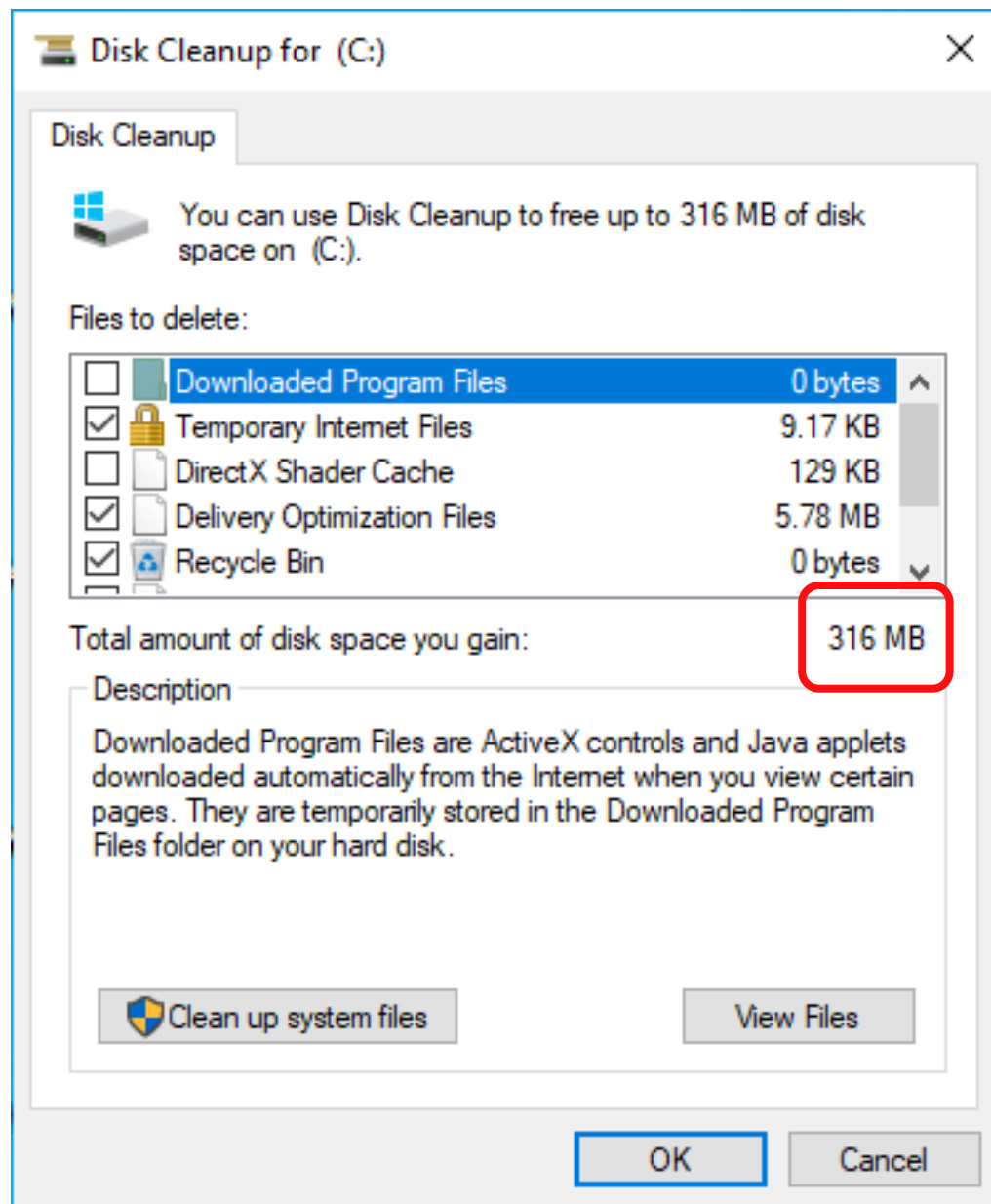
Cleanup



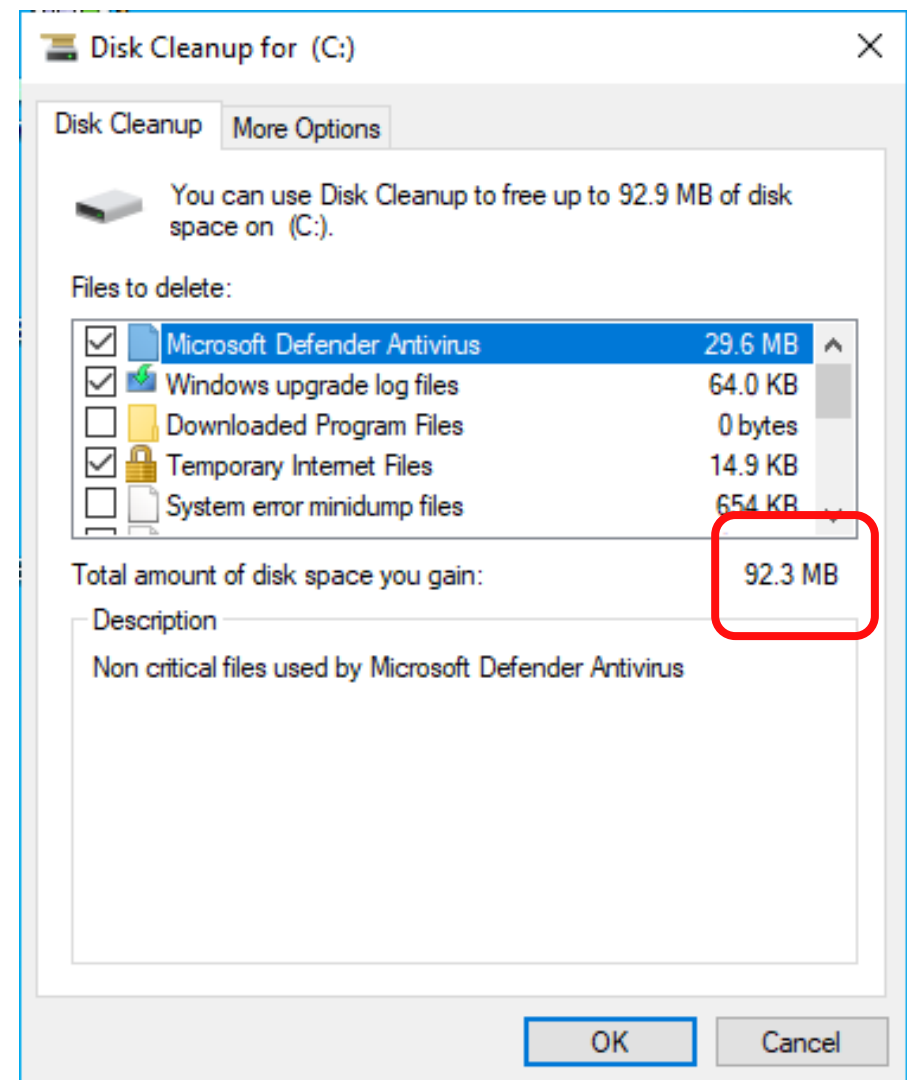
Security



Takes 1-2 s to remove 1.4 GB of files!



But...!



Boost your PC's performance

Memory usage
25%

Temporary files
153MB

Boost



Health check

Last checked: 8/5/2023 11:24 AM



Storage management

4.8GB available



Process management

9 running



Startup apps

Last startup time: 8s, 4 high impact apps



Cleanup



Security

Performance boosted!

Cleaned 153MB of temporary files

Memory usage
22%

Temporary files
0KB

Boost



Health check

Last checked: 8/5/2023 11:24 AM



Storage management

4.8GB available



Process management

9 running



Startup apps

Last startup time: 8s, 4 high impact apps



Cleanup



Security

Disk Cleanup for (C:)



Disk Cleanup



You can use Disk Cleanup to free up to 316 MB of disk space on (C:).

Files to delete:

☐		Downloaded Program Files	0 bytes	^
☒		Temporary Internet Files	10.5 KB	
☐		DirectX Shader Cache	129 KB	
☒		Delivery Optimization Files	5.90 MB	
☒		Recycle Bin	0 bytes	v

Total amount of disk space you gain:

316 MB

Description

Downloaded Program Files are ActiveX controls and Java applets downloaded automatically from the Internet when you view certain pages. They are temporarily stored in the Downloaded Program Files folder on your hard disk.

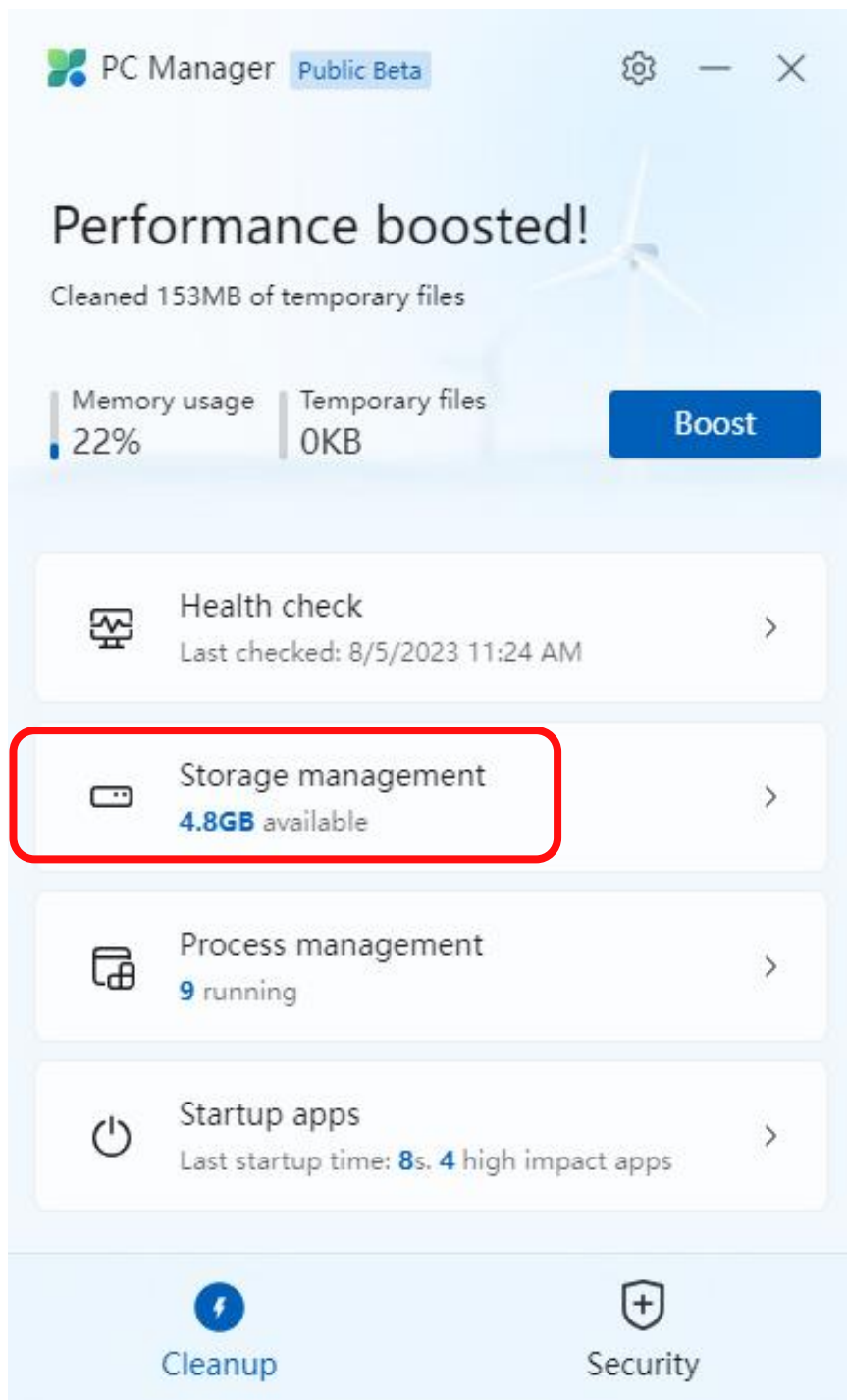


Clean up system files

View Files

OK

Cancel



Confused yet?

Disk Cleanup
329/104 MB

PC Manager

Boost 1.4 GB -> 0

Cleanup 153 MB -> 0

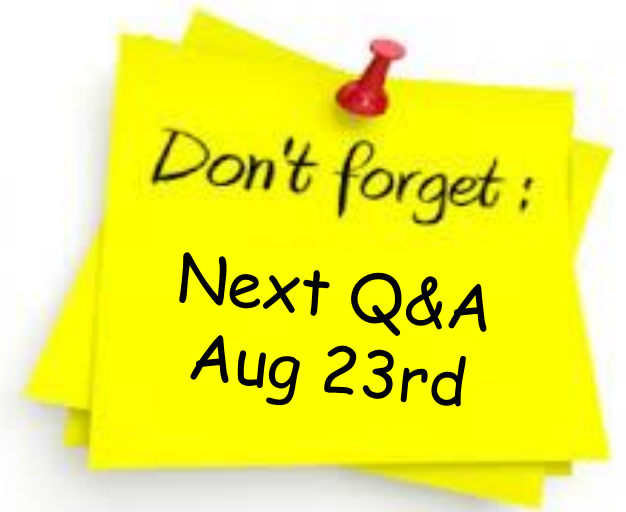
Storage Management
4.8 GB

**So far, not so good...
perhaps next time!**





**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca