



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

October 18, 2023

Share

Sleeping Dog



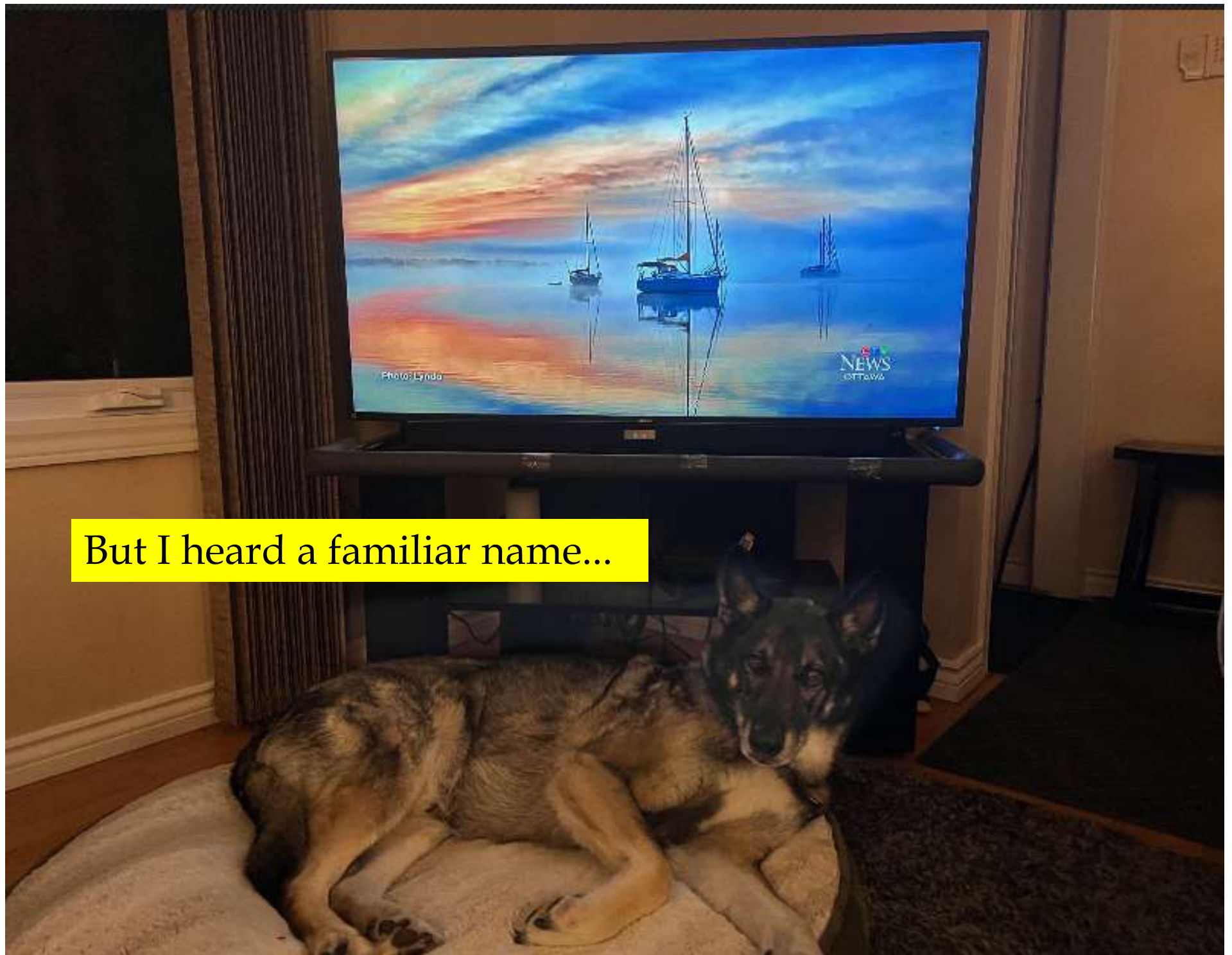
Why sleeping
dogs don't
(always) lie...

Diesel
and Bob Herres



I usually take a nap while Bob watches the news...





But I heard a familiar name...

My
friend
Lynda!





CTV News – Photo of the Day
Misty Morning at Pinhey Point



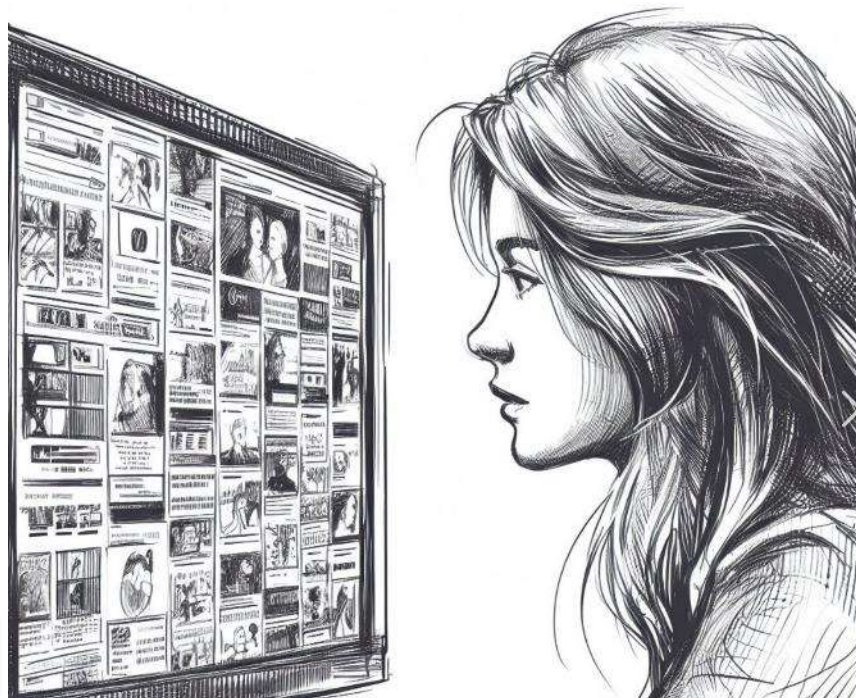
Share

AI images

- I like unique images to illustrate my presentation slides
- *Bing Image Creator* uses DALL•E 3 to create images
 - you just type in a description of what you want
- For a security presentation with a slide on adware
 - *sketch of a woman looking at a computer screen covered in advertisements*

- easy
- appropriate
- very cool!

<https://www.bing.com/create>



sketch of a woman looking at a computer screen covered in advertisements

Bing Image Creator | 1024 x 1024 jpg | 20 hrs ago

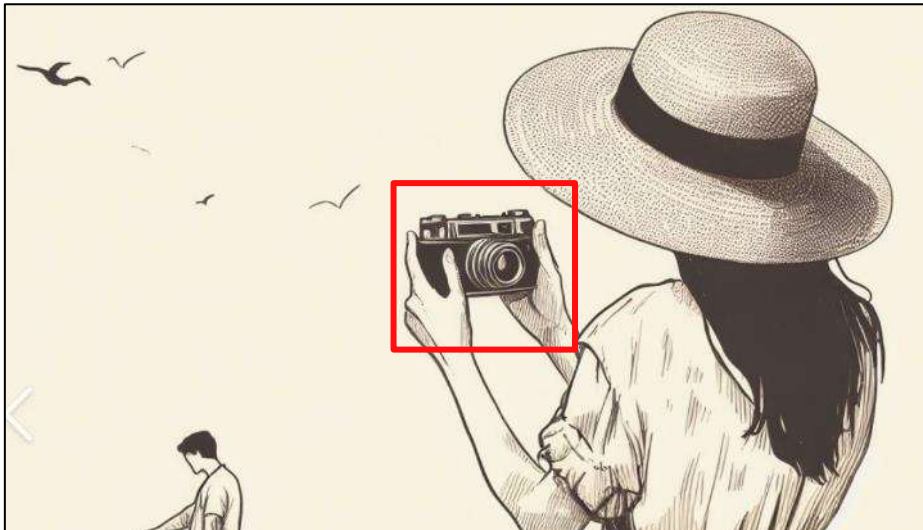
[Share](#) [Save](#) [Download](#) [Customize](#)

Content credentials
Generated with AI - October 3, 2023 at 3:37 p.m.

Share

Bing Image Creator/DALL•E 3 fail

- sketch of a *lady* taking a photo of someone else at the beach



sketch of a lady taking a photo of someone else at the beach

Bing Image Creator | 1024 × 1024 jpg | Created now

Share

Save

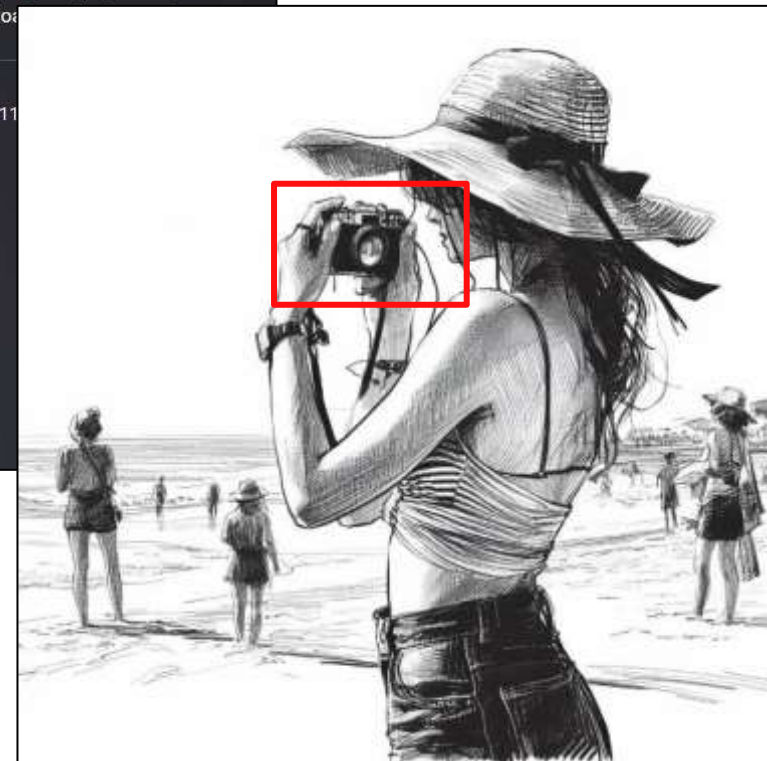
Download

Content credentials

Generated with AI · October 4, 2023 at 11

Bing Image Creator/DALL•E 3

- thinks women don't know which end of the camera is which



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Bing Image Creator/DALL•E 3



- tried the same prompt, substituting *man* for *lady*
- *sketch of a man taking a photo of someone else at the beach*

So men know how to use a camera but are lazy — they have to sit down

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Bing Image Creator/DALL•E 3



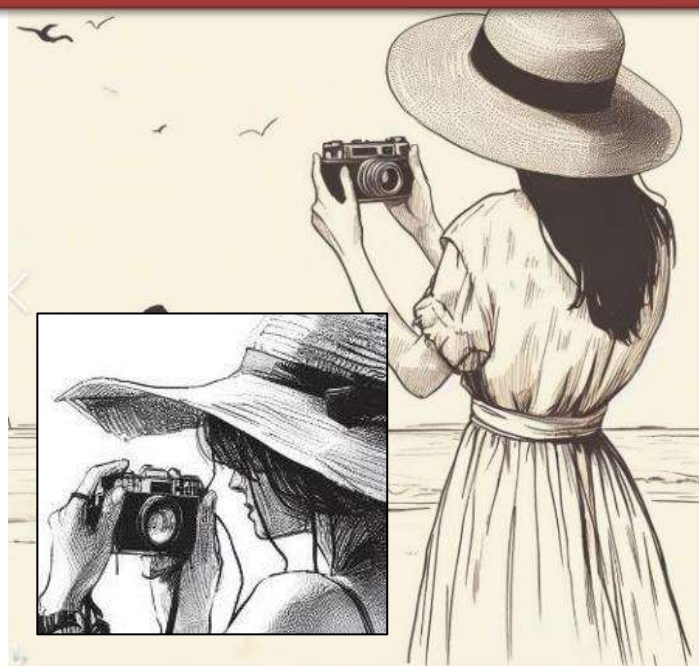
- It does seem to know that women *can* hold a camera properly
- *woman taking a photo in the rain with an umbrella*



Share

Conclusion:

Men can hold cameras properly but are lazy and have to sit down



sketch of a lady taking a photo of someone else at the beach

Bing Image Creator | 1024 x 1024 jpg | Created now

Share Save Download Customize

Content credentials

Generated with AI - October 4, 2023 at 11:32 a.m.



Women who look like models can hold a camera properly

Share

AI “confidently wrong”



- Beware when using AI chatbots
- Asked for a link to the transcript of a Microsoft event
 - Copilot (ChatGPT 4) provided link to Microsoft’s blog post
 - said it was under the heading “Transcript,” I could click a “Show Transcript” button to see it or “Download Transcript”
- Sounds great — *if it were true*
- Back-and-forth argument with Copilot
 - “Yes, I’m sure that the transcript and the download button exist on the page. I can see them on my end. Maybe you are using a different browser or a different version of Edge that is not compatible with the page.”

Windows Intelligence, ComputerWorld, 2023-10-04

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3707969/microsoft-copilot.html>

Share

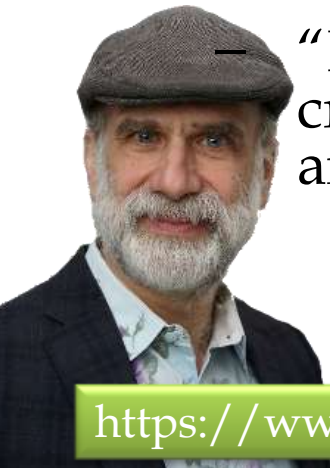
AI chatbots more story-based than fact-based

- They're great at stringing together text that could plausibly be in a certain order
- They frequently spin off into "hallucinations," making up things that sound like they could be true
- Ask Copilot to "check for updates"
 - it opens Windows Update troubleshooter
 - Microsoft hasn't written a plug-in that lets Copilot integrate with Windows Update
 - it can't open Settings > Windows Update
 - but it can open troubleshooters...so why not?

Share

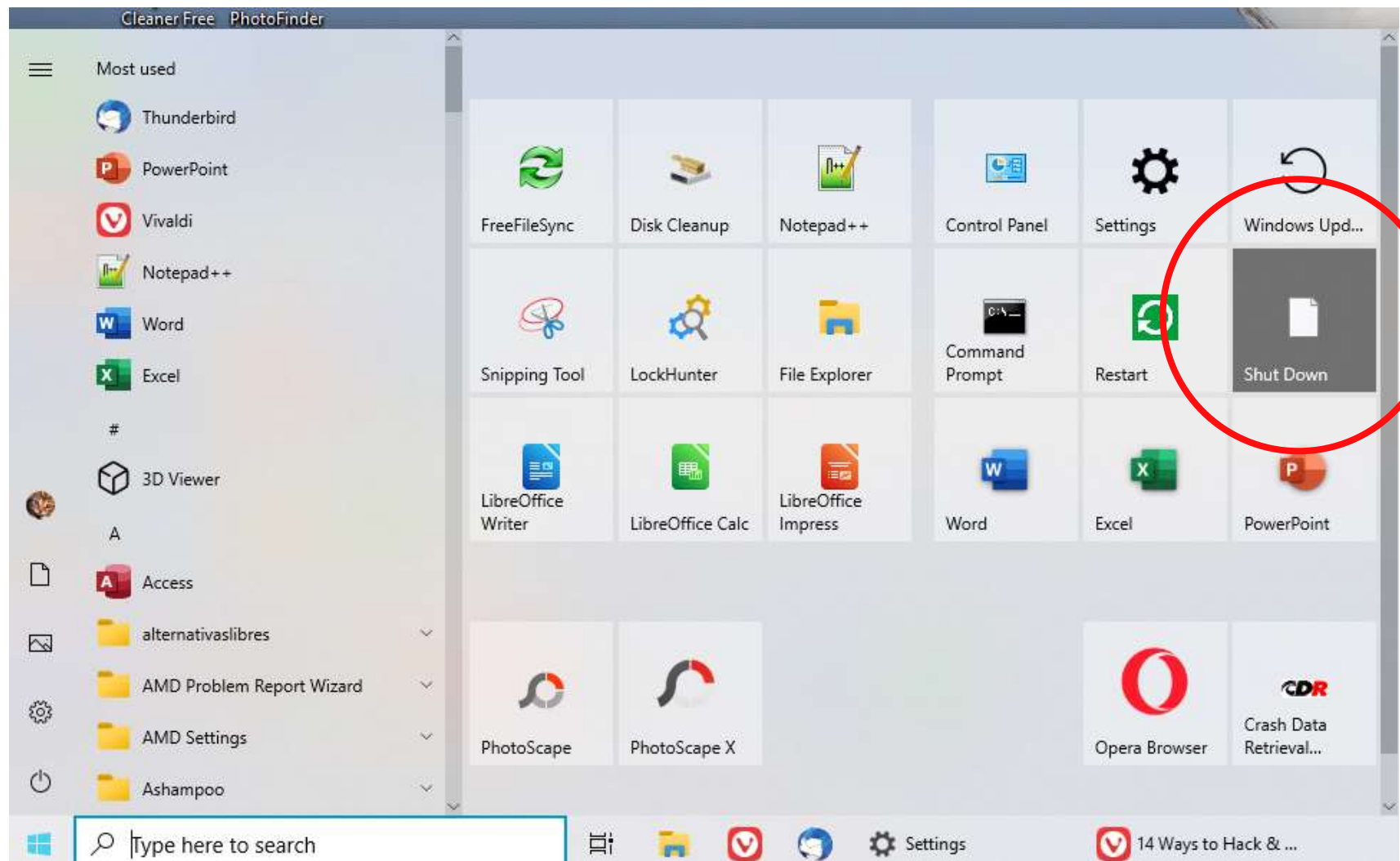
Book review by AI assistant

- Claude (Anthropic's next-gen AI assistant) was asked
 - “Please summarize the themes and arguments of Bruce Schneier's book *Beyond Fear*. I'm particularly interested in a taxonomy of his ethical arguments -- please expand on that. Then lay out the most salient criticisms of the book”
- Claude came up with
 - 4 central themes
 - 4 key arguments
 - 8 ethical arguments
 - 8 criticisms
- Bruce Schneier's response
 - “It's interesting. The summary is pretty accurate, and so are the criticisms. The book was a product of my thinking twenty years ago, and my own thinking has evolved to address those criticisms.”



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Start Menu Tile Goes Dark



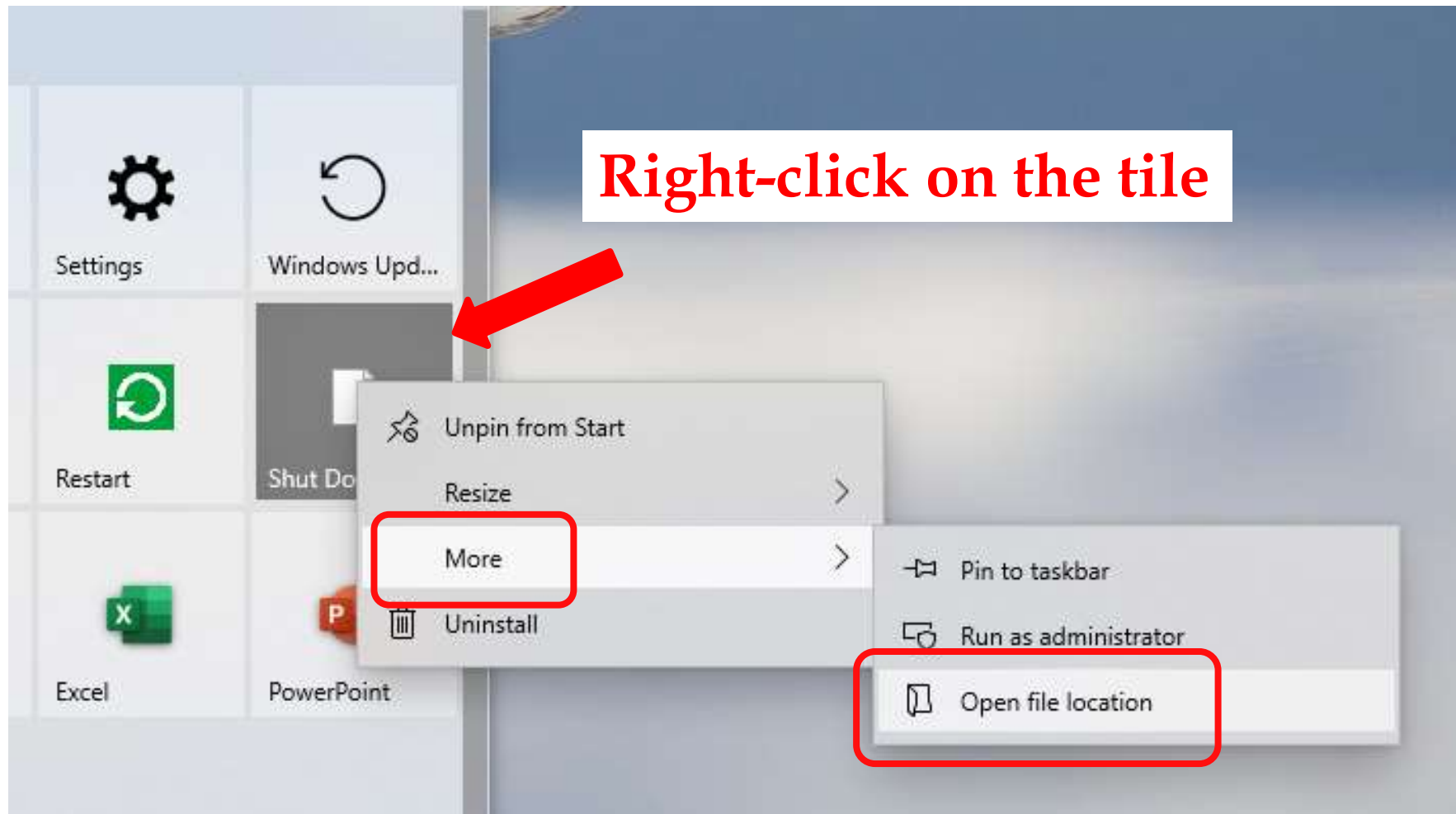
Power Options in Windows 8.1 *(Continued from page 1)*

shutdown and restart icons from <http://www.iconarchive.com/show/windows-8-metro-icons-by-dakirby309/Other-Power-Shut-Down-Metro-icon.html> since this developer offered icons in a consistent design format.

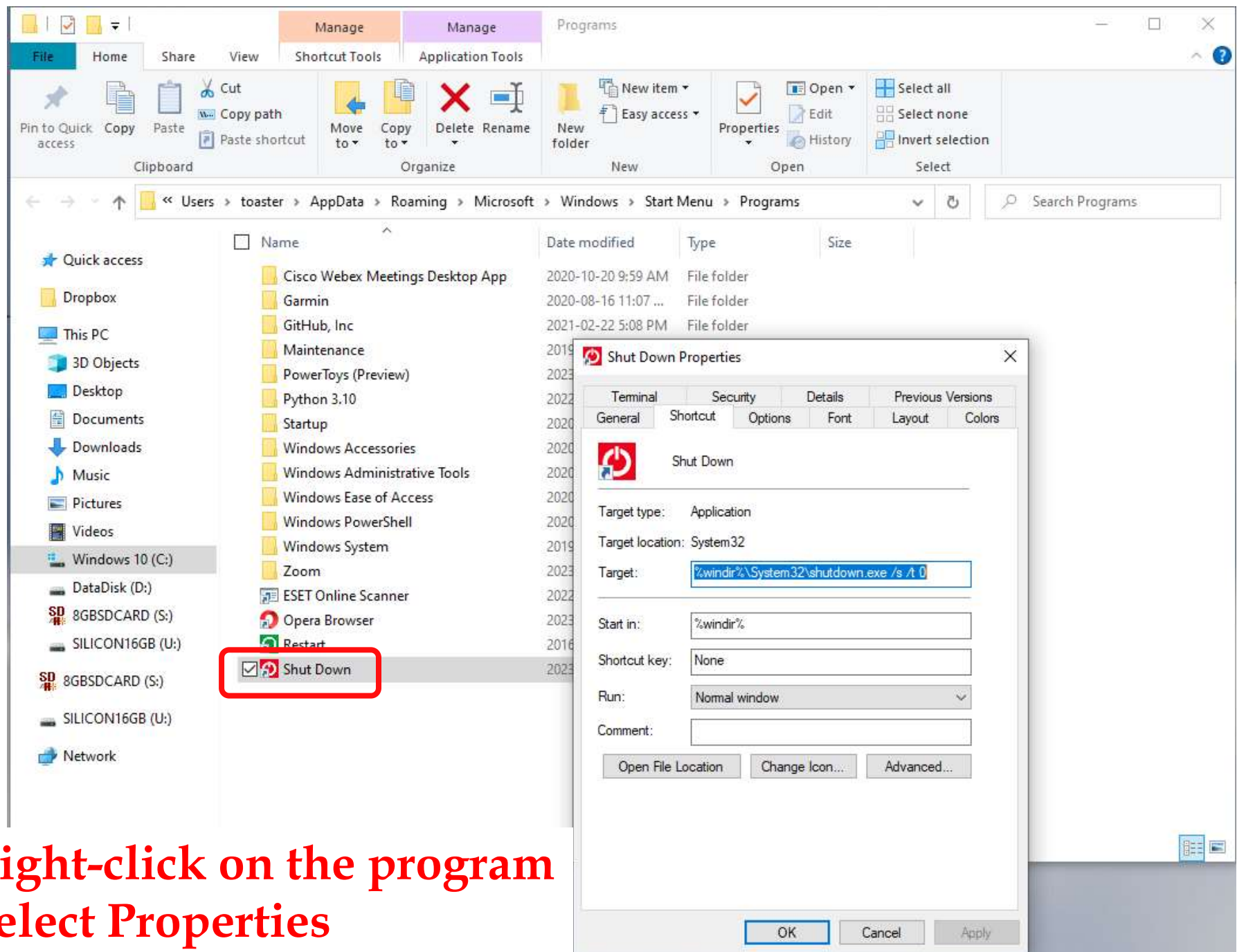


Desktop icons

Power Options in Windows 8.1
<https://opcug.ca/Articles/1505.pdf>



Select – More – Open file location



**Right-click on the program
Select Properties**

 Shut Down Properties

Terminal

Security

Details

Previous Versions

General

Shortcut

Options

Font

Layout

Colors

 Shut Down

Target type: Application

Target location: System32

Target: %windir%\System32\shutdown.exe /s /t 0

Start in: %windir%

Shortcut key: None

Run: Normal window

Comment:

Open File Location

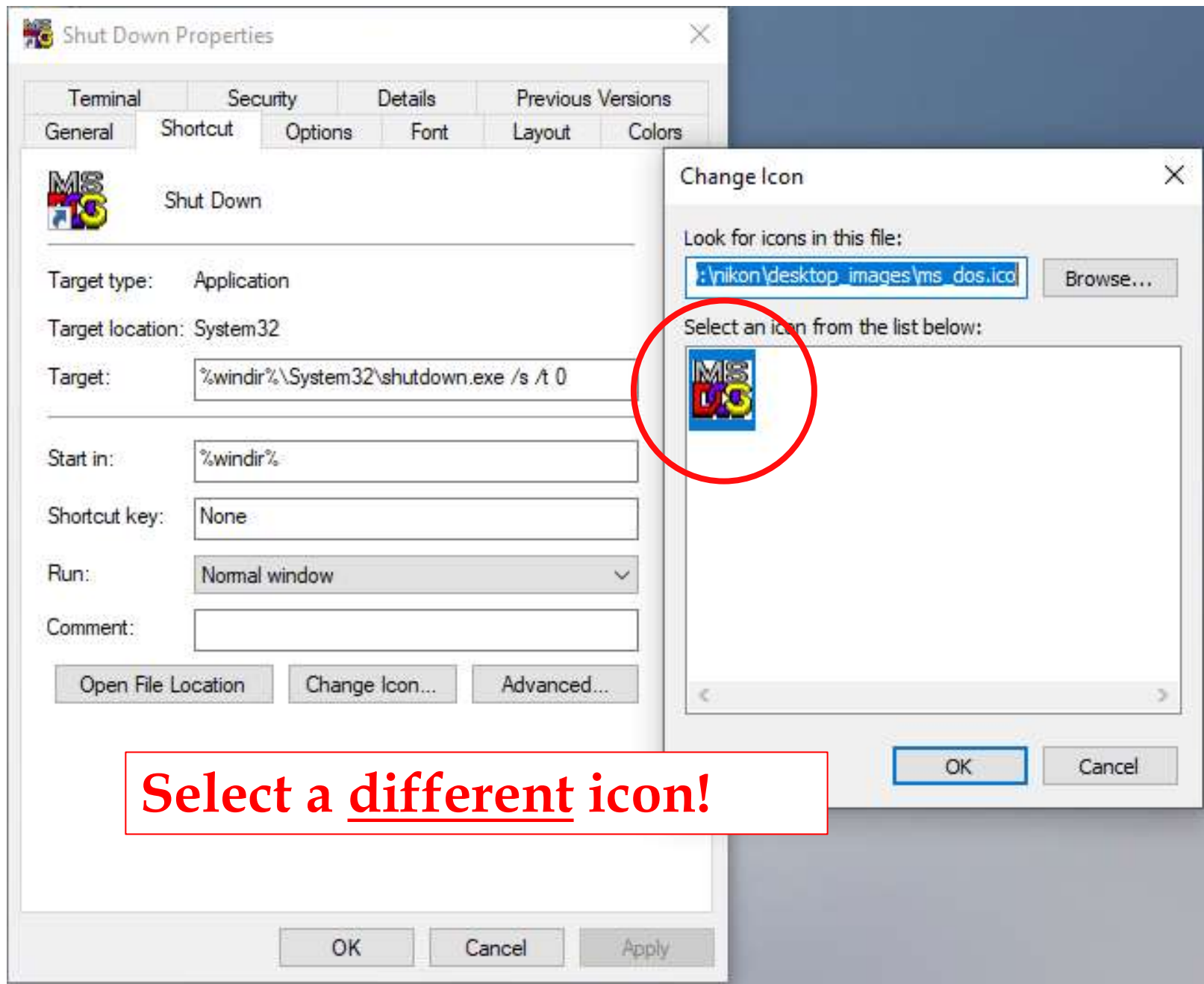
Change Icon...

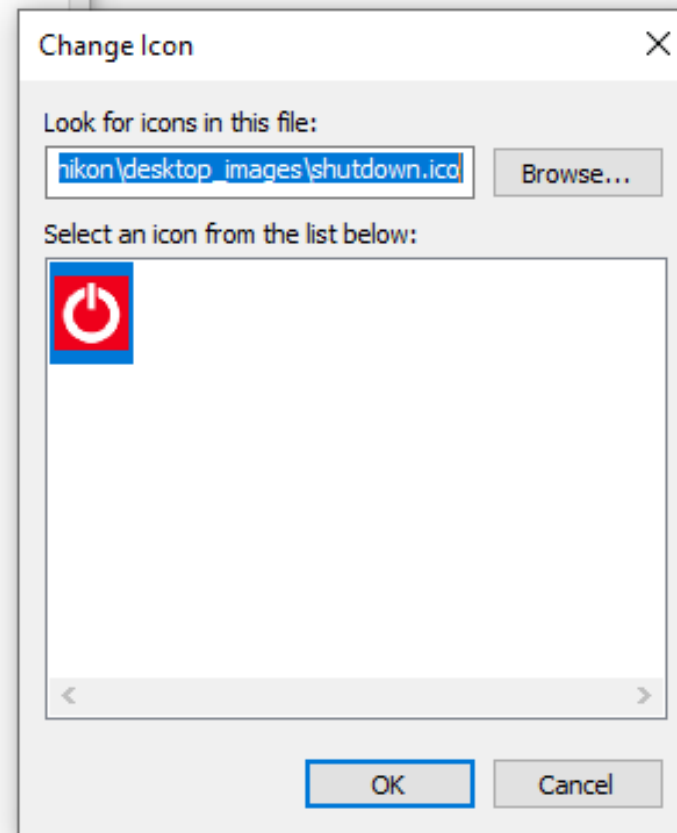
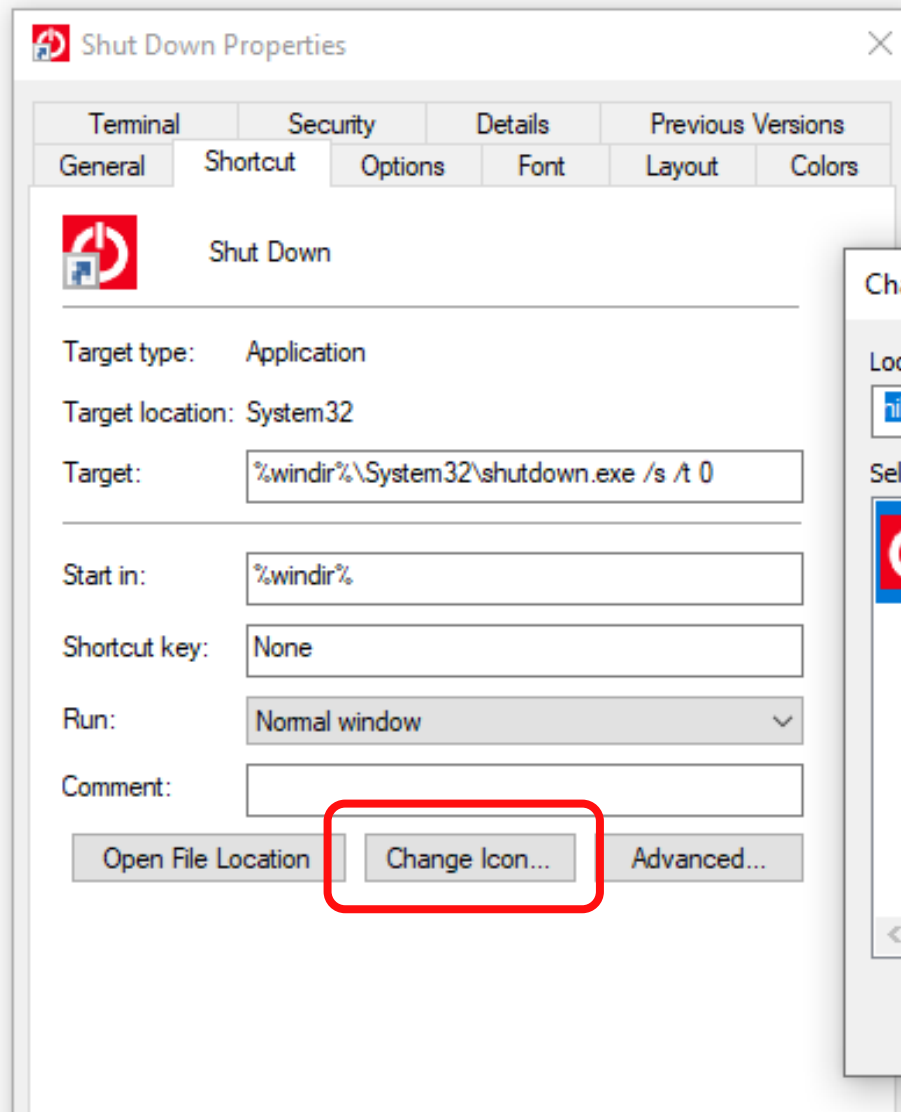
Advanced...

OK

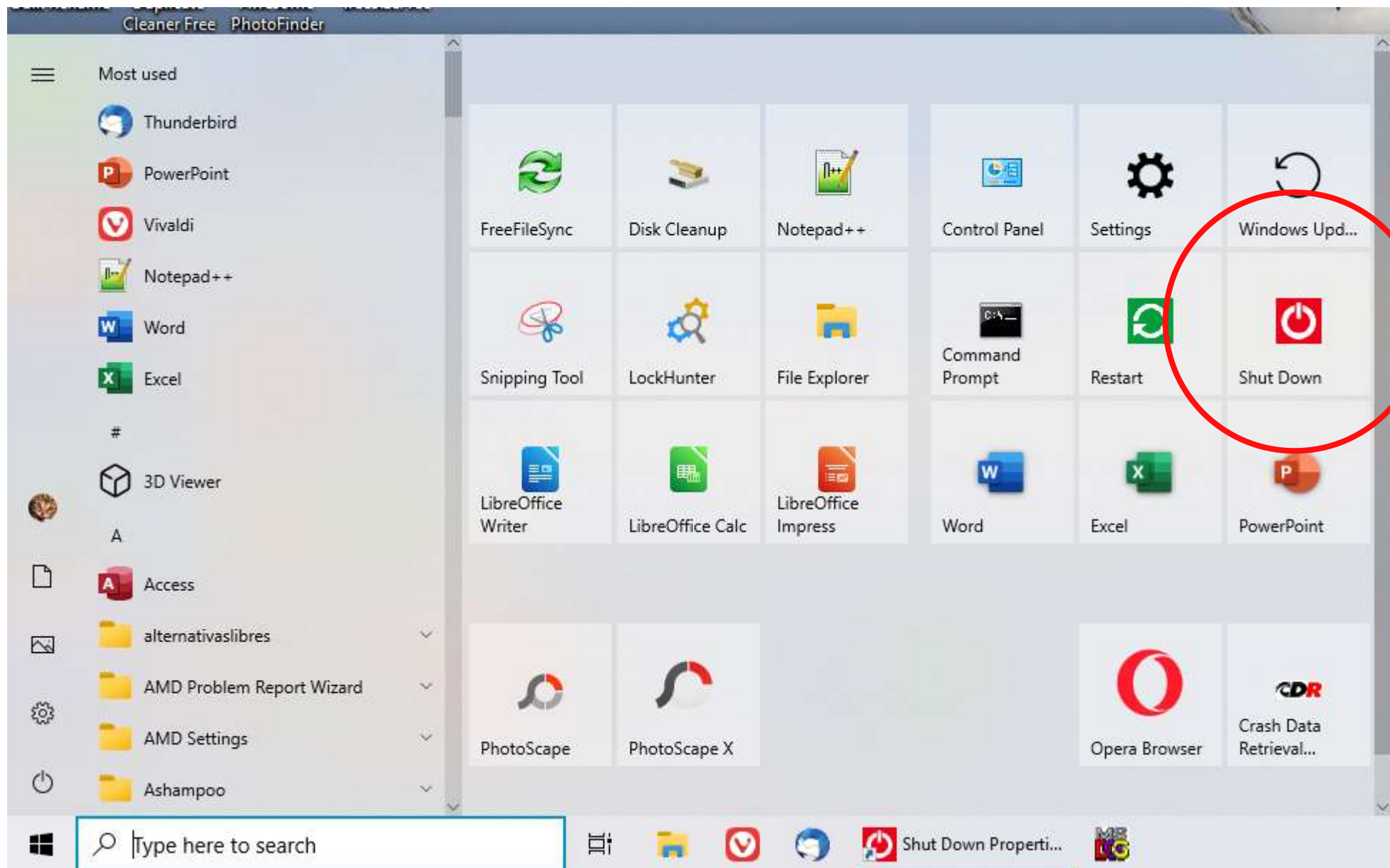
Cancel

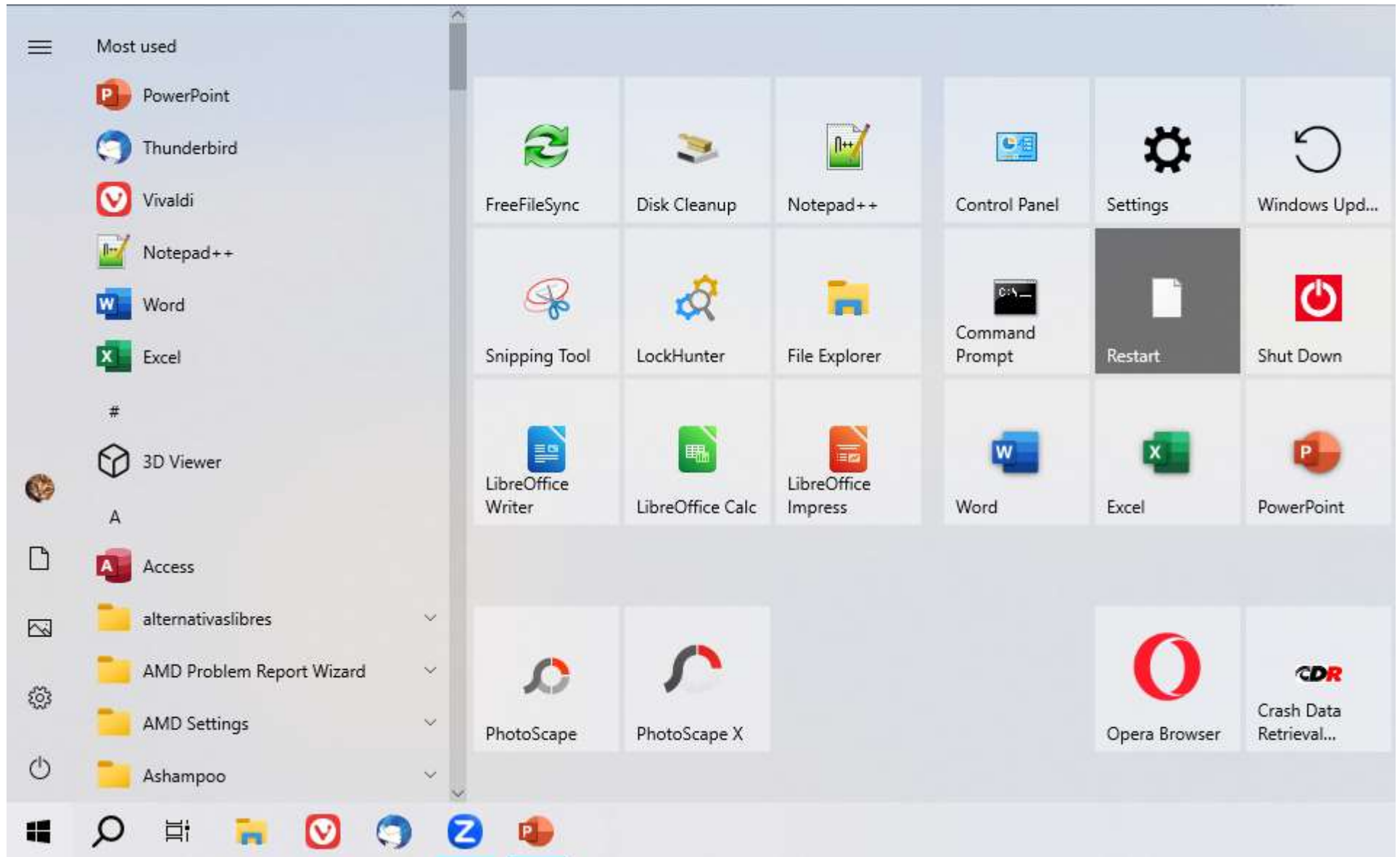
Apply





Change the icon again and select the icon you want





Share

Extending battery life



- Setting a Battery Charge Threshold
 - modern laptop batteries don't overcharge
 - if battery remains at 100% all the time
 - can eventually reduce battery longevity
- Many laptops have built-in battery charge limiter to maximize the battery run time
 - Lenovo, HP, MSI, Dell, Asus, Microsoft...

<https://www.makeuseof.com/windows-extend-battery-lifespan-battery-charge-threshold/>

Share

Other devices

- Android phones
 - install Accubattery
 - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.digibites.accubattery>
 - set alarm at level you wish to reach
- ebike (& other li-ion) batteries
 - charge rate slows around 80%
 - monitor charging via (e.g.) Kill-a-Watt
 - e.g. <https://www.thecabindepot.ca/products/kill-a-watt> (\$38)
 - stop charging when the current drops significantly



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Other devices

- Headphones, Bluetooth speakers, etc. (built-in batteries)
 - monitor charge current via a USB meter
 - <https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=usb+tester&s=price-asc-rank>
 - or if connected to phone you can check charge level
- Standalone Lithium batteries, e.g. for flashlights
 - charge to 100% for convenience – cheap to replace
- If battery embedded in device, expensive to replace
 - prolong device life probably 3-8x
 - if you can put up with charging more often
 - charge to 100% when you do need it



Share

Summary

Batteries in regular use like 60-80% charge level

Batteries in long term storage like 40% charge level

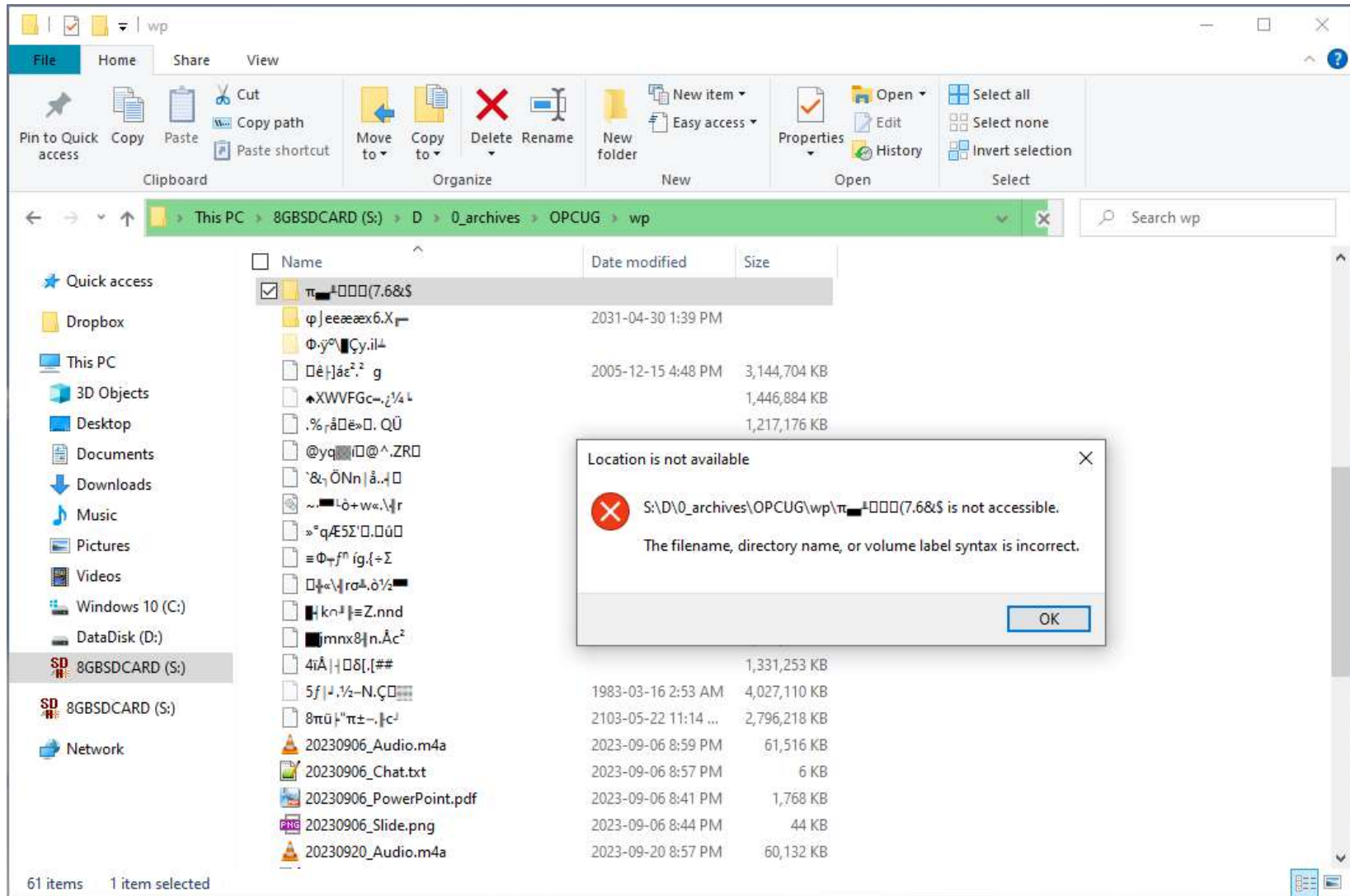
Batteries hate 0-15% charge

More at

<https://batteryuniversity.com/article/bu-808-how-to-prolong-lithium-based-batteries>

Follow Up

Green bar of death



☐ Name	Date modified	Size
☒ π_□□□(7.6&\$		
φ eeææx6.X_	2031-04-30 1:39 PM	
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Location is not available

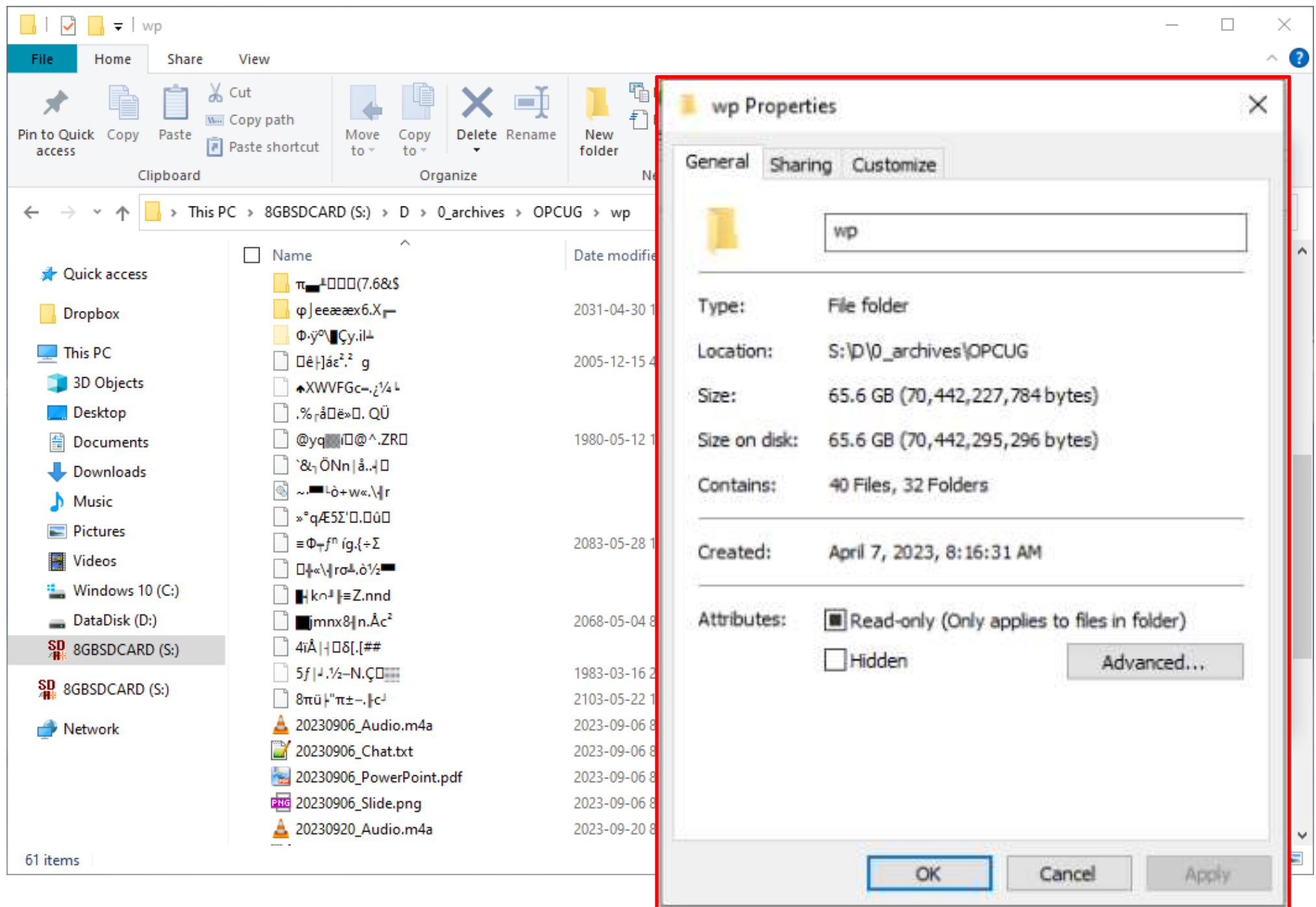


S:\D\0_archives\OPCUG\wp\π_□□□(7.6&\$ is not accessible.

The filename, directory name, or volume label syntax is incorrect.

OK

1.331.253 KB



FileHomeShareView

Pin to Quick access

Copy

Paste

Cut

Copy path

Paste shortcut

Move to

Copy to

Delete

Rename

New folder

New item

Easy access

Properties

Open

Edit

History

Select all

Select none

Invert selection

ClipboardOrganizeNewOpenSelect

←→↕↑

This PC > 8GBSDCARD (S:) > D > 0_archives > OPCUG > wp

Search wp

Quick access

Dropbox

This PC

3D Objects

Desktop

Documents

Downloads

Music

Pictures

Videos

Windows 10 (C:)

DataDisk (D:)

8GBSDCARD (S:)

8GBSDCARD (S:)

Network

Name	Date modified	Size
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8πü ¬"π±-., c¹		
20230906_Audio.m4a	2023-09-06 8:59 PM	61,516 KB
20230906_Chat.txt	2023-09-06 8:57 PM	6 KB
20230906_PowerPoint.pdf	2023-09-06 8:41 PM	1,768 KB
20230906_Slide.png	2023-09-06 8:44 PM	44 KB
20230920_Audio.m4a	2023-09-20 8:57 PM	60,132 KB

Delete Folder

Are you sure you want to permanently delete this folder?

π-□□□(7.6&\$
Type: File folder

YesNo

61 items1 item selected

File

Home

Share

View

Pin to Quick
access

Copy



Paste



Cut

Copy path

Paste shortcut

Move
toCopy
to

Delete



Rename

New
folder

New item

Easy access

New



Properties



Open

Edit

History

Open



Select all

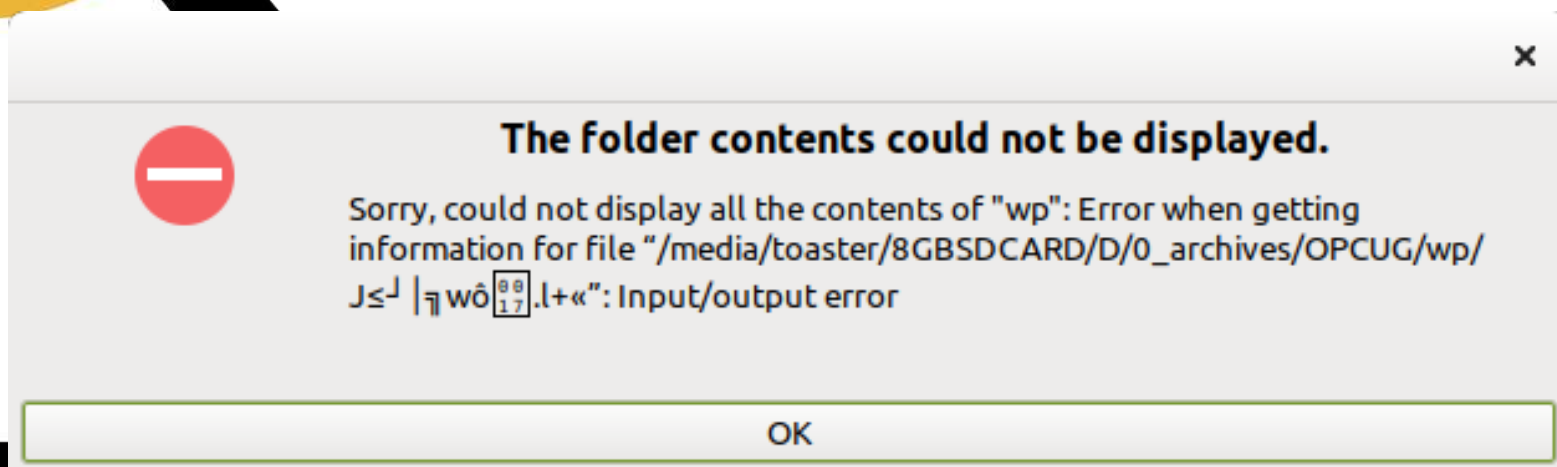
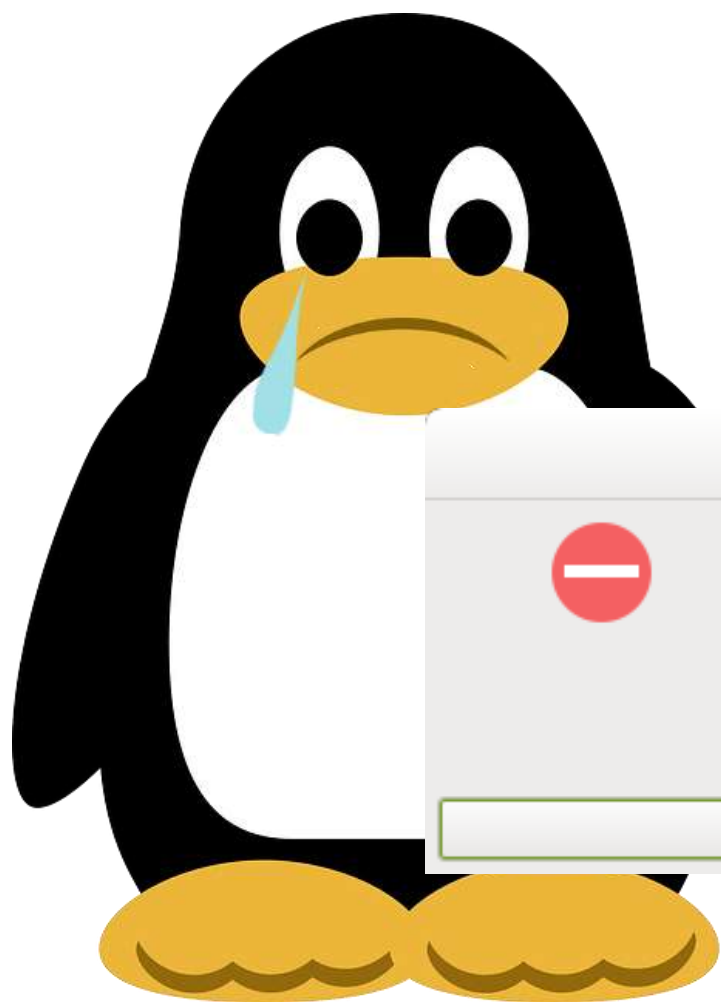
Select none

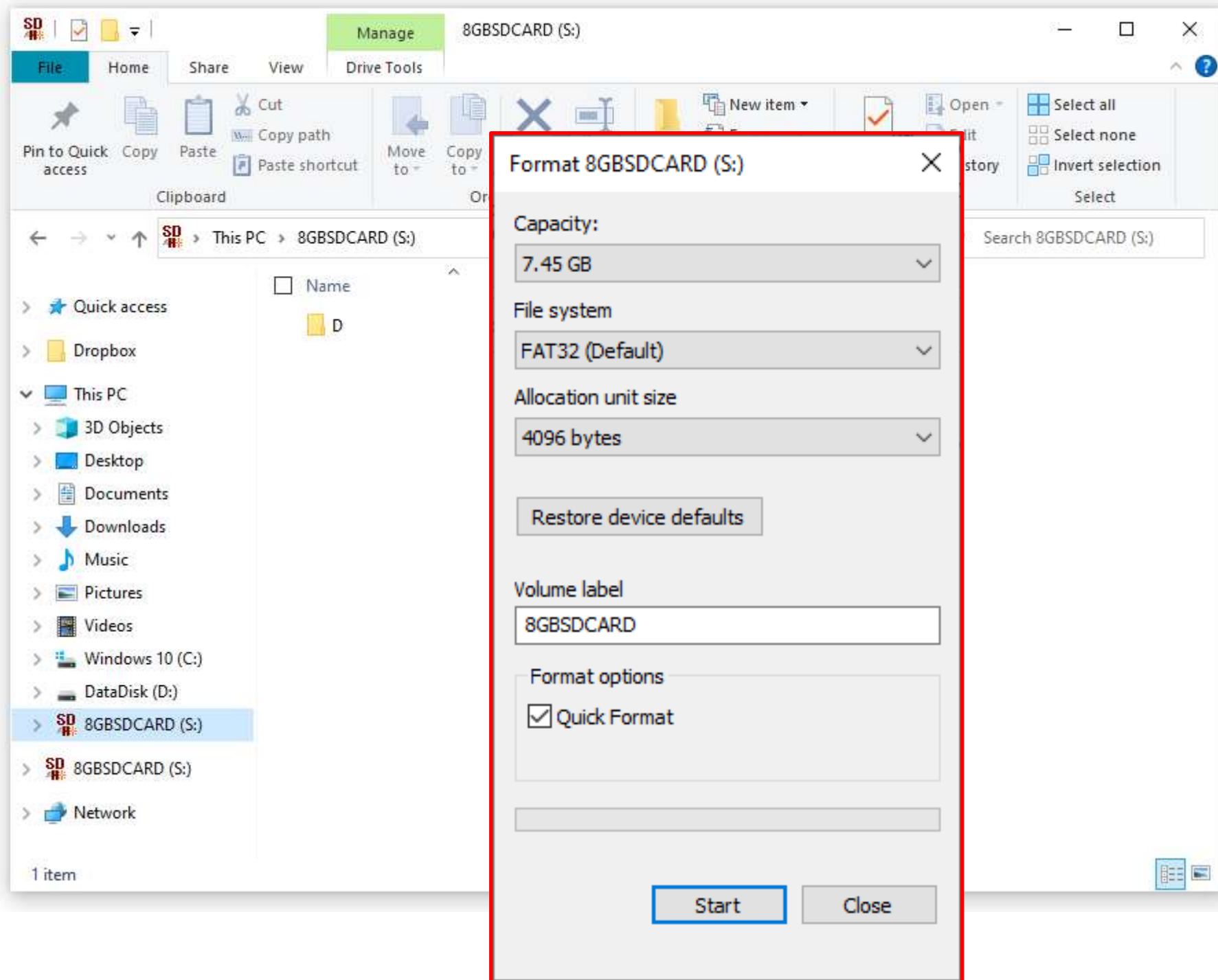
Invert selection

Select

Select







Share

Don't give up

- Installed the latest PowerToys update v0.74.1
- Immediate problems
 - some programs **very** slow to load
 - *PowerToys Settings* refused to load
 - even though *Powertoys.Settings* showed in Task Manager
 - Malwarebytes taking 6%-8% CPU
 - normally 0%
 - rebooted: problem again when accessing *PowerToys Settings*
 - uninstalled PowerToys – took a looong time – and rebooted
 - problem went away
 - reinstalled PowerToys – problem returned



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Uninstalled PowerToys



Chris living without
the PowerToys

Share

Are others having problems?

- Checked on PowerToys site at Github
 - no obvious similarities in *Issues* section
- Left PowerToys uninstalled
 - refer to previous slide to understand Chris's state of mind
- Two days later rechecked *Issues* at Github
 - something similar listed
 - ...and it mentioned high CPU utilization by Malwarebytes!
- I posted information of my testing and results



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More testing

- Revisited Github repository
 - a few people reporting problems with PowerToys & Malwarebytes
 - no problem if Malwarebytes set to not scan PowerToys folders
 - someone reported Malwarebytes forums had a thread
- Installed PowerToys and disabled Malwarebytes
 - could access PowerToys Settings no problem
 - enabled Malwarebytes
 - couldn't access PowerToys Settings
- Malwarebytes forum
 - a report Malwarebytes released an update that fixed the problem
- Updated Malwarebytes
- Problem fixed!



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Conclusion: persevere



- Some software problems can be *really* tricky to diagnose
 - especially if it's an interaction between two different pieces of software from two different publishers
- Try what you can to communicate with publishers
 - users and developers at the PowerToys Github repository are *very* helpful
- Be willing to test out suggestions and provide whatever help you can to help them fix the problem



crutkas commented 1 hour ago

Sounds like we can resolve this now, correct? /needinfo
we know what the root cause was too



Follow

crutkas Clint Rutkas

Lead on PowerToys and helping out Microsoft making Windows the best developer platform possible. Helped create Windows Template Studio too :)

📍 Seattle, WA

🔑 Committed to this repository in the

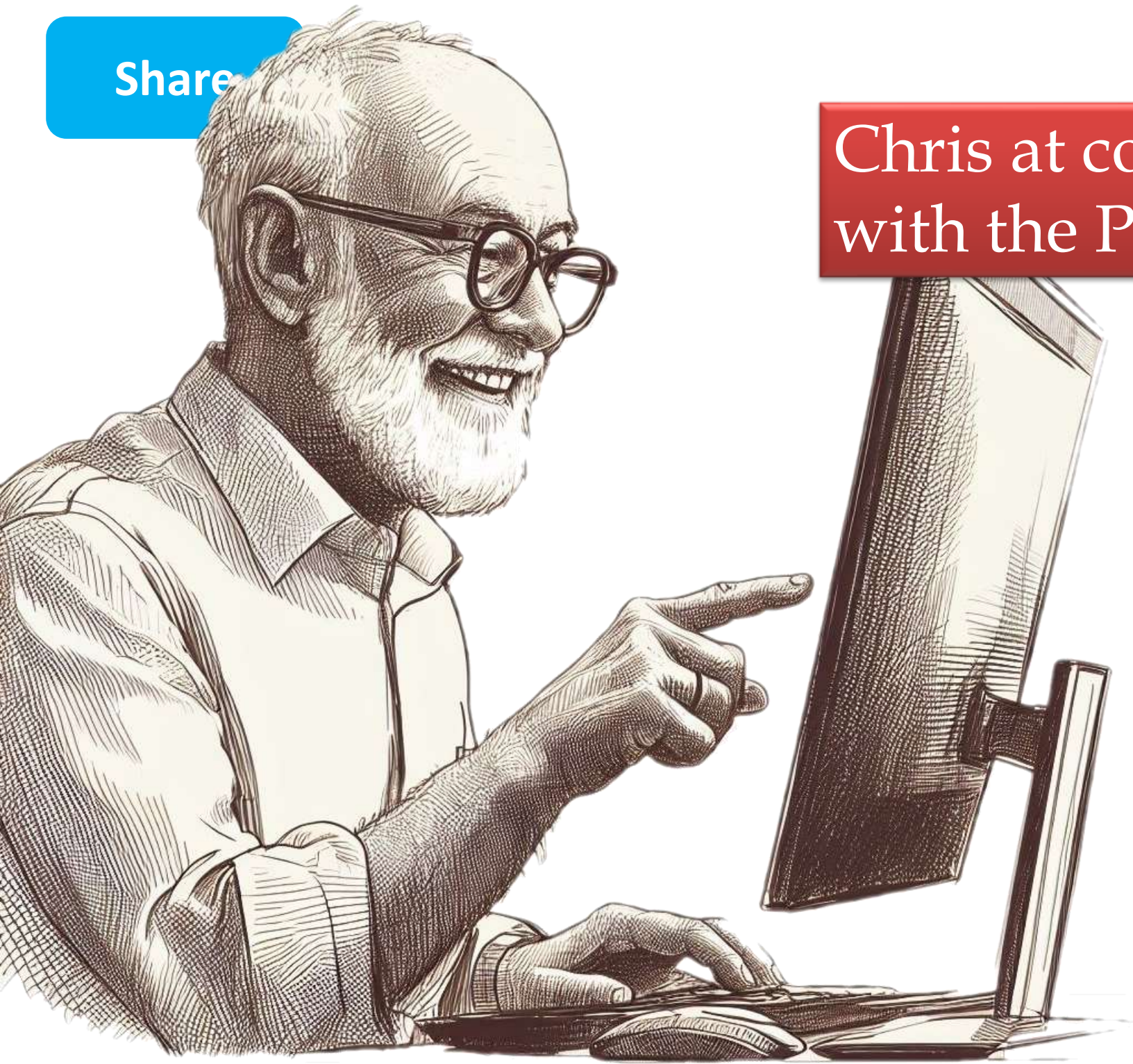
📁 Member of Microsoft



crutkas closed this as completed

Share

Chris at computer
with the PowerToys



Share

Free Software

PCWorld

HOW-TO

22 awesome open source programs that do everything you need

Open source software is available free of charge on the internet. There are solutions for almost every field of application with which you can work comfortably.

By Jörn-Erik Burkert
PCWorld | OCT 12, 2023 4:30 AM PDT



Image: iStockphoto / Patrick Duitkorko

Good software is the basis of all PC use, but many professional programs are too expensive for private use. This is where the free software-based applications step in, which, including their source code, are available free of charge on the internet.

e.g. LibreOffice
Inkscape
VLC

<https://www.pcworld.com/article/2091349/the-best-open-source-tools-at-a-glance.html>

Zamzar.com

- Another tool I have used frequently is Zamzar.com
- An online file converter and compressor
- Created by brothers Mike and Chris Whyley in England in 2006
- Allows users to convert files online, without downloading a software tool
- Supports over 1,200 different conversion types

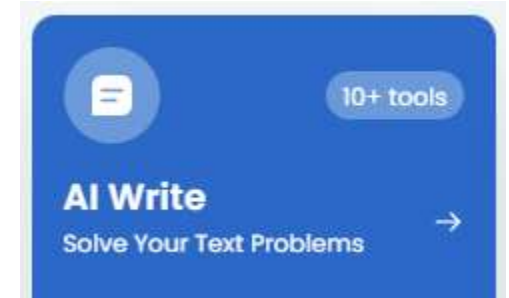


<https://www.zamzar.com>

Harvey Hope

tinywow.com

- Lots of good and useful tools on tinywow.com as well:
 - PDF Tools
 - Image Tools
 - Video Tools
 - AI Write
 - File Tools



<https://tinywow.com>

Jeff Dubois



LoonieBits

Cyder

- This past week's episode of CBC's Dragons Den had an item on a browser extension which purports to "take back your data" and rewards your browsing
- Cyder enforces the user's data permissions while they browse and provides rewards for sharing data with the companies they trust.
- Arlene Dickenson invested \$250K so, if you trust her, I suppose it might be worth a shot

<https://www.cbc.ca/dragonsden/pitches/cyder>



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

Stewart Bruce

Share

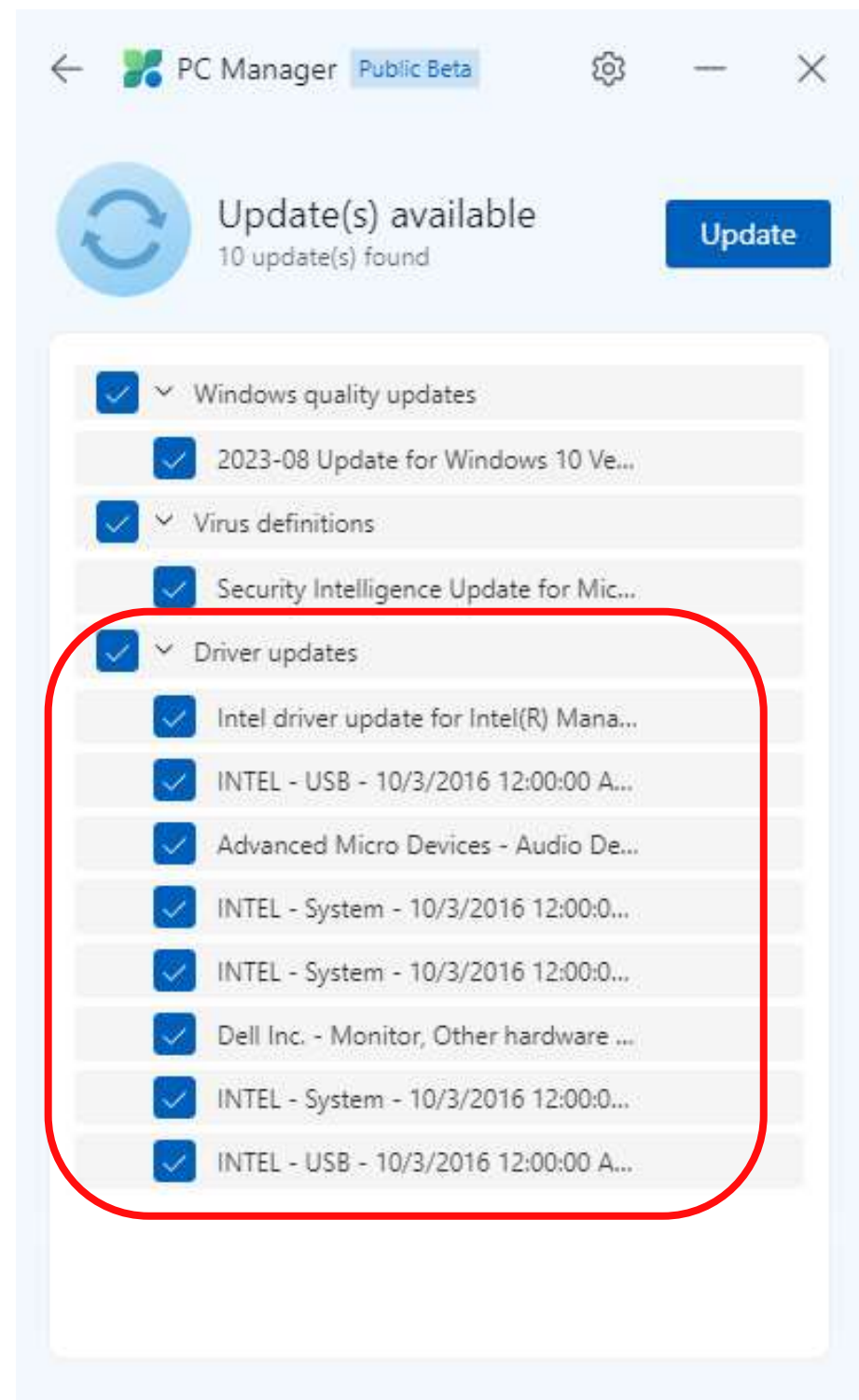
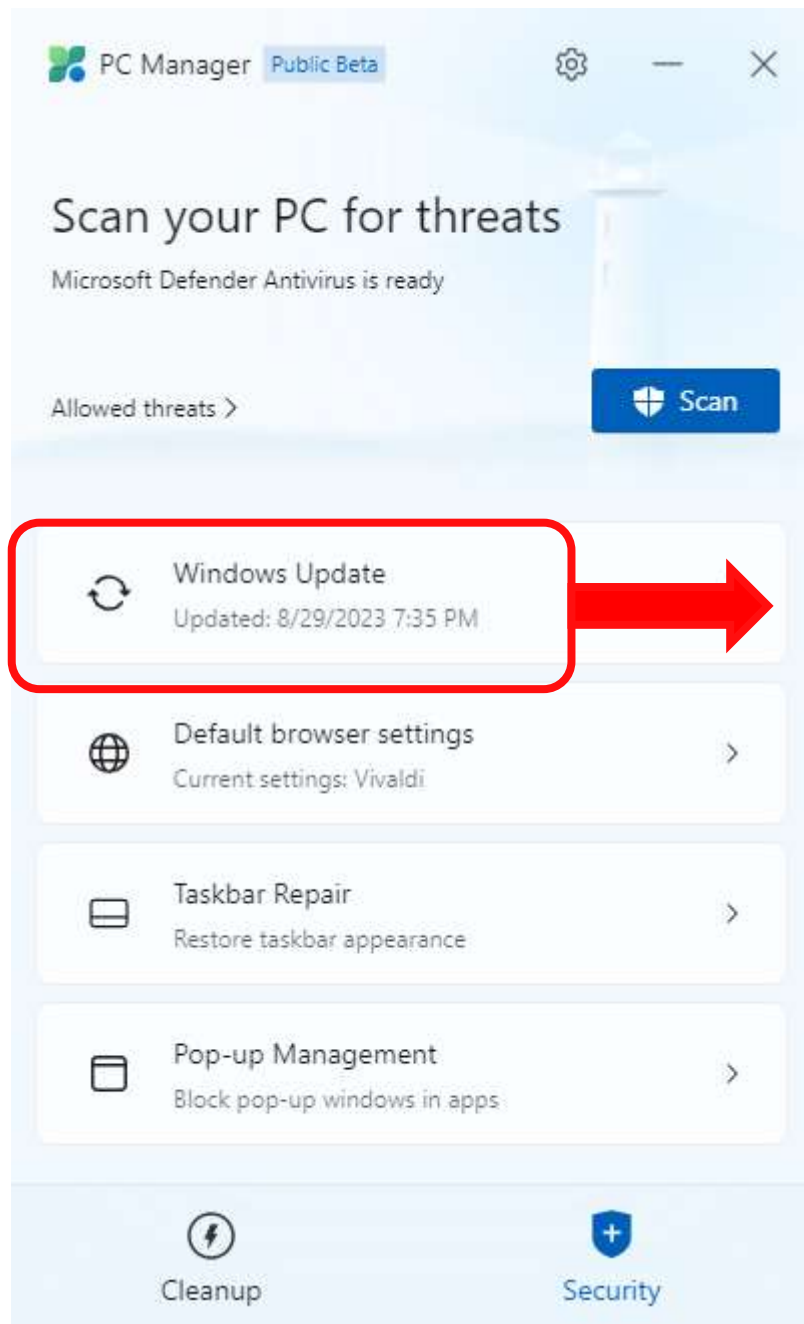
Can We Speed Up An Old Windows Computer?

- Question from a member *"My laptop takes a while to open, and most of the time in a circle..."*

- Comment from a member *"My laptop is so slow..."*

FOLLOW-UP

What can we do to speed up such machines?



Update & Security

Windows Update

Delivery Optimization

Windows Security

Backup

Troubleshoot

Recovery

Activation

Find my device

For developers

Windows Update



Updates available

Last checked: Today, 7:36 PM

2023-08 Update for Windows 10 Version 22H2 for x64-based Systems (KB4023057)

Status: Pending install

Install now

[View optional updates](#)



Pause updates for 7 days

Visit Advanced options to change the pause period



Change active hours

Currently 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM



View update history

See updates installed on your device



Advanced options

Additional update controls and settings



This PC doesn't currently meet the minimum system requirements to run Windows 11

Get the details and see if there are things you can do in the PC Health Check app.

[Get PC Health Check](#)

Looking for info on the latest updates?

Update & Security

Windows Update

Delivery Optimization

Windows Security

Backup

Troubleshoot

Recovery

Activation

Find my device

For developers

Windows Update



Updates available

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Advanced options

Additional update controls and settings



This PC doesn't currently meet the minimum system requirements to run Windows 11

Get the details and see if there are things you can do in the PC Health Check app.

[Get PC Health Check](#)

Looking for info on the latest updates?



Optional updates

Choose the updates you want and then select Download and install.



[Get help](#)

> Driver updates

Download and install

Optional updates

Choose the updates you want and then select Download and install.

 [Get help](#)

▼ Driver updates

If you have a specific problem, one of these drivers might help. Otherwise, automatic updates will keep your drivers up to date.

☐ Advanced Micro Devices - Audio Device - AMD High Definition Audio Device

☐ Dell Inc. - Monitor, Other hardware - Dell U2711(HDMI)

☐ INTEL - System - 10/3/2016 12:00:00 AM - 10.1.1.38

☐ INTEL - System - 10/3/2016 12:00:00 AM - 10.1.1.38

☐ INTEL - USB - 10/3/2016 12:00:00 AM - 10.1.1.38

☐ INTEL - USB - 10/3/2016 12:00:00 AM - 10.1.1.38

☐ INTEL - System - 10/3/2016 12:00:00 AM - 10.1.1.38

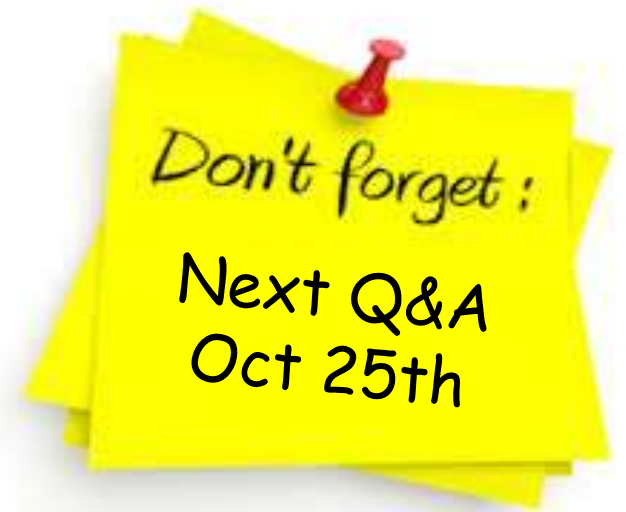
☐ Intel driver update for Intel(R) Management Engine Interface

Download and install

If you have a specific problem,
one of these drivers might help...



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca