



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

November 22, 2023

Share

Mouse stops working

Scenario:

- Windows 10
- Logitech M305 wireless mouse
- 1 GB Barracuda HDD in USB Enclosure
with power switch
- Mouse freezes when the
power switch to the USB
drive is turned on



Fix is trivial:

Plug the mouse into a
different USB port!



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Wikipedia Editing 101 for All



**Centre de ressources communautaires
RIDEAU-ROCKCLIFFE
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Overbrook • Forbes • Carson Grove • Manor Park
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Learn how to edit Wikipedia and be part of a thriving community of worldwide contributors who value reliable and trustworthy knowledge

Date and time

- Sat, Dec 2, 2023 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM EST

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/wikipedia-editing-101-for-all-tickets-763401262727>

Share

SmartApps

- Useful apps for Android smartphones and tablets
- What are your favourites?



SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

Can also be a program for the PC

Share

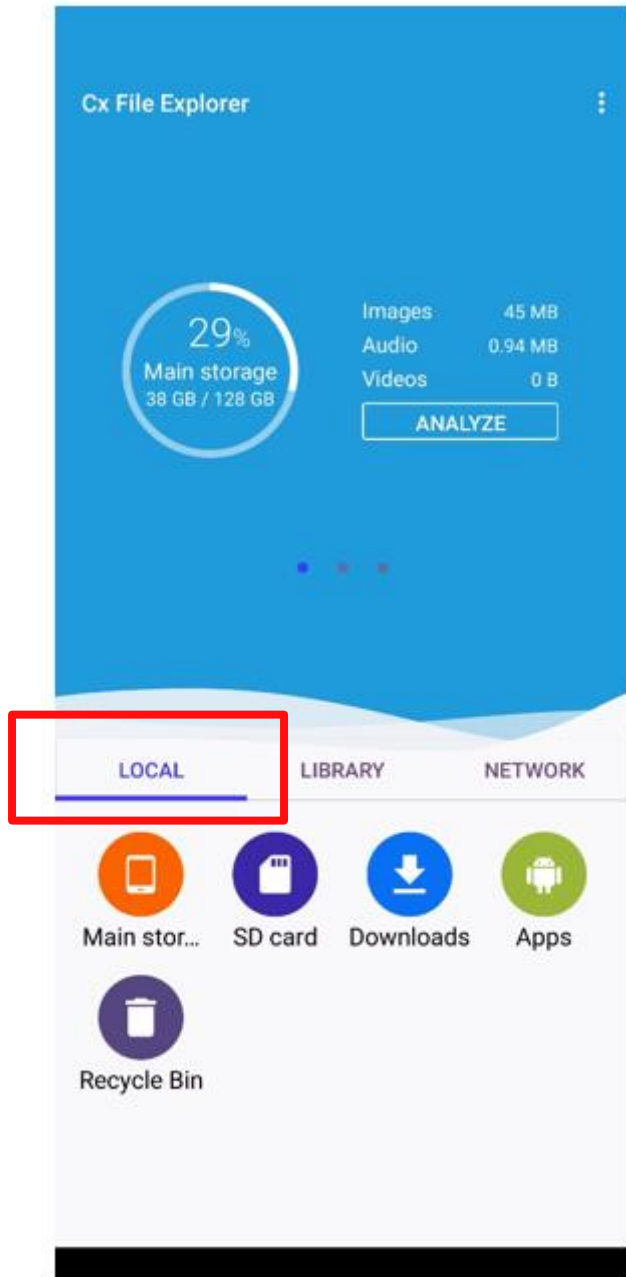
Cx File Explorer

- Powerful file manager and storage cleaner app for Android
- Clean and intuitive interface
- Quickly browse and manage the files on your mobile device, PC, and cloud storage
- Just like you use Windows Explorer or Finder on your PC or Mac!



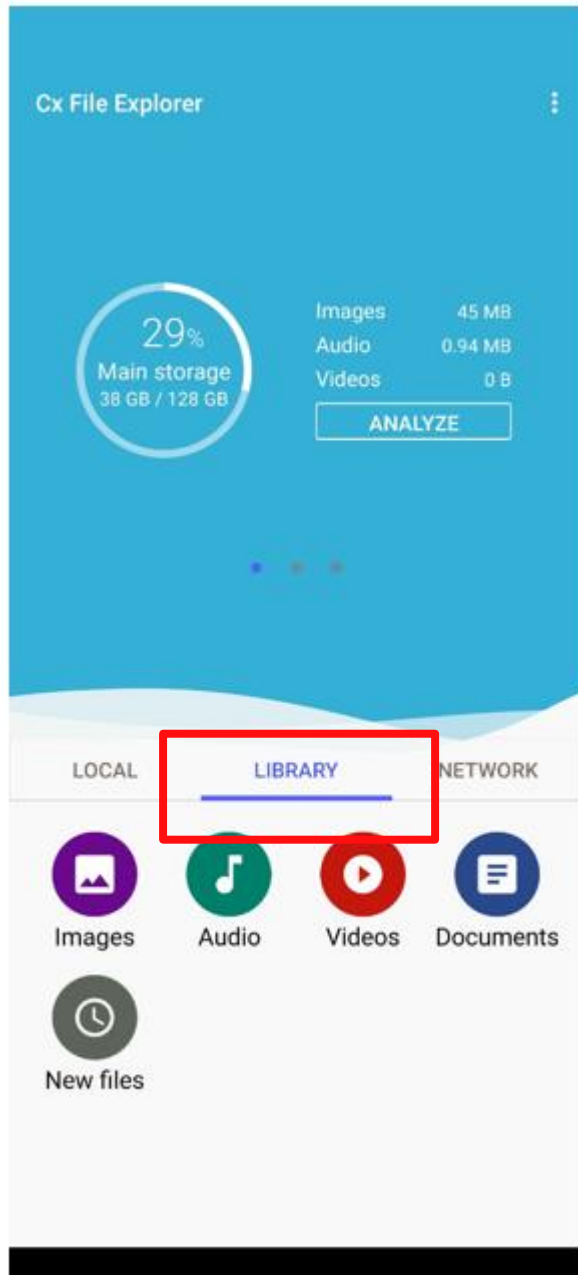
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cxinventor.file.explorer>

Harvey Hope



Three main tabs:

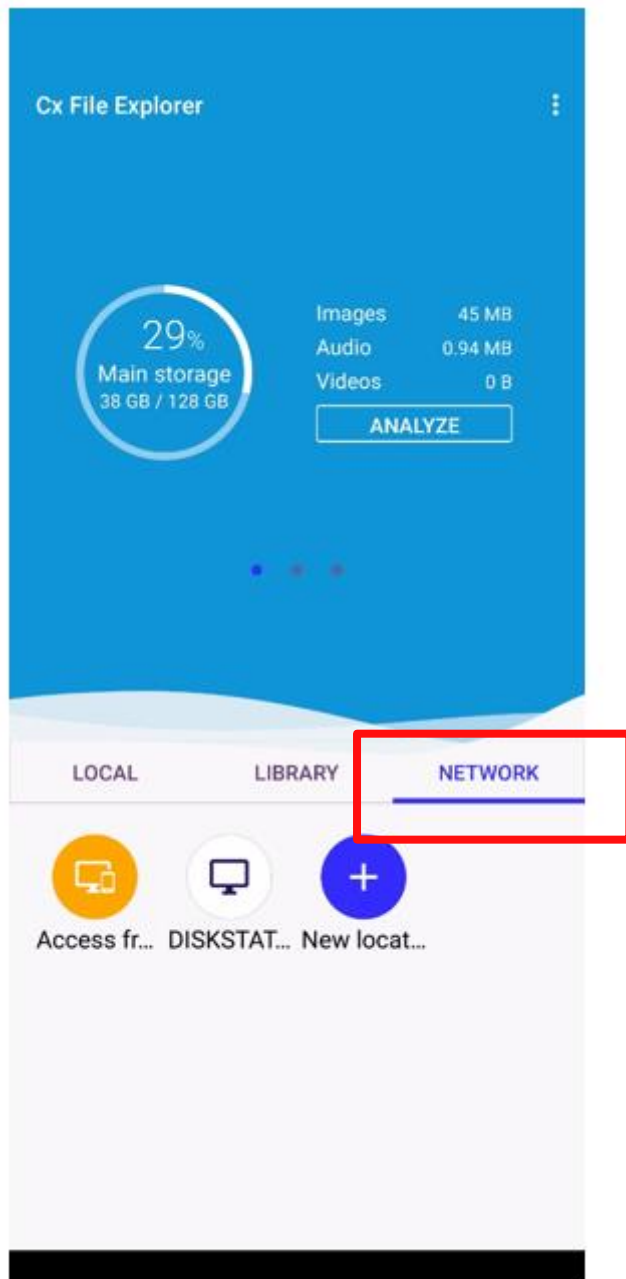
1. Local



Three main tabs:

1. Local

2. Library



Three main tabs:

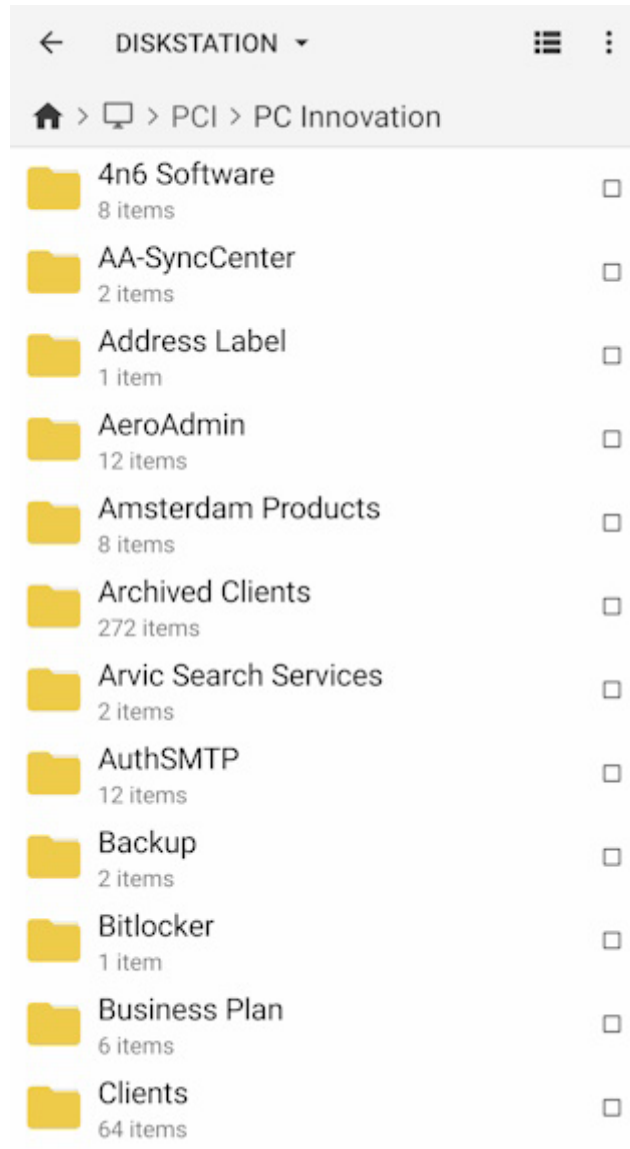
1. Local

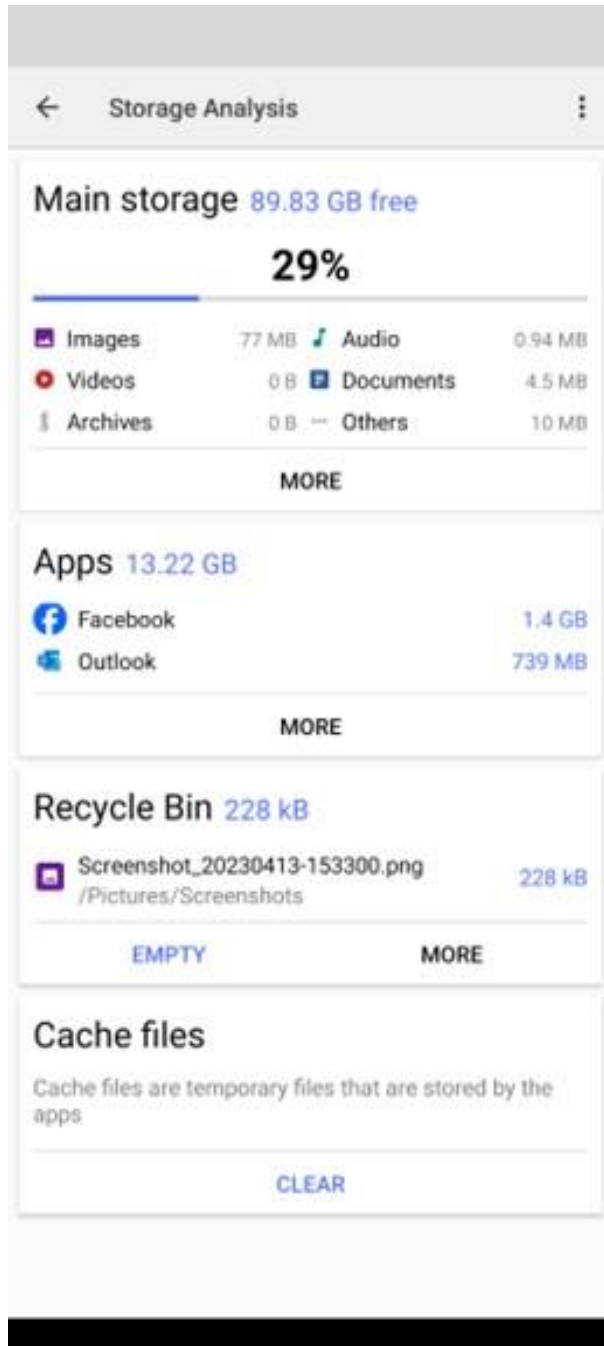
2. Library

3. Network

Networking example:

Accessing a Synology NAS network device (DISKSTATION)





Storage Analysis:

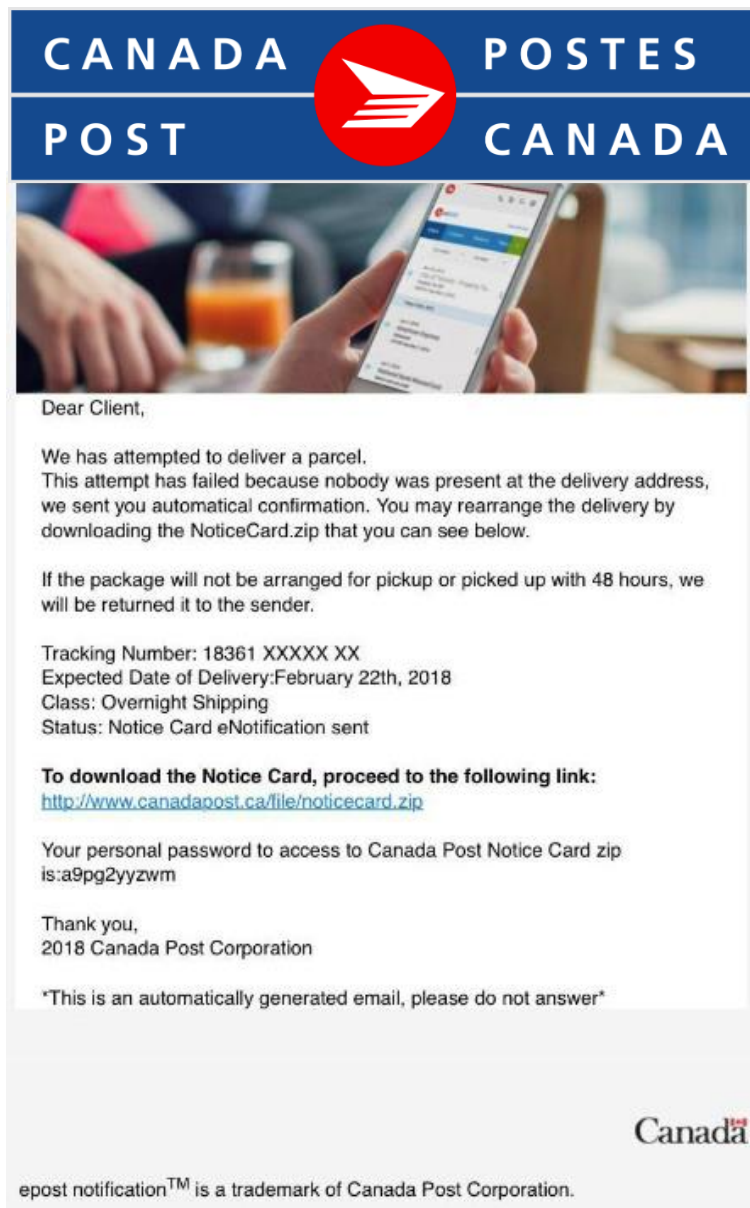
Disk space used by:
Category
Apps (large files)

Empty Recycle Bin

Clear cache

Share

'Tis the season



- Watch out for SMS and E-mail scam messages about packages being undeliverable

- *Proceed to the following link*
- *Verify personal information*
- *Provide credit card details*



<https://opcug.ca/fraud-watch/>

From storage.system@alan [REDACTED]

To alan@alan [REDACTED]

7:53 a.m.

Subject REMINDER: Mailbox Limit Exceeded - alan@ [REDACTED]

Attention, alan@alan [REDACTED]

Your email is close to its storage limit. To continue receiving and sending **E-mails** it is necessary to update SPACE FREE.

Confirm that alan@alan [REDACTED] belongs to you. Confirm below and proceed to free up space to get more storage.

CONFIRM AND GET STORAGE NOW

- Attention, if you do not get more storage before 22 Nov 2023, your email box might be DEACTIVATED.
- If you need help, visit our [Mail Settings](#) page .

Kind regards, alan [REDACTED]

[Webmail Support](#)

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You have received an automatic, mandatory email to update you about important changes to the Cpanel Webmail Platform or your account.

CONFIRM AND GET STORAGE NOW

- Attention, if you do not get more storage before 22 Nov 2023, your email box might be DEACTIVATED.
- If you need help, visit our [Mail Settings](#) page .

Kind regards, alan*****

[Webmail Support](#)

Hover the mouse over any of these links

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You have received an automatic mandatory email to update you about important changes to the Control Webmail Platform or your account.

https://aupolbank.com.br/components/com_fc78400fcaa4d7c1d6b74bcea042842aaa.html#alan@alan*****



Killed by Microsoft

Share

Killed by Microsoft

August 9 Q&A

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



Microsoft maintains a website on *Microsoft Learn* of Windows 10&11 deprecated or removed features

- <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/whats-new/deprecated-features>

Microsoft | Learn Documentation Training Credentials Q&A Code Samples Assessments Shows

Windows Release health Windows client

What's new in Windows

Windows 11

Windows 11 overview

Windows 11 requirements

Plan for Windows 11

Prepare for Windows 11

Windows 11 enterprise feature control

What's new in Windows 11, version 23H2

What's new in Windows 11, version 22H2

Windows 10

What's new in Windows 10, version 22H2

Deprecated features for Windows client

Article • 11/07/2023 • 3 contributors • Applies to: ☒ Windows 11, ☒ Windows 10

[Feedback](#)

Each version of Windows client adds new features and functionality. Occasionally, new versions also remove features and functionality, often because they've added a newer option. This article provides details about the features and functionalities that are no longer being developed in Windows client. For more information about features that have been removed, see [Windows features removed](#).

features lifecycle.

The features in this article are no longer being actively developed, and might be removed in a future update. Some features have been replaced with other features or functionality and some are now available from other sources.

Deprecated features

The following list is subject to change and might not include every affected feature or functionality.

Note

If you have feedback about the proposed replacement of any of these features, you can use the [Feedback Hub app](#).

Feature	Details and mitigation	Deprecation announced
Tips	The Tips app is deprecated and will be removed in a future release of Windows. Content in the app will continue to be	November 2023

[Download PDF](#)

UPDATE



Deprecation vs. removal

- **Deprecation:** The stage of the product lifecycle when a feature or functionality is no longer in active development and may be removed in future releases of a product or online service.
- **End of support:** The stage of the product lifecycle when support and servicing are no longer available for a product.
- **Retirement:** The stage of the product lifecycle when an service is shut down so that it is no longer available for use.
- **Remove or retire a feature:** The stage of the product lifecycle when a feature or functionality is removed from a service after it has been deprecated.
- **Replace a feature:** The stage of the product lifecycle when a feature or functionality in a service is replaced with a different feature or functionality.

If you see a program or service listed as *deprecated*, start looking for a replacement!



Lithium Batteries

At the August 25, 2021 Q&A, we had a presentation on Solar Chargers and Charging which included the information on the following three slides:

Bob Walker

Solar Charging for Your Smartphone and Other Devices



Small pocket size solar chargers are available that will power smartphones and other small power demand USB devices (OPCUG had some for door prizes a couple of years ago).



Solar Charging for Your Smartphone and Other Devices



Pocket size solar/USB chargers

- Available in different sizes ('for little or big pockets') and power capacities
- Have built-in rechargeable batteries so they can be pre-charged

Solar Charging for Your Smartphone and Other Devices



Pocket size solar/USB chargers

Can be charged with a USB power source or just left in a sunny window or on a picnic table (or on a rock if you're in the middle of Algonquin



Three devices in my kitchen window



On the table on my deck

Lithium Batteries

- **Since then, we have had information passed on at subsequent Q&A's about the dangers of overcharging devices with lithium batteries, including smartphones and laptops. These dangers can include fires and even explosions.**
- **All three of the pocket size solar/USB chargers shown in the previous slide were left in my kitchen window for years when I wasn't using them, and I recently discovered that all three of them had the lithium batteries swollen up from overcharging, which prompted me to give this presentation as a warning to others.**

Lithium Batteries

- If you have any of these pocket size solar/USB chargers or any other devices such as smartphones or laptops with lithium batteries:
 - Charge them only when needed (i.e., just before you are going to use them).
 - DON'T leave them plugged into chargers all the time, and DON'T leave the solar devices in a window or exposed full time to the sun or other light.
 - If you aren't going to use the device for a long time, it is preferable to store it with the battery only partially charged, not fully charged or fully discharged.

Lithium Batteries

Some recent and current smartphones, laptops and other devices allow you in the settings to limit the charging of the battery to ~85%.

Lithium Batteries



Swelling of the battery and/or the device containing the battery is a sure symptom that the battery is failing.

Lithium Batteries

- If you have a high-value device like a laptop or smartphone, the repair locations for these devices may be able to replace the battery for you, but advise them of the problem BEFORE you bring it to them.
- Battery recycling locations like Total Battery, and places that have battery recycling drop-off containers like Staples and Best Buy, will take normally worn out lithium batteries (follow the instructions at www.call2recycle.ca/recycleyourbatteries/ for doing so), but DO NOT take swollen or damaged lithium batteries there.

Lithium Batteries

- Dealing with damaged or swollen lithium batteries is beyond my expertise. There are instructions at www.call2recycle.ca/recycleyourbatteries/ and on several other websites for dealing with them.
 - If you have a lithium battery that is getting warm or hot* on its own (e.g. not plugged in), get it outside ASAP and away from anything (preferably in a sealed plastic bag to prevent exposure to moisture like rain or snow), and call the fire department for instructions.
- * - If it is HOT, try to use tongs or carry it with a shovel or spatula so you are not touching it directly.



Good quality hard drive?

- Backups on 3 yr old ADATA HD650 2.5" external HDD using Windows File History
- No problems on old Dell Inspiron
- Tried backup with new Dell Precision
 - message: *problems with the file structure*
- Tried to do a backup on old Dell
 - doesn't seem to be working now
- Looked at the contents of drive using TreeSize – no problem
- **What would the group recommend for a new hard drive?**
- **Want an external drive that will last**





Is old drive actually bad?

- May be simple corruption of the file system
 - from a CMD prompt
 - **CHKDSK X:** (where **X** is the drive letter assigned to drive)
 - if there are problems, you will be instructed to rerun with **/F**
- Try running a utility to test the hard drive



- HDDScan (<https://hddscan.com>)
 - SMART (Self-Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology) report
 - Graph of disk access (kB/s) by Logical Block Address (LBA)
 - Map with colour code for block processing times
 - Report for block processing times above a specified threshold

Q&A 2023-11-15

https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20231115_PowerPoint.pdf

<https://hddscan.com/>

<https://www.seagate.com/ca/en/support/downloads/seatools/>

Tom Trottier in chat: free version of HDsentinel does SMART tests



Buying external hard drives

- Anyone have empirical evidence of one brand external hard drive better than another?
- Who makes hard drives?
 - *at least 223 companies have manufactured hard disk drives*
 - *only three manufacturers have survived:*
 - *Seagate, Toshiba and Western Digital*
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_defunct_hard_disk_manufacturers
- Are price and features the best way to shop?
 - most Western Digital drives include encryption capability
 - good feature if backup drive stored off-site
 - warranty?
 - drives designed for NAS/server?



Recommendation for tablet

- Could you recommend a tablet for a 75-year-old woman who is scared of using technology?
- Using a desktop computer with Windows 7
- Only uses computer for:
 - searches on Google
 - Webmail (Hotmail a.k.a. Outlook.com)
- No financial transactions



Q&A Two main devices?

- Tablet
 - typically has no keyboard or mouse
 - on-screen keyboard may be pain to use
 - can add a Bluetooth keyboard and mouse
 - smaller screen (typically 8" to 12")
- Chromebook
 - keyboard and trackpad may make it simpler to use
 - larger screen (typically 12" to 15.6")
- Common positive features for use-case
 - small & light
 - simplified device
 - good self-updating
 - low cost (tablet \$100+, Chromebook \$200+)





**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



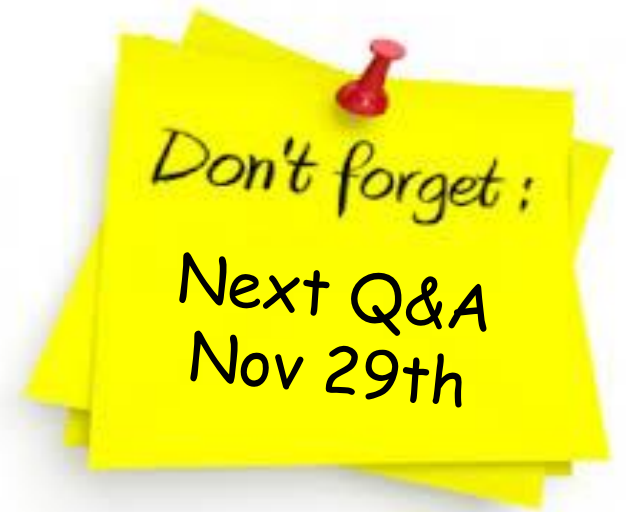
December Meeting

Efficient YouTube Viewing: Tips & Shortcuts

Bob Herres (OPCUG)

December 13, 2023
7:30 pm





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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca