



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

October 25, 2023

Share

Backup Software

Lifewire

TECH FOR HUMANS

NEWS

HOW TO

FEATURES

ABOUT US



NEWSLETTER!

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SOFTWARE & APPS > APPS

361

32 Best Free Backup Software Tools

Reviews of the best free backup software for Windows

By [Tim Fisher](#) · Updated on September 4, 2023 · Reviewed by [Jerrick Leger](#)



Free backup software is exactly what you think it is: completely free programs that can be used to manually or automatically make copies of the important data on your computer hard drive and save them somewhere safe like a [flash drive](#), disc, network drive, etc.

[Commercial backup programs](#) used to be the best way to go because they were the only way to get features like advanced scheduling, disk and partition cloning, incremental backup, and more. Not so

<https://www.lifewire.com/free-backup-software-tools-2617964>

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Overcome Windows Setup Annoyances

- Paul Thurrott article on better ways to setup Windows
- Perform a super-clean install of Windows 11 without the crapware
- Bypass the Microsoft account sign-in requirement in Windows Setup



<https://www.thurrott.com/books/windows-11-field-guide/install-windows-11/291479/overcome-windows-setup-annoyances>

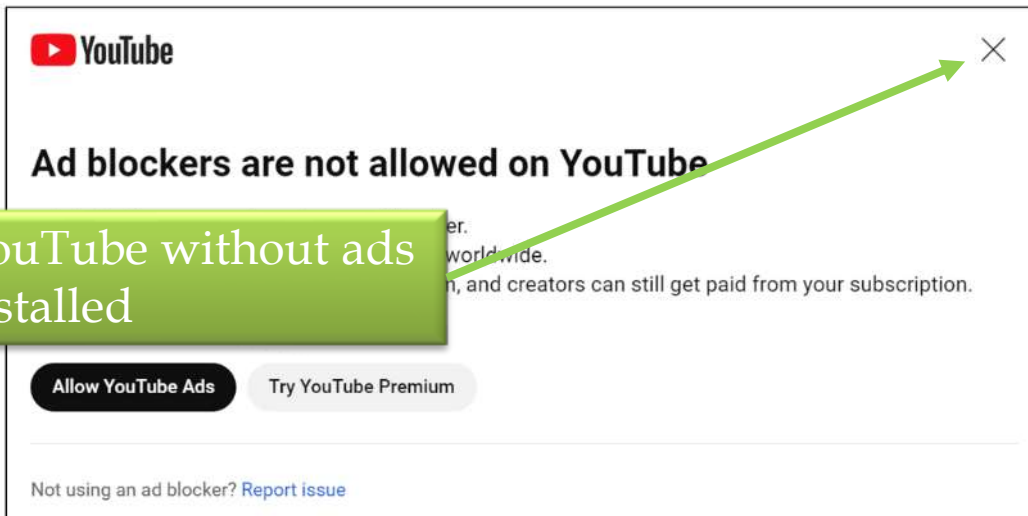
Follow Up YouTube blocking ad blockers

Oct 4 Q&A

Share

YouTube blocking ad blockers!

- Brand new as of today (October 4th)
- If you go to YouTube with an ad blocker active in your browser



Able to click **X** & continue using YouTube without ads

- with uBlock Origin extension installed

You can "x" out of the box and continue as before...for how long?

Let us know if you get blocked when using an ad blocker

Follow Up

A few days later...



1

2

3

Video player will be blocked after 3 videos

- It looks like you may be using an ad blocker. Video playback will be blocked unless YouTube is allowlisted or the ad blocker is disabled.
- Ads allow YouTube to be used by billions worldwide.
- You can go ad-free with YouTube Premium, and creators can still get paid from your subscription.

Allow YouTube Ads

Try YouTube Premium

[Not using an ad blocker? Report issue](#)

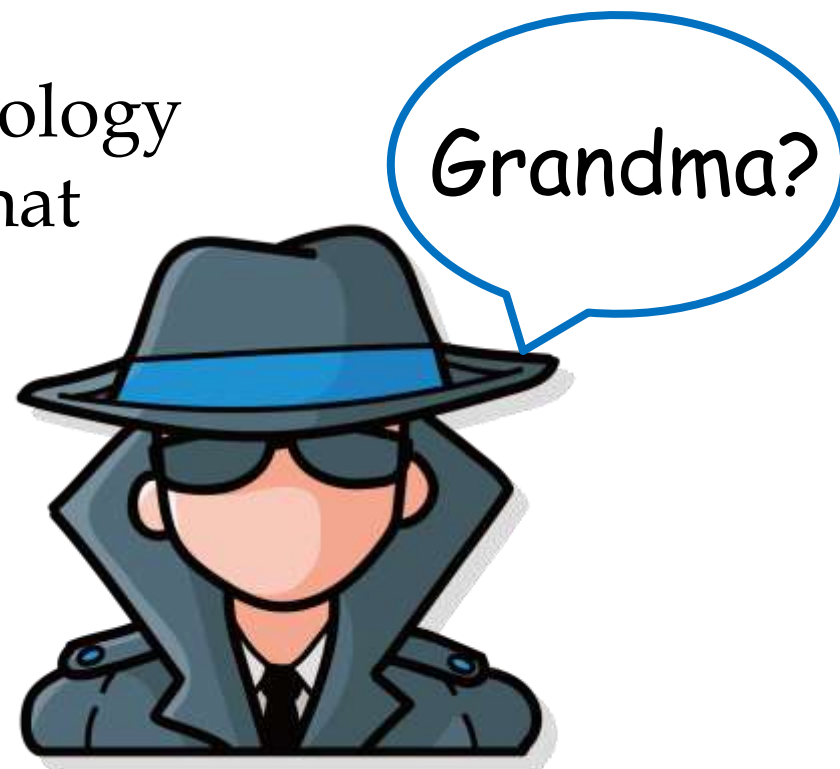
Sure enough

- after watching 3 more videos
- had to allow ads in YouTube
 - uBlock Origin
 - Malwarebytes Browser Guard

Share

Grandparent Scam

- Most of us have heard about the “grandparent scam” where unscrupulous brigands and blackguards contact a vulnerable target and misrepresent a relative in dire circumstance
- One of the newest iterations of this scam is to use AI technology to clone a voice and present that voice to the victim.



- The fraudsters must obtain an actual sample of a voice in order to clone it
- What could be easier than to obtain that voice sample by simply capturing it from someone's voice-mail message?
- Armed with a voice sample, the fictitious cloned doppelganger is created



Is that you
Jeffrey?



- My solution is to use murf.ai (an AI text-to-speech engine) to create my voicemail message



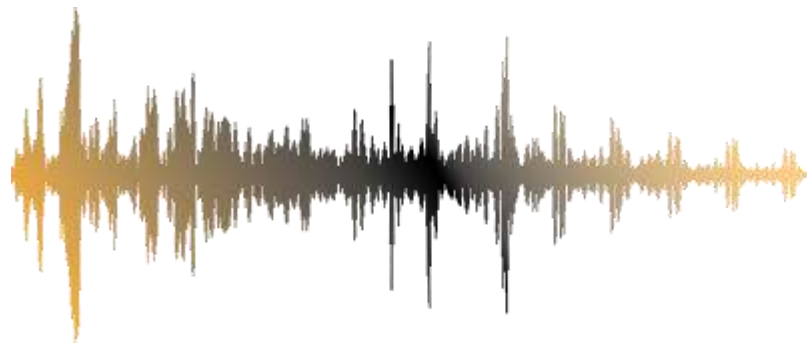
- My solution is to use murf.ai (an AI text-to-speech engine) to create my voicemail message

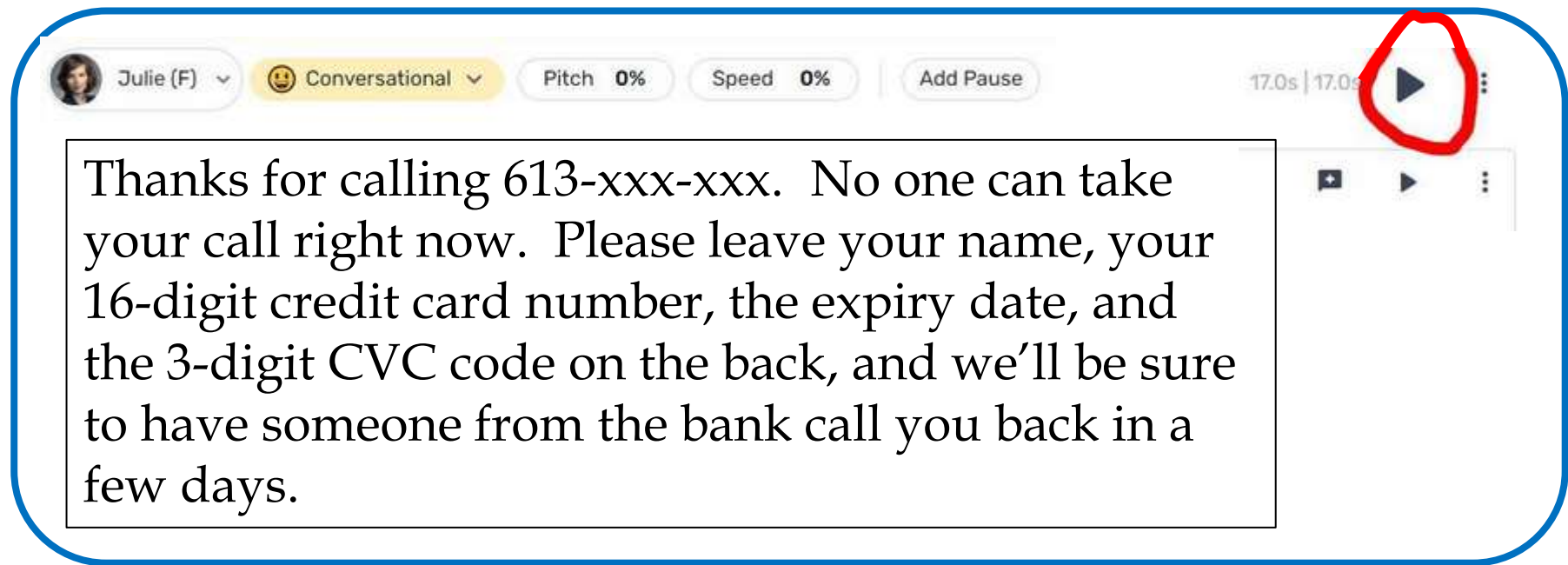


- In other words, **I use AI to thwart AI !**



- There are a limited number of free voices you can use
- You can only download one audio project without purchasing a premium plan
- But you can create as many projects as you like
- You can still “play” the sound file even though you cannot download the audio file





- I doubt my voicemail message* (courtesy of AI Julie) will garner anything but hangups from fraudsters and telemarketers
- But, my friends and family find it amusing and those are the only people I'm concerned with!

** Note - you can produce a more conventional message*

Share

Photo Stamp Remover



SoftOrbits

- Remove unwanted portions of images
- Content-aware fill with several modes
 - **Inpainting***, Hole Filling, **Texture Generation***, Quick Remove
- Can target a specific colour in selection area
- Batch mode
 - great for things like date stamps on a bunch of photos
- Free lifetime non-commercial license through Oct 30
 - US\$60 reg. price
 - <https://sharewareonsale.com/s/softorbits-photo-stamp-remover-sale>

* Best in my experience

Thanks to Serge-Érik Thériault for pointing out *SharewareOnSale*

• 2023-02-08 - <https://opcug.ca/presentations/2023-02-PaidSoftware4Free.pdf>

Original

- want to remove boat

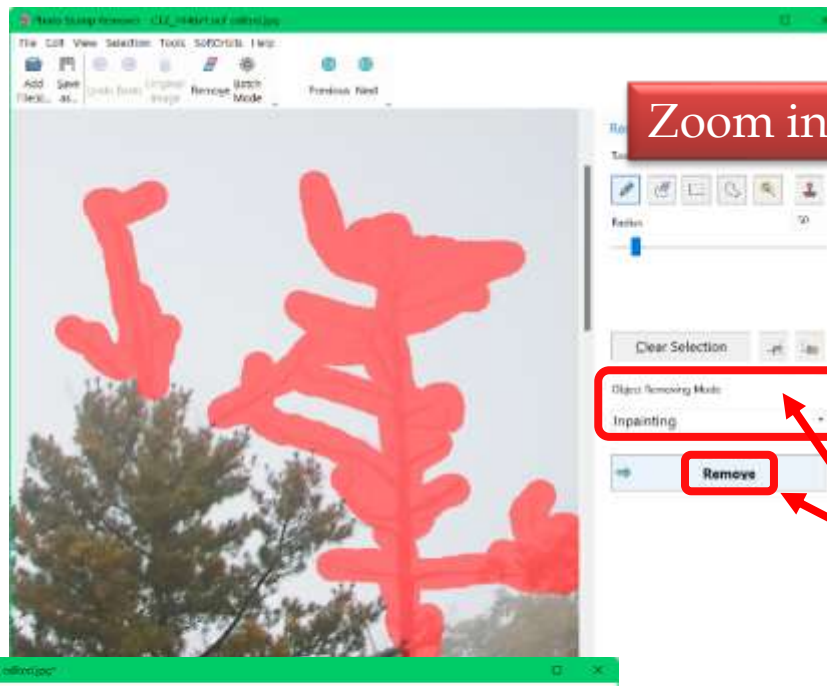
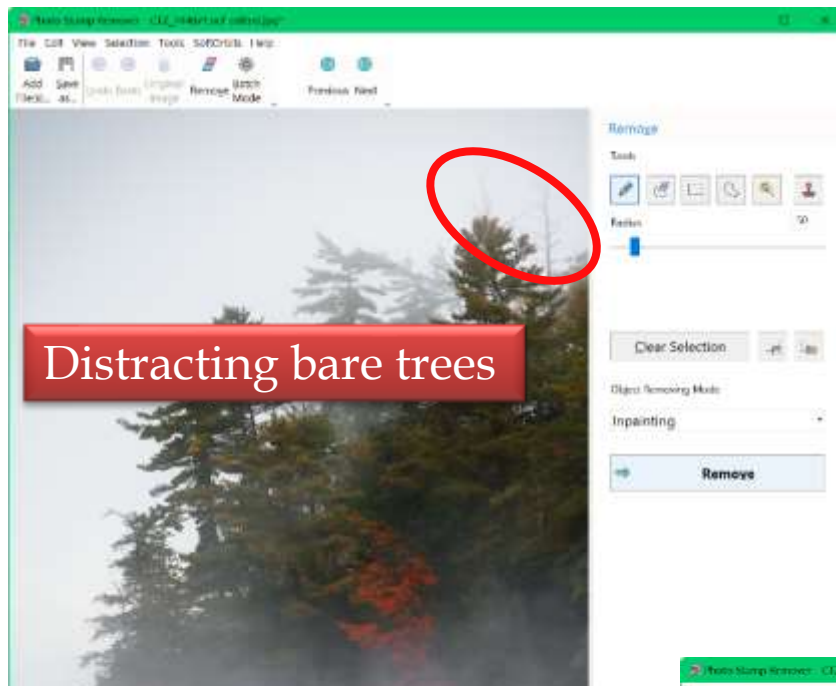
Most photo editors have a clone stamp

- why not just use that?

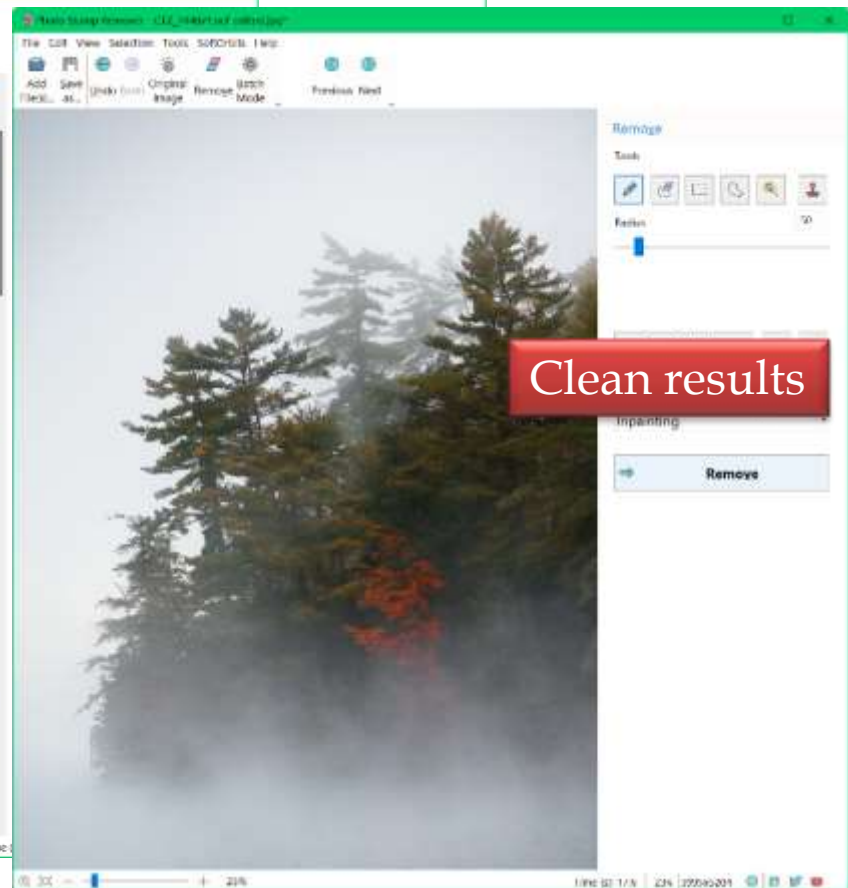
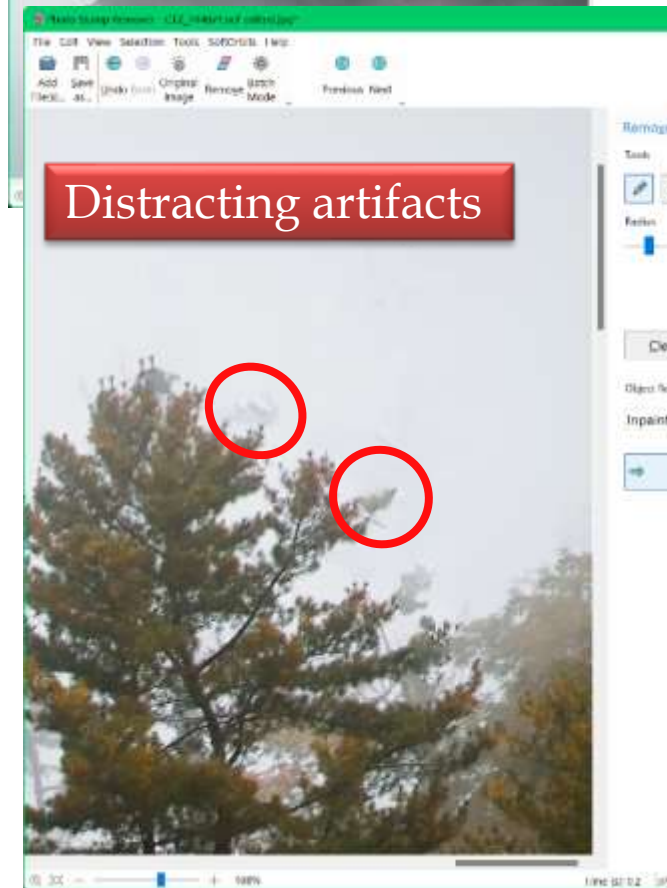
Cloning produces repeating patterns

Content-aware fill

- no repeating patterns



Choose Mode
Click *Remove*



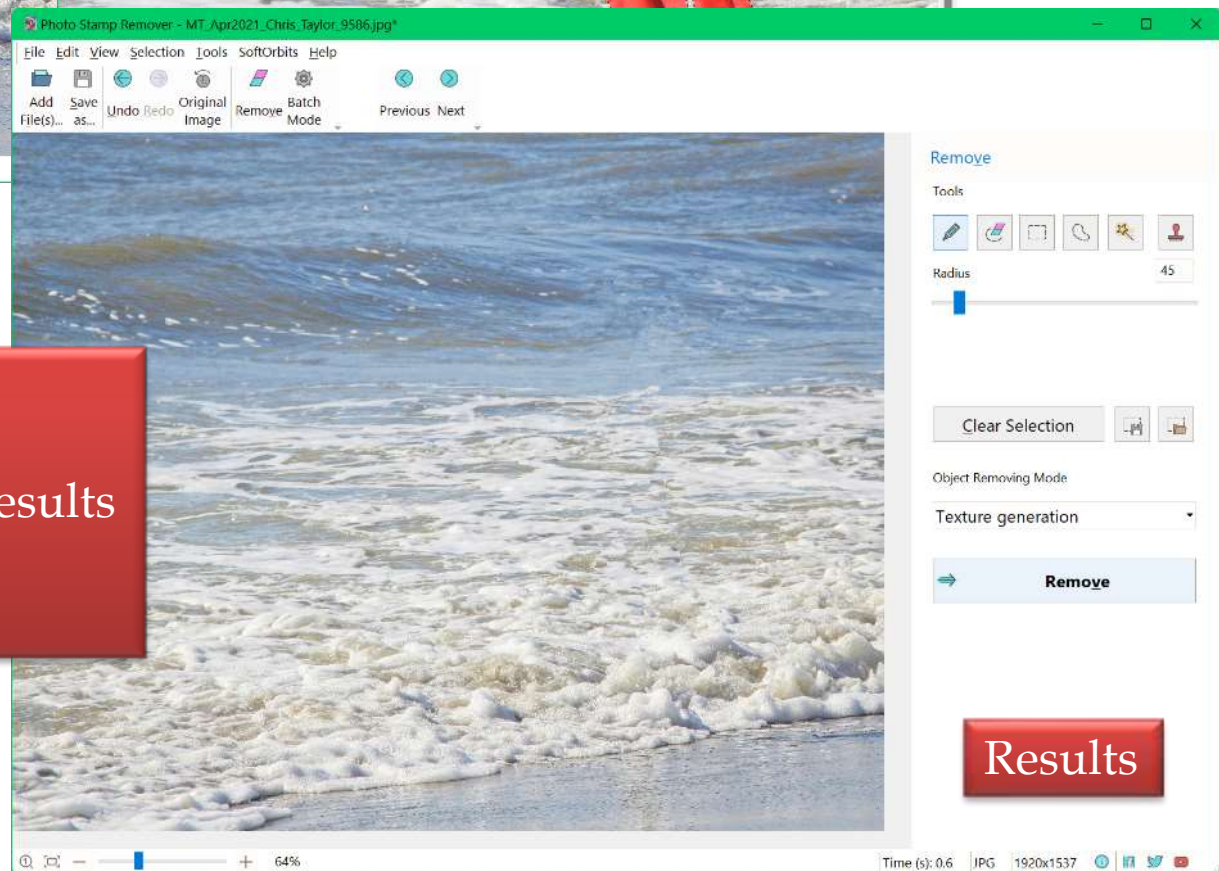
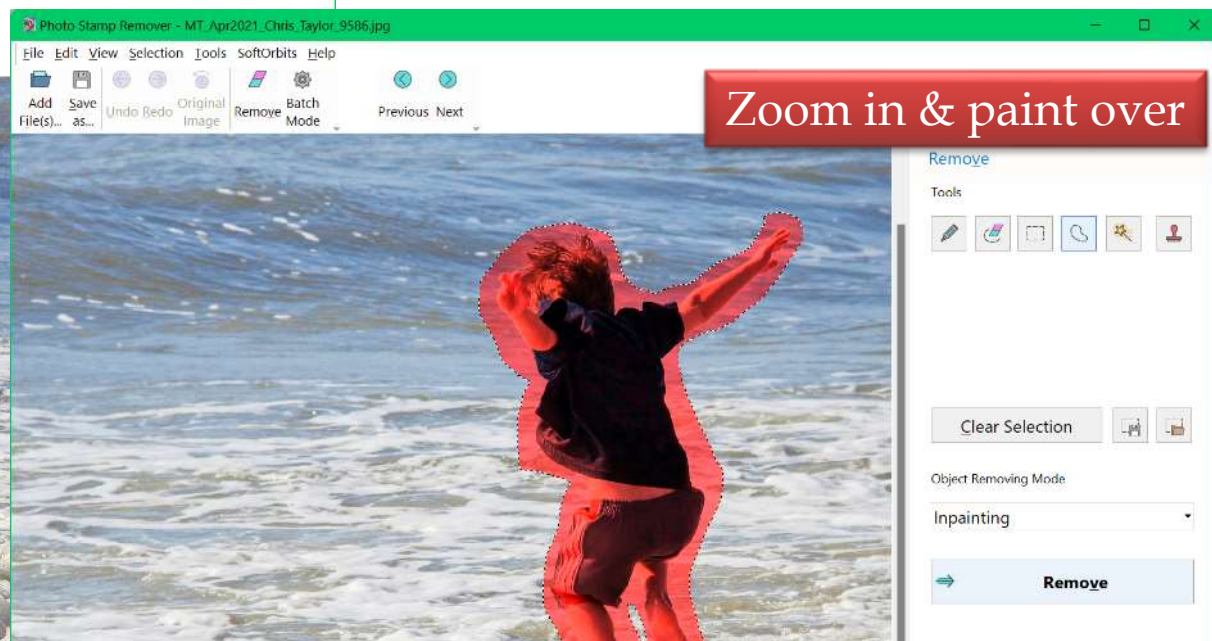
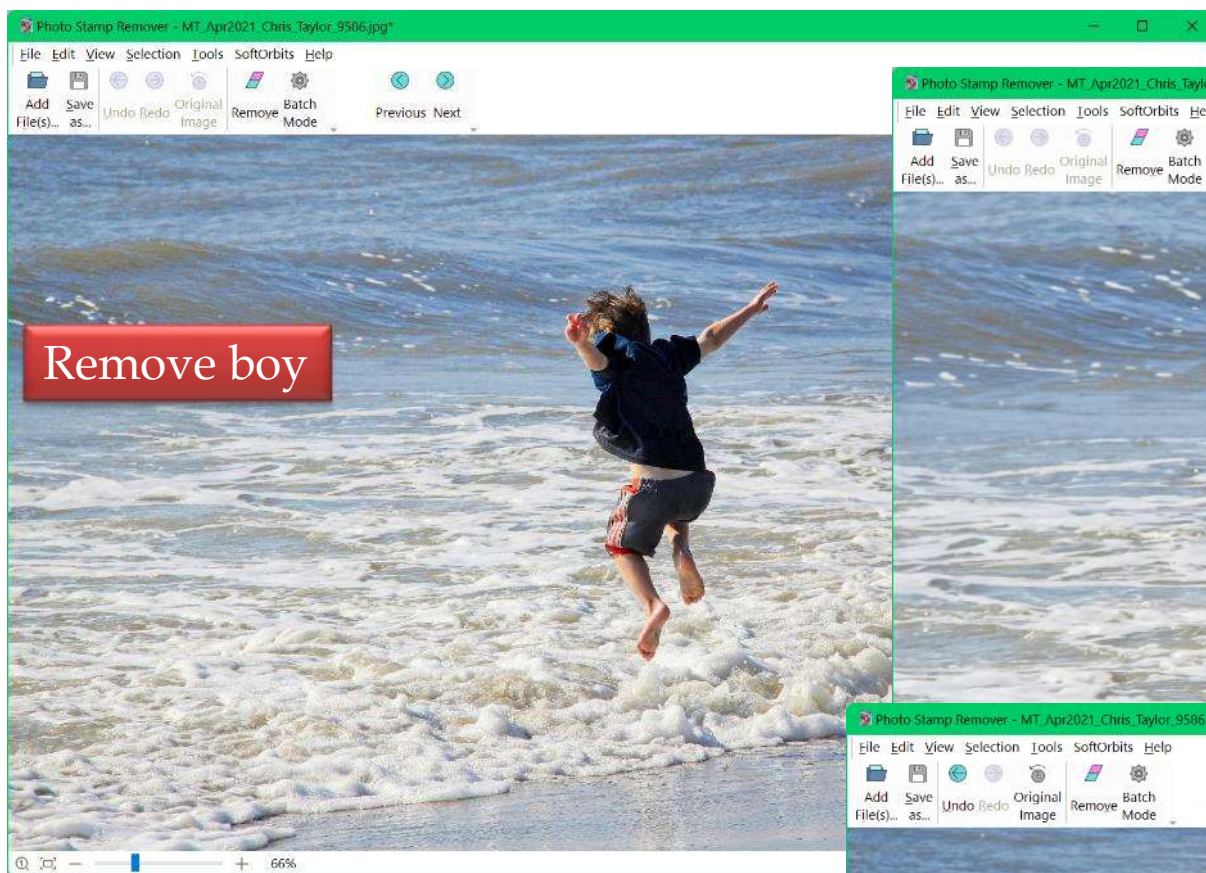


Photo Stamp Remover

- very good job of content-aware fill
- several different Modes for better results
- worth US\$60? – probably not
- great for free? – definitely!



LoonieBits

Biometric authentication

- Biometric authentication for Digital ID is all the rage these days (even if Canadians haven't noticed it yet!)
- Our Government has
- The Privacy Commissioner is asking for the public's guidance on how to best implement this

<https://mobilesyrup.com/2023/10/12/privacy-commissioner-feedback-on-biometrics-guidance/>

Stewart Bruce

- There is a company which, for a few years now, has been quietly building a presence in the digital ID space for Canadians

<https://bluink.ca/>



- They have produced an app that will provide a Digital ID which is supposedly supported by all Canadian provinces
- Driver licenses and health cards may be added as well as a few others
- Nexus, status, permanent resident are supported as well as passports for several countries

- Not all digital versions of documents are acceptable in all situations yet (e.g. police interventions)
- It is recommended that you carry physical documents with you
- Bluink's blog or Facebook page probably has the most up to date information:

<https://bluink.ca/blog/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BluinkLtd>

- But if you are looking for global, up-to-date information, I suggest this website I found while researching Bluink:

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



Cable Internet dropping

- Cable internet with National Capital Freenet (NCF)
 - Rogers provides the infrastructure
- Using WiFi connection to router
- About twice a day Internet connection lost
- Anyone else experiencing this?
- Any ideas to troubleshoot and prevent these drops?



The logo consists of the letters 'Q', '&', and 'A' in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The 'Q' and '&' are dark blue, while the 'A' is green. They are positioned on the left side of the slide, with the text 'That depends...' to their right.

That depends...

- There are many variable that can come into play
- Does the Internet connection also drop on devices using a wired connection?
 - if so, probably on the router itself or Rogers's infrastructure
 - if not, probably a WiFi propagation problem
- Reply from Elizabeth
 - bought an Ethernet cable and will test over a period to see if the drops happen when on wired connection

The logo features the letters 'Q', '&', and 'A' in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The 'Q' and '&' are dark blue, while the 'A' is green. They are set against a background of faint, light green horizontal lines.

Other things to try

- Test strength of WiFi connection
 - Apps available to give more info about WiFi—e.g.
 - Android: WiFi Analyzer (open-source)
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vrem.wifianalyzer>
 - Windows: WiFi Analyzer
 - <https://apps.microsoft.com/detail/wifi-analyzer/9NBLGGH33N0N>
- What else happens when signal drops?
 - some electrical devices may cause interference
- Can you move the router?
 - it may be possible to get a stronger signal
 - even just orienting the antennae differently could help
- WiFi extender?
- Q&A 2023-09-06: WiFi Coverage
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230906_PowerPoint.pdf
- Anyone with other ideas?



Bell Email Locking

- I use Bell.net for Email
- Last week, when writing an Email
 - I get a message on the screen saying LOCKING
 - then everything shuts down
- Why does that happen?
- I called Bell and explained
- No reason was given as to why; Bell can't help
- Has anyone experienced/fixed this issue?



Repair shop spies

- I saw an item on the CBC News site regarding computer repair stores prying into customers' private data.
- How can we protect ourselves from this?
- How could we hide our data without having to remove it before a repair?



We caught technicians at Best Buy, Mobile Klinik, Canada Computers and others snooping on our personal devices

Andrew Petrovic



Create a new Administrator account

- One thing people should probably do is create a new admin account for the repair shop to use
- That would prevent the technician from accessing other profiles - at least easily!



ADMIN

Local Account
Administrator



Encrypt the data

- A simple way to “hide” the data is to encrypt the files/folders containing the data
- Use a utility program such as PeaZip
<https://peazip.github.io>
- Create an archive of the files/folders that you wish to protect
- Include a password
- An option allows encryption of the file names in addition to the contents of the files

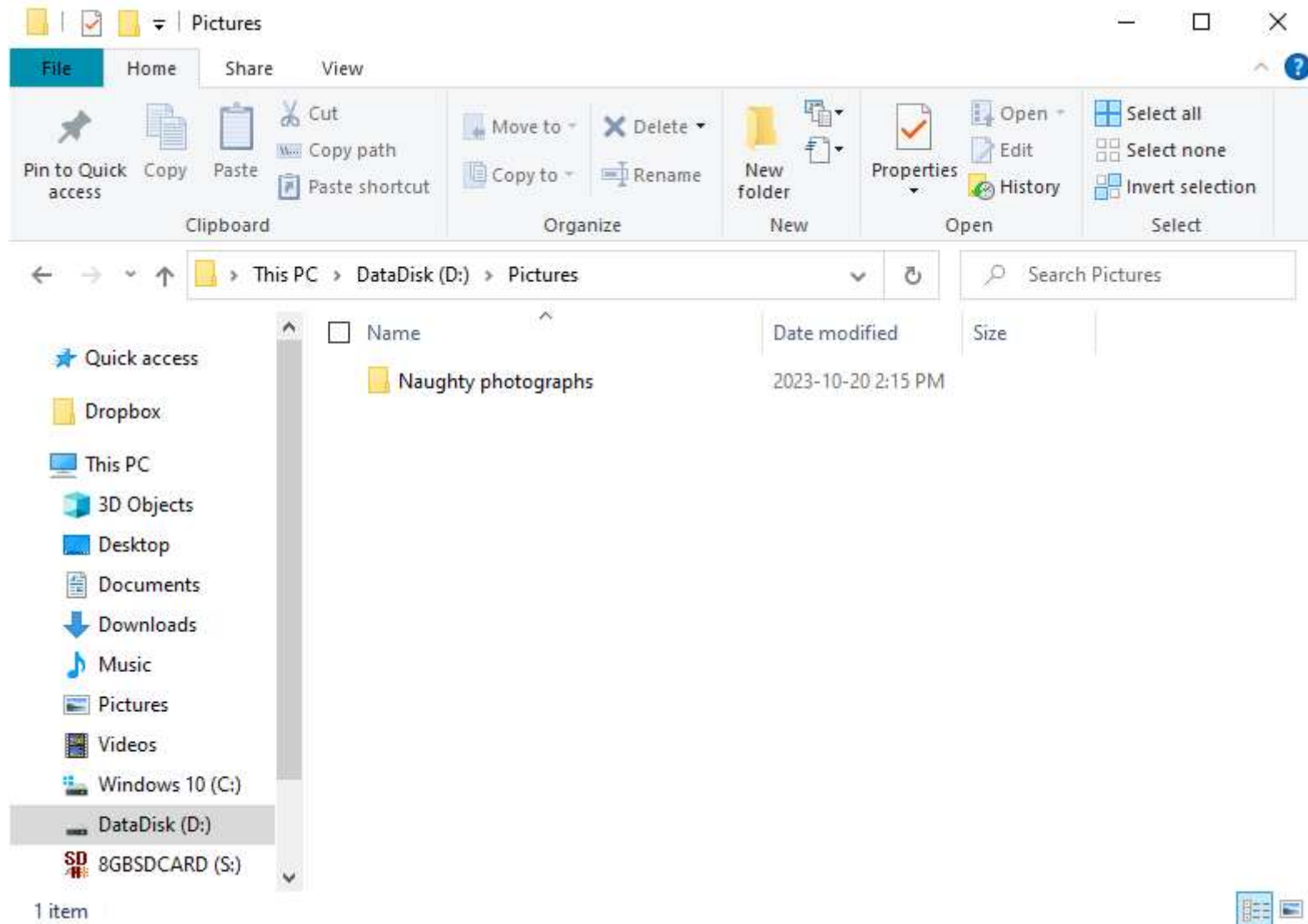


Encrypt the data

- A simple way to “hide” the data is to encrypt the files/folders containing the data
- Use a utility program such as PooZi

**Write the password down
Don't forget it - It is not recoverable!**

- Include a password
- An option allows encryption of the file names in addition to the contents of the files



Create .zip | Fast, Deflate | New archive

FileLayoutToolsOptionsHelp

Archive

Advanced

Console

Schedule

Name	Type	Size	Folders	Files	Modified	Attributes	Full name
Pictures	[folder]	445.8 KB	2	2	2023-10-20 14:57:34	RD	D:\Pictures

Output

TypeZIP

LevelFast

FunctionNew archive

SplitSingle volume, do not split

Set password / keyfile

☒ Add to separate archives☐ TAR before

☒ Archive to original path☐ Convert existing archives

☒ Delete files after archiving

Secure delete

☐ Send by mail

2 dir(s), 2 file(s), 445.8 KB | Potential compression 10%

OK Cancel

Create .zip | Fast, Deflate | New archive

FileLayoutToolsOptionsHelp

ArchiveAdvancedConsoleSchedule

Name	Type	Size	Folders	Files	Modified	Attributes	Full name
Pictures	[folder]	445.8 KB	2	2	2023-10-20 14:57:34	RD	D:\Pictures

Password

Password

Confirm

Keyfile

☒ Encrypt also file names (if supported by the format)

☐ Force typing passwords interactively

☐ Keep password/keyfile for current session

☐ Show password field content

OK

Cancel

Set password / keyfile

TypeZIP

LevelFast

FunctionNew archive

SplitSingle volume, do not split

☒ Add to separate archives

☐ TAR before

☒ Archive to original path

☐ Convert existing archives

☒ Delete files after archiving

☐ Send by mail

Secure delete

2 dir(s), 2 file(s), 445.8 KB | Potential compression 10%

OK

Cancel

Create .zip | Fast, Deflate | New archive | AES256

FileLayoutToolsOptionsHelp

ArchiveAdvancedConsoleSchedule

Name	Type	Size	Folders	Files	Modified	Attributes	Full name
Pictures	[folder]	445.8 KB	2	2	2023-10-20 14:57:34	RD	D:\Pictures

Output

TypeZIP

LevelFast

FunctionNew archive

SplitSingle volume, do not split

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Set password / keyfile

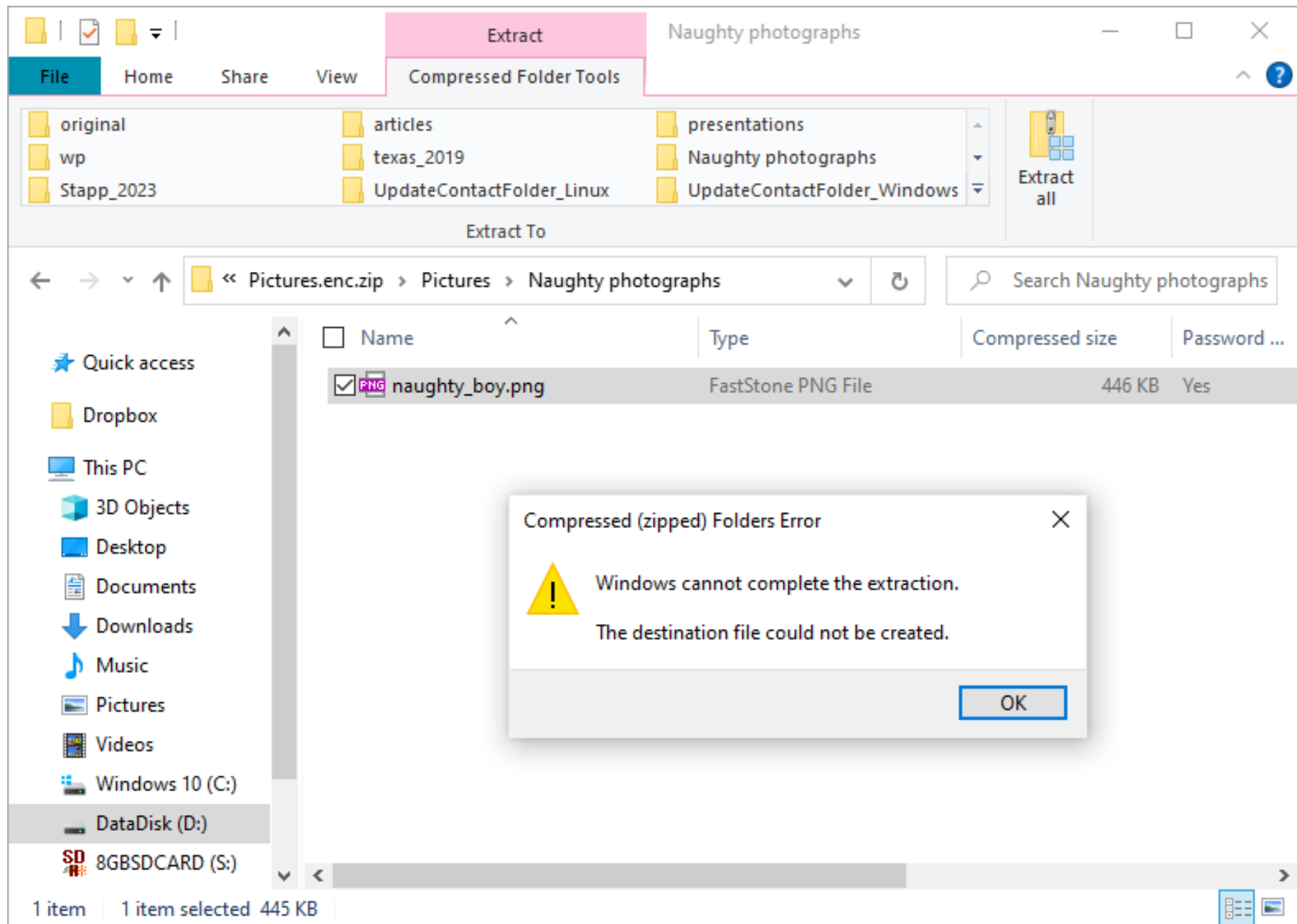
Secure delete

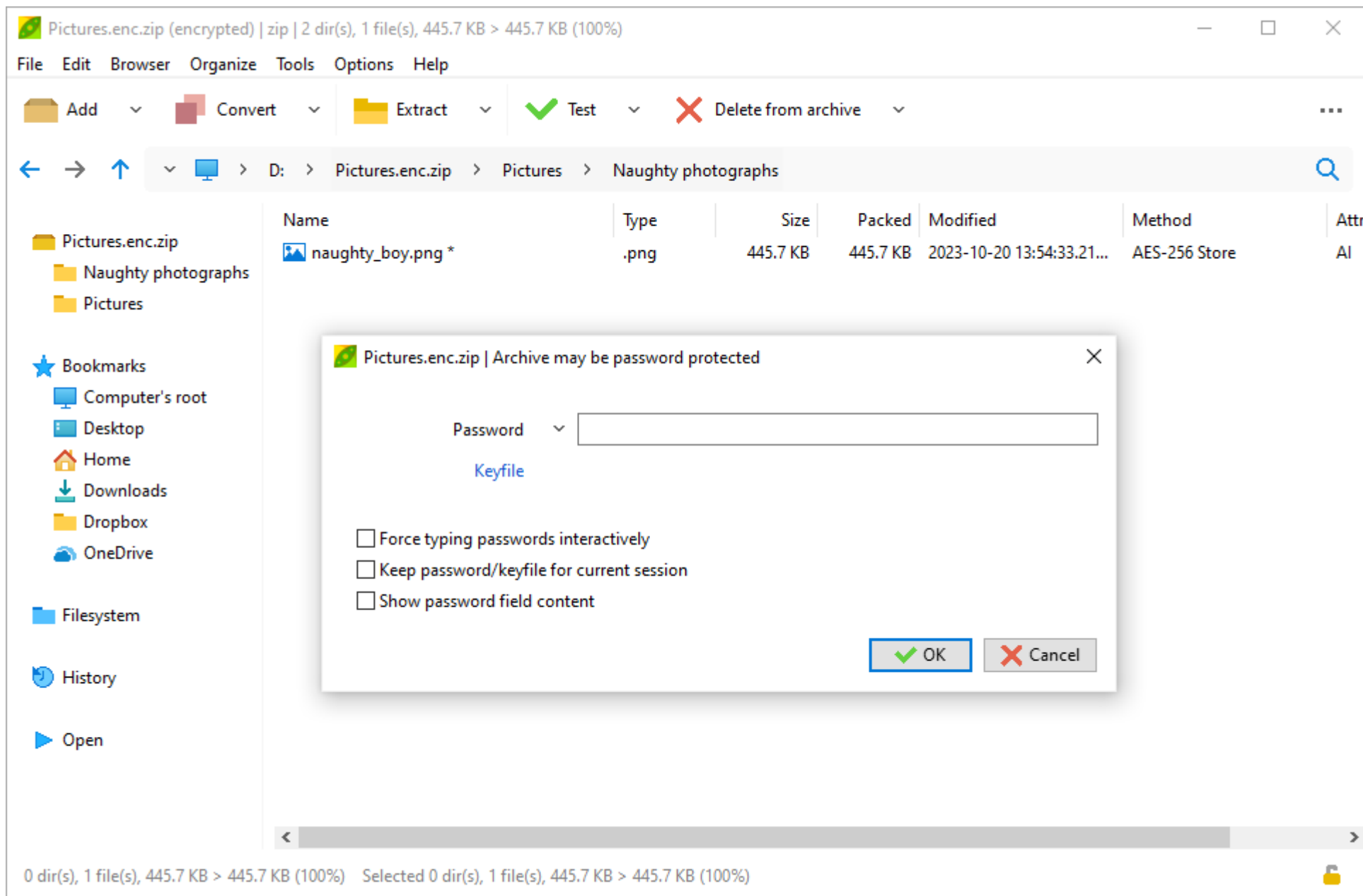
2 dir(s), 2 file(s), 445.8 KB | Potential compression 10%

OK

Cancel

 default.htm	.htm	4.7 KB
 dont-forget.png	.png	77.6 KB
 linux.htm	.htm	3.0 KB
 lockbox		40.0 MB
 Pictures.enc.zip	.zip	446.5 KB
 red_folder.kdbx	.kdbx	34.0 KB
 sync.ffs_db	.ffs_db	48.6 KB
 thunderbird.msf	.msf	1.3 KB
 touch.exe	.exe	35.0 KB





So, what was the photograph of a naughty boy
that the technician was unable to see?

So, what was the photograph of a naughty boy that the technician was unable to see?



Share

Door-to-Door Repair Service



Several damaged components, screws
ripped out from the threads...



Bob Herres

Share

Fix Revolution

In May 2021

I purchased my **DJI Mini 2 Drone**



**BEST
BUY**
\$729

Share



Fix Revolution

This drone had over 200 very successful flights...



Share



Fix Revolution

It safely logged over 16 hours of flight time...



Share



Fix Revolution

It travelled over 87 kilometers...



Share

Fix Revolution

On Thursday October 5th, 2023 it encountered problems...



Several damaged components, screws ripped out from the threads...



Share

This is when I discovered...



Fix Revolution

Website: fixrevolution.ca

Share



FixRevolution

CELL PHONES - GAME CONSOLES - MACBOOKS - MICRO SOLDERING

WE COME TO YOU

613 265 4349

*WE PICK UP
AND DELIVER*

BOOK NOW  **FIXREVOLUTION.CA**

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a diagonal split. On the left, there is a circular inset showing a gloved hand using a soldering iron on a smartphone. Below this is a close-up of a green circuit board. On the right, there is a white van with the FixRevolution logo and text: "Revolution", "Cell Phones", "Game Consoles", "Macbooks", "iPads", and "WE COME TO YOU".

Share

fixrevolution.ca

Fix Revolution



Fix Revolution – iPhone, iPad,
Macbook & Cellphone Repair !



Share

fixrevolution.ca

Welcome to Fix Revolution



We Come To You! We Are A Mobile Repair Shop



We specialize in repairing a wide range of devices, including cell phones (Android and iPhone), iPads, Macbooks, game consoles, laptops, drones, and more.

Our experienced technicians are equipped with the latest tools and techniques to provide you with quick and efficient repairs.



Share

fixrevolution.ca

Is your device having problems?

We've got you covered!

Whether it's a backlight issue, charging problem, or any other device malfunction, We will troubleshoot and repair it for you.



Fix Revolution

We come to you!

We're here to help!

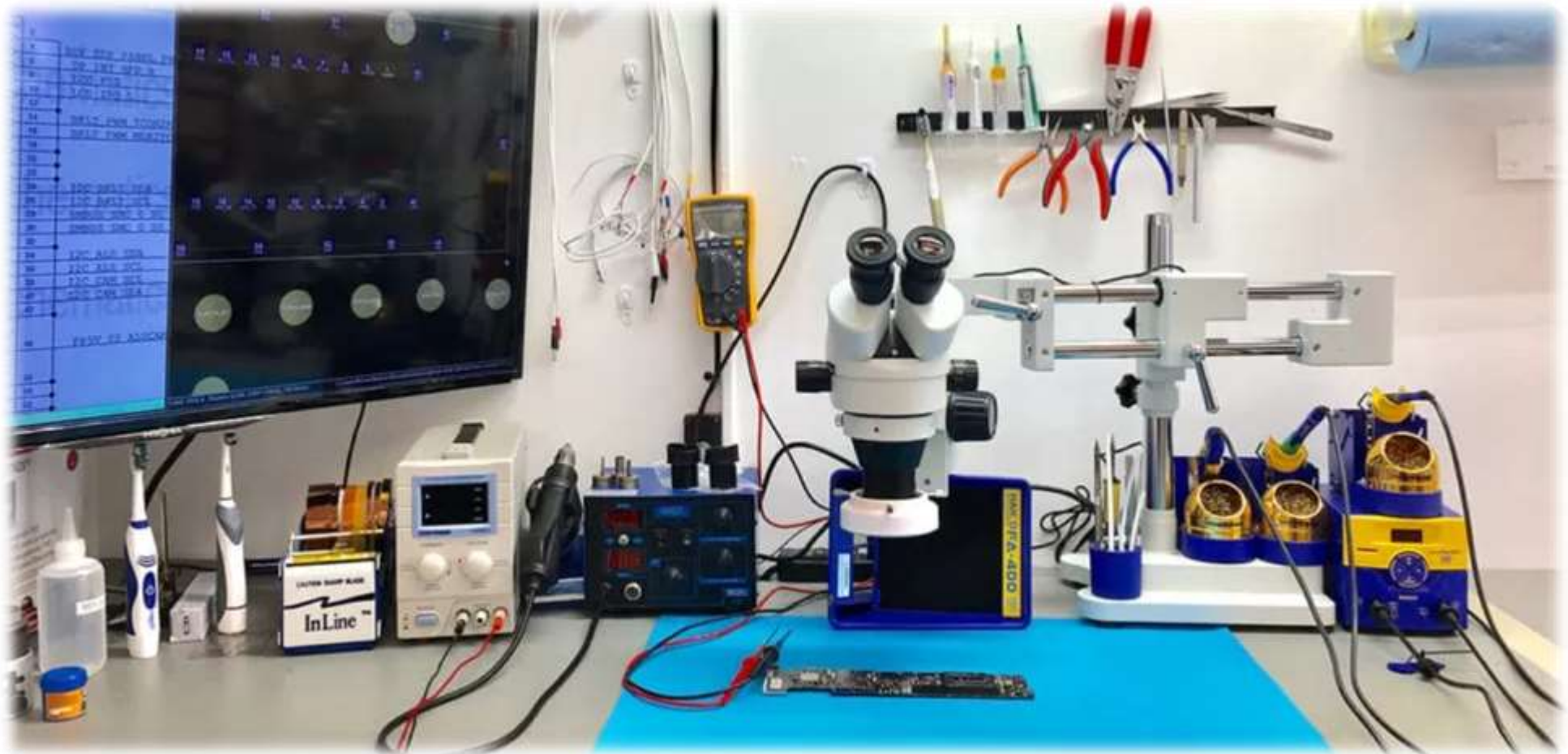
- ✓ **CRACKED SCREENS**
- ✓ **BATTERIES**
- ✓ **CHARGING PORTS**
- ✓ **SOFTWARE ISSUES**

BOOK NOW
FIXREVOLUTION.CA

Share

fixrevolution.ca

Micro Soldering Board Level Repairs... **in Ottawa!**



Share

fixrevolution.ca



What Would You Like To Fix Today ?

Cell Phone

Samsung



Google



LG



iPhone



Share

fixrevolution.ca



What Would You Like To Fix Today ?

iPad & Android Tablet

Samsung Tablet



iPad Air



iPad mini



iPad Pro



Share

fixrevolution.ca



What Would You Like To Fix Today ?

Macbook & Laptop

Chromebook



Laptop



Macbook



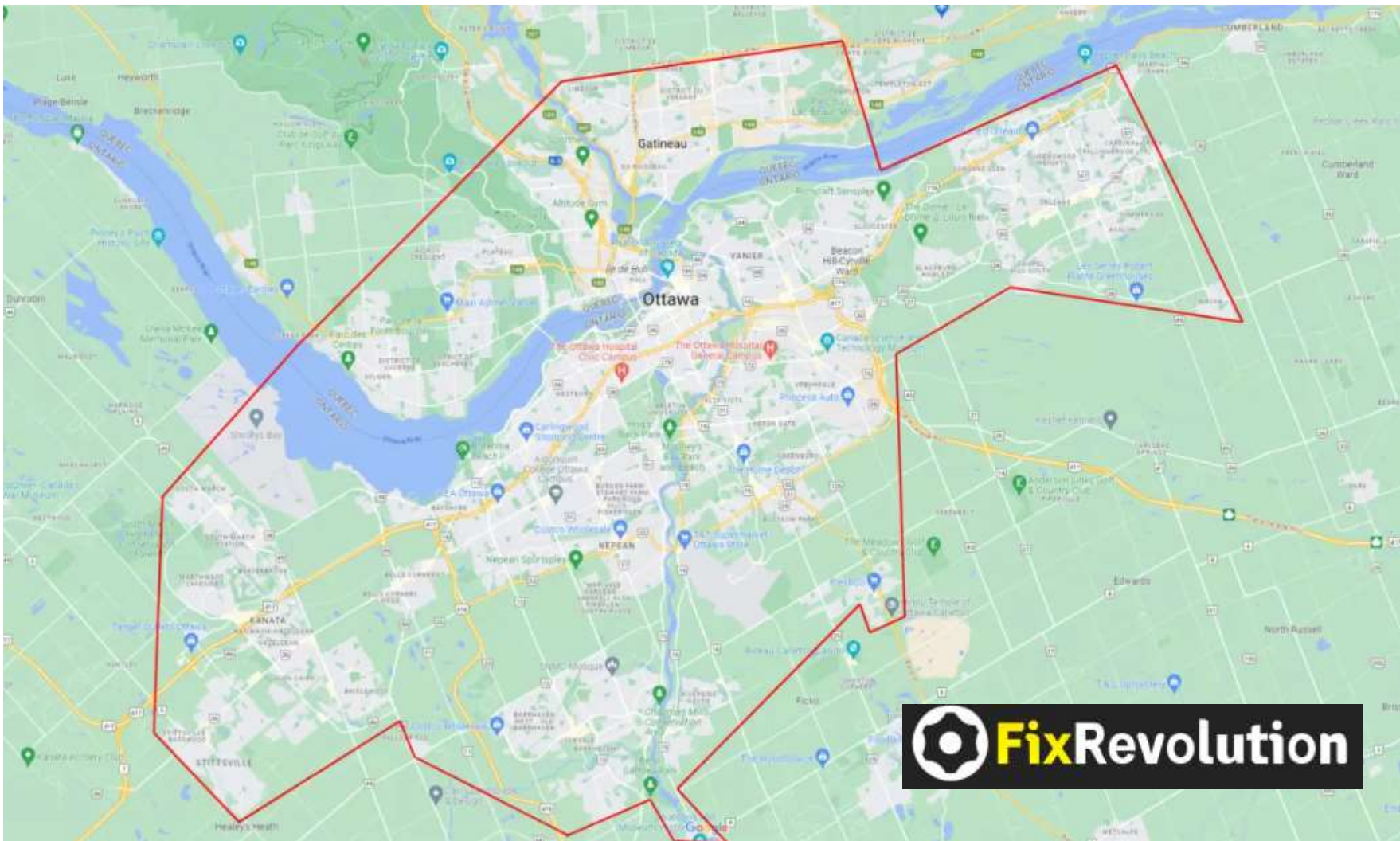
**Game Consoles
and much more...**

Share

fixrevolution.ca

Serviced Areas

Covering Every Corner of Ottawa & Gatineau...



Share

fixrevolution.ca

What if you reside
outside of Ottawa?

Saskatoon or Shawinigan? 😁

We offer a convenient
mail-in repair service!



Here's how it works:



Share

fixrevolution.ca

I'm All In!

Let's get started!



Why Choose Fix Revolution



Getting your device repaired shouldn't break the bank. Our low price guarantee ensures that we always offer the best price.

Great Pricing



We really know our stuff, and this experience shows in the quality and speed of our work. Many repairs can be done same day.

Experience



We offer a 90 day warranty on all our repairs. Rest easy knowing that if the original repair fails we will fix it for **FREE**.

90 Day Warranty

Share

fixrevolution.ca

**GET A FREE QUOTE OR SCHEDULE A PICKUP TO
GET YOUR REPAIR STARTED!**



GET A QUOTE

REQUEST NOW

Obtain a free quote to have your device repaired.

Share

Fix Revolution

I started the process late on
Friday afternoon Oct 6th...



I used the easy online calendar, to
select Wednesday Oct 11th as a
pickup date.

My "Perfectly Repaired Drone"
was delivered back right to my
home, Friday afternoon Oct 13th



Share

Thanks to Fix Revolution... my drone is now flying again!!



Share



Laptops, cell phones, tablets
Chromebooks and much more...



fixrevolution.ca

Thank you



Users helping users
for over 40 years

Private browsing & DNS cache

- A previous OPCUG discussion claimed private browsing didn't empty the DNS cache
- If true, a “grievous oversight”
- This cache would show all the sites you visited
- After closing a private browsing session I run “ipconfig/flushdns” on the command line

Share

ChatGPT agrees

- DNS cache is a system-level cache maintained by your operating system, and it stores recently resolved DNS queries to improve the speed of web browsing
- In-private/incognito browsing modes do not typically flush the DNS cache
 - designed to provide privacy by not storing browsing history, cookies, or other data on your computer
 - do not directly affect the DNS cache
- DNS cache can store records of websites you've visited
- To clear the DNS cache, you need to do so separately from the browser's private browsing mode

Windows:

Open Command Prompt as an administrator

Type *ipconfig /flushdns* and press Enter

Share

Yes, but...

- I don't think it is a “grievous oversight”
- DNS cache is a system-level service
 - a web browser in *Private* or *Incognito mode* cannot prevent an entry from being put in the DNS cache
- As pointed out in
 - *Private Browsing: Is it all it's cracked up to be?*
<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2311NEWS.pdf>
- *Private browsing not a panacea*

Share

Yes, but...

- Time-to-live (TTL) for DNS lookups mean records don't hang around in the cache for long
- Probably far more likely to be tracked through other means
- But I guess *Just because you are paranoid, that doesn't mean they are not out to get you*
- Flushing the DNS cache will remove this way local users on your computer could track places you have visited



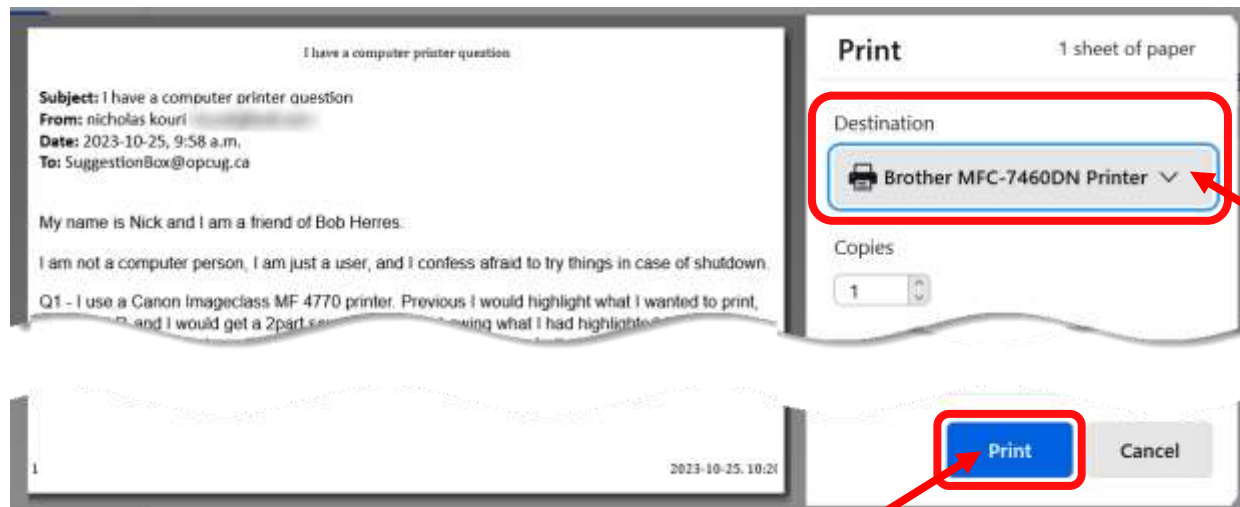
Why did my print dialogue box change?

- Canon Imageclass MF 4770 printer
- Previously I would highlight what I want to print, press Ctrl P and get a two-part screen
 - left side: what I had highlighted to print
 - right side: print features like # of copies, size, etc.
 - bottom: PRINT and CANCEL
- Now I get the two-part screen but
 - bottom: SAVE and CANCEL
- I did not change the settings, it changed by itself

Q&A Print destination

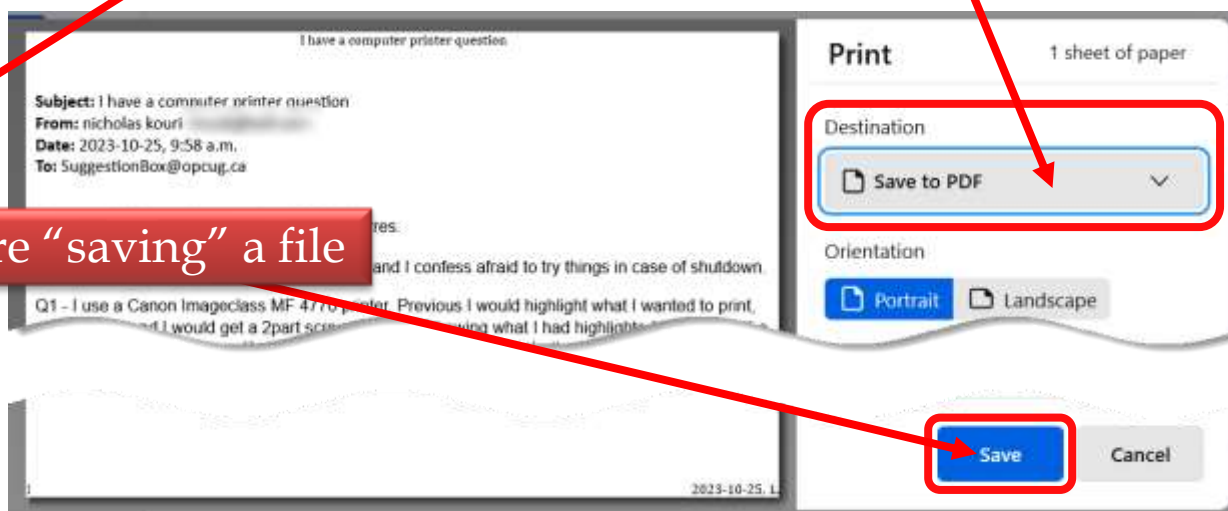
Didn't provide details about what program was being used

- print dialogue boxes vary



The likely problem is the print *Destination* was changed to *Save to PDF*

rather than "printing" you are "saving" a file



Solution: change *Print Destination* to printer

- if that's not the problem, more details needed
- screenshots would be helpful

The logo consists of a large blue 'Q' and a green 'A' with a white ampersand between them, all in a hand-drawn, sketchy style.

Windows managing default printer

- Sometime ago, Microsoft changed the default as to how printers are managed by adding an option in Settings
 - *Allow Windows to manage my default printer*
- And Microsoft enabled this new setting by default!
- Effect:
 - Automatic Default Printer Switching
Windows changes your default printer to the most recently used printer
 - Personally, I *hate* that

Q&A Managing your default printer

- Settings > Bluetooth & devices > Printers & scanners
 - toggle *Allow Windows to manage my default printer*
- If you toggle this *off*
 - Set your preferred default printer
 - Settings > Bluetooth & devices > Printers & scanners
 - click on your preferred printer
 - click *Set as default*





**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

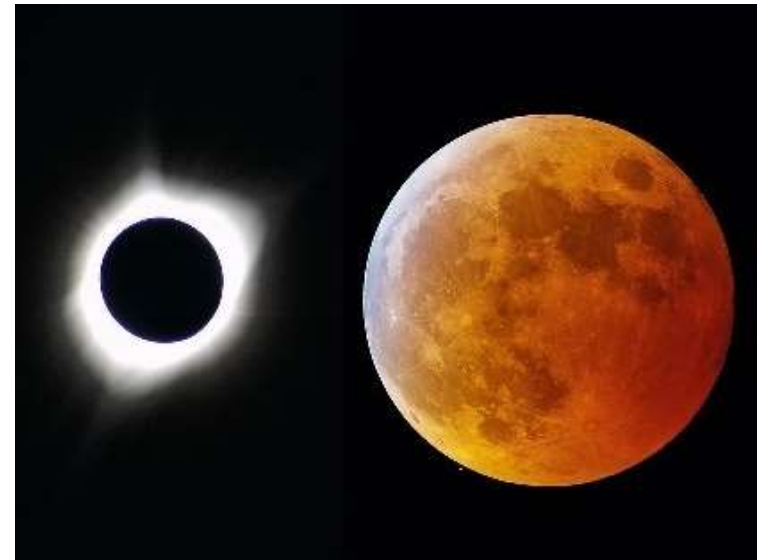
November Meeting



Celestial Shadows – Eclipses of the Sun and Moon

Howard Simkover
(Astronomer extraordinaire*)

November 8, 2023
7:30 pm



** Previously Producer–Lecturer with the Montreal Planetarium*



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca