



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

November 29, 2023

Share

Avoiding scams

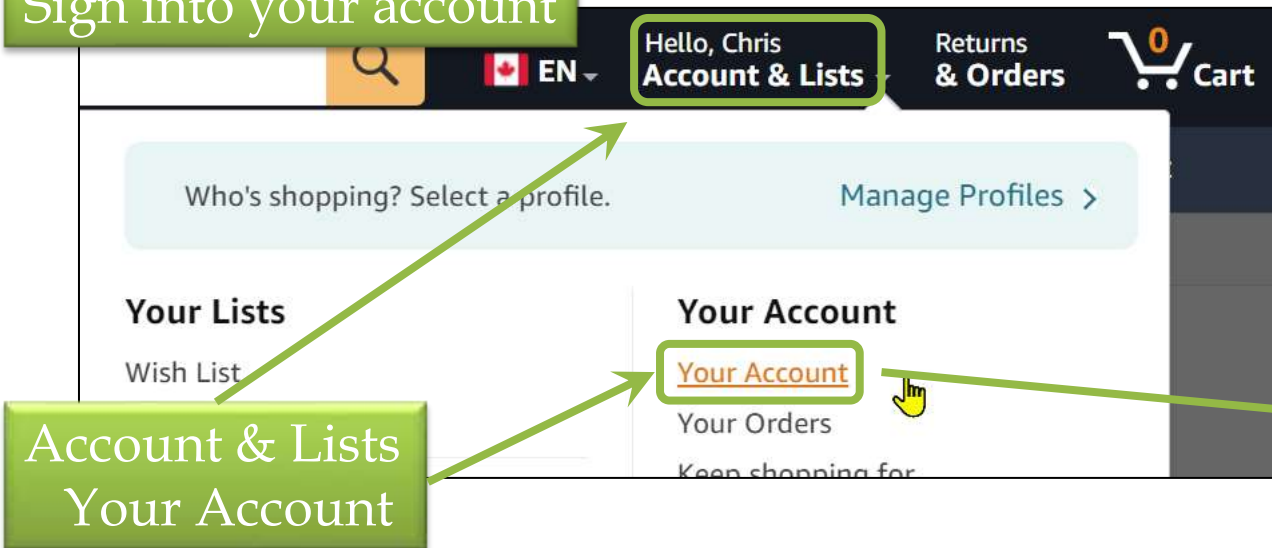


- Amazon Canada frequently used by scammers
 - your account will be suspended
 - you need to update your account
 - click here to ...
- You can verify if an email is legit by checking Amazon Message Centre

Share

Amazon Message Centre

Sign into your account

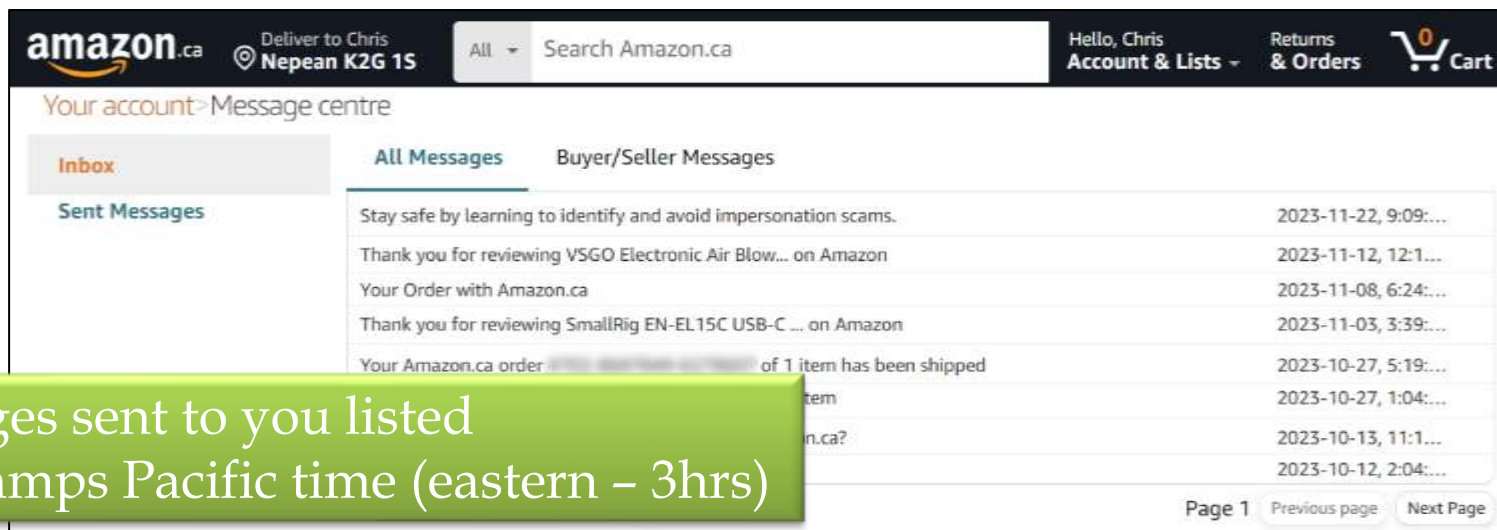


Your messages



Your Messages

View or respond to messages from Amazon, Sellers and Buyers

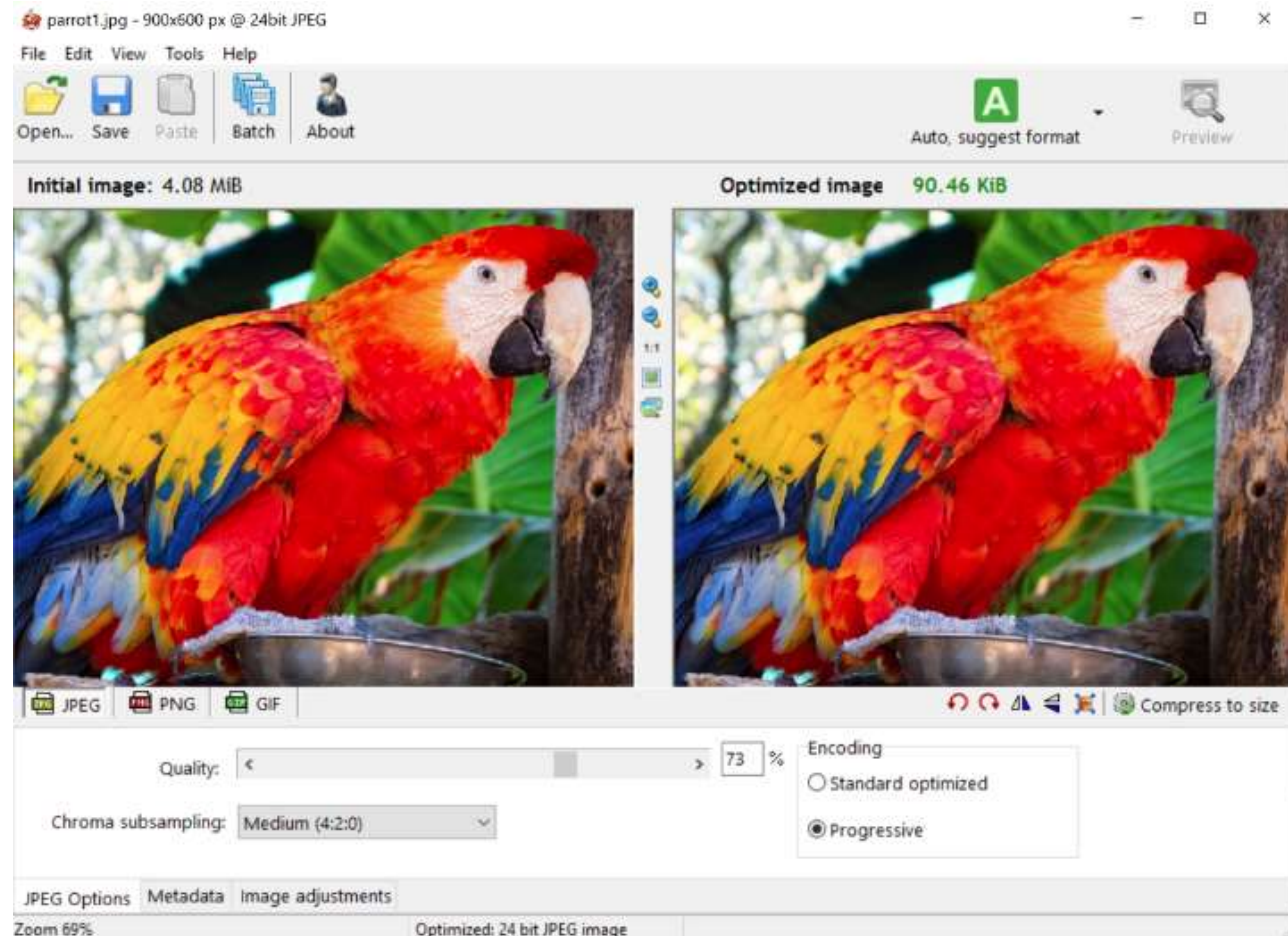


All messages sent to you listed

- time stamps Pacific time (eastern – 3hrs)

Share

Reducing JPG file sizes using Irfanview and RIOT

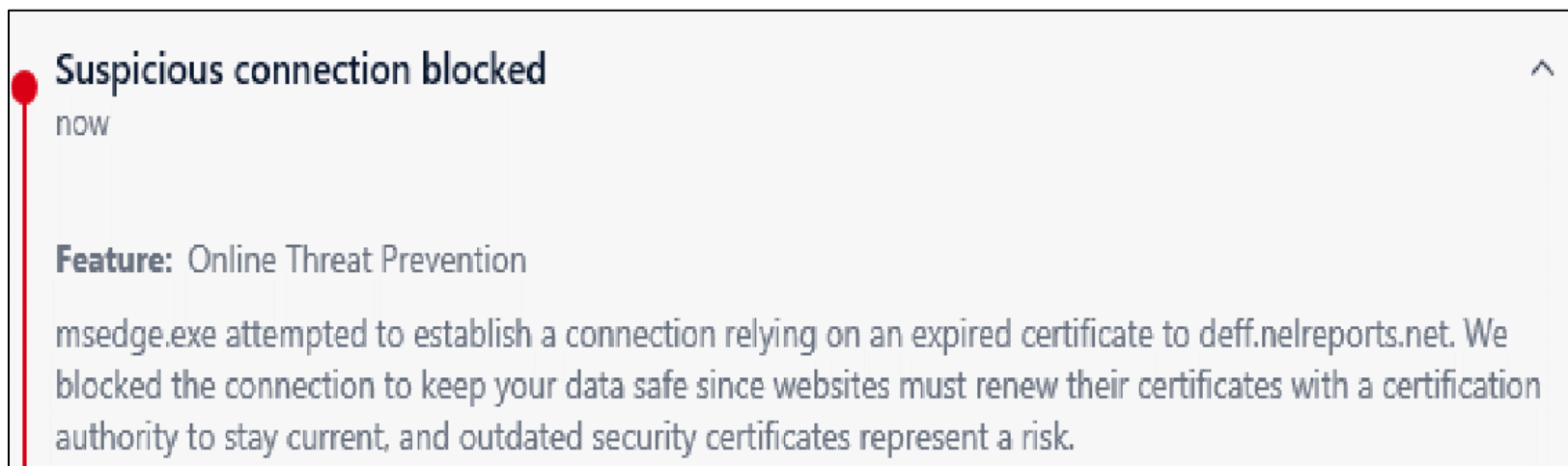


Tom Trottier



Why is BitDefender blocking?

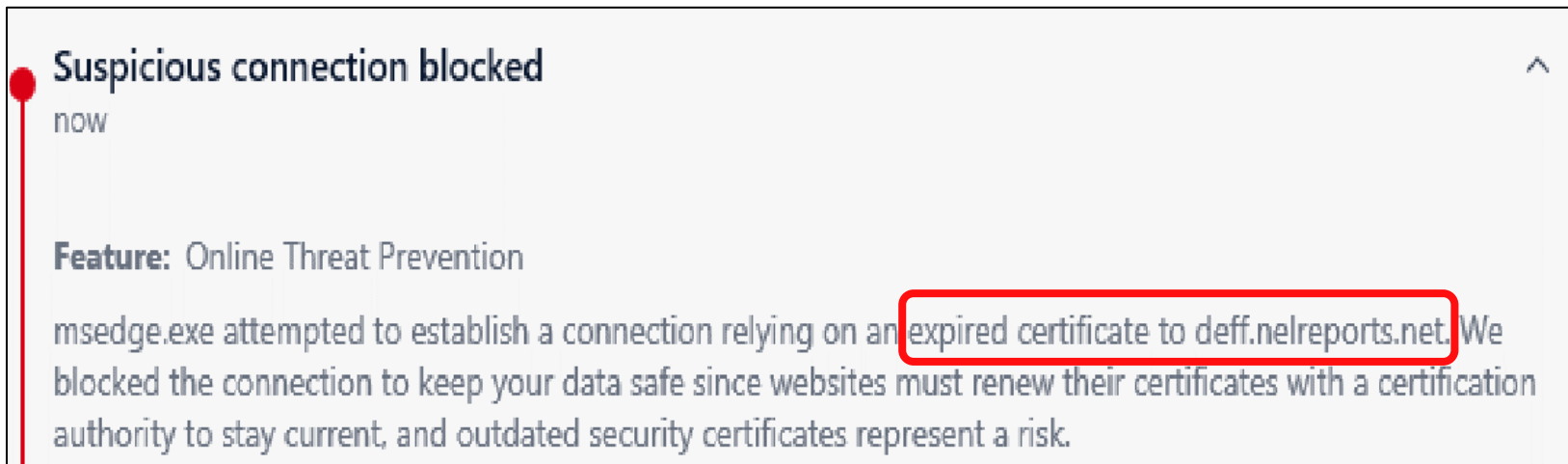
- Whenever I open Edge
 - BitDefender says it blocked multiple dangerous sites
 - only happens when I open it, not during browsing





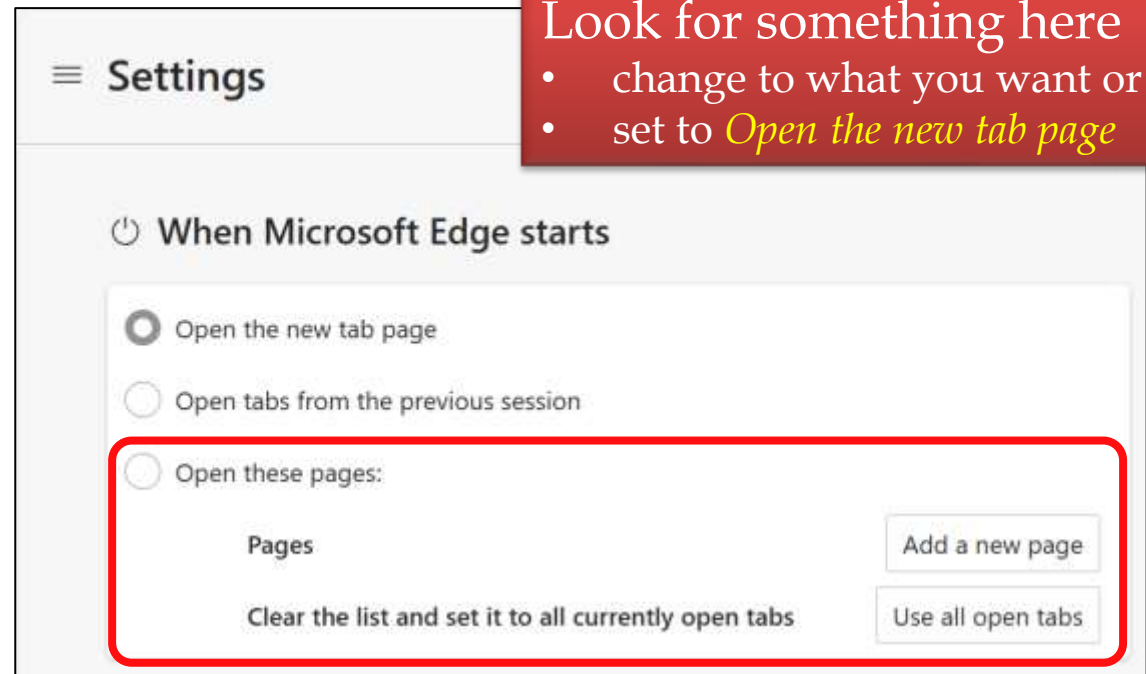
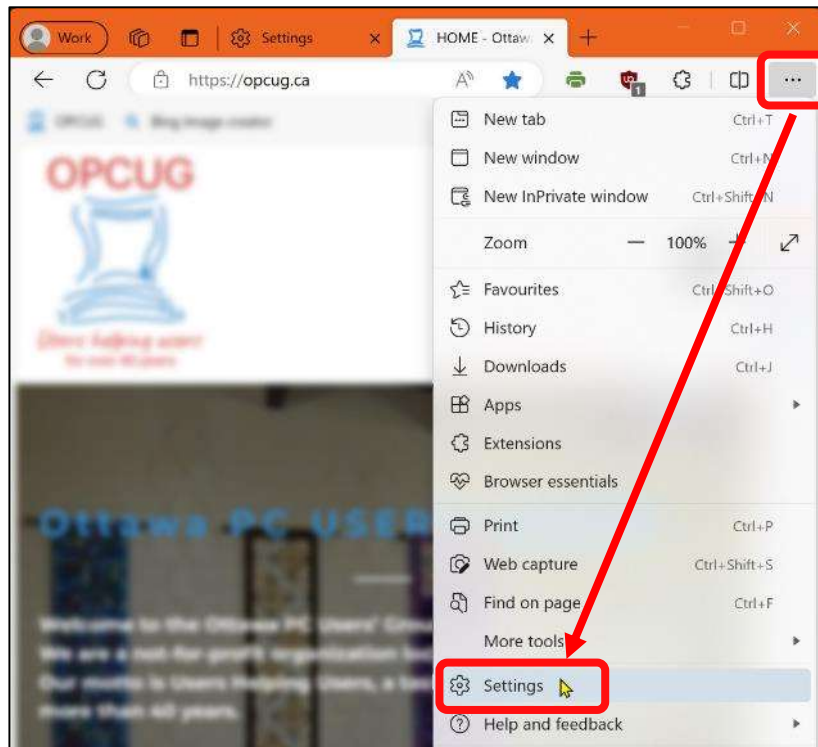
“expired certificate” meaning

- Certificate used for encrypting data between you and server
- Not necessarily indication of a real problem



Q&A What's happening - one possibility

- Start page seems to be issue
- New problem > what changed?
- Maybe something changed start page

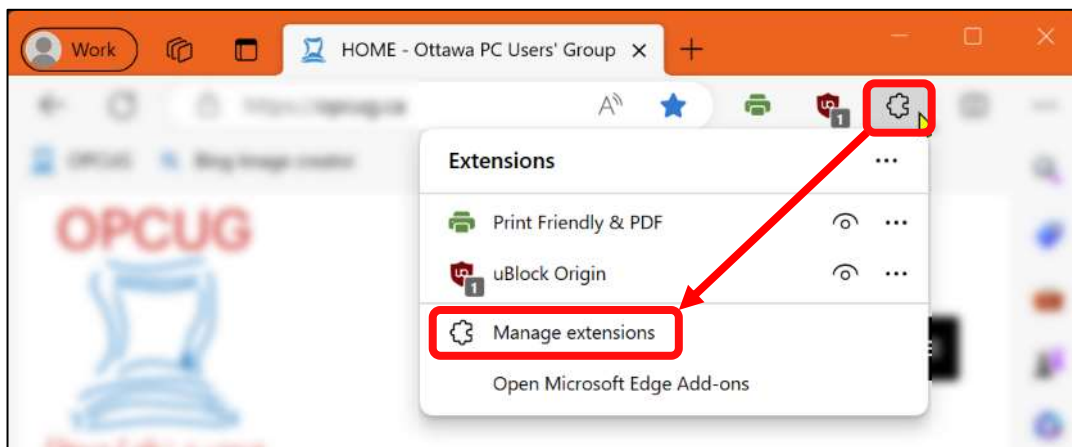


Look for something here

- change to what you want or
- set to *Open the new tab page*

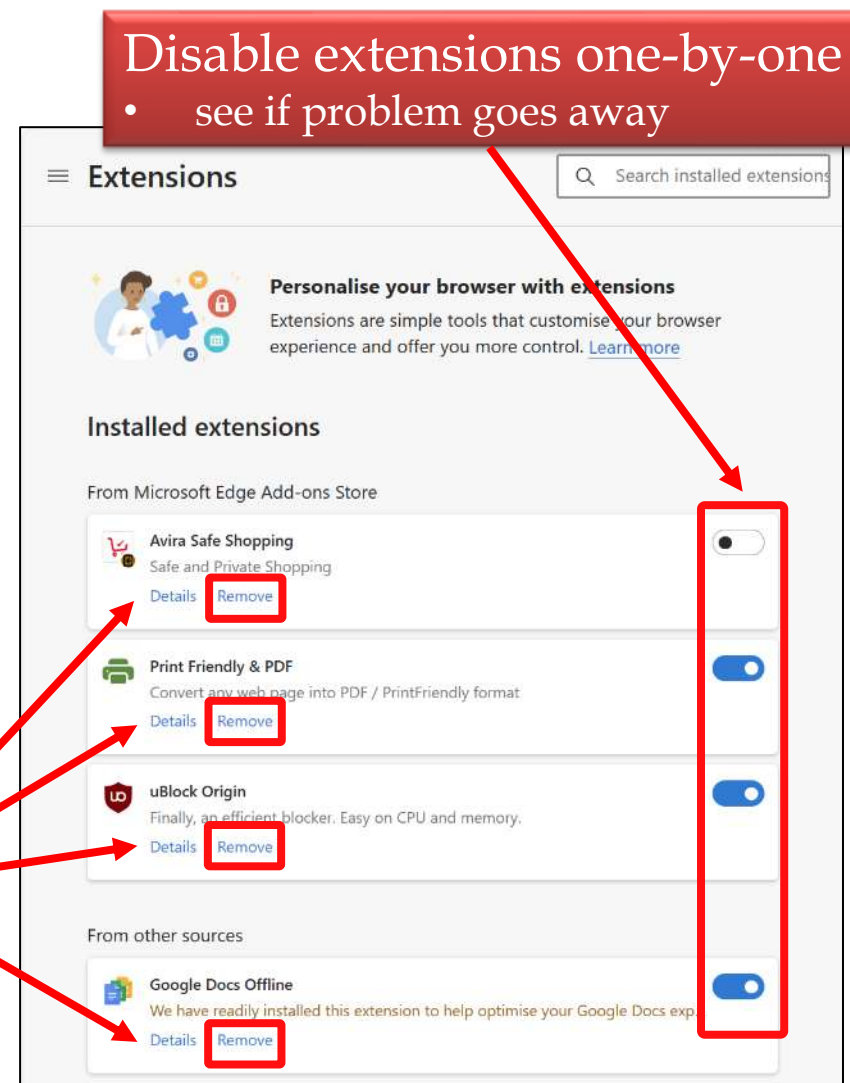
Q&A What's happening - another possibility

- Extension may have changed start page



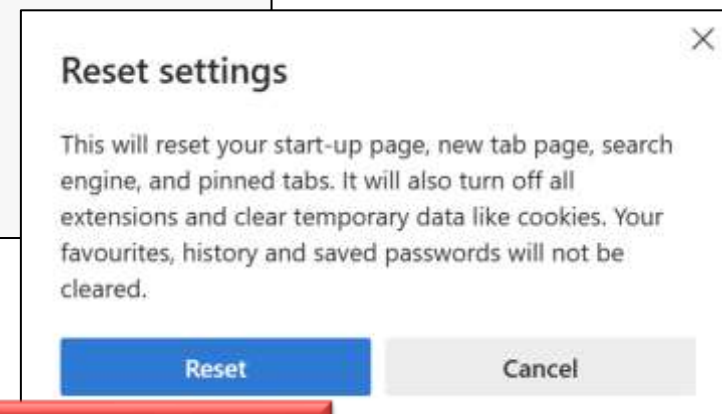
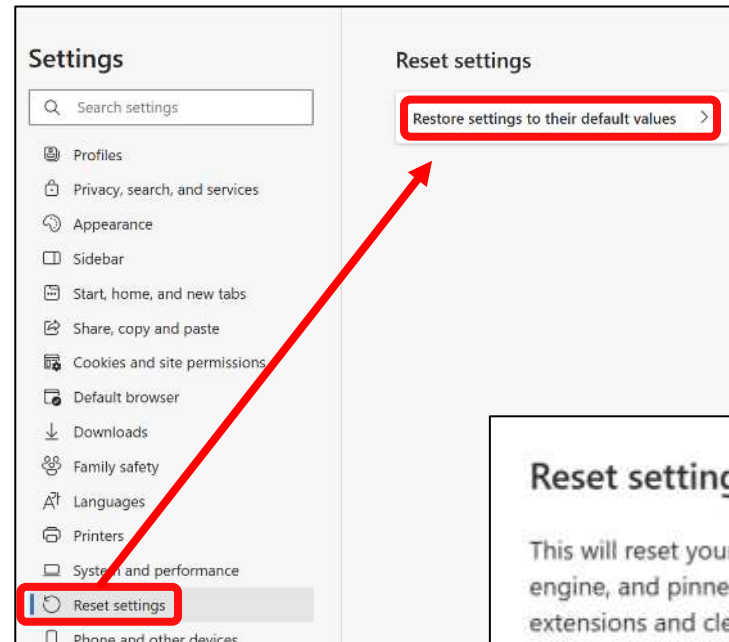
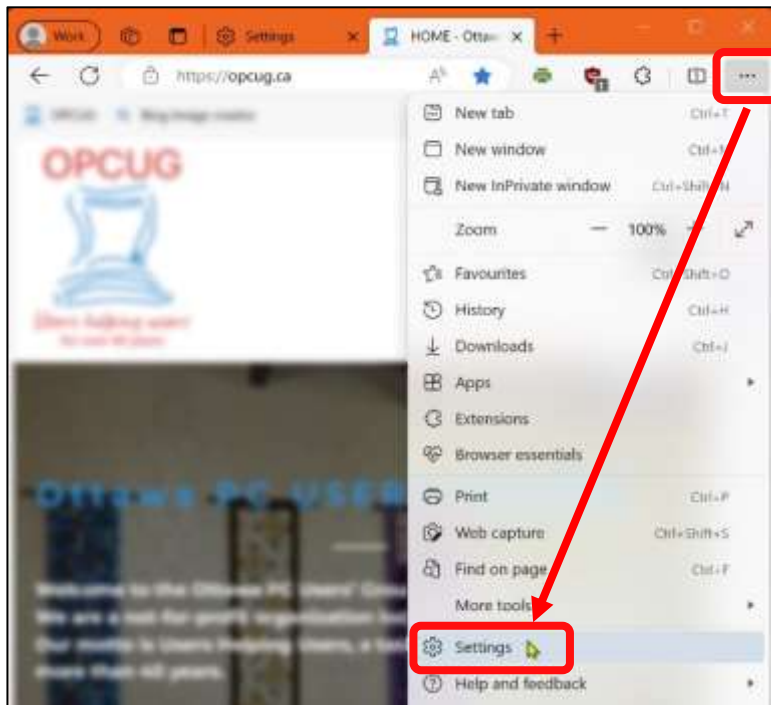
While you are there

- Remove** any extensions you don't need



Q&A Reset browser

- If previous two possibilities not the solution
- May want to reset browser



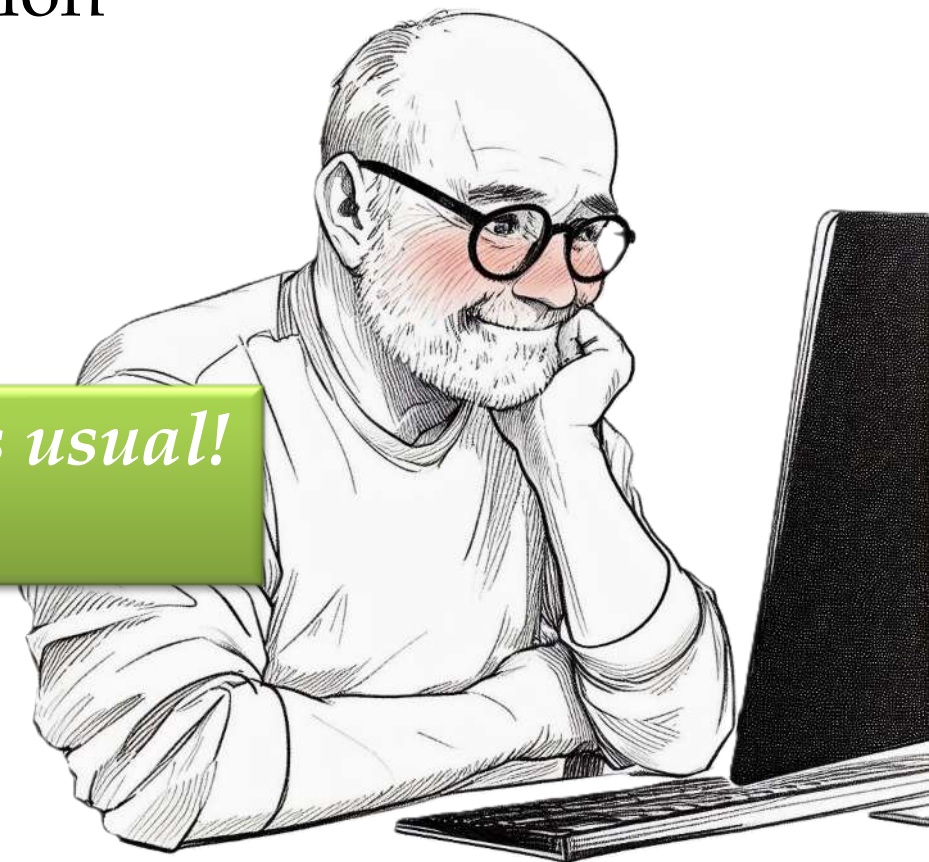
Note: different browsers may remove different items!



And the answer was...

- Only two extensions
 - BitDefender
 - Google Docs
- Removed Google Docs extension
- Problem solved!

Chris, you are brilliant as usual!
- Bea Ault

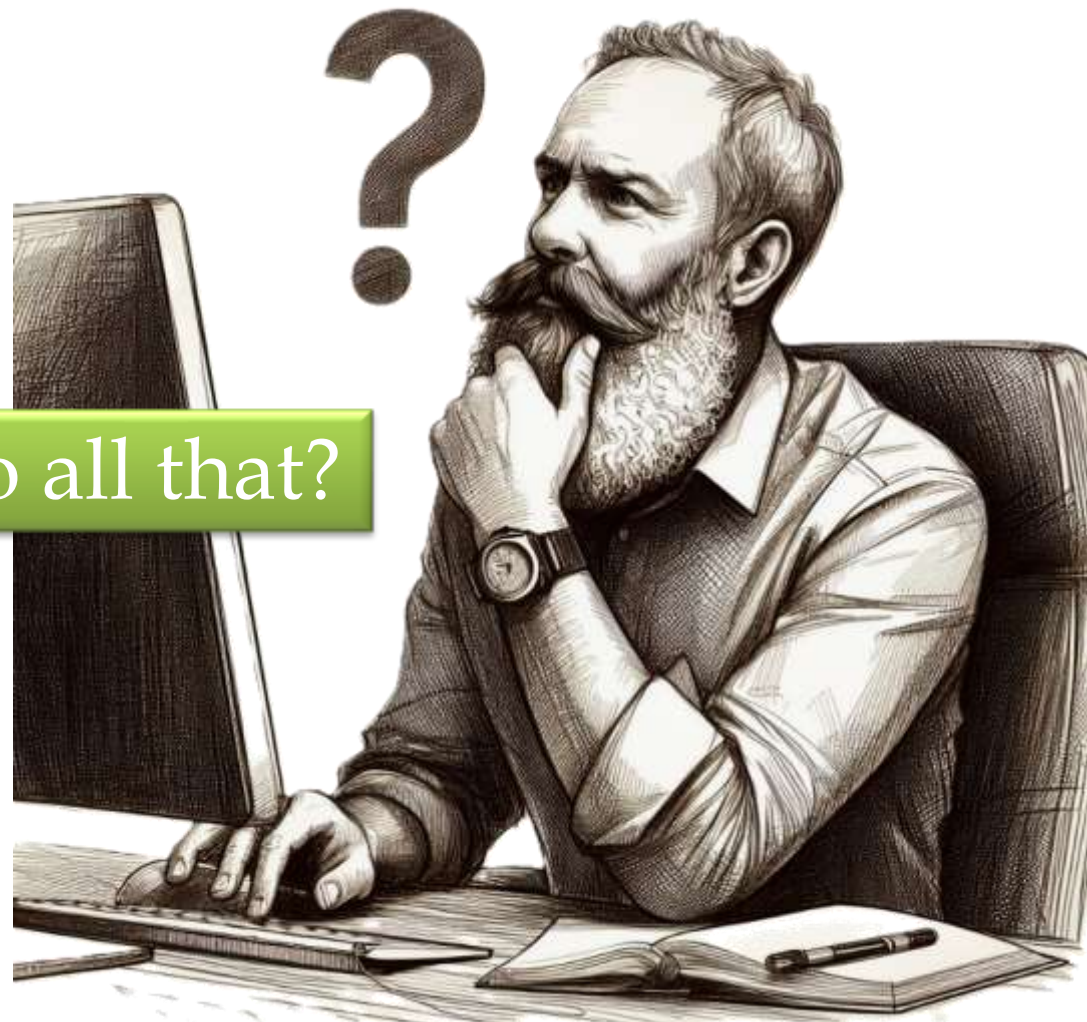




Interesting generalized issue

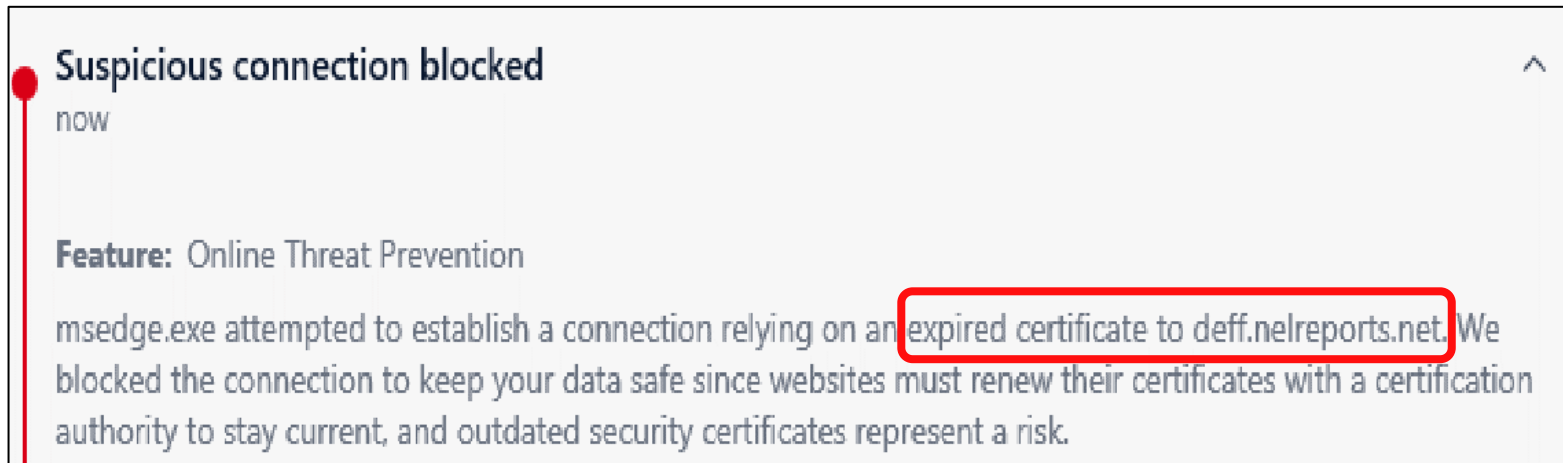
- Good to keep in mind for future oddities in browser

But did we have to do all that?

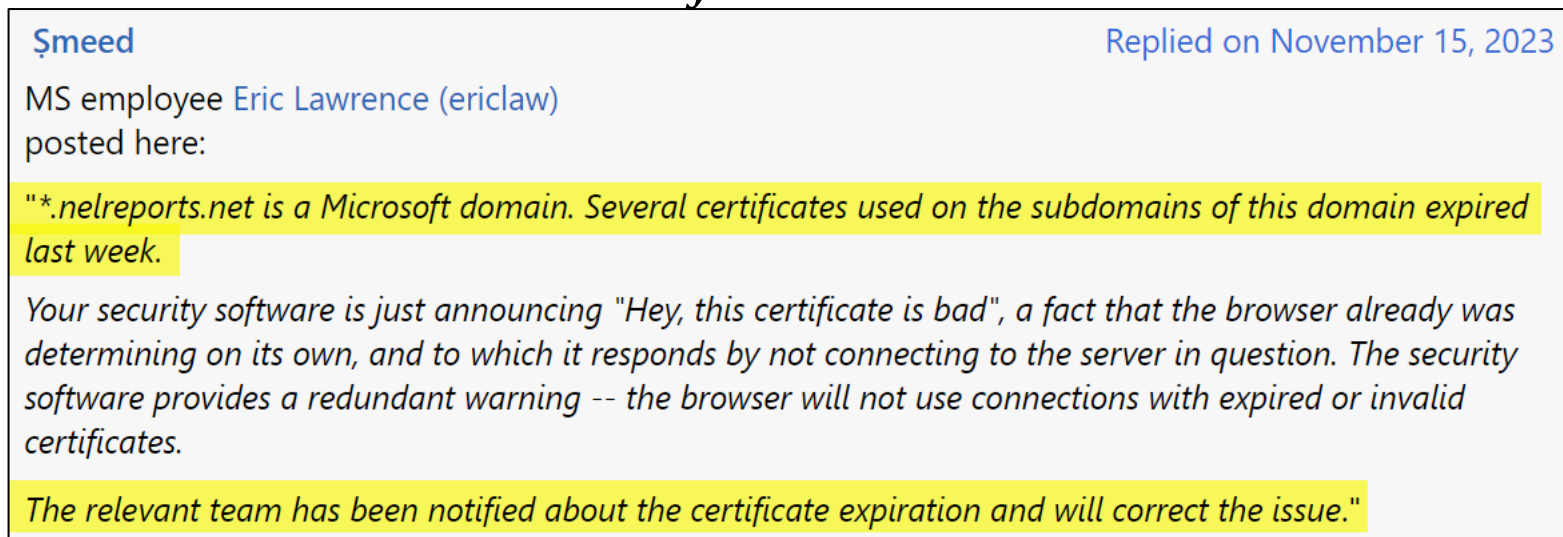




What is deff.nelreports.net



- Googled
 - *google docs extension deff.nelreports.net*
- Microsoft's *Answers forum*



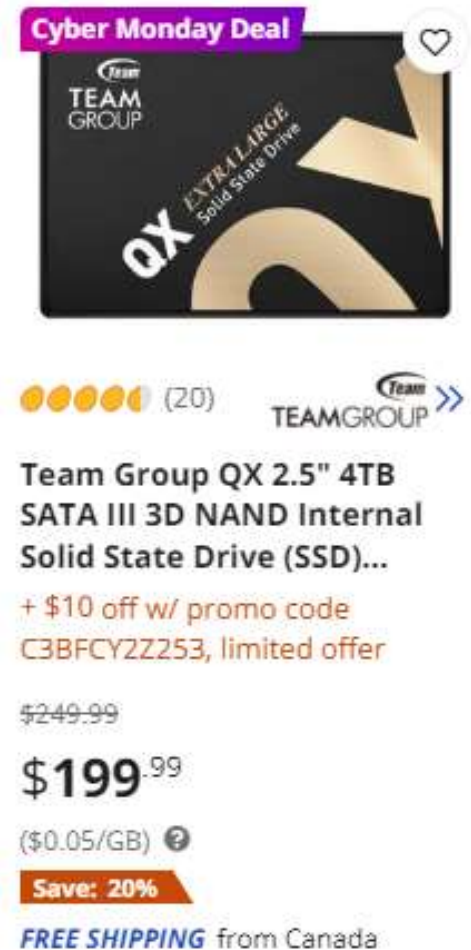
Share

T-FORCE SSD's

- Team Group is a Taiwanese company
- They have good prices on SSD's
- Retailers such as Newegg usually have their stuff in stock

e.g. 4TB SATA 3 SSD for \$199

(Cyber Monday sale)



<https://www.teamgroupinc.com/en/product-brand/ssd/T-FORCE/>

Stewart Bruce

Share

Spot that fake USB drive



Serge-Érik Thériault

<https://www.grc.com/validrive.htm>



Gibson Research Corporation

With Great Pride, Gibson Research Corporation Offers:

SpinRite

For two decades, the PC industry's #1 mass storage data recovery & maintenance software . . . NOW compatible with NTFS, Linux, and all other file systems.

ShieldsUP!!tm

Port Authority Edition – Internet Vulnerability Profiling

by Steve Gibson, Gibson Research Corporation.

Share

Fantastic flash drive prices!

- Amazon Canada



- eBay Canada

1TB USB Flash Drives Metal Thumb Drive 1000GB with Keychain Waterproof Pen Drive (1TB, Silver) **C\$12.99**

1TB USB Flash Drive Waterproof Memory Stick Portable Thumb Drive with Keychain High Speed Memory Stick **C\$15.99**

2TB Flash Drive USB Stick Waterproof USB 3.0 Memory Stick USB Drive with Keychain, Metal USB Key Storage and Backup **C\$19.99**

2TB Metal USB 3.0 Flash Drive Memory Stick Pen U Disk with Keychain Thumb PC Laptop **C\$9.60**

High Speed USB 3.0 Flash Drive 2TB U Disk External Storage Memory Stick P3A7CA **C\$5.28** **C\$5.33**

I purchased 12 inexpensive 1 & 2 terabyte thumb drives from Amazon... and every one of them was a bogus fraudulent drive

Steve Gibson

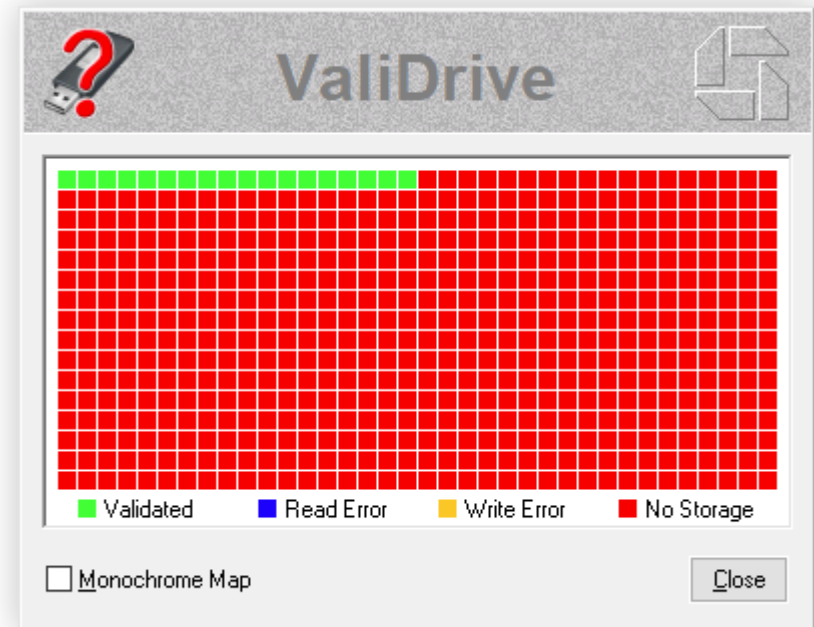
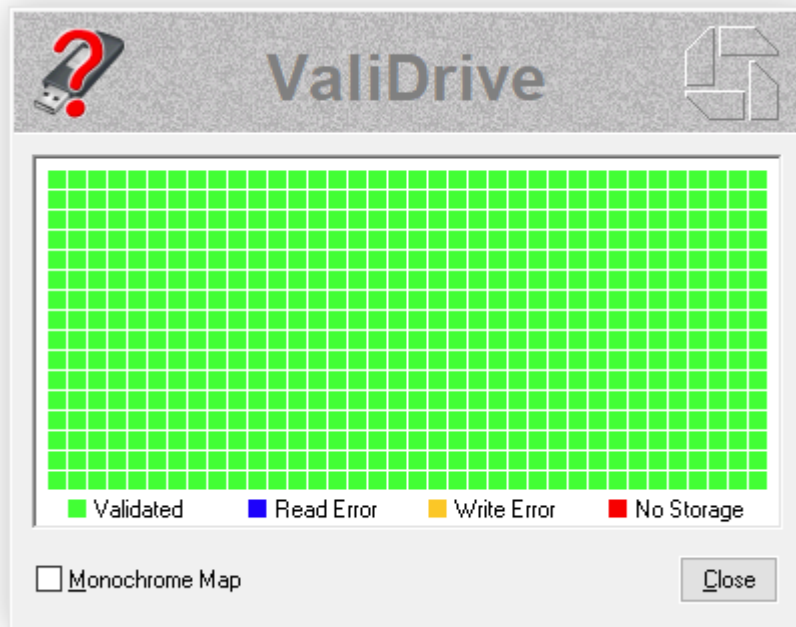




Good



Bad





Packaged
with 20%+
Recycled
Material

Western Digital
CORPORATION

SanDisk Ultra Fit™

USB 3.2 Gen 1 Flash Drive

- Instant plug-and-stay storage
- Transfer a full-length movie in less than 30 seconds¹
- Password-protect your files²

3X
**32
GB¹**

SPEEDS UP TO
130 MB/s**
READ



store MORE. FAST ▶

SanDisk®

This PC > USB Drive (E:)

☐ Name	Date modified	Size
 Install SanDisk Software.dmg	2021-09-23 2:01 PM	540 KB
 Install SanDisk Software.exe	2021-09-23 2:02 PM	691 KB
 SanDisk Software.pdf	2021-09-23 2:01 PM	294 KB

USB Drive (E:) Properties

General

Tools

Hardware

Sharing

ReadyBoost

Customize



Type: USB Drive

File system: FAT32

Used space:

1,654,784 bytes

1.57 MB

Free space:

30,767,382,528 bytes

28.6 GB

Capacity: 30,769,037,312 bytes 28.6 GB



Drive E:

OK

Cancel

Apply



ValiDrive



ValiDrive

Copyright (c) 2023, Gibson Research Corporation



v1.0.1

ValiDrive v1.0.1

Quickly spot-check **any** USB-connected mass storage drive for read/write errors and fraud.

What is ValiDrive?

ValiDrive conducts a data preserving, 576-region spot-check to test the readability, writability, and true storage presence of any drive of any size connected to any Windows' USB port.

Why was this created?

During the development of SpinRite v6.1, (GRC's premier mass storage maintenance and data recovery system), we detected that **fraudulent and sub-standard quality** USB flash drives had become a real problem. These "no brand"

Copy

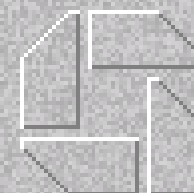
Save

Check USB Drive

Exit



ValiDrive



Drive's Declared Size
62,226,694,144 (62.2GB)

Windows Drive Letter(s)
S:

ValiDrive has detected the connection of this USB drive and is ready to perform a quick non-destructive 576-point spot-check validation of this drive's declared storage space.

Validate THIS drive

Close

CANVAS Select™ Plus

64GB/Go
100MB/s 
 I U



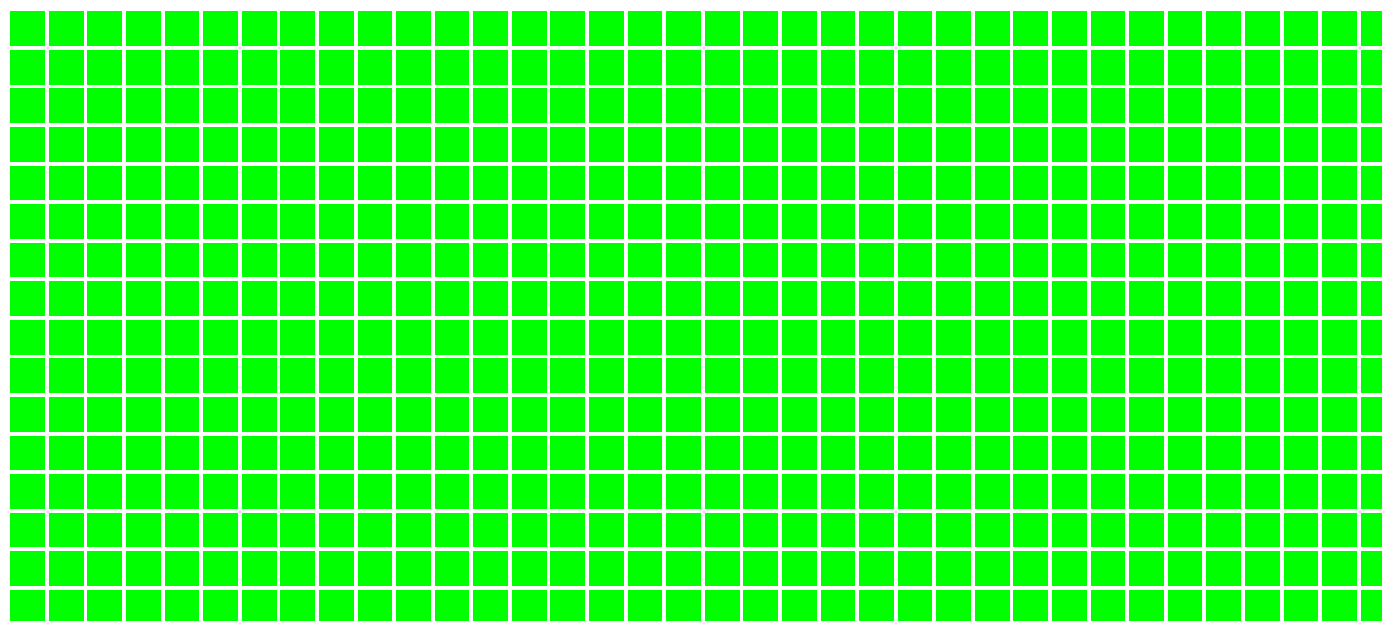
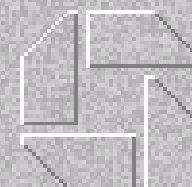
FULL
HD



 **Kingston**
TECHNOLOGY



ValiDrive



Validated

Read Error

Write Error

No Storage

☐ Monochrome Map

Close



ValiDrive

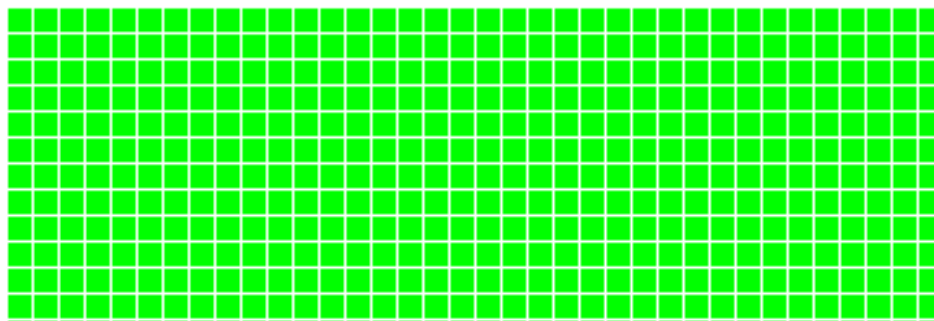
Copyright (c) 2023, Gibson Research Corporation



v1.0.1

Report #1

test date and time	11/24/2023 at 7:44 AM
declared drive size	62,226,694,144 (62.2GB)
validated drive size	62,226,694,144 (62.2GB)
highest valid region	62,226,694,144 (62.2GB)
hub or drive vendor	realsil
hub or drive product	rtsuerlun0
serial number	0000



Copy

Save

Clear

Check USB Drive

Exit

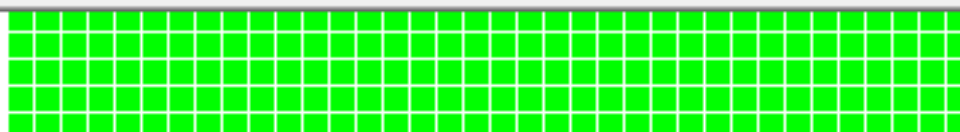


ValiDrive

Copyright (c) 2023, Gibson Research Corporation



v1.0.1



■ Validated

■ Read Error

■ Write Error

■ No Storage

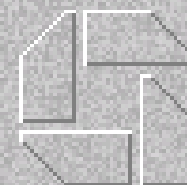
performance details

	read	write
samples	1,152	1,152
minimum	362	655
maximum	789	6,431
average	452	946
median	449	876
std dev	47	517
variance	0.104	0.547
total time	521,585	1,090,055
percent	32.36%	67.64%

*time measurements in microseconds*CopySaveClearCheck USB DriveExit



ValiDrive



To introduce the drive you wish to validate:

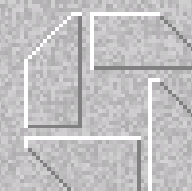
- If the USB drive is currently inserted, physically remove it from the computer and wait a few moments for its removal to be recognized, then...
- Insert the USB drive you wish to have validated and wait a few moments for the drive to be recognized. This screen will advance once the USB drive has been registered by Windows.

☐ Monochrome Map

Close



ValiDrive



Drive's Declared Size
30,784,094,208 (30.8GB)

Windows Drive Letter(s)
E:

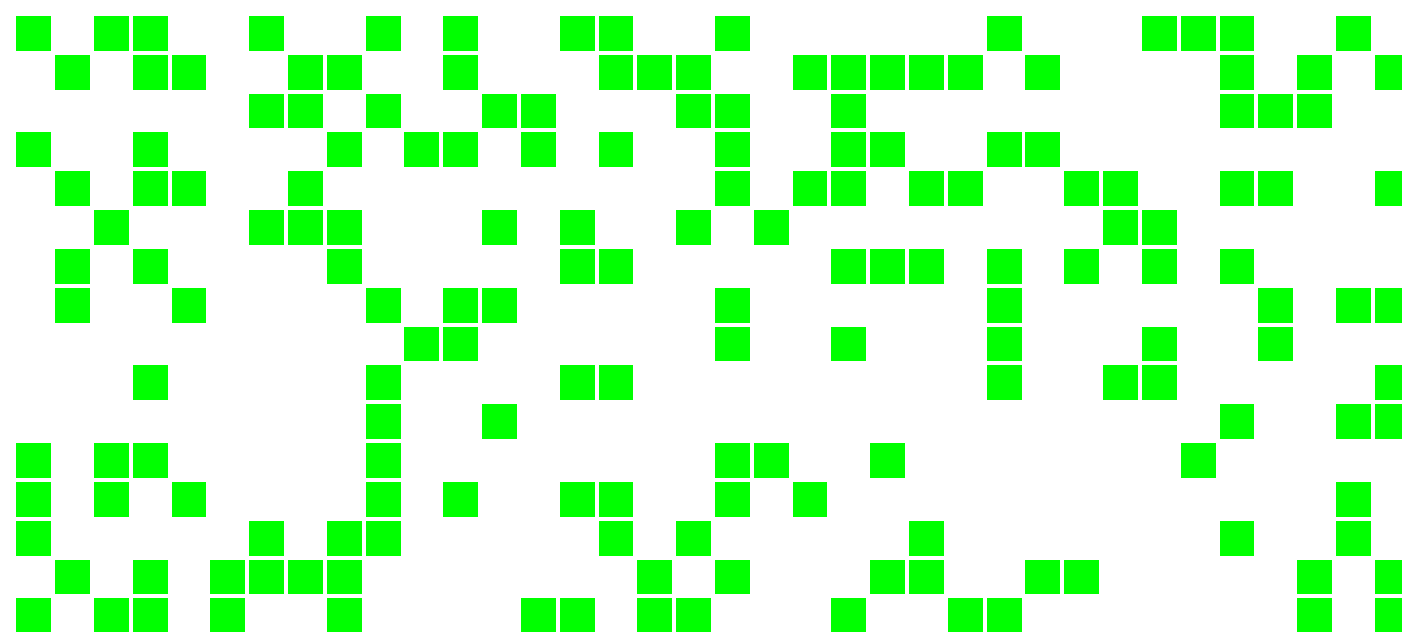
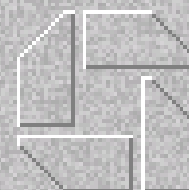
ValiDrive has detected the connection of this USB drive and is ready to perform a quick non-destructive 576-point spot-check validation of this drive's declared storage space.

Validate THIS drive

Close



ValiDrive



Validated

Read Error

Write Error

No Storage

☐ Reading

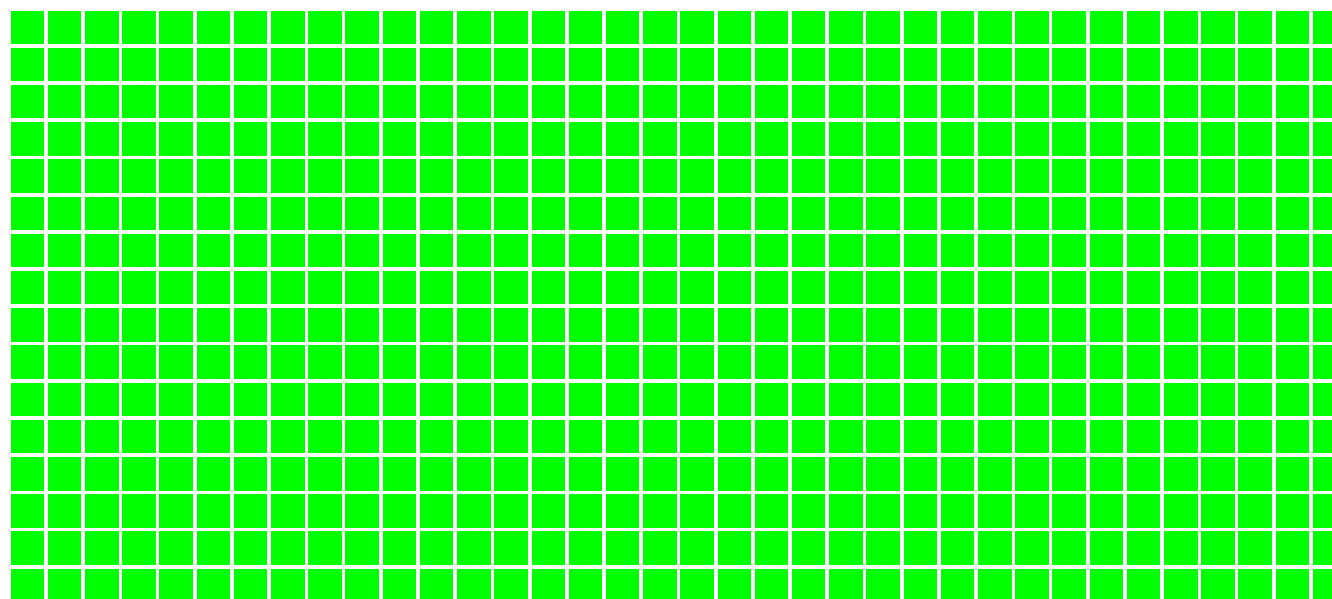
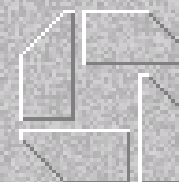
☐ Writing

400

Stop



ValiDrive



Validated

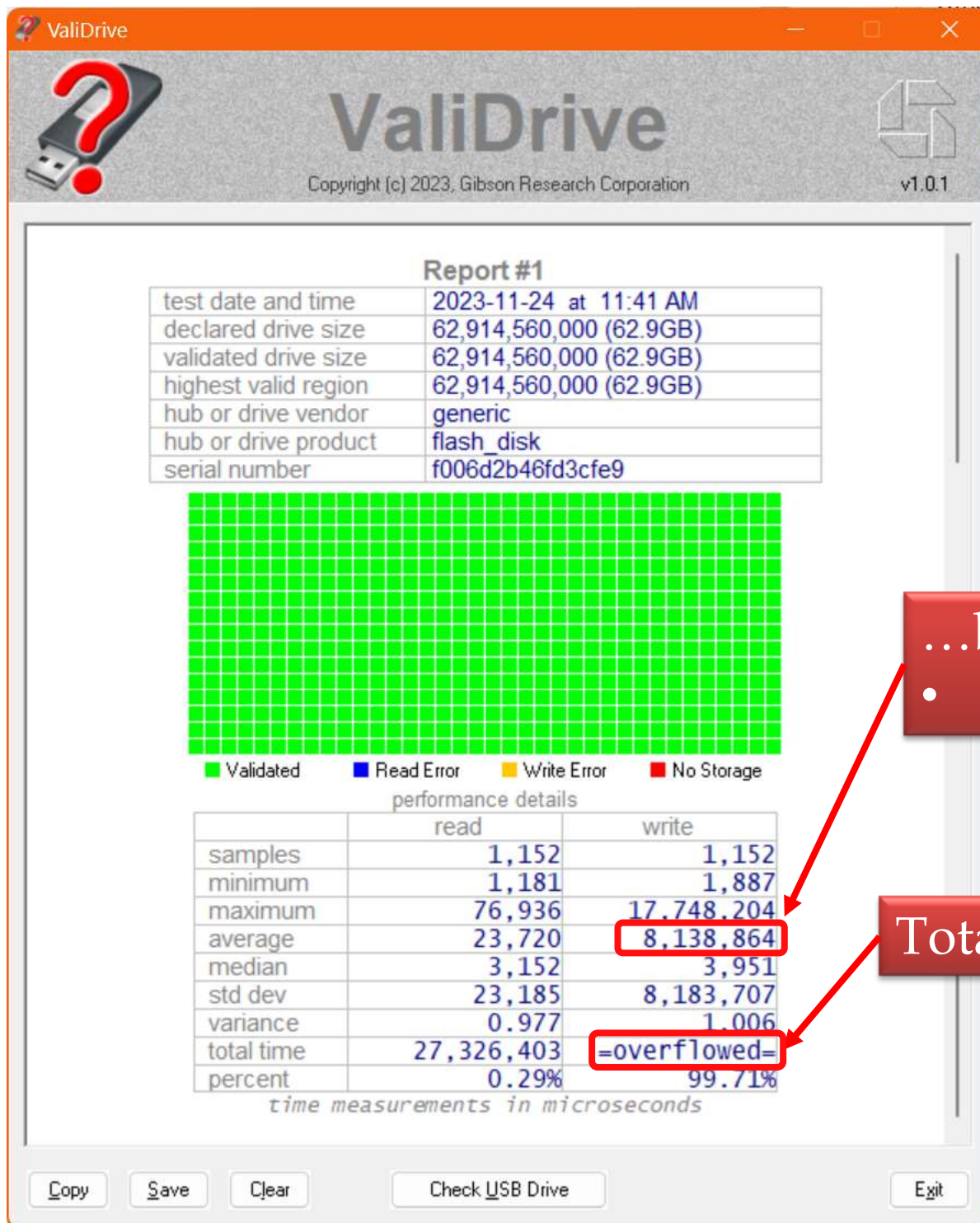
Read Error

Write Error

No Storage

☐ Monochrome Map

Close

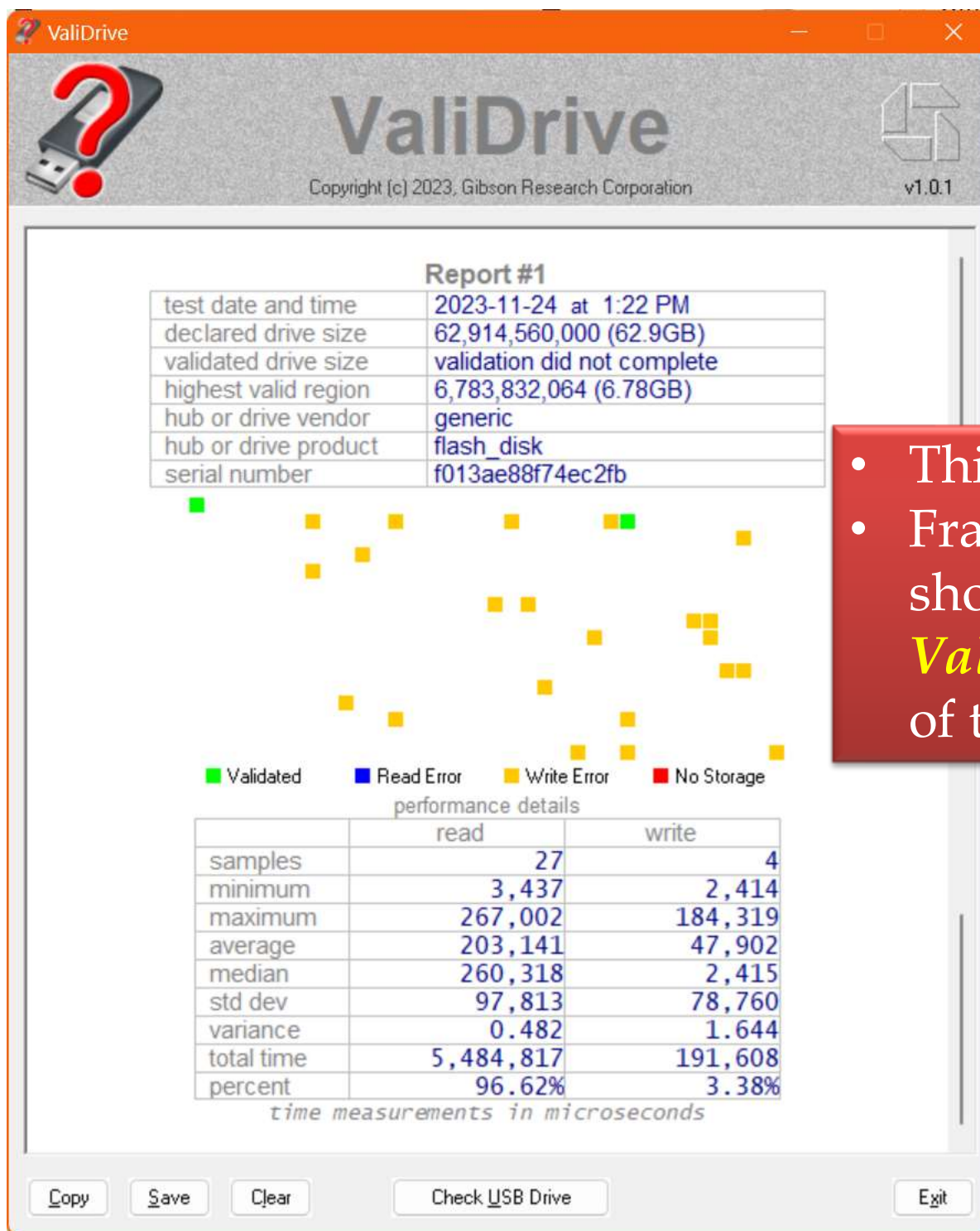


A “good” flash drive

...but sloooow on writes

- 8 sec average write operation

Total write time over 78 minutes



A “bad” flash drive

- This seems to just be a *bad drive*
- Fraudulent drives more likely to show a solid set of blocks at start *Validated* followed by the rest of the drive *No Storage*

Follow Up

Not so fast!

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..."

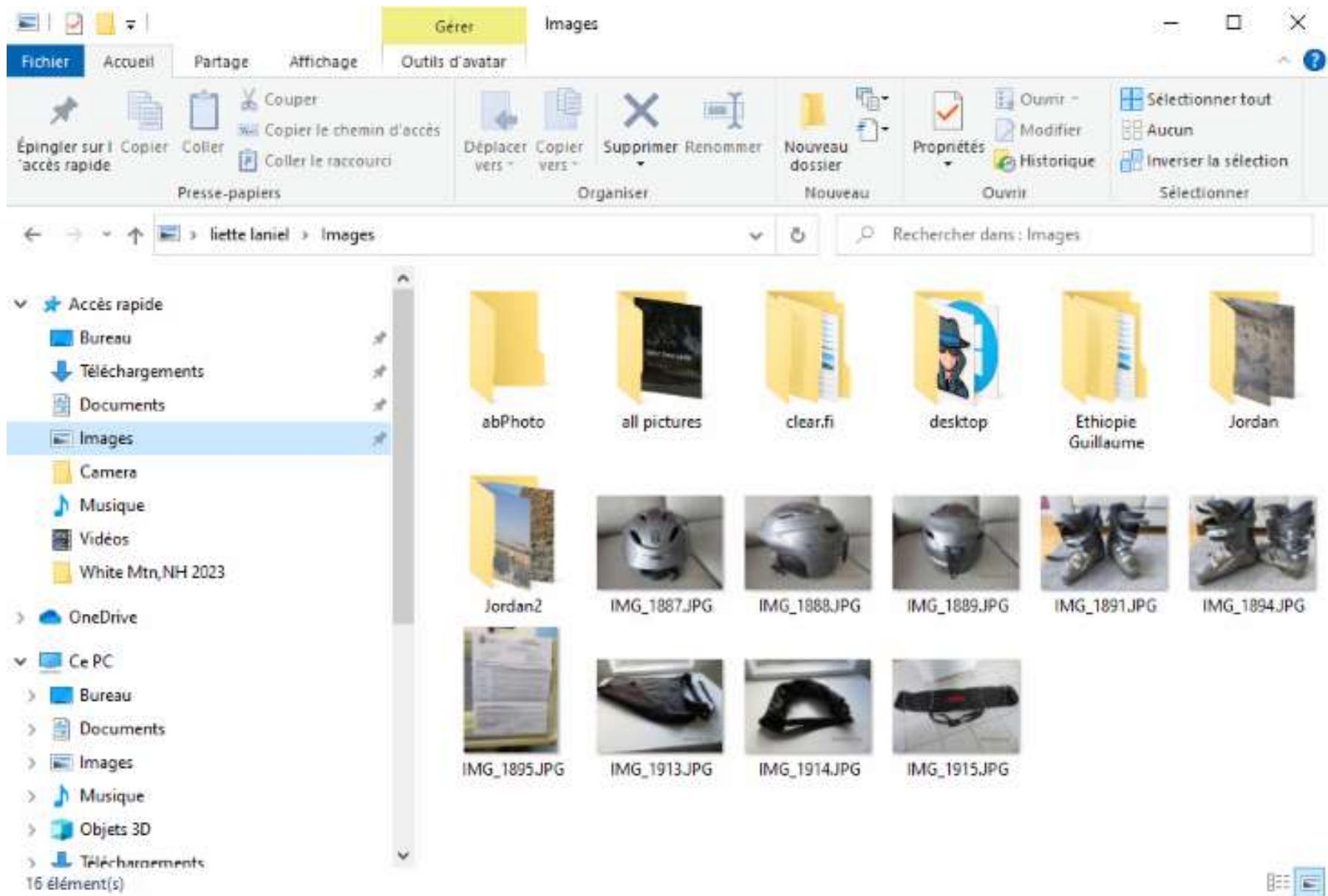
So, what can we do to speed up such machines?

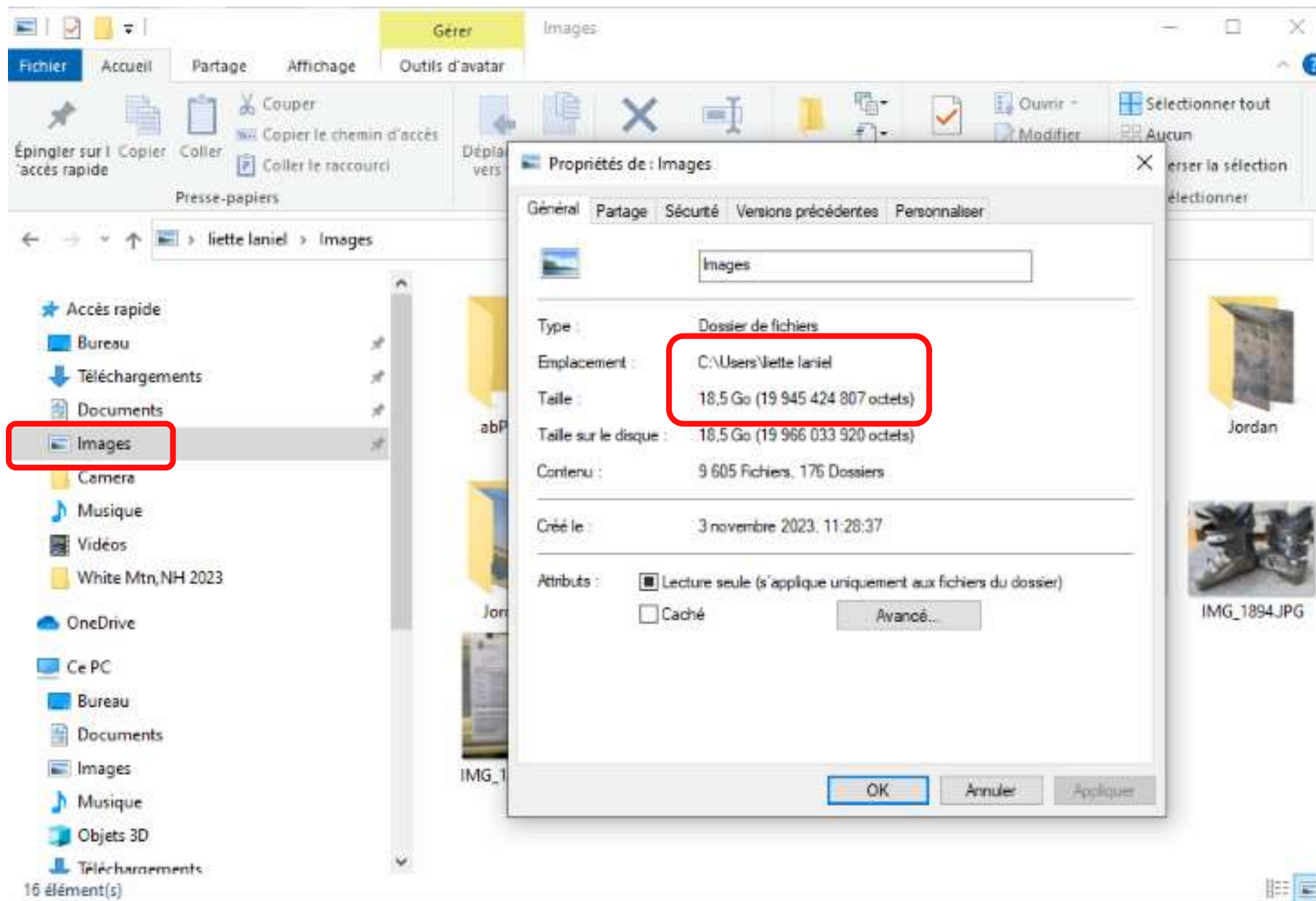
Solution

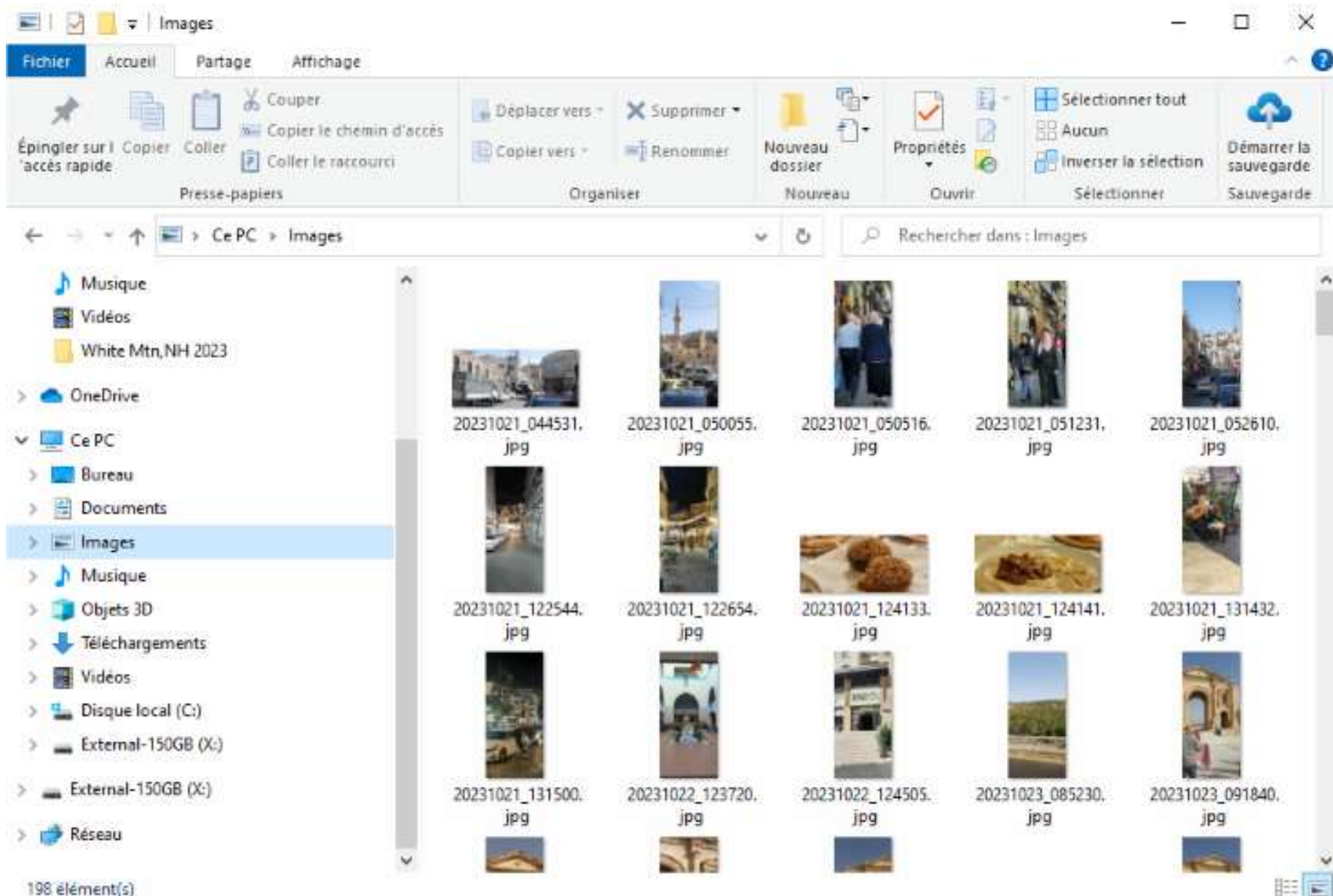


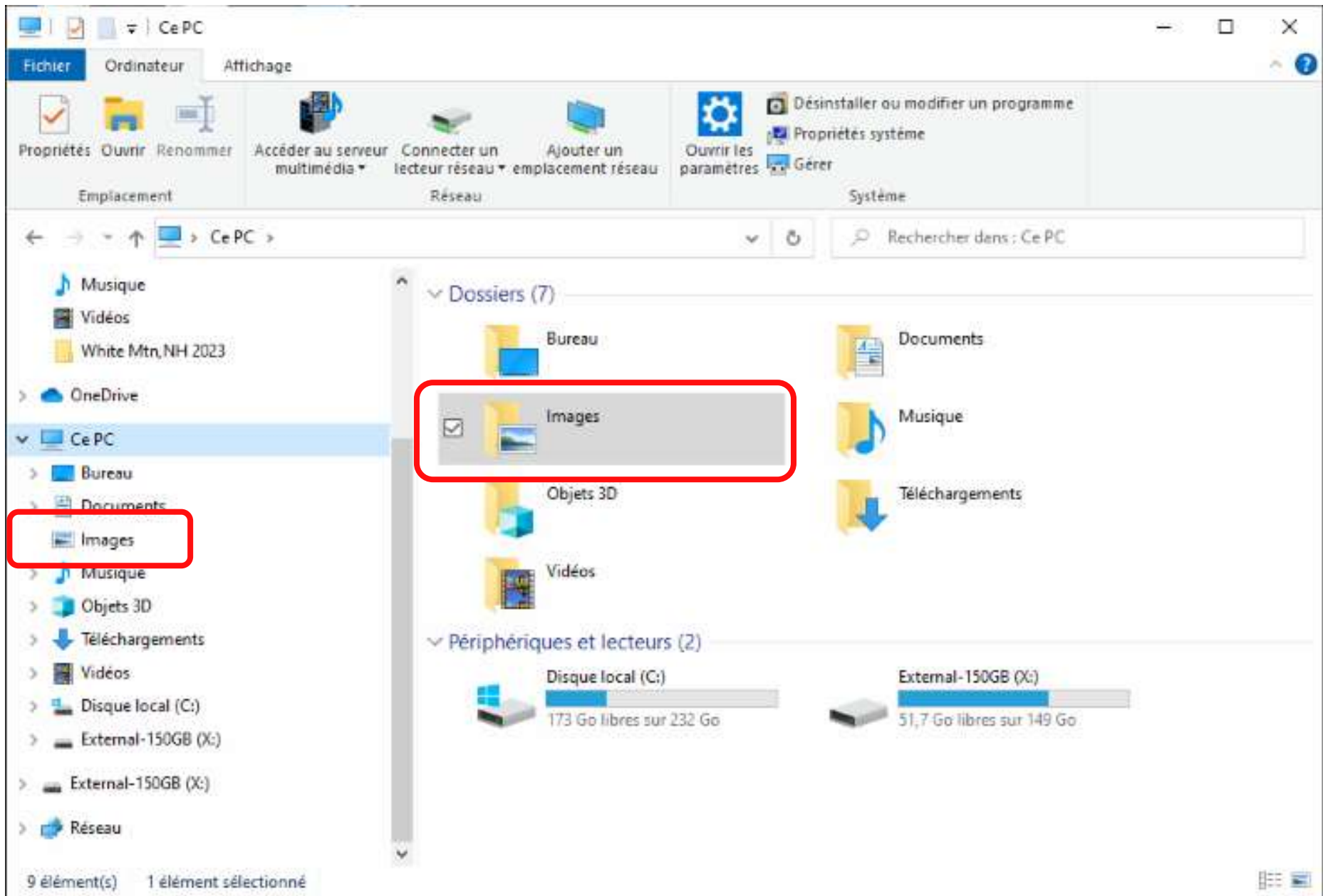
- 7 screws
- 1 Samsung 870 250 GB SSD

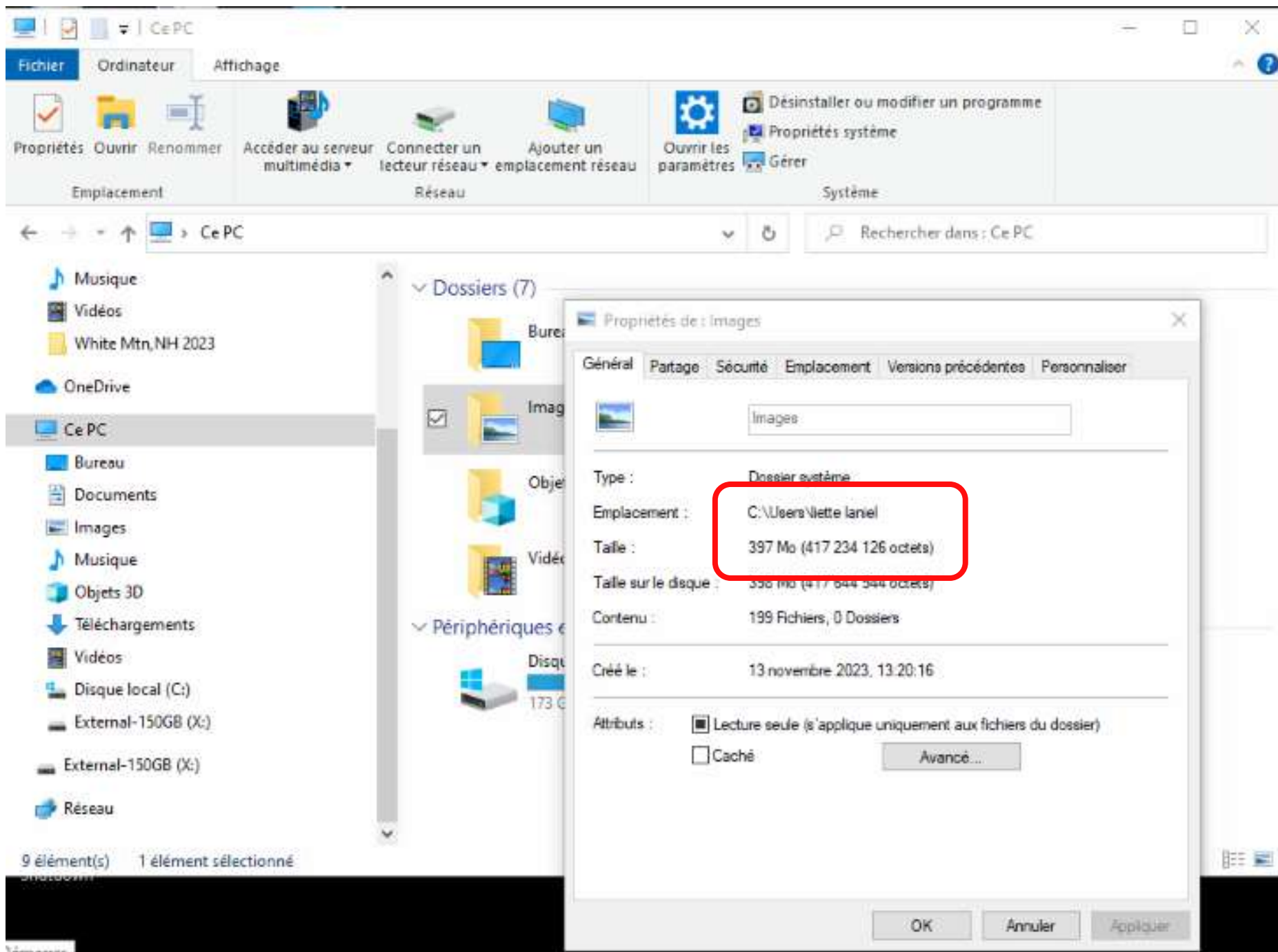
...plus a fresh install of Windows 10, BUT...

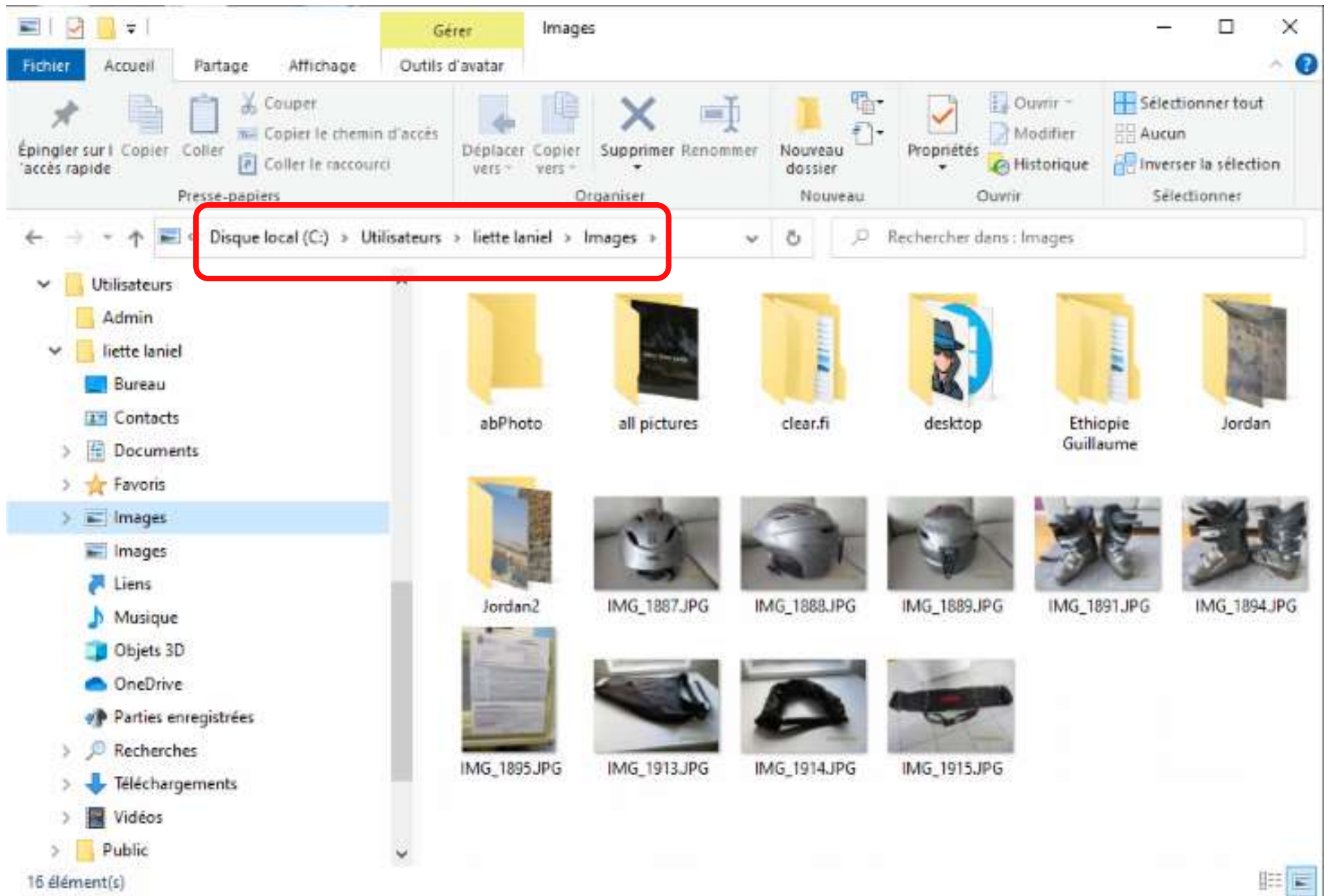


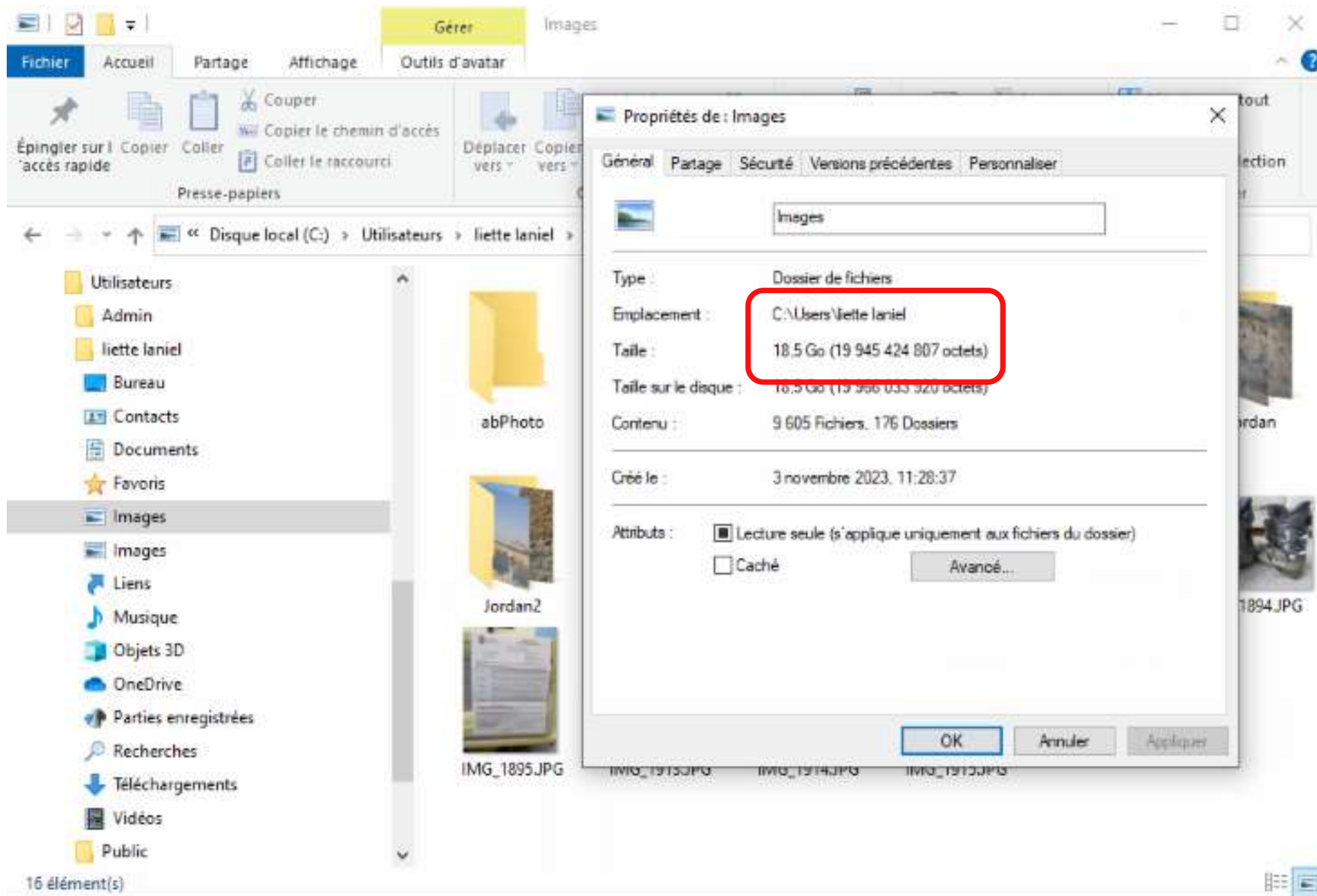


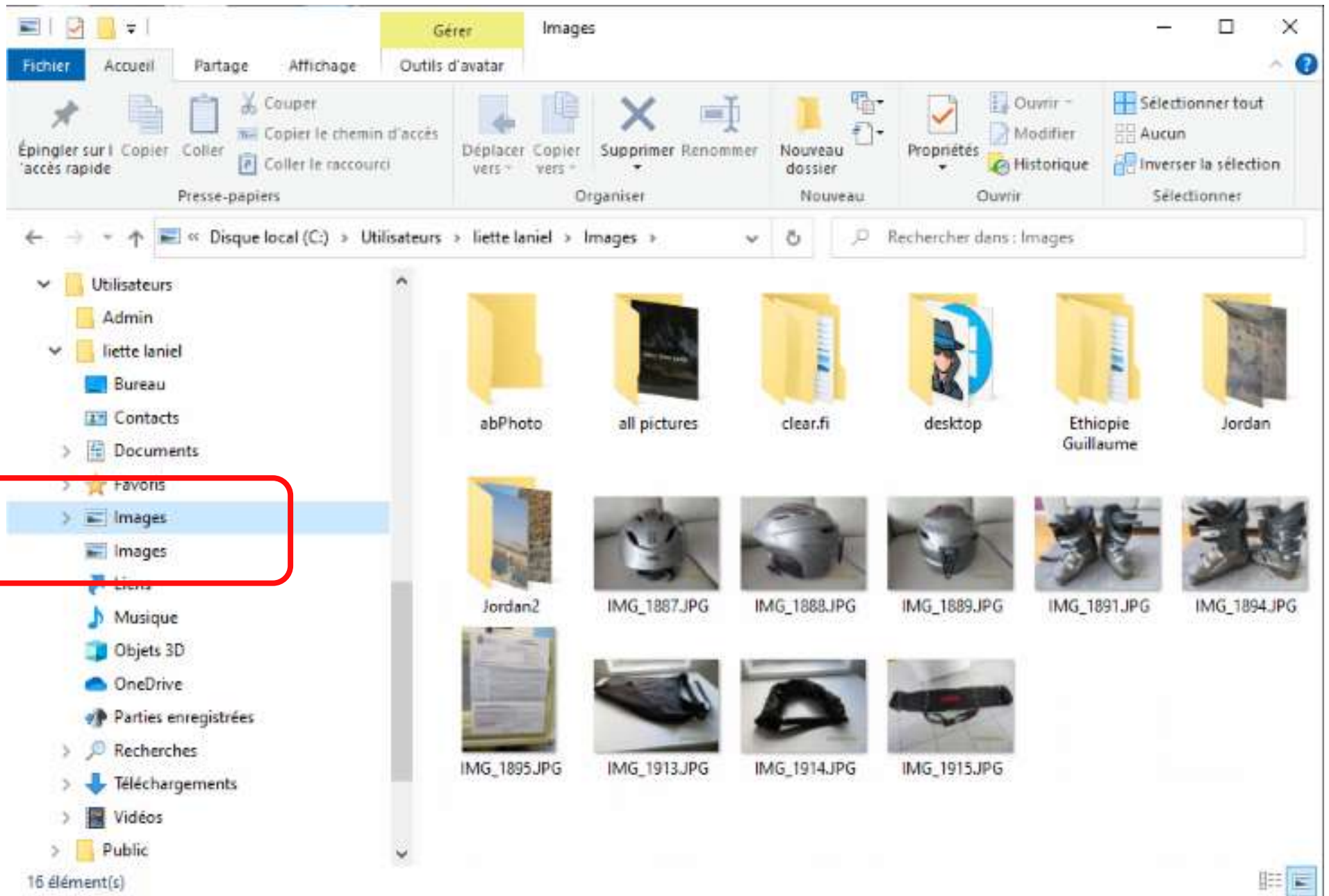


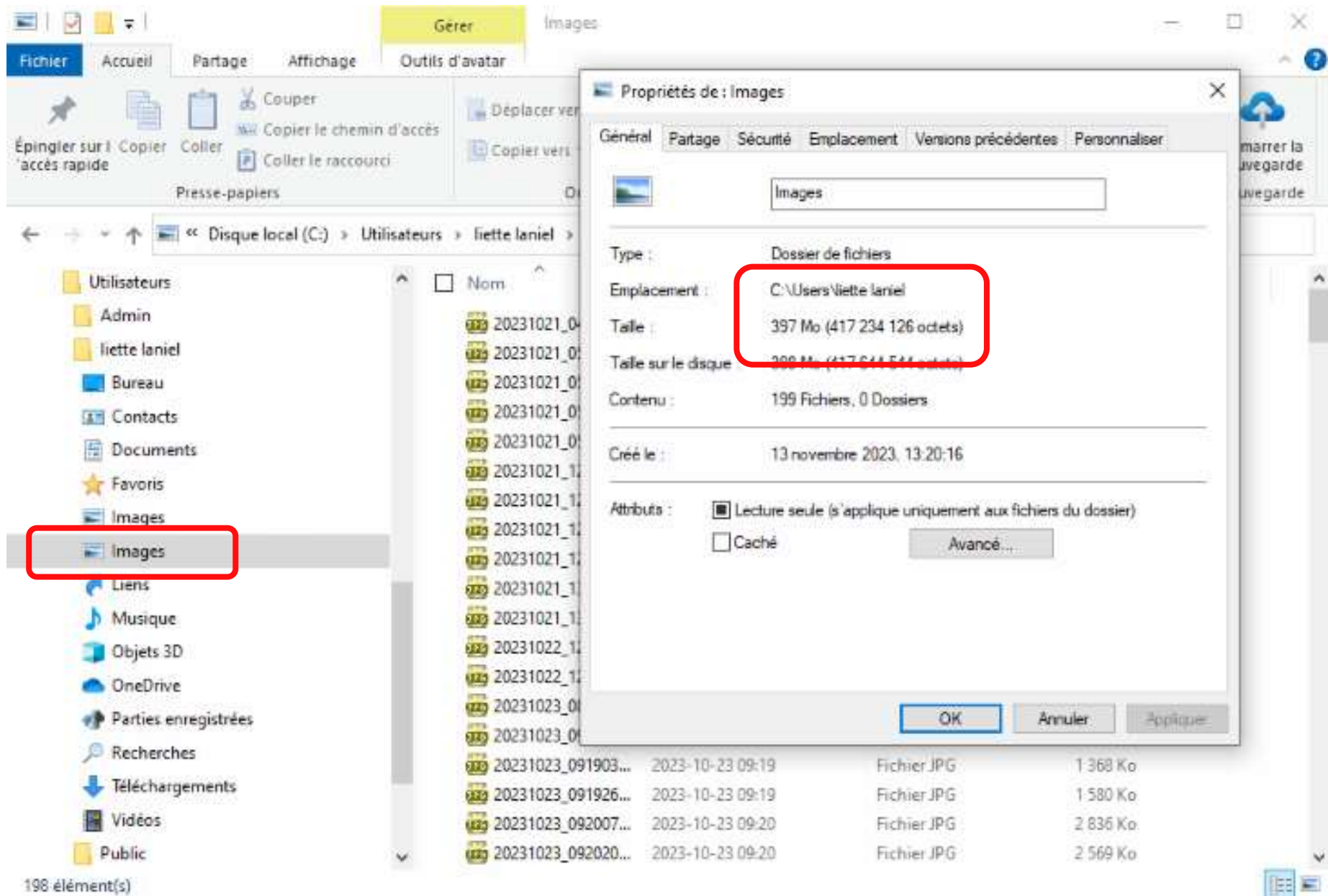


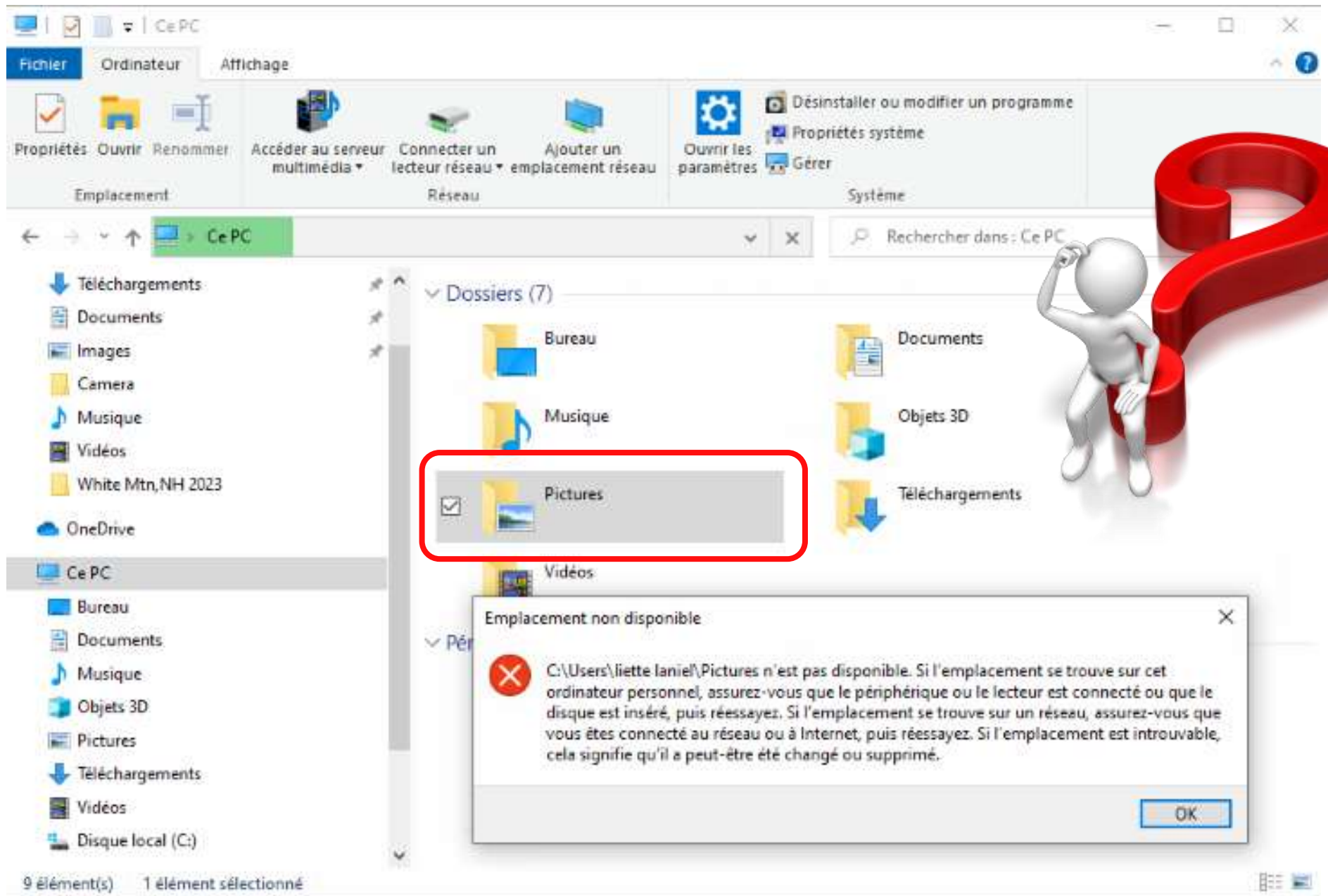




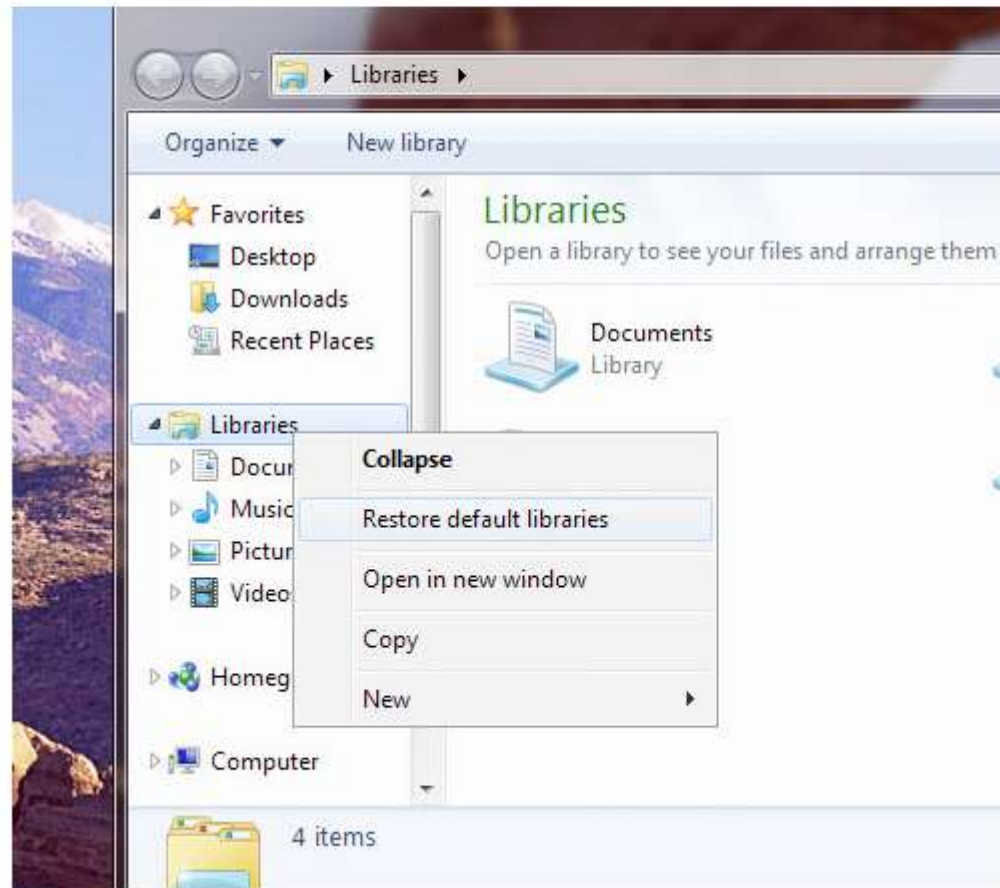








Next, look for **Libraries** on the left sidebar, right click, then choose "Restore default libraries". If your libraries have been restored, then you're done. If not, move on to method #2.



<https://www.hongkiat.com/blog/restore-default-libraries-windows/>

← → ↕ ↑ > This PC

Quick access

- original
- articles
- graphics
- presentations
- receipts
- Stapp_2023

> Dropbox

This PC

- > 3D Objects
- > Desktop
- > Documents
- > Downloads
- > Music
- > Pictures
- > Videos
- > Windows 10 (C:)
- > DataDisk (D:)

Folders (7)

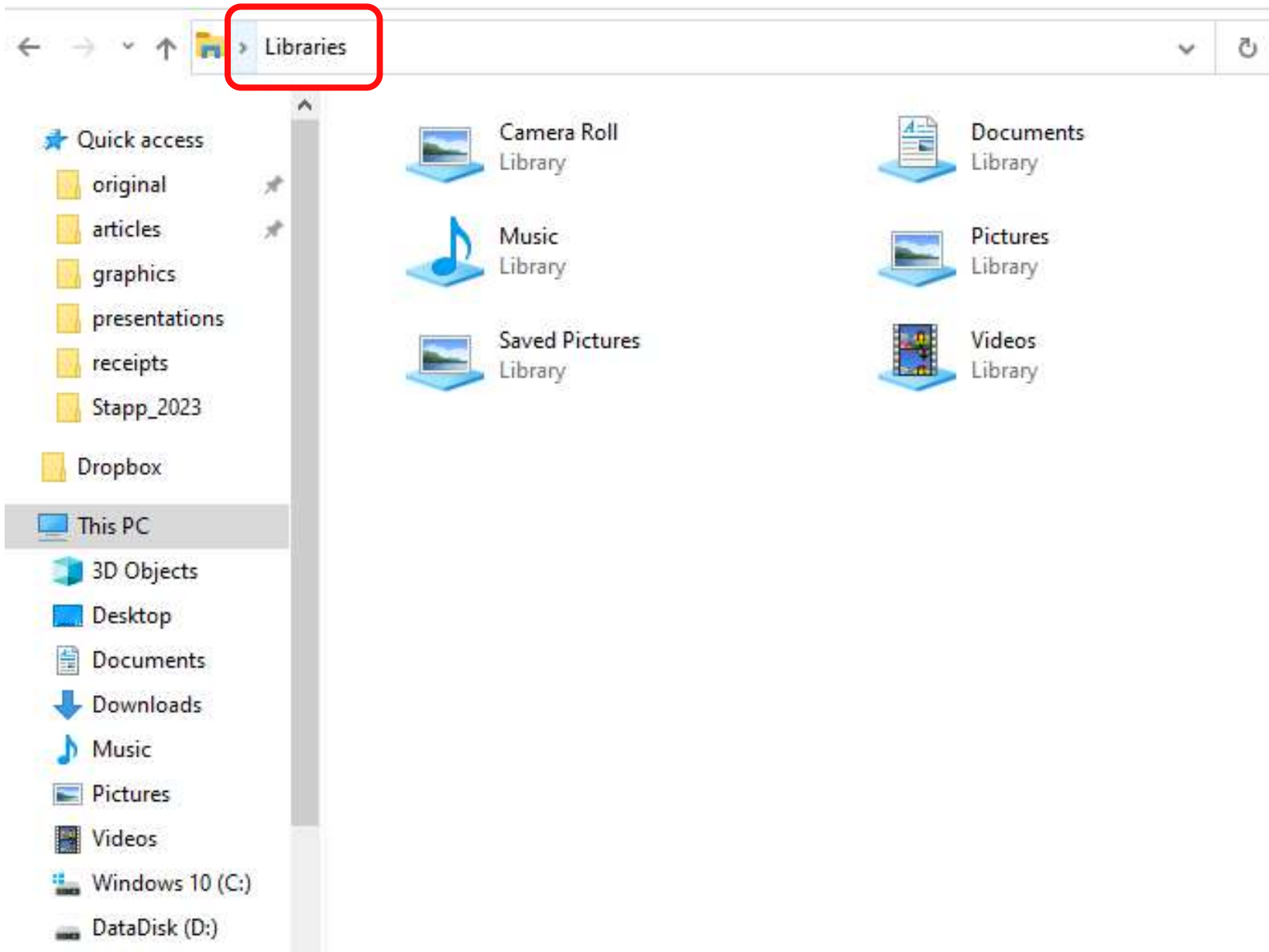
- 3D Objects
- Music
- Desktop
- Pictures

Devices and drives (4)



Network locations (1)

- q.png
FastStone PNG File
12.1 KB



Restore Default Settings of Library in Windows 10

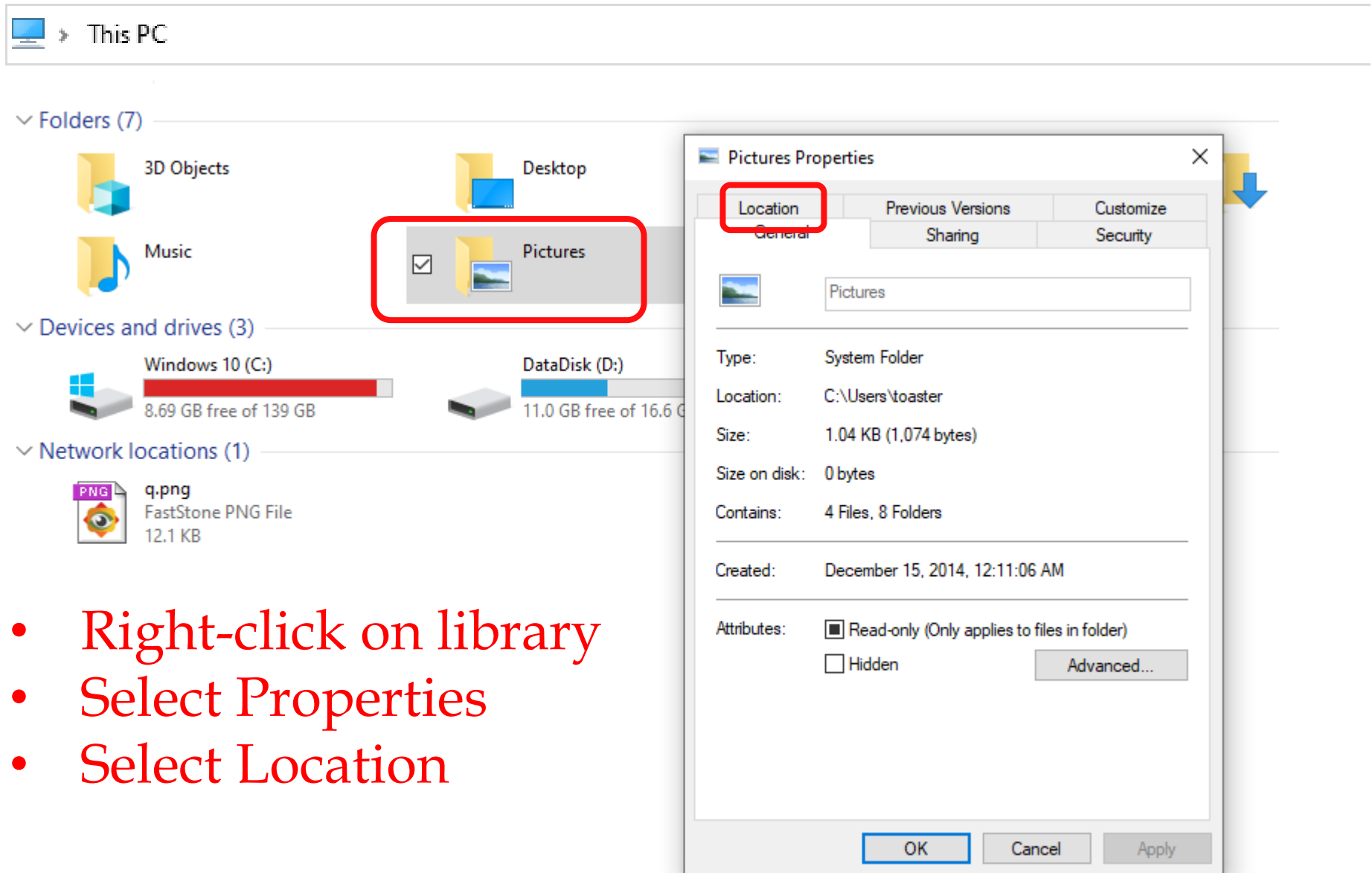
Read time: 3 minutes

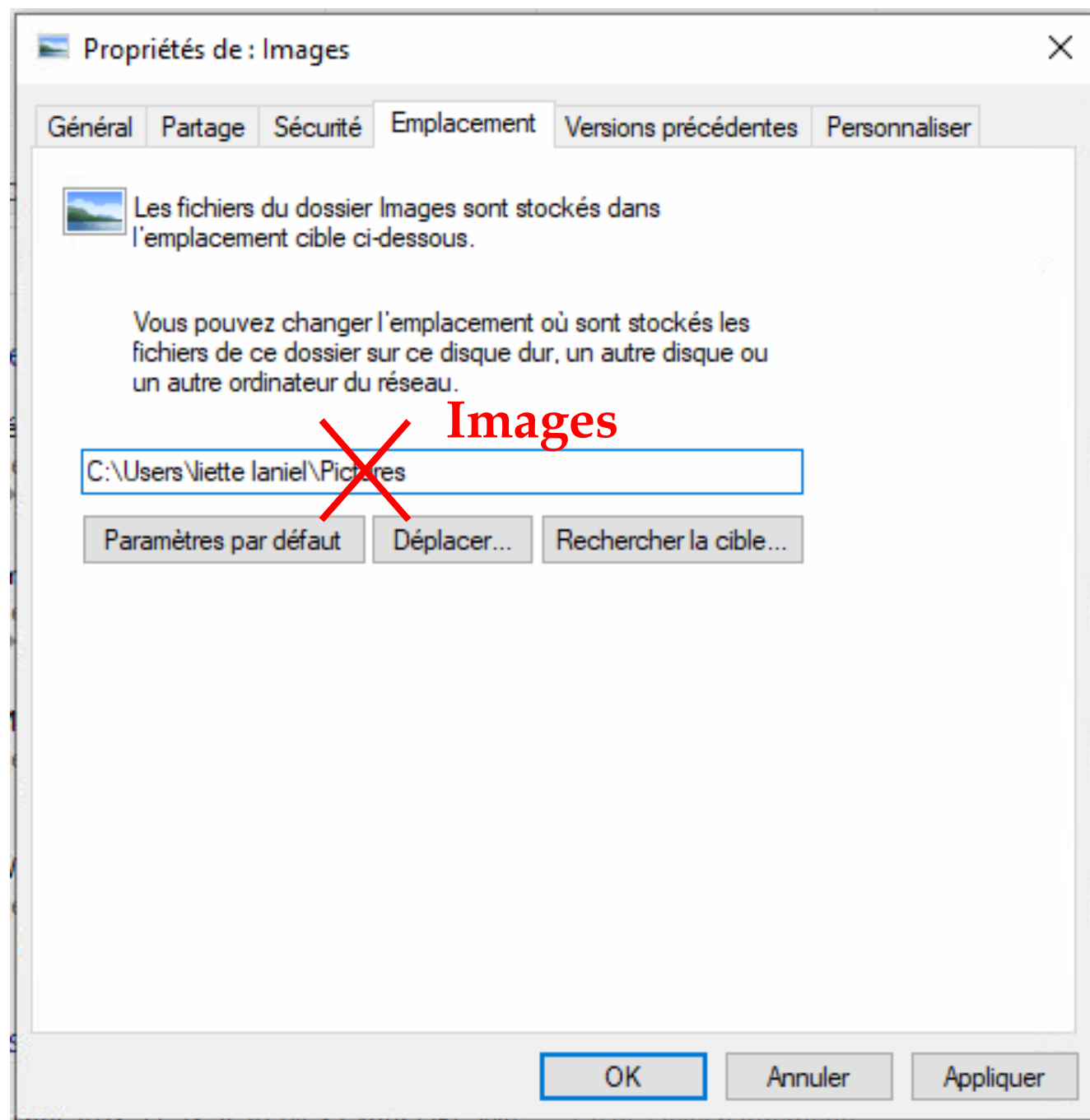
[Skip to content](#)

Restore Default Settings of Library in Windows 10

With Windows 7, Microsoft has introduced Libraries: a wonderful feature of the Explorer shell, that allows you to group multiple folders in a single view, even if they are located on different volumes. Searching through Libraries is also very fast, because Windows performs indexing of all locations which are included inside a Library. In this article, we will review how to completely restore the default settings of a library in Windows 10.

<https://winaero.com/restore-default-settings-library-windows-10/>





Propriétés de : Images

Général Partage Sécurité Emplacement Versions précédentes Personnaliser



Les fichiers du dossier Images sont stockés dans l'emplacement cible ci-dessous.

Vous pouvez changer l'emplacement où sont stockés les fichiers de ce dossier sur ce disque dur, un autre disque ou un autre ordinateur du réseau.

C:\Users\Niette Ianiel\Pictures\Images

Paramètres par défaut

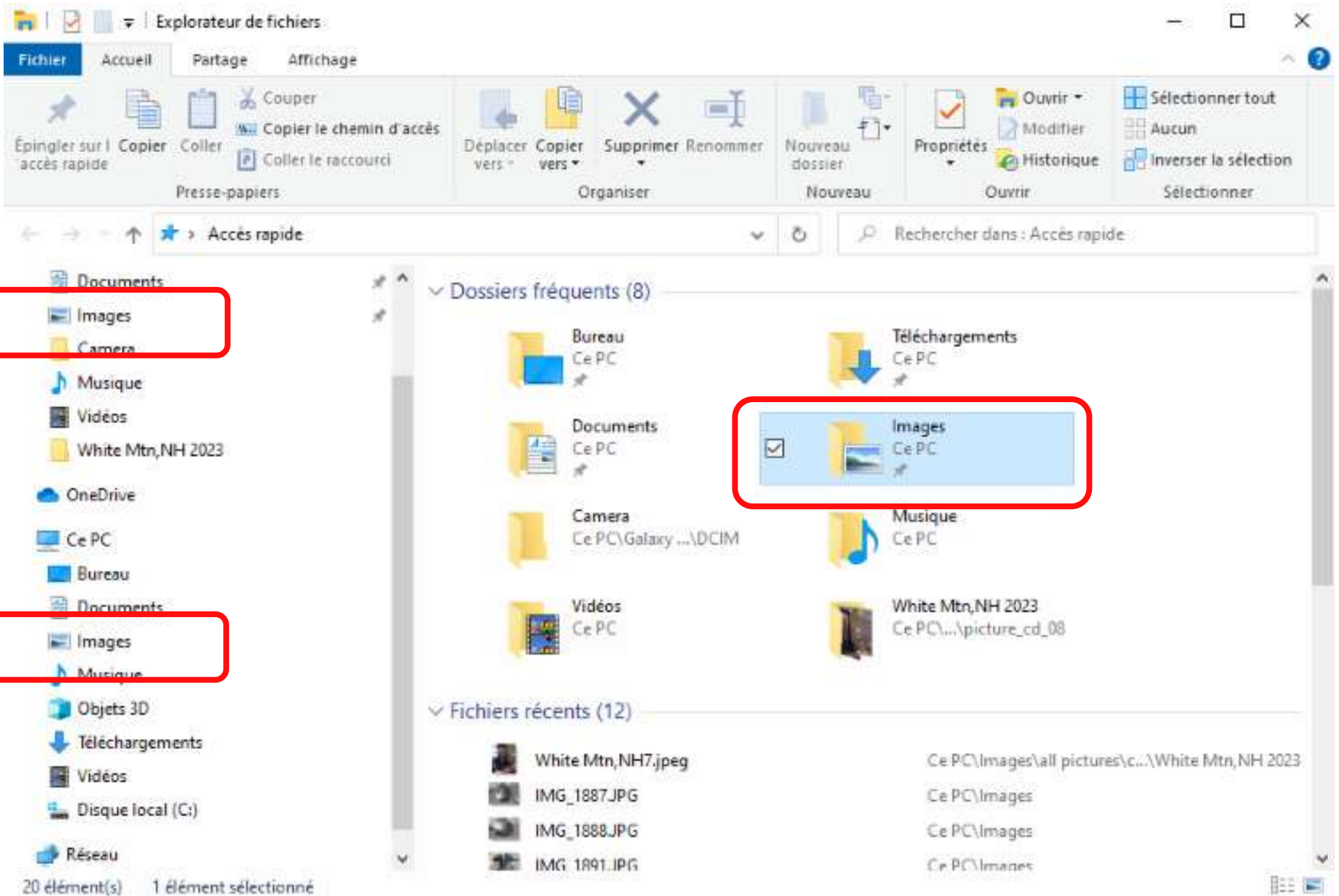
Déplacer...

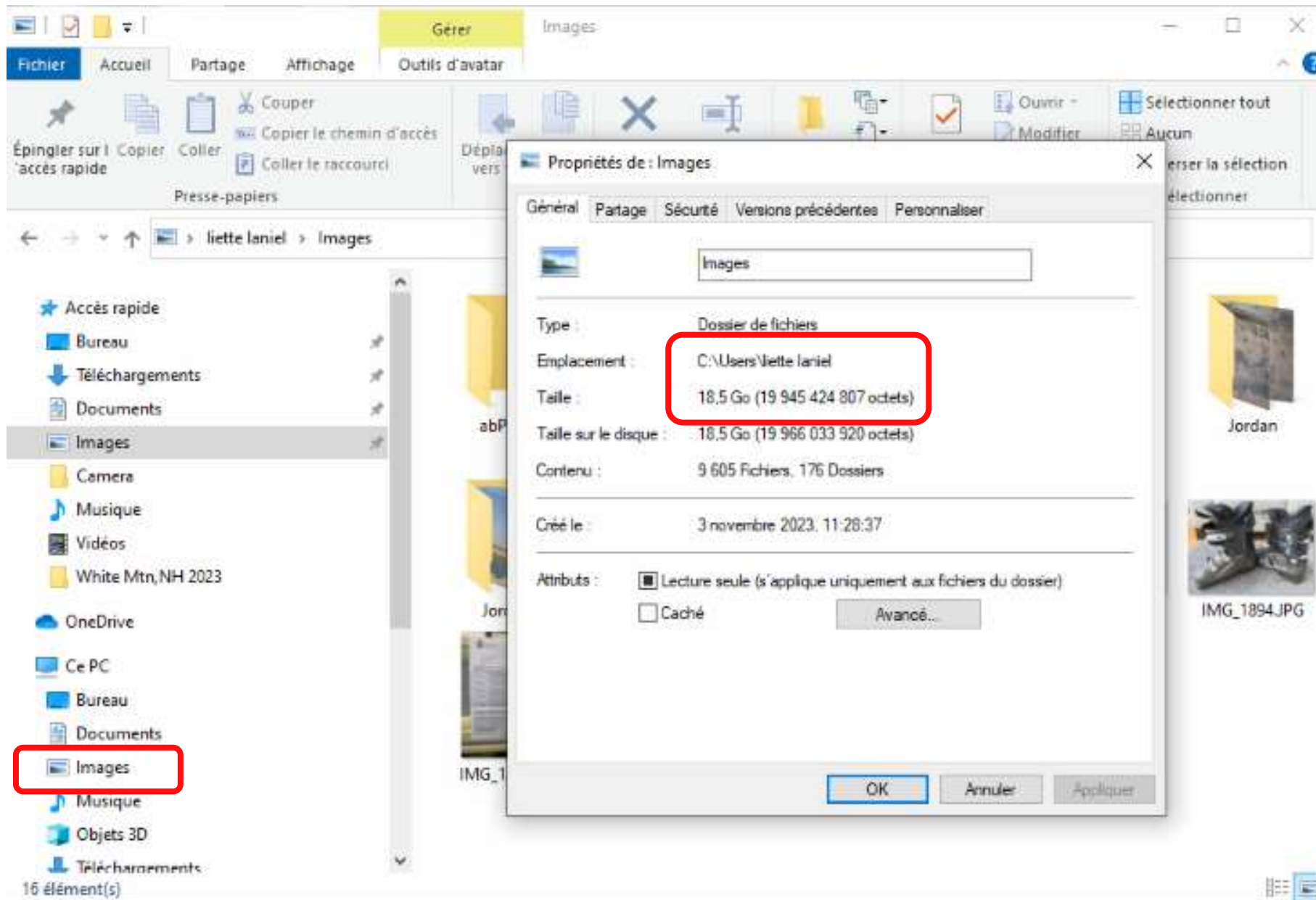
Rechercher la cible...

OK

Annuler

Appliquer







**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



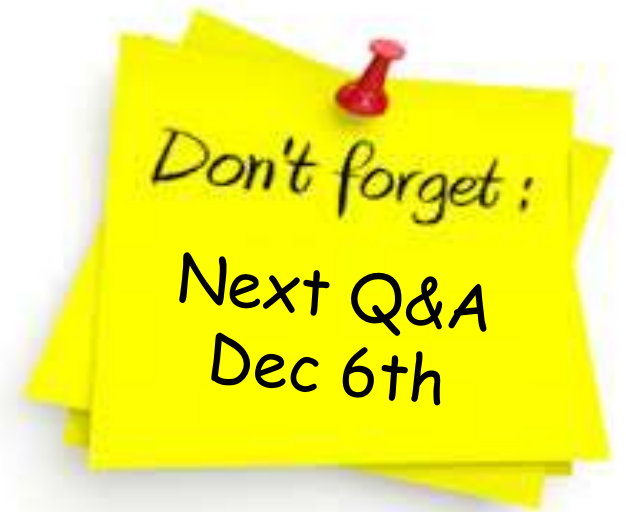
December Meeting

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