



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

November 1, 2023



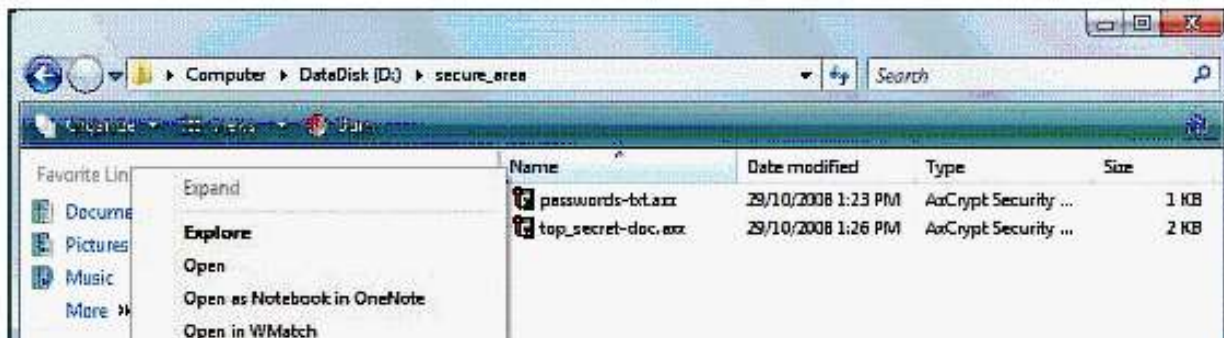
File and Folder Encryption

File Encryption with AxCrypt

by Alan German

There is an enormous wealth of free software available from the open-source community so, when you are looking for a specific utility, it's not hard to find something that will readily do the job at hand. When it comes to file encryption, one of the simpler open-source programs you can use is AxCrypt from Axantum Software AB in Sweden.

AxCrypt integrates directly into Windows Explorer and, when you right click on a file, the program provides a context-sensitive menu. If the file is not encrypted, the primary option is to encrypt it. Conversely, if the selected item is encrypted, then the first menu choice is to decrypt the file. So you can very easily encrypt or decrypt an individual file. You just need to enter a password (or a passphrase) and remember what you entered! By default, the program adds a .axx extension to each encrypted file. AxCrypt will also operate on a specified folder, to encrypt or decrypt all of the files contained in the folder.



<https://opcug.ca/Reviews/axcrypt.htm>

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For private users

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-  Secured Folders
-  Key Sharing
-  Cloud Storage Awareness
-  Mobile Encryption
-  Account Key Backup



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PER MONTH | PER USER

For organizations

PREMIUM+:

-  Professional Use
-  Business Priority Support
-  Business Admin
-  Master Key
-  Mobile Encryption



Search Result: axcrypt



Xecrets File Ez

Freemium • Open Source

Mac

Windows

Linux



[24 Xecrets File Ez alternatives](#)



Xecrets File Ez is an easy to use personal desktop application available for Windows, Mac and Linux. It is 100% compatible with AxCrypt, but is less complex without the bells and whistles.

Xecrets File Ez Features

[+ Suggest and vote on features](#)

Command line interface

Encrypted Backup

<https://alternativeto.net/browse/search/?q=axcrypt>

[Home](#) ▾[Products](#) ▾[Download](#) ▾[Pricing](#) ▾

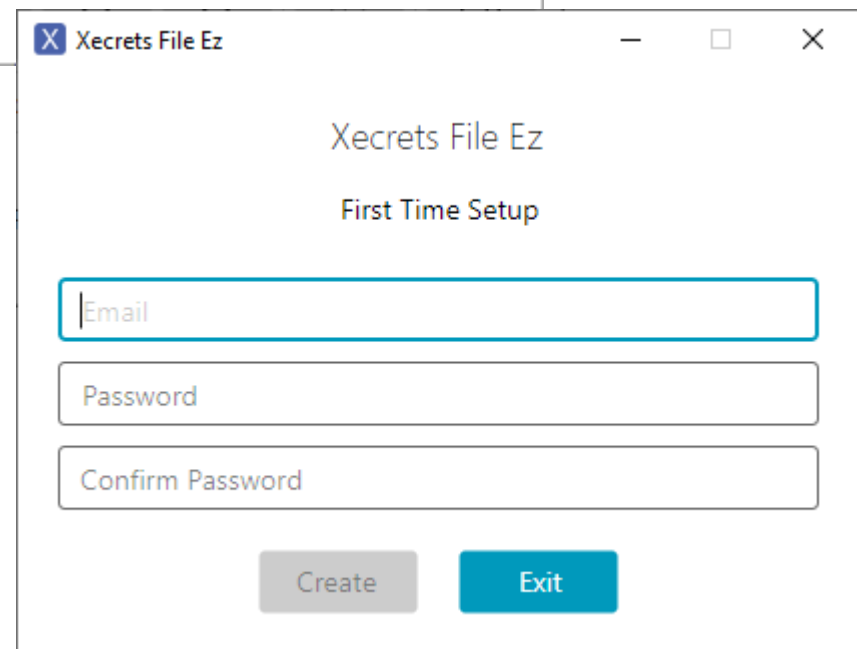
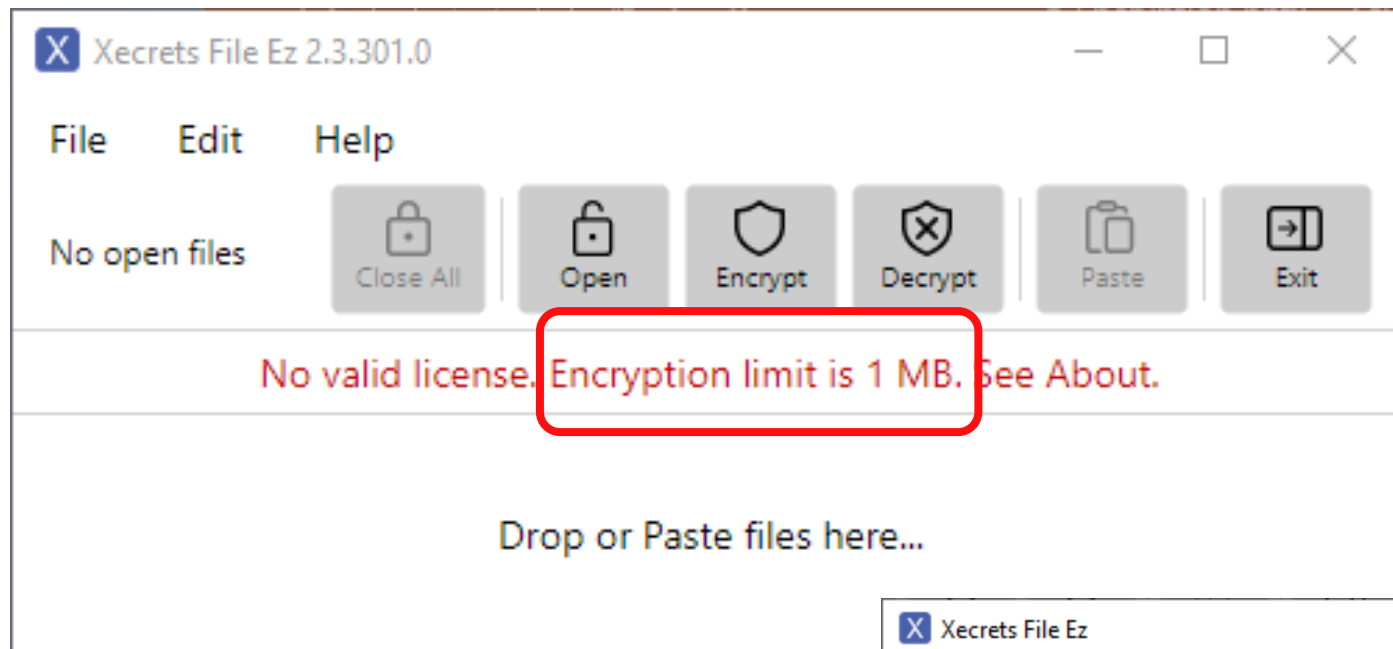
Xecrets File Ez

[Home](#) ▸ [Xecrets File Ez](#)

Easy Strong Desktop Cryptography

Xecrets File Ez [Beta] is an easy to use personal desktop application available for Windows, macOS and Linux. It will encrypt any file to a new file, wiping the original and also allowing you to work with encrypted files almost as easily as before encrypting them. It is 100% compatible with AxCrypt, in fact it is based on the exact same code, but is less complex and is entirely focused on delivering the core functionality needed without the bells and whistles and having

<https://www.axantum.com/xecrets-file-ez>





List Of
Freeware

19 Best Free AES Encryption Software For Windows



Here is a list of best free AES encryption software for Windows. AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) or Rijndael is symmetric block cipher, initially used by the U.S. government to protect sensitive data from unauthorized access. AES follows a set of regulations and

My Favorite AES Encryption Software for Windows:

EncryptOnClick is my favorite software because it supports batch file and folder encryption. Plus, handy features namely *encrypt file names* and *do not delete original files after encryption* are also present in it.

<https://listoffreeware.com/best-free-aes-encryption-software-windows/>



OnClick Utilities - Free

+ OnClick Utilities Bundle - all the OnClick utilities in one Zip file

+ DeleteOnClick - securely deletes data

+ EncryptOnClick - secures files out of sight

+ FindOnClick - performs lightning fast file searches

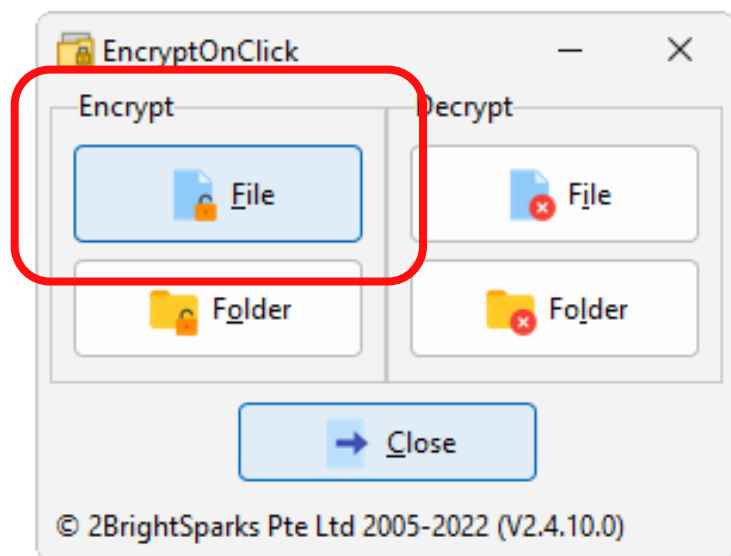
+ HashOnClick - verifies files as identical

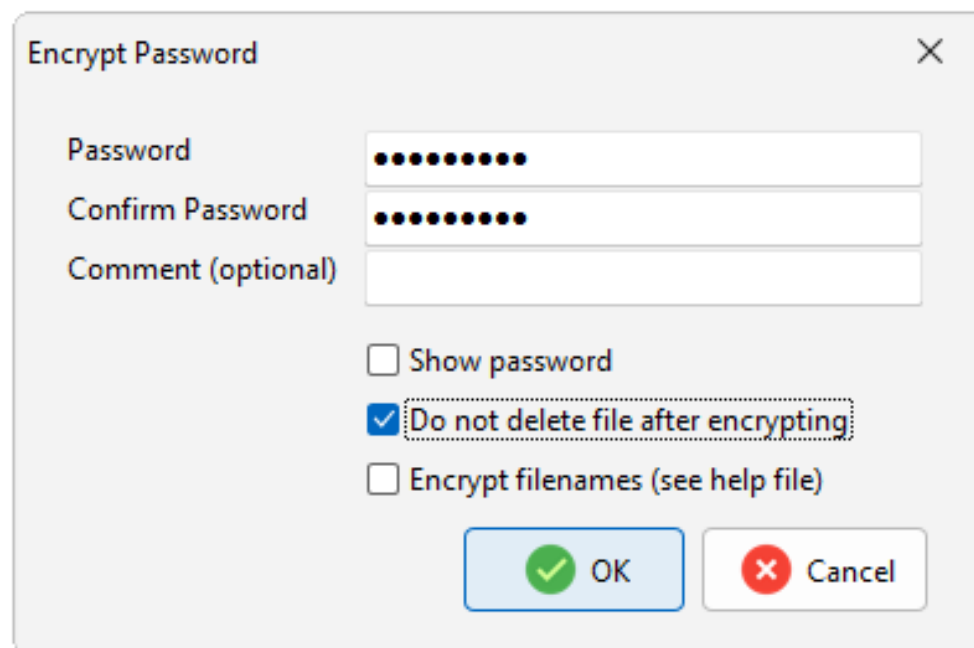
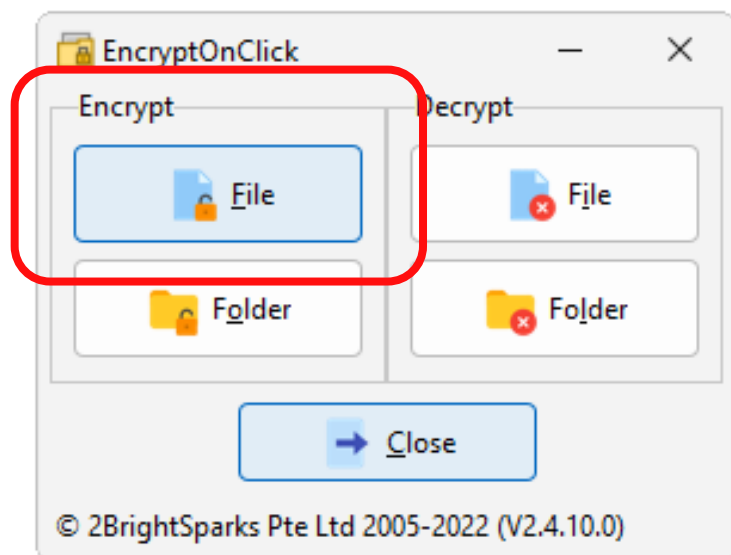
100% Free Software

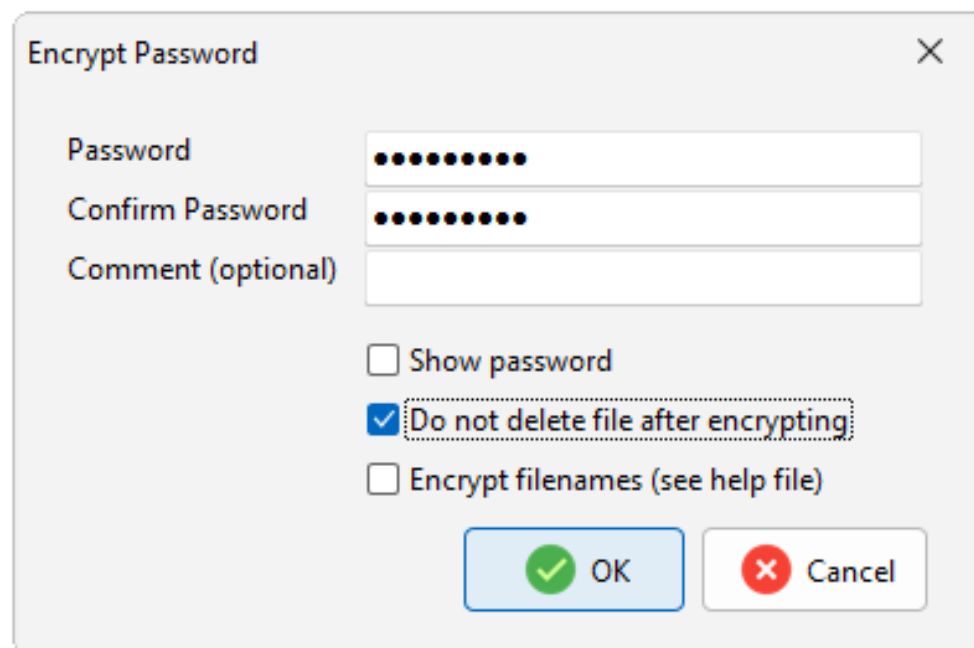
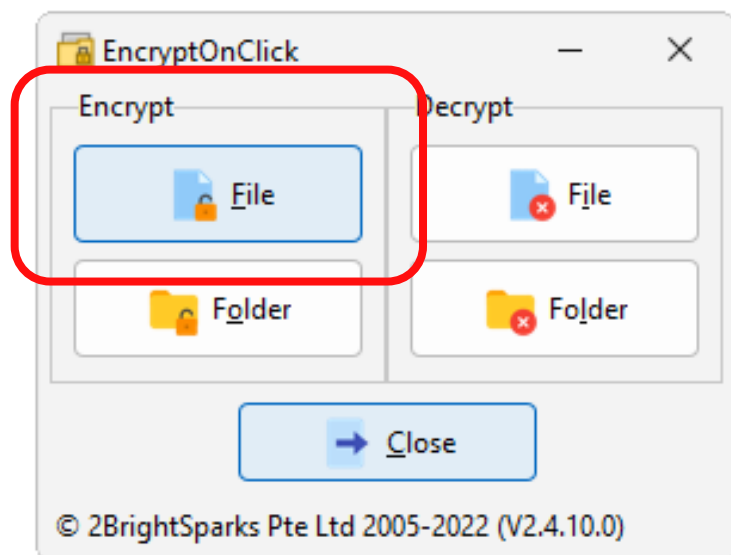
Transform your computer experience with OnClick Utilities.

Enjoy free programs in this powerful suite of easy to use software utilities for Windows (32 & 64 bit).

<https://www.2brightsparks.com/onclick/index.html>







 default.htm	2023-08-12 3:03 PM	3 KB
 dont-forget.png	2022-12-05 12:09 PM	78 KB
 fox.txt	2023-10-29 9:55 AM	1 KB
 fox.txt.EOC	2023-10-29 9:55 AM	1 KB
 linux.htm	2023-02-02 9:51 PM	4 KB

D:\fox.txt - Notepad++

File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?

fox.txt

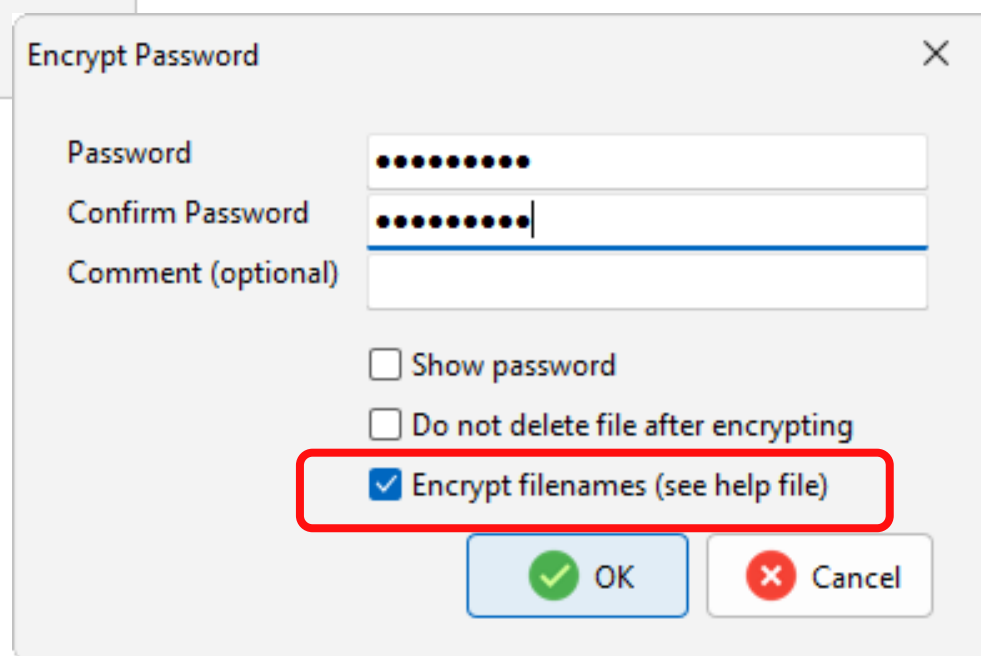
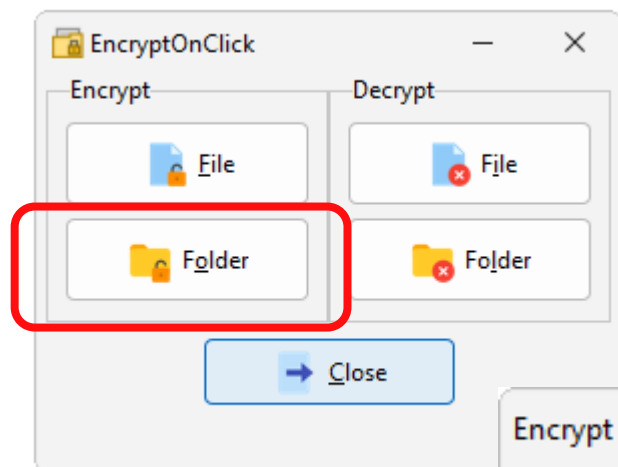
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1 The quick brown fox
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D:\fox.txt.EOC - Notepad++

File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?

fox.txt.EOC

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1 PKETXEOTNAKNULSOHNULcNULin]WNULNULNULNUL1NULNULNULDC3NULNULNULBELNULESCNUL
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This PC > DataDisk (D:) > foxes				▼	↺
☐	Name ^	Date modified	Size		
	C697B5DC8B0B971E58F7CBBBAD2A5F...	2023-10-29 10:07 ...	1 KB		
	DB86D4F19A8F45AFCBAA3DB3DCE56...	2023-10-29 10:09 ...	1 KB		
	FB166FD6BB4BEDD9F821D62A5A6877...	2023-10-29 10:09 ...	1 KB		

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	fox.txt	2023-10-29 2:07 PM	1 KB		
	fox1.txt	2023-10-29 2:09 PM	1 KB		
	fox2.txt	2023-10-29 2:09 PM	1 KB		

Share

Importance of AI in security

- Article by Andrew Newman
 - CTO and cofounder of ReasonLabs
 - Giant AntiSpyware cofounder – bought my Microsoft in 2004
 - basis of what is now *Microsoft Defender*
- *AI's importance for security companies and consumers*



Share

Highlights from article for consumers/home users

- AI-powered anti-malware that identifies & quarantines threats in real-time, adapting to emerging threats, offering robust protection against malicious software
- AI-driven email security can help protect consumers from phishing emails
- Enhance password security by generating strong, unique passwords and flagging potential breaches
- AI-powered routers & firewall solutions protect home networks by blocking suspicious network activity

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...”*

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

Deployment Image Service & Management Tool (DISM)

- I was having an issue with a Windows 10 machine a few years back
- A support call to Microsoft took me down the path of using the DISM tool
- *DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /CheckHealth*
- I seem to recall, at the time, using a */restorehealth* option

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-hardware/manufacture/desktop/what-is-dism?view=windows-10>

Jeff Dubois

Home > Operating Systems > Windows 10

WINDOWS POWER USER TIPS

How to repair Windows 10 (and 11) in 4 steps

When Windows 10 gets wonky, try this series of repair techniques — in this order — to attempt to set things right.



By Ed Tittel

Computerworld | NOV 22, 2021 3:00 AM PST

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3080839/repair-windows-10-and-11-step-by-step-guide.html>

- Check the running Windows image:
dism /online /cleanup-image /checkhealth
- If corruption is detected:
dism /online /cleanup-image /restorehealth
- Run the System File Checker (SFC):
SFC /scannow

** All of the above commands must be run in a command window with administrator privileges*

Administrator: Command Prompt

Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19045.3448]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>dism /online /cleanup-image /checkhealth

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 10.0.19041.844

Image Version: 10.0.19045.3448

No component store corruption detected.
The operation completed successfully.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>sfc /scannow

Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.

Beginning verification phase of system scan.
Verification 100% complete.

Windows Resource Protection did not find any integrity violations.

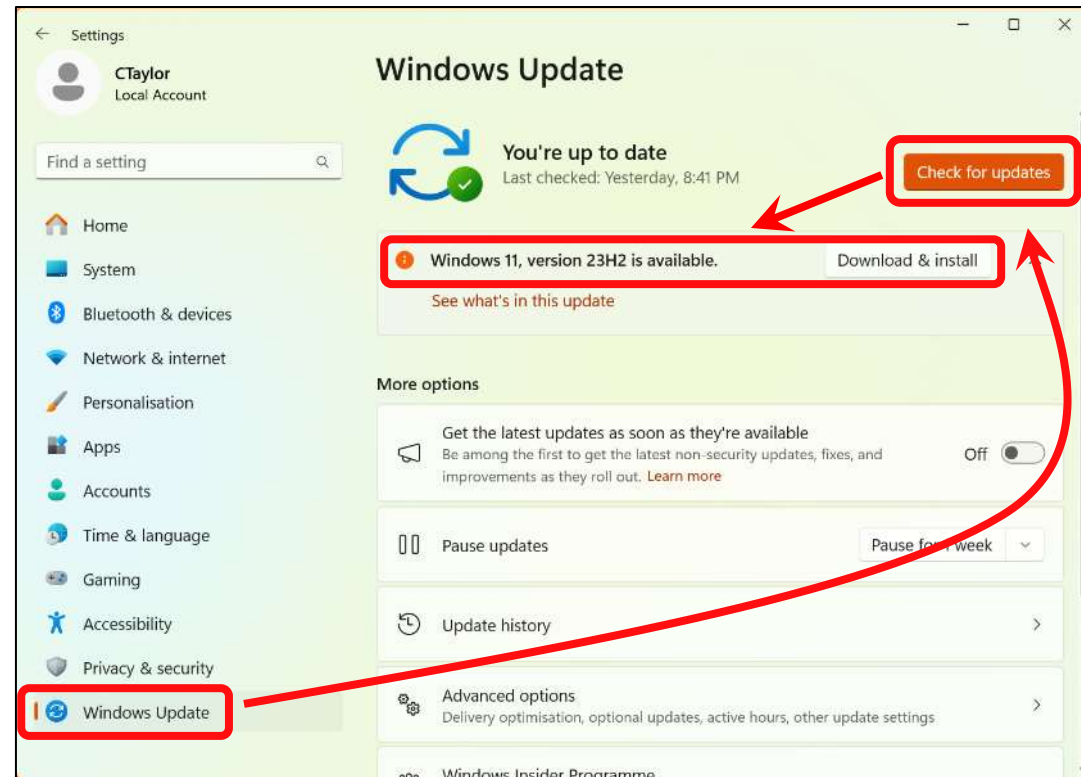
C:\WINDOWS\system32>

Share

Windows 11 2023 Update (23H2)



- Should start rolling out on *Patch Tuesday* (Nov 14th)
 - and over the next couple of months
- Get it early if you like being on the bleeding edge 😊
 - on *eligible device running Windows 11, version 22H2*
 - Settings > Windows Update
 - turn on *Get the latest updates as soon as they're available*
 - may not be required
 - select *Check for updates*



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Windows 11 2023 Update (23H2)



- If Microsoft detects your device may have an issue
 - e.g. application incompatibility
- May put safeguard hold in place & not offer the update
- More info at the Windows Release Health site
 - <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/release-health/>

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What's new?

- *Nearly 200 new features*
- Copilot for Windows
- Updated with *AI features*:
 - Photos (background removal, enhanced search)
 - Paint (layers & background removal. Input text prompt, select a style to generate unique image)
 - Clipchamp (Auto Compose – suggest scenes, edits, narrative)
 - Snipping Tool (record visuals and audio from screen, extract & redact text)
- Passkeys
- New Outlook
- Adobe Express
- Chat now Microsoft Teams (free), pinned by default to taskbar
- Windows Backup
 - allows easier move to a new PC
- Energy saving features
 - *Wake on Approach, Lock on Leave, Adaptive dimming*

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OPCUG's On-Line Resources

Why wait for the next Q&A session?

If you are an OPCUG member (only \$20 per year)
you can ask your question on our members-only forum

Members also post items of interest on the forum

These include links to computer news items, how-to
articles, information on software updates, warnings
about malware, and more

How do you access the forum?

Subscribe to the forum, logon any time, and ask away!

<https://opcug.ca/google-groups-how-to/>

What sort of plug is on the audio cable of JBL Live660nc? 0 views



Micheline Johnson <johnson.micheline@gmail.com> Oct 20, 2023, 8:48:41 PM (yesterday)



to Micheline Johnson, opcug-member-forum@googlegroups.com

I bought a pair of JBL Live660nc ANC headphones from Staples on sale, on the basis that I could plug the audio cable from the headphones into my TV (because I am deaf).

When I opened the JBL Live660nc ANC headphone box, I find that the audio cable supplied, which fits into the headphones is not a standard 3.5mm audio cable, but one having a 3.5mm plug on one end, and a smaller diameter plug that fits into the headphones.

A search on Amazon for "jbl audio cable for live 660nc" suggests that this smaller plug is a 2.5mm audio plug. This size plug is new to me.

Is it possible to find in local stores a "male 2.5mm to female 3.5mm audio adapter" such as https://www.amazon.ca/Adapter-Adaptateur-Converter-Premium-Earphone/dp/B09WD1HVNT/ref=sr_1_5_mod_primary_new



Re: [OPCUG-Member-Forum] What sort of plug is on the audio cable of JBL Live660nc?.

0 views



Howie Macumber <yerpso@gmail.com>

Oct 21, 2023, 8:50:20 PM (14 hours ago)



to opcug-member-forum@googlegroups.com

Micheline,

I think you can find the adapter you are looking for at Canada Computers.

https://www.canadacomputers.com/search/results_details.php?language=en&keywords=2.5mm+audio

Howie

This clever Windows keyboard shortcut saves you a ton of keystrokes

Windows key + H: A Windows 11 feature you won't want to forget.

HOW-TO

Clean up cable clutter: These tricks create beautiful cord order

Beautiful cord management is the cherry on top of any slick setup.

How to optimize your Windows pc for gaming and maximum performance

Updated On June 14, 2022 by Sambit Koley

[HOME](#) · [COMPUTING](#) · [NEWS](#)

Google has a great idea to fix your tab chaos in Chrome

Q&A Archives

- The PowerPoint, audio, and chat files from all of our past Q&A sessions are available on-line
- Anyone can access the archives (you don't have to be an OPCUG member)
- The archives are structured by year (2023-2016) at:
<https://opcug.ca/qa-archives/>
- An index to the archived topics can be downloaded as a PDF file from:
https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/Q&A-Index.pdf



OUR MOST RECENT Q&A SESSION



PDF versions of the PowerPoint presentations, audio recordings of the associated discussions, and copies of the comments in the Chat window, from our weekly Q&A sessions are available as the following files:

MOST RECENT Q&A SESSION – October 25, 2023

[20231025_PowerPoint.pdf \(2.9 MB\)](#)

[20231025_Audio.m4a \(59 MB\)](#)

[20231025_Chat.txt \(9 KB\)](#)



For the content of previous Q&A sessions please see our:

[Q&A Session Archives](#)

On-line

(Includes presentations and audio recording from the weekly Q&A sessions and highlights from earlier sessions held at the club's regular monthly meetings)

You can also download the complete list of Q&A topics, including links to the web page archives, as a PDF file:

[Q&A-Index.pdf](#)

PDF file

Q&A - 2023

Ctrl-F = Find

Find in Page: 1 of 5 ☐ Match Case

July 12, 2023

Share - Add Google Drive to File Explorer

Share - Edge now blocking spam web notifications

Share - Microsoft slogans

Share - Don't F*** With Paste

Share - Brave memory saver setting

Share - YouTube Tech - Pocketnow

Share - Loonie Bits - Part 8

Share - FreeFileSync - Part 2

Share - TreeSize-Free

20230712_PowerPoint.pdf (1.7 MB)

20230712_Audio.m4a (56 MB)

20230712_Chat.txt (5 KB)

July 5, 2023

Ask - How to Stop Edge/Bing Opening

Share - FreeFileSync

20230705_PowerPoint.pdf (1.1 MB)

Q&A-Index - PDF-XChange Viewer

File Edit View Document Comments Tools Window Help

Open... Zoom In 79% FreeFileSync

PowerPoint Presentation Q&A-Index

Index to Q&A Sessions

Prior to July 8, 2020, Q&A sessions were held in person following the club's regular monthly meetings or as Zoom video-conferences for which no recordings were made. The highlights of some of the individual topics that were discussed in these sessions are posted in our archives.

More recently, our Q&A sessions have been held weekly as video-conferences. The listings for these sessions include presentation files (PDF), audio recordings (M4A), and the contents of the Chat windows (TXT).

The links below point to yearly web pages containing details of the sessions and links to the related files. Note that the listings for the Q&A sessions for any given year are posted in reverse chronological order.

Q&A – 2016

<https://opcug.ca/qa-2016/>

- Updates refusing to install on Windows 7?
- Getting Cortana to work
- Using Tabs in File Explorer
- Dubious practices for Windows 10 upgrades
- Some backup programs are better – or more flexible – than others!
- Windows 10 Help and Guidance
- Windows 10: Increase the limit of items on jump lists

OPCUG

*Users helping users
for over 40 years*

JULY 5, 2023

Ask - How to Stop Edge/Bing Opening

Share - FreeFileSync

Share - Recycling

JULY 12, 2023

Share - Add Google Drive to File Explorer

Share - Edge now blocking spam web notifications

Share - Microsoft slogans

Share - Don't F*** With Paste

Share - Brave memory saver setting

Share - YouTube Tech - Pocketnow

Share - Loonie Bits - Part 8

Share - FreeFileSync - Part 2

Share - TreeSizeFree

JULY 19, 2023

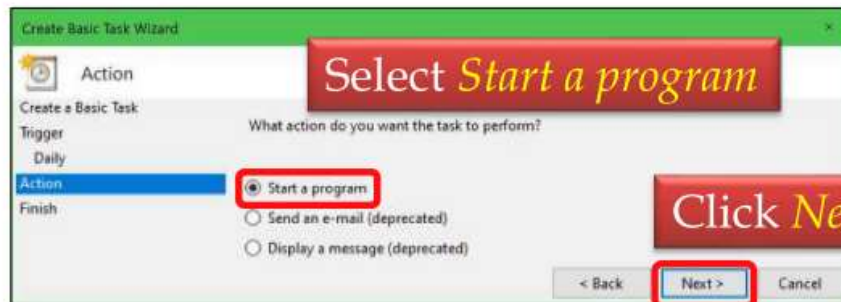
Share - So, you want to be a programmer...?

Chris's Rants - Mini-rant: Microsoft is a bully

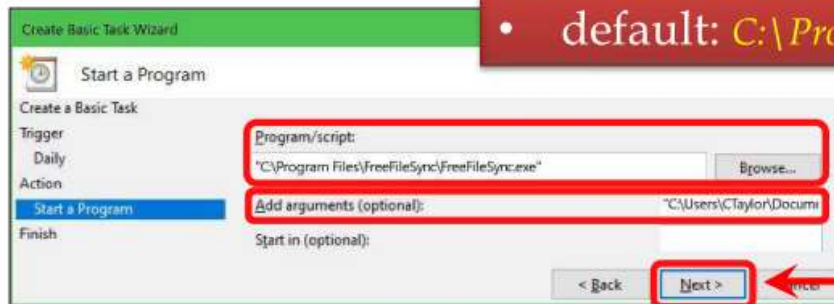
Share - YouTube Tech - 9To5

Share

Action



Click *Next*



Click *Browse* to find program FreeFileSync
• default: *C:\Program Files\FreeFileSync\FreeFileSync.exe*

Add arguments:

- Enter complete path to your FreeFileSync batch job, e.g.
C:\Users\CTaylor\Documents\SyncDocuments2ExternalDrive.ffs_batch

Enclose entire line in quotes

Click *Next*



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

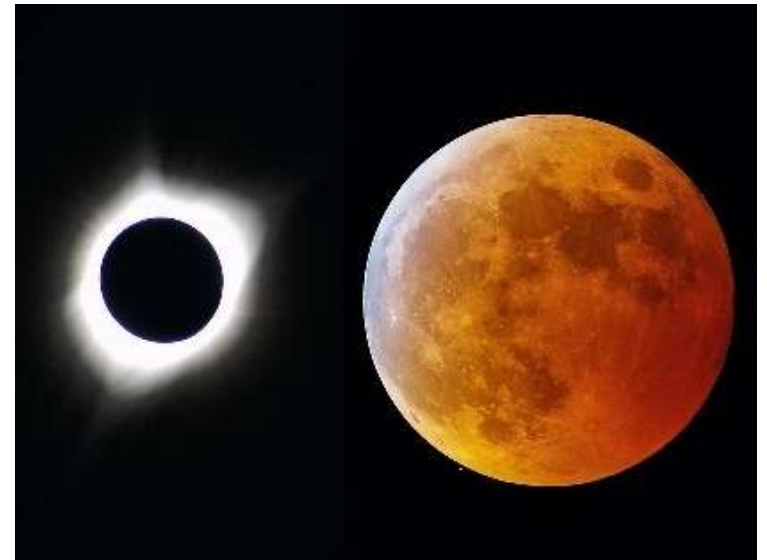
November Meeting



Celestial Shadows – Eclipses of the Sun and Moon

Howard Simkover
(Astronomer extraordinaire*)

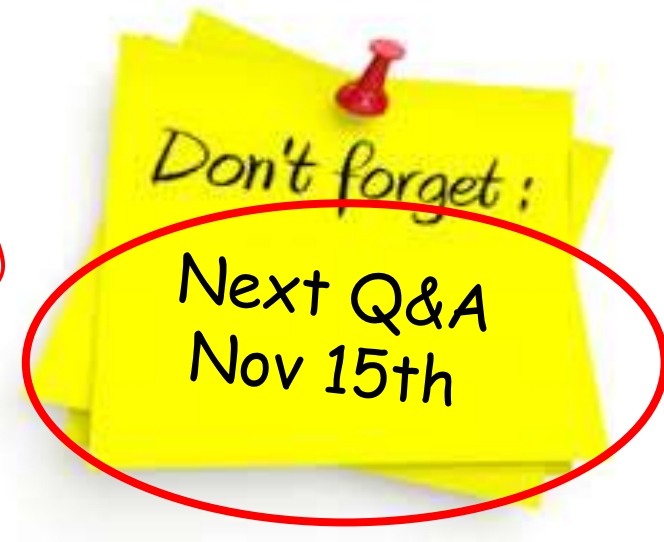
November 8, 2023
7:30 pm



** Previously Producer–Lecturer with the Montreal Planetarium*



No Q&A on
November 8
(Monthly Meeting)



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca