



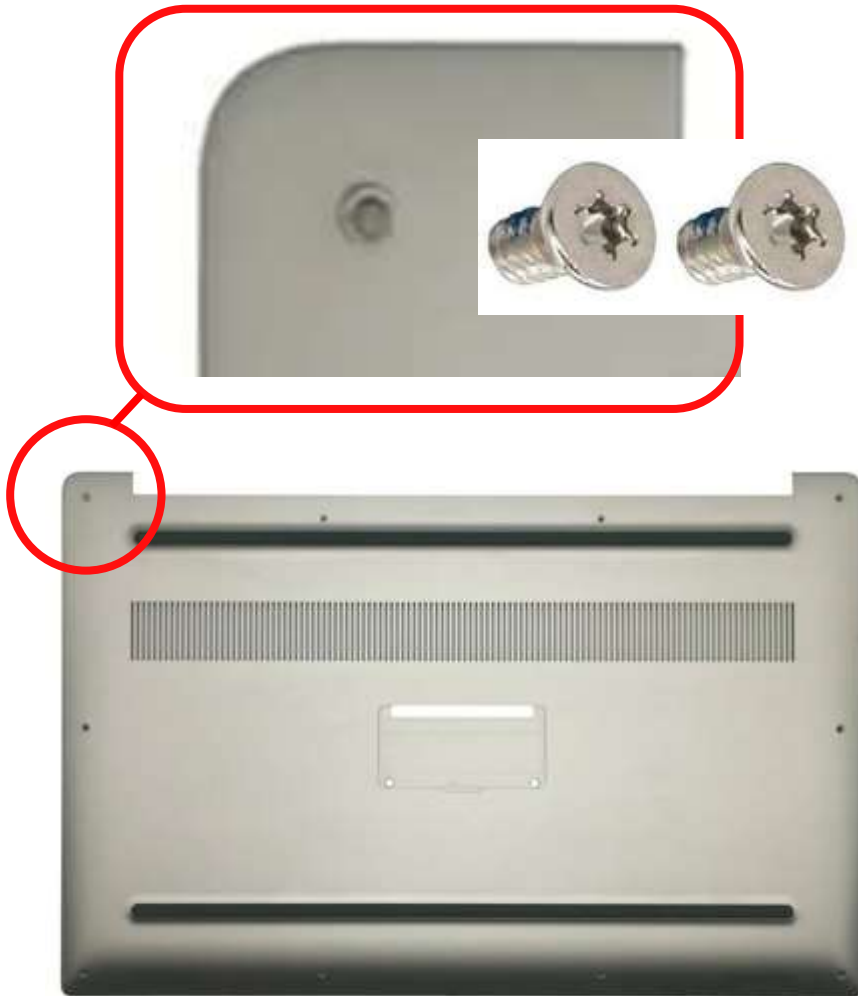
Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

December 20, 2023

Share

The right tool for the job



- Dell XPS 15 laptop
- Replace HDD with SSD
- Remove backplate
- 10 Torx T5 screws
*(Plus 2 Phillips screws
hiding under the central
panel cover)*
- **Main screws are Torx
- and really tiny!**



Cables & Adapters (9)

Manufacturer

☐ Youfu Tools (9)

Price Range

☐ \$5 - \$9.99 (2)

☐ \$10 - \$19.99 (4)

☐ \$30 - \$39.99 (1)

☐ \$40 - \$49.99 (1)

[View All](#)

Store Locations

☐ Downtown Ottawa

☐ Gatineau

☒ Ottawa Orleans

☐ Ottawa Merivale

[View All](#)

Item Code: CAKID00072



KING'SDUN Precision Electric Screwdriver Kit

\$45.99

☐ Compare Product

✓ Online - Available to Ship
✓ In Store - Available for Pickup

Add to Cart

Item Code: CAKID00019



KING'SDUN 76-in-1 Precision Screwdriver Sets with Magnetic Driver Kit

\$39.99

☐ Compare Product

✓ Online - Available to Ship
✓ In Store - Available for Pickup

Add to Cart

Item Code: CAKID00011



KING'SDUN 25-in-1 Precision Wallet Tool Kit

\$7.99

☐ Compare Product

✓ Online - Available to Ship
✓ In Store - Available for Pickup

Add to Cart

Item Code: CAKID00013



KING'SDUN 60-in-1 Professional Hardware Magnetic Screwdriver Set

\$13.99

☐ Compare Product

✓ Online - Available to Ship
✓ In Store - Available for Pickup

Add to Cart

Item Code: CAKID00016



KING'SDUN 14pcs Precision Screwdriver Repair Tool Kit

\$10.99

☐ Compare Product

✓ Online - Available to Ship
✓ In Store - Available for Pickup

Item Code: CAKID00001



KING'SDUN 45-in-1 Precision Screwdriver Set

\$12.99

☐ Compare Product

✓ Online - Available to Ship
✓ In Store - Available for Pickup

Item Code: TTKID00003



KING'SDUN 62 in1 Electric Screwdriver Set (KS-882038-62)

\$59.99

☐ Compare Product

✓ Online - Available to Ship
✓ In Store - Available for Pickup

Item Code: CAKID00023

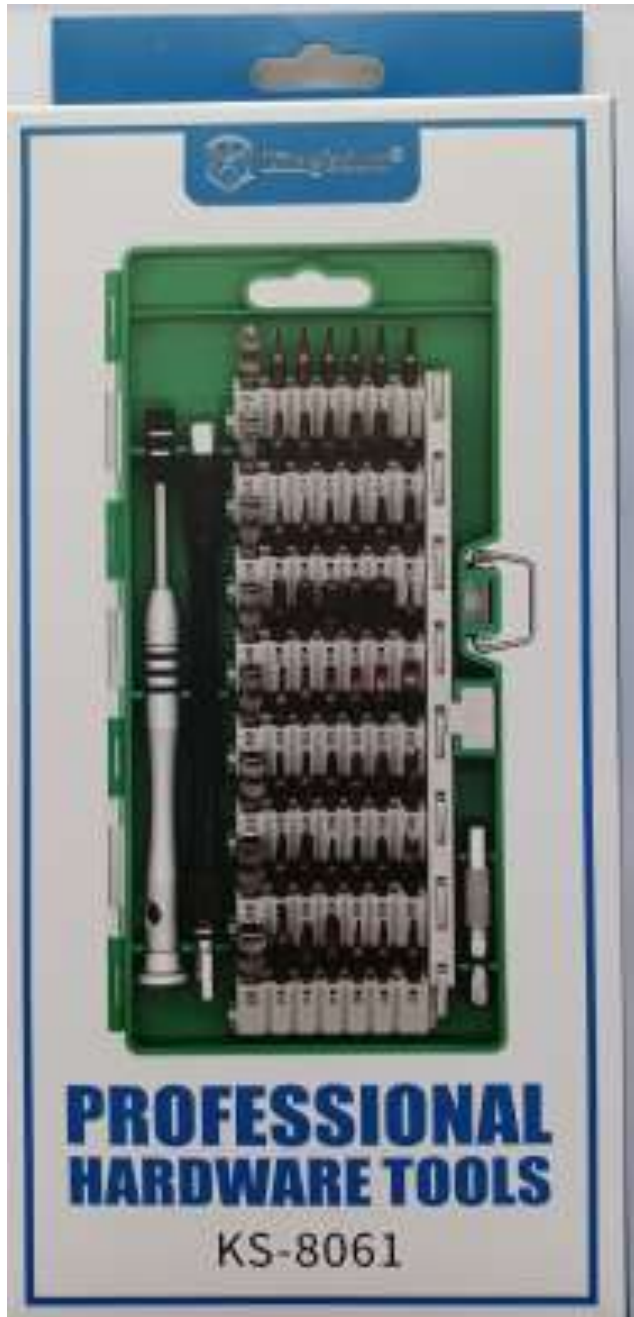


KING'SDUN 16pcs Phone Repair Tools Interchangeable Screwdriver Bit Set

\$8.99

☐ Compare Product

✓ Online - Available to Ship
✓ In Store - Available for Pickup



- 60-in-1 toolkit
- Magnetic screwdriver
- *Use a magnifying glass!*

Share

ESUIT - Ad Blocker for Facebook

- A newsletter I subscribe to, *Tedium*, had an article on the ESUIT Chromium extension
- The author was amazed by the results
- I have not tested it as I do not use Facebook
- However, my wife does engage with that platform
- I am waiting for feedback beyond "*It works. I think.*"

Tedium

<https://tedium.co/2023/12/07/facebook-reels-content-blocker/>

ESUIT

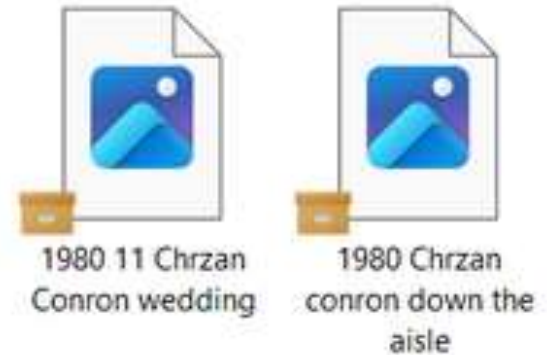
<https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/esuit-ad-blocker-for-face/jkbklfkombochacjoeagggbiohipcbaj>

Stewart Bruce



OneDrive's little brown boxes

- I don't really use OneDrive, but it seems they put things there either automatically or I don't know better
- It takes up a lot of storage for things I have already stored in other places
- Several items have little brown boxes
- Google says to right-click, but these items don't seem to be downloaded
- I want to clean these things up , but I'm not sure how to retrieve them or if they are even retrievable





What are these brown boxes?



Windows 11

Understanding the Brown Box Icons on Your Files in Windows 11

- The brown box icons are associated with Windows 11's integrated OneDrive functionality
- They can represent files that are *Files On-demand*

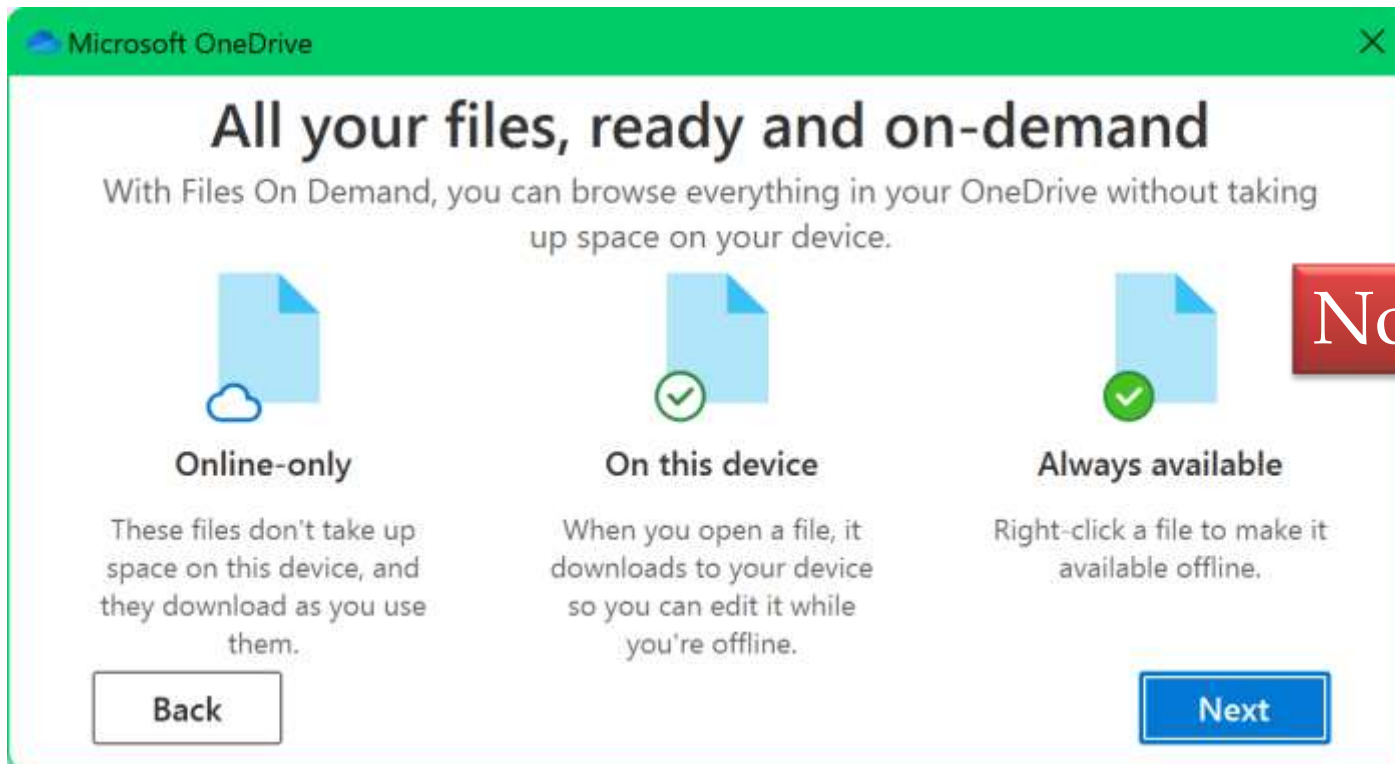
<https://www.heatware.net/windows-11/brown-box-on-desktop-icons-windows/>



Wait, what??



- I don't have brown box icons on any of my computers
 - Windows 10 or 11
- On a new installation of Windows 11, when OneDrive was enabled, Microsoft said...



No brown boxes...

Brown box on Desktop icons



A brown box over your Windows Desktop icons can be caused by an issue with Windows Explorer.

To resolve the issue, restart Windows Explorer:

1. Press **Windows key**  + **E**.
2. Press **CTRL + ALT + DEL** and select **Task Manager**.
3. Select **More details** to show all the apps.
4. On the **Processes** tab, under Apps, right-click on **Windows Explorer**.
5. Select **Restart**.

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-au/office/what-do-the-onedrive-icons-mean-11143026-8000-44f8-aaa9-67c985aa49b3>



The Internet has lots of answers!

- Unlink and Relink OneDrive
- Turn on Always keep on this device in OneDrive
- Disable Files On-Demand in OneDrive.
- Disable Smart Sync – Online Only
- Turn Off Archive Apps in Windows Settings
- Turn Off Storage Sense
- Uninstall OneDrive

But, before we do anything, we need to understand how OneDrive works!

OneDrive File Server ("The Cloud")

<https://onedrive.com/>



- Duplicati.docx
- Logo-red40years.png
- tuneup.png
- tux.png
- WYSIWYG_Website.docx

Files are...



...synchronized



Your PC

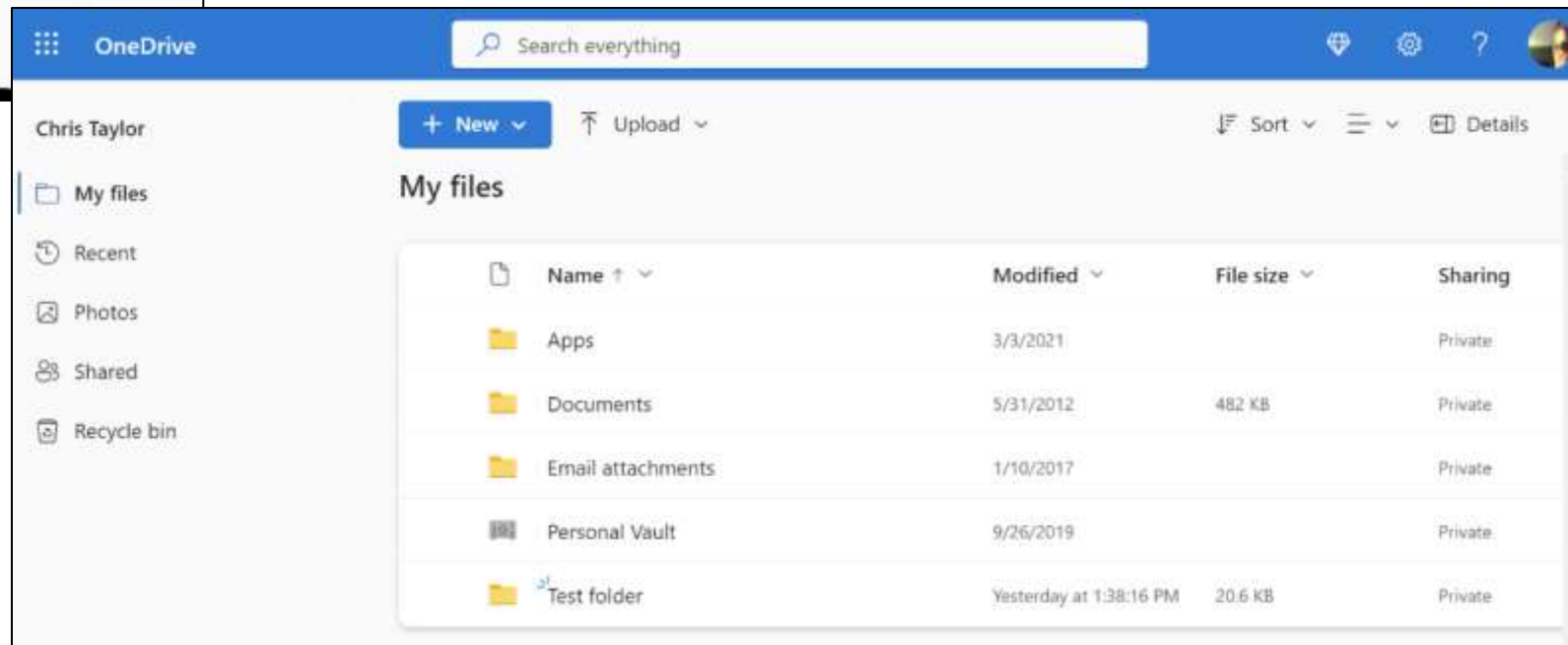
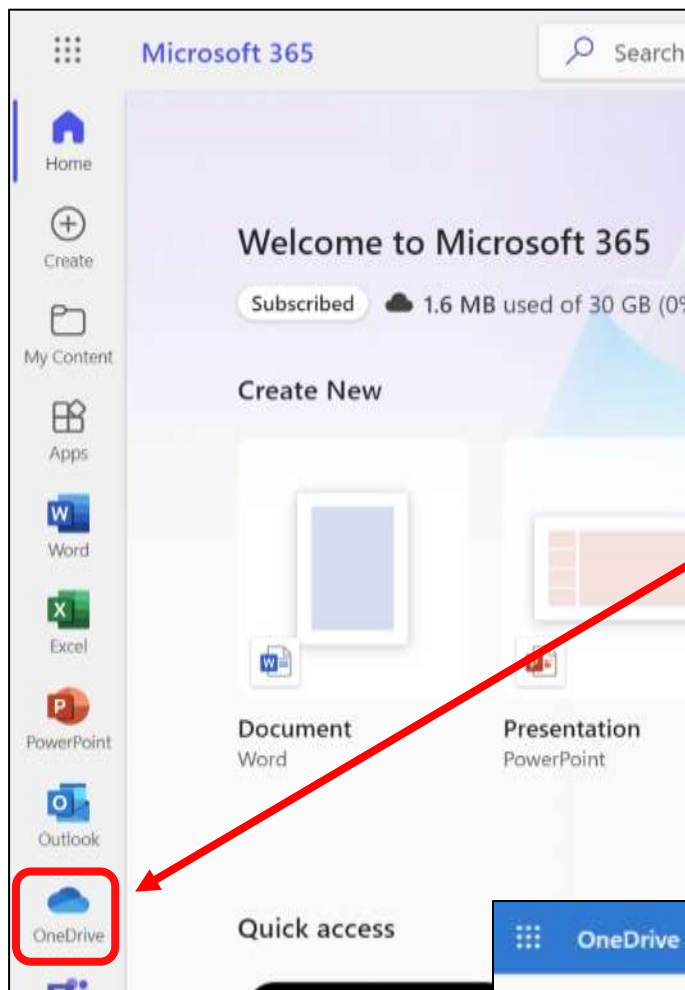
- Duplicati.docx
- Logo-red40years.png
- tuneup.png
- tux.png
- WYSIWYG_Website.docx

C:\Users**<username>**\OneDrive\Documents

OneDrive through Microsoft 365

Access to Microsoft's OneDrive server is also available through Microsoft 365 on web

- <https://www.office.com>



There is nothing inherently wrong with OneDrive

The idea behind it is good

- keep important data both
 - in the cloud &
 - on all PC's you are logged into using the same Microsoft Account

But then Microsoft made OneDrive exceedingly confusing and insistent

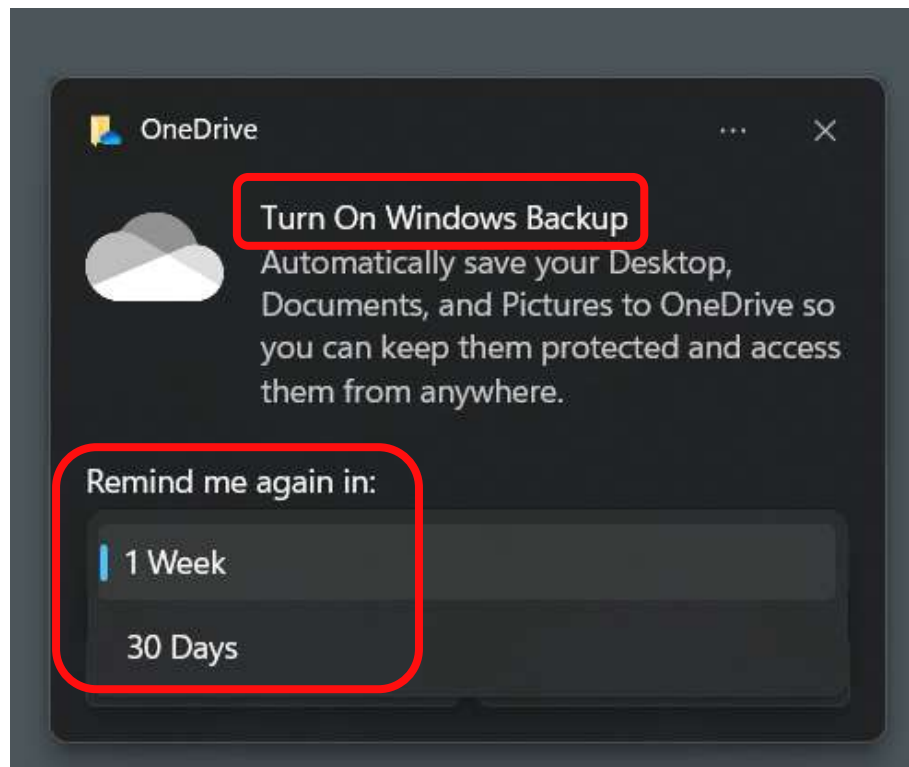


I use Google Drive instead

- Google Drive gives you 15 GB free space vs. 5 GB free space on OneDrive
- Google Drive is far less confusing

Paul Thurrott says:

*If @onedrive was an ex-spouse,
I could get a restraining order
for this abusive harassment*



Another person said:

How about never?

Files On-demand icons



File is stored only on the OneDrive server

- *there is no actual file on the PC*
 - just a pointer to the copy in the cloud
- files are essentially what Microsoft refers to as Files On-Demand



File has been marked *Always keep on this device*

- downloaded to the PC and always-available
- copies of the file are on OneDrive & on the PC



File opened from OneDrive in a program on PC

- it is downloaded to the PC as a locally-available file

Files On Demand

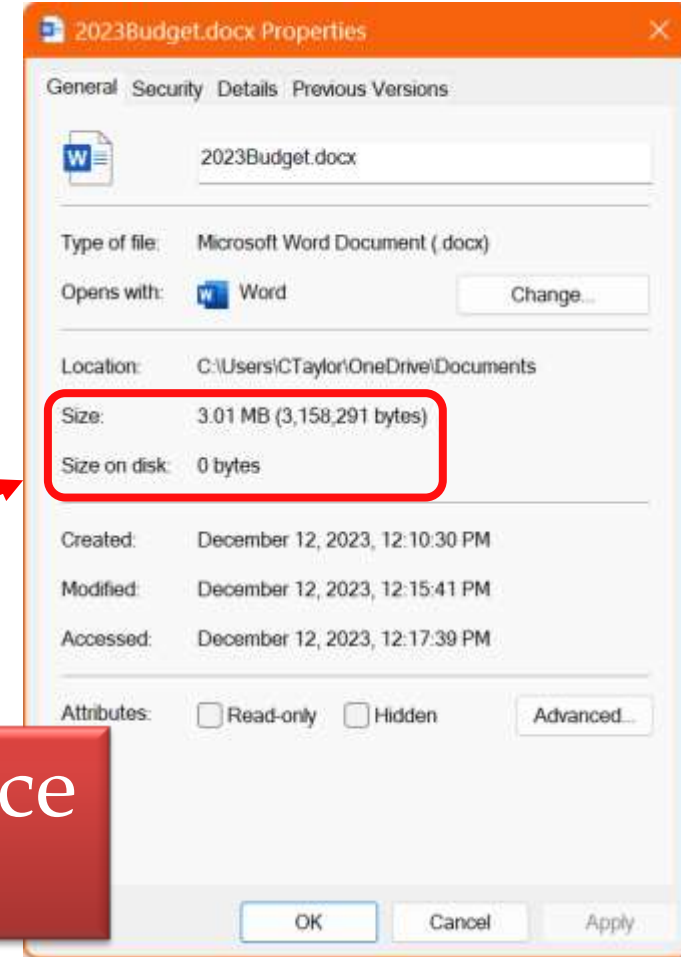
File On-demand item

- kind of shortcut
- file removed from local drive
- stored only in the cloud



Name	Status	Date modified	Type	Size
 2023Budget.docx		2023-12-12 12:15 PM	Microsoft Word Document	3,085 KB

3 MB file in File Explorer



Using 0 bytes of local disk space

- actual file only exists in cloud



Are Files On-demand a good thing?

- *Can* be a good idea
 - files are in the cloud
 - can free up space on local drive
 - right-click file and choose *Free up space*
 - leaves a shortcut to file in the cloud
(using zero bytes on local drive)
- When you access the file
 - silently copied down from the cloud
 - read or edit the file
 - if file is changed
 - new version uploaded back to the cloud
 - *the file remains on the local drive*
- Can remove the local file contents again
 - right-click file and choose *Free up space*



Microsoft's OneDrive Policy?

- Microsoft wants you to use OneDrive to back up all your files
- Microsoft will nag you again and again to use OneDrive
- But they only give you 5 GB free space
- If you run out of room on OneDrive
 - they want you to buy extra space
 - CA\$19/year for 100 GB
 - because you don't know what is going on
 - you don't want to risk lose your files



You don't have to give in

- You don't have to use OneDrive
- But stopping using OneDrive is not a simple one-click operation!
 - if you want to clean up a mess of duplicate files
 - if you want to stop getting messages about being out of OneDrive space
 - if you got nagged into turning on OneDrive Backup
 - if you want to make sure you don't lose any of your data!



OneDrive Clean-up

- Just because files are backed up to the cloud, doesn't mean that they stay there
- **Remember** that the OneDrive folder on the local disk is synchronized to the folder in the cloud
 - if you delete a file in the local OneDrive folder
 - *the copy of the file in the cloud is also deleted*
 - this applies to *Files On-demand* (shortcuts), *locally-available* and *always-available* files
- **Before you clean up OneDrive preserve all files there**



Save all files to the local disk and abandon/re-purpose OneDrive

- **Copy all the files showing on your local OneDrive folder to another location**
 - it doesn't matter if they are currently stored locally or not



- Don't copy them to default local locations such as ***Documents***
 - depending on some factors, these locations may have been integrated into OneDrive itself!
 - Microsoft didn't tell you that could happen!



Clean up local OneDrive folder

- Now that the files have been safely stored in another folder:
- Delete the files in the local OneDrive folder
- Copies of the files will be deleted from the OneDrive server in the cloud





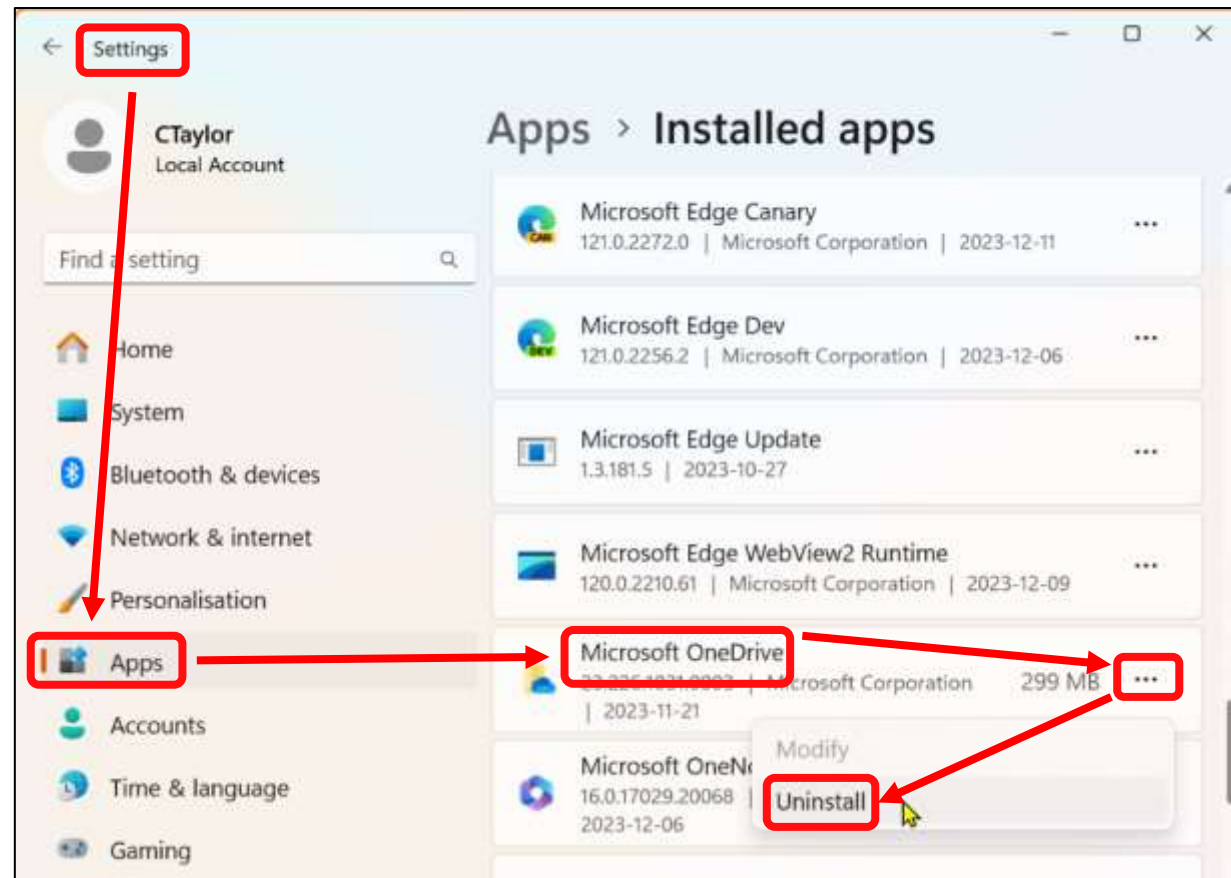
Future Usage of OneDrive?

- OneDrive can still be used selectively to gain benefits
 - files can be accessed from multiple computers
 - 30-day recycle bin (stored in cloud)
 - *but the recycle bin counts against your 5 GB quota*
 - maintains the last 25 versions of files
 - *but versions count against your 5 GB quota*
 - files can be shared with others (read-only or edit)
 - anyone or
 - specific people



If you don't want to use OneDrive *at all*

- *After* you preserve all files that were stored in OneDrive
- Settings > Apps > Installed Apps
- Microsoft OneDrive: click ...
- Choose *Uninstall*

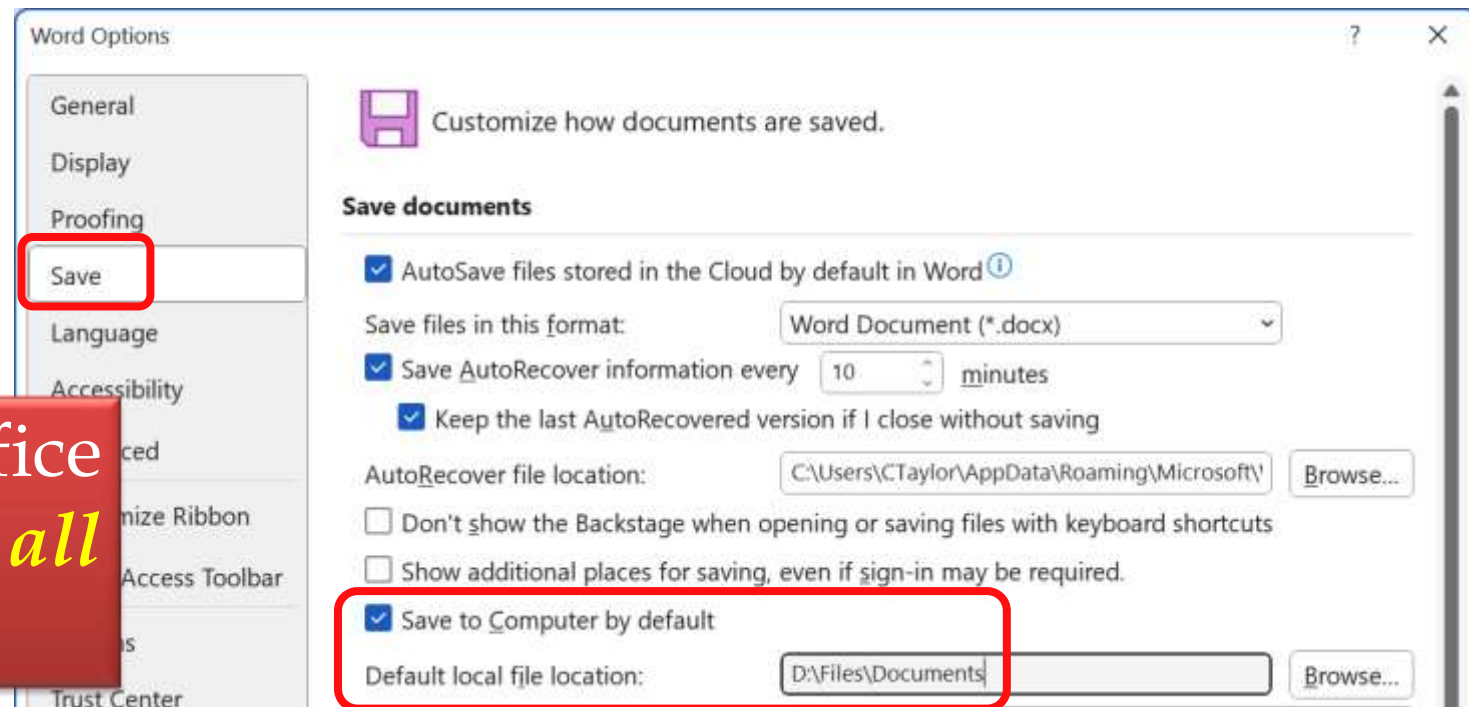




Default save location for Microsoft Office/Microsoft 365



- Microsoft changes default save location for documents in Office programs to OneDrive
- To change default save location back to local computer
File > Options > Save > Save to Computer by default
 - select a folder other than the local OneDrive folder



Changing *any* Office program changes *all* Office programs

Bottom Line

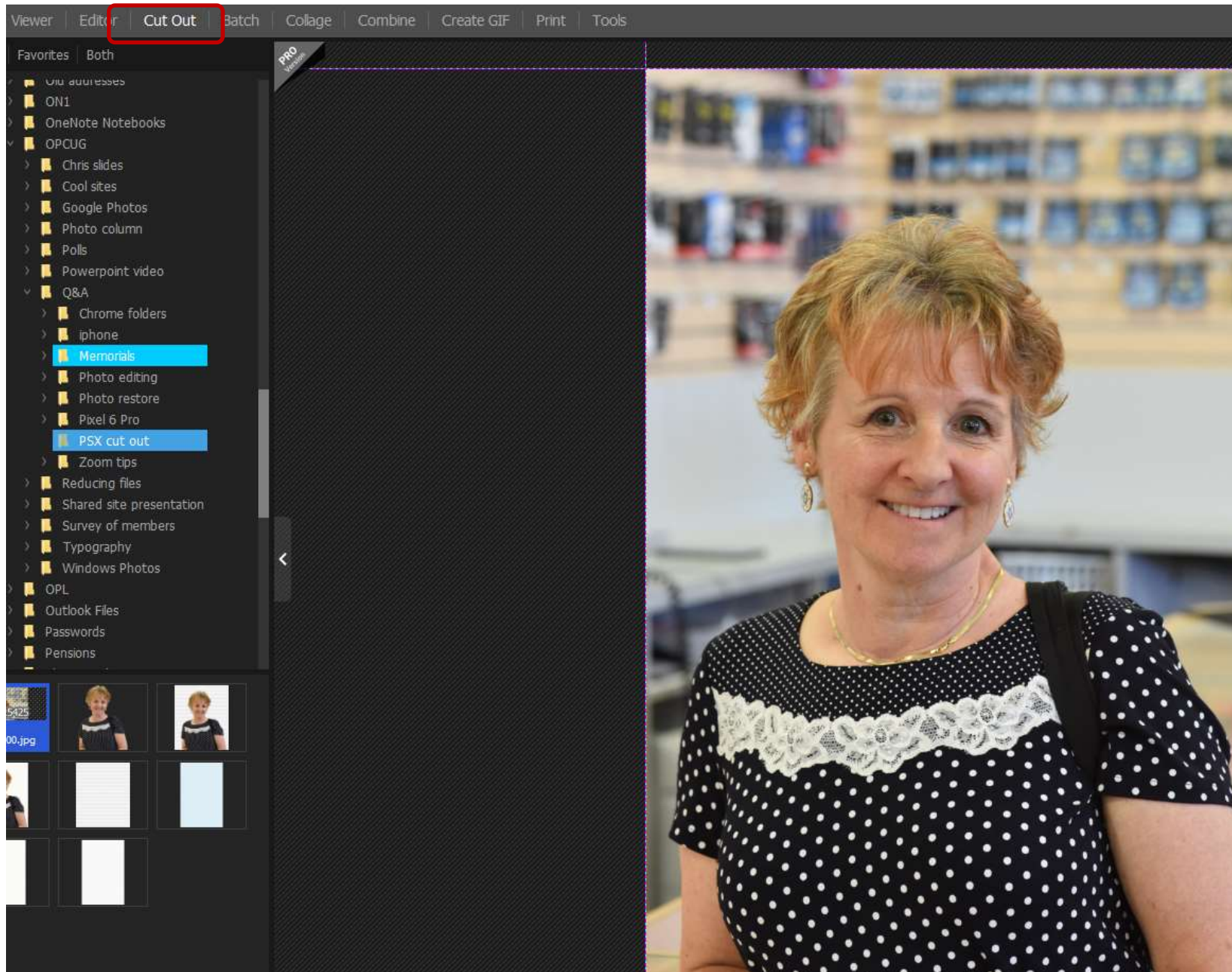


Make OneDrive work the way that you want it to, not necessarily the way that Microsoft would like!

If there is interest, I could do a future share on how I think OneDrive should be configured

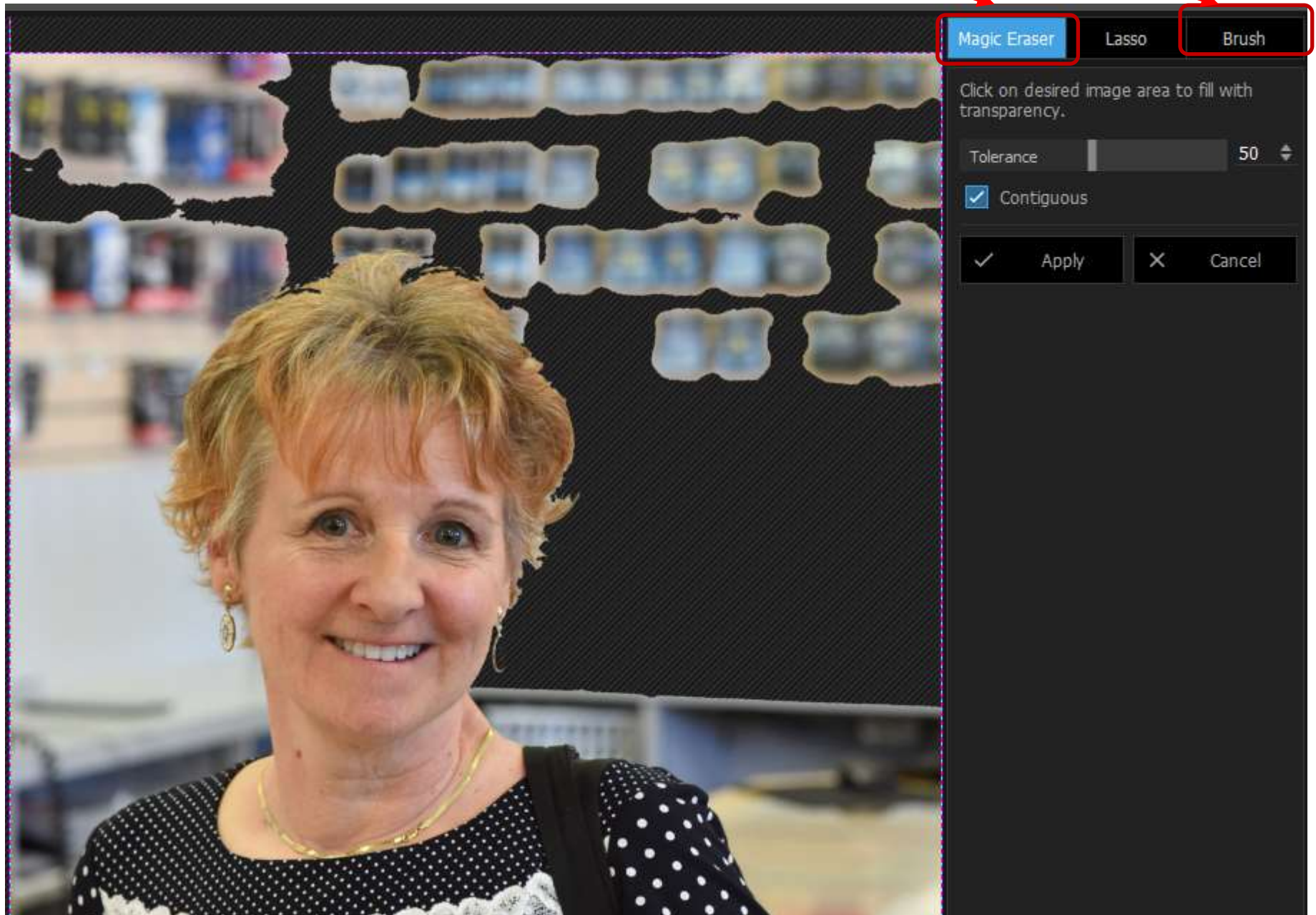
Share

Removing background with Photoscape X



Use for large areas

Use for touchups

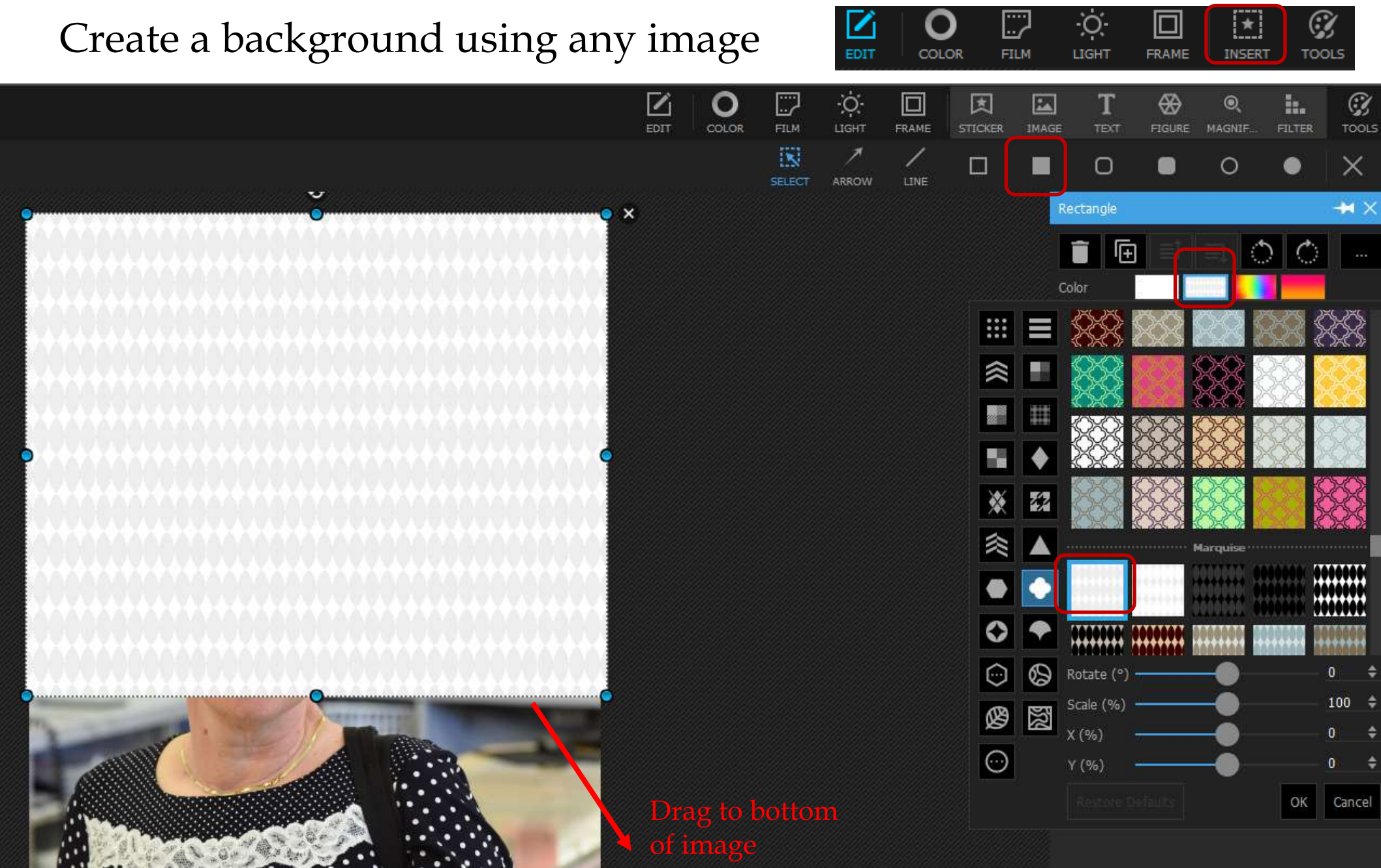




Takes about 5-10 minutes to complete cutout.

Transparent background is indicated by thin diagonal lines.

Create a background using any image



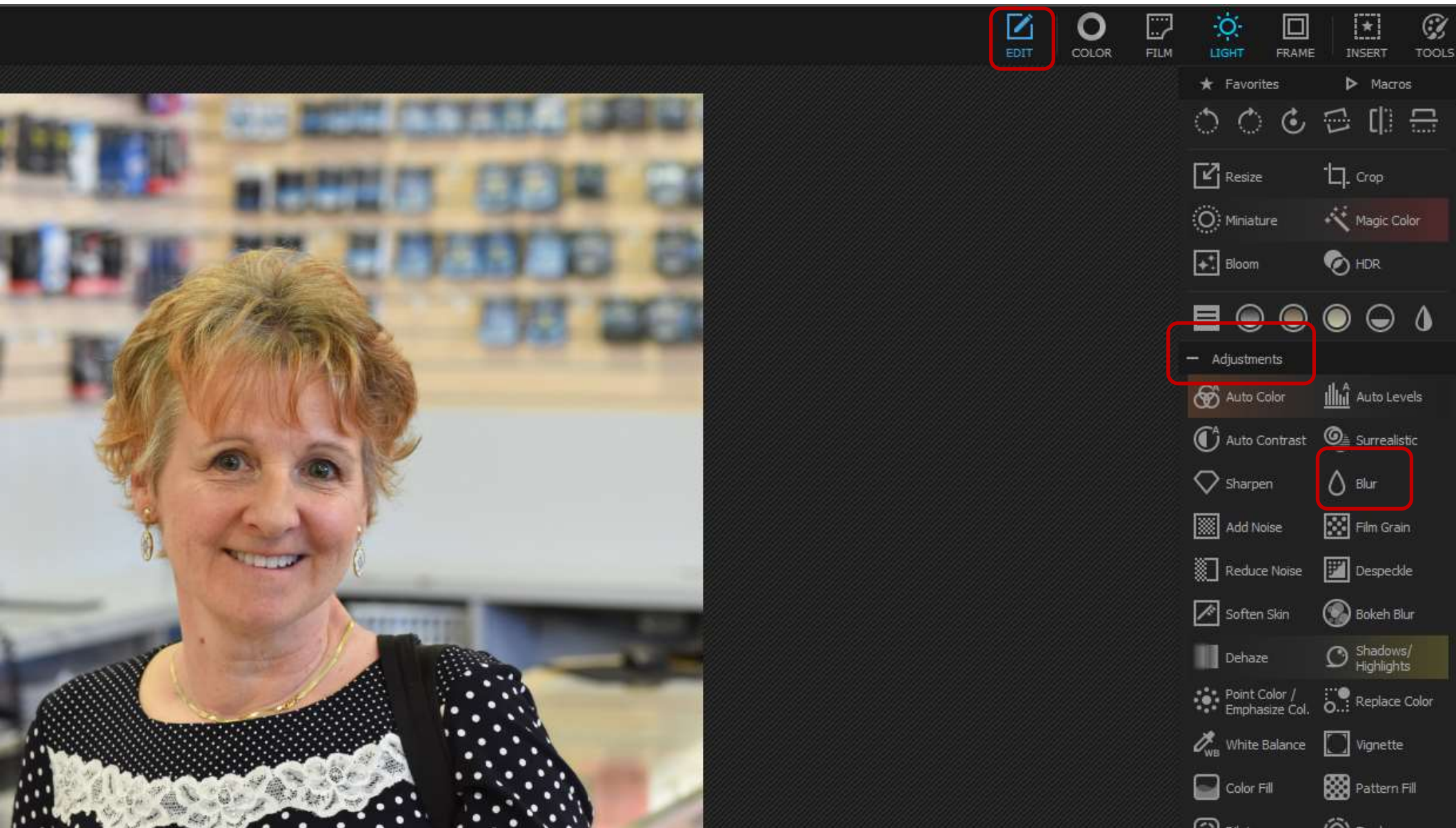


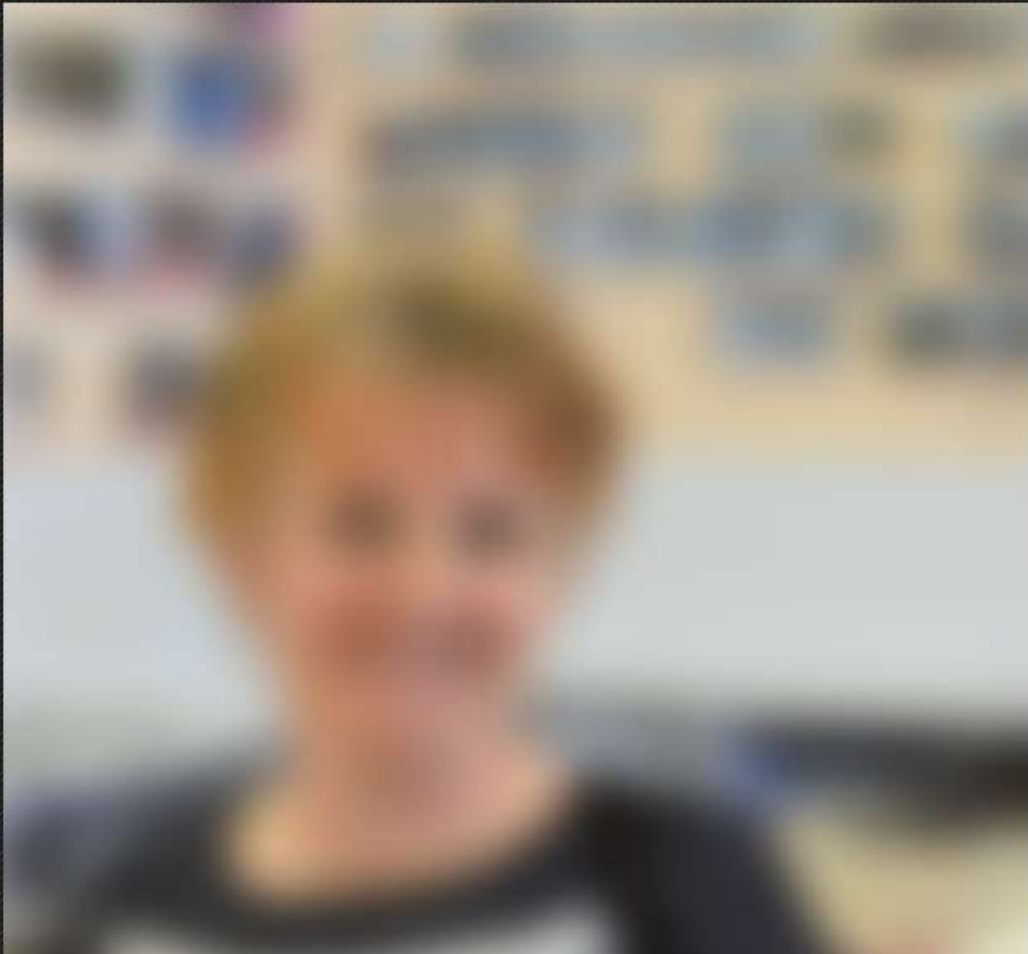
A subtle
background
works well
with this image



Pro version has a more background choices or look for free ones on line.

You may just want to blur the original background





EDIT



COLOR



FILM



LIGHT



FRAME



INSERT



TOOLS

Blur

Type

- ☒ Blur
- ☐ Box Blur
- ☐ Lens Blur
- ☐ Median
- ☐ Bilateral Blur

Radius (px) 209.2

Mask (px)...



Compare

Presets...

✓ Apply

✗ Cancel



Sharpen



Blur



Add Noise



Film Grain



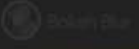
Reduce Noise



Despeckle



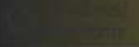
Soften Skin



Boken Blur



Defocus



Unsharp Mask



Find Color / Emphasize Color



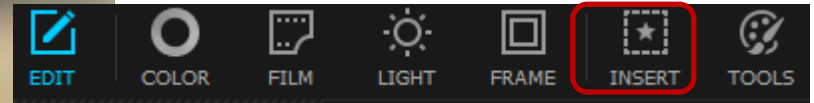
Replace Color



White Balance



Agnette



You can then
overlay your
cut-out using the
Insert function



Before



After



One final note

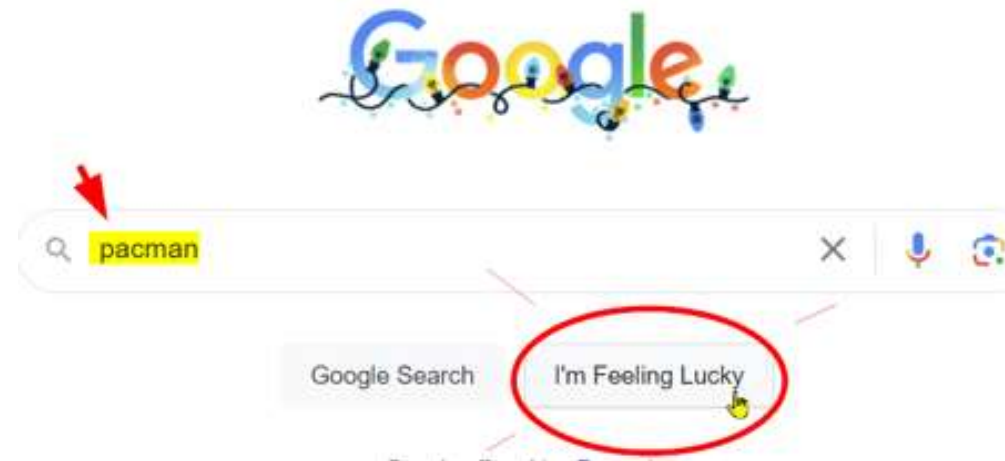
- After you have layered your two images, save it and then load the saved file back into the work area.
- You can then crop or do any further adjustments.

DEMO

Share

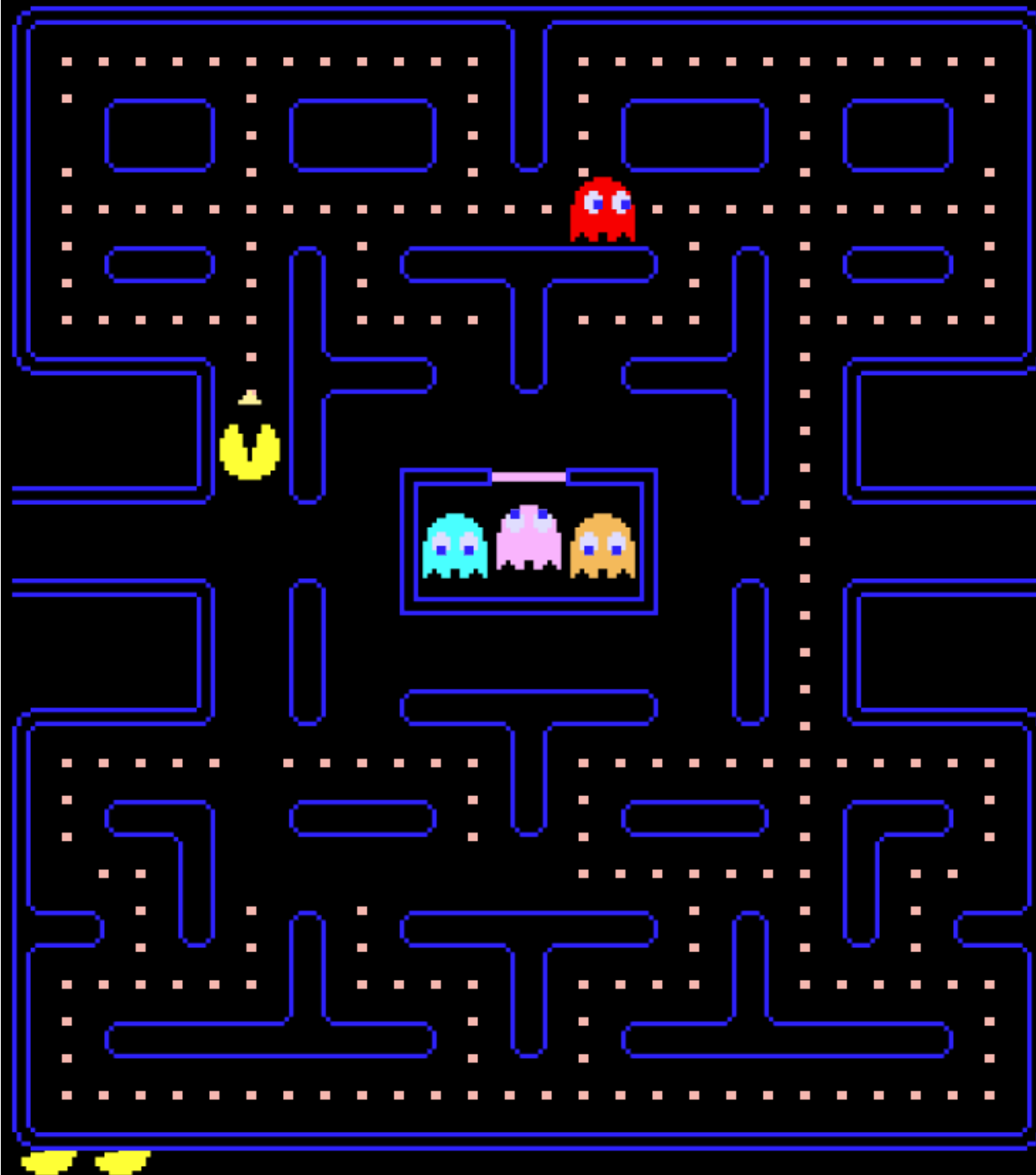
PacMan

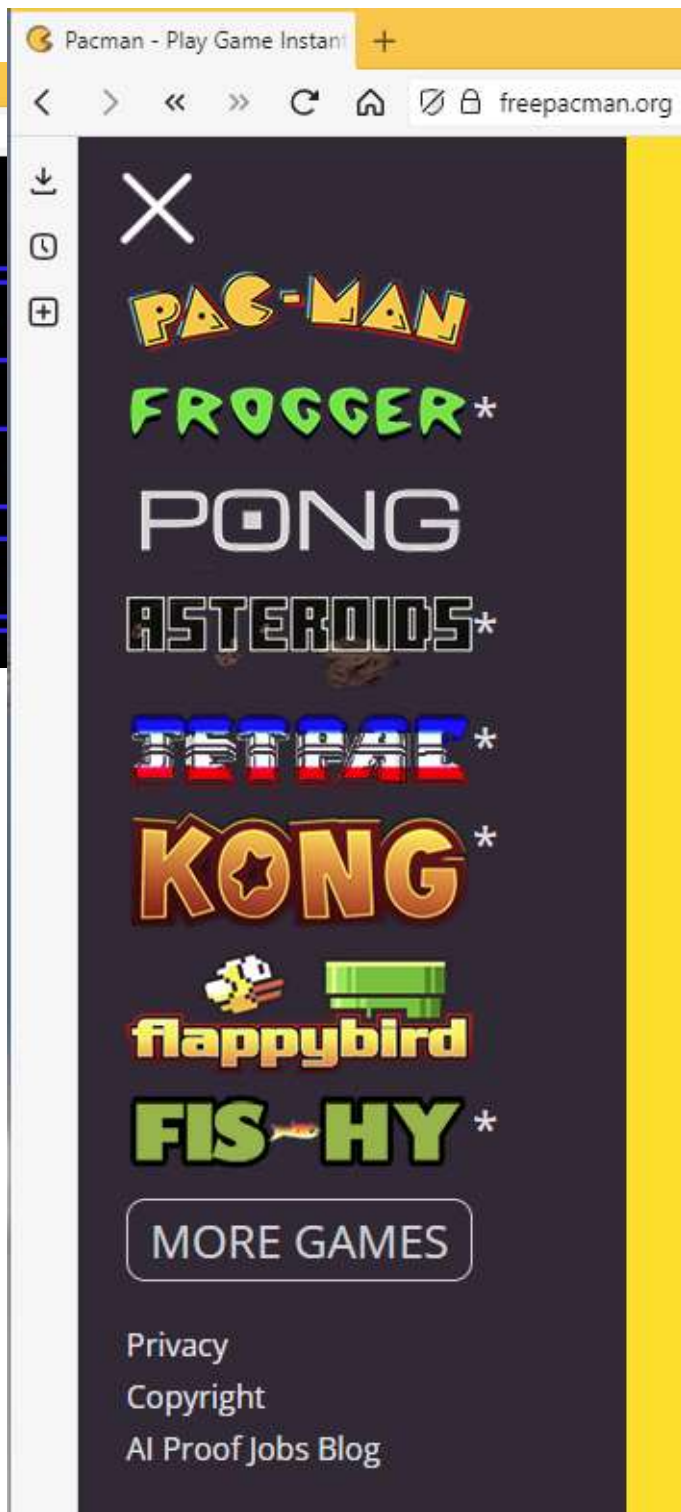
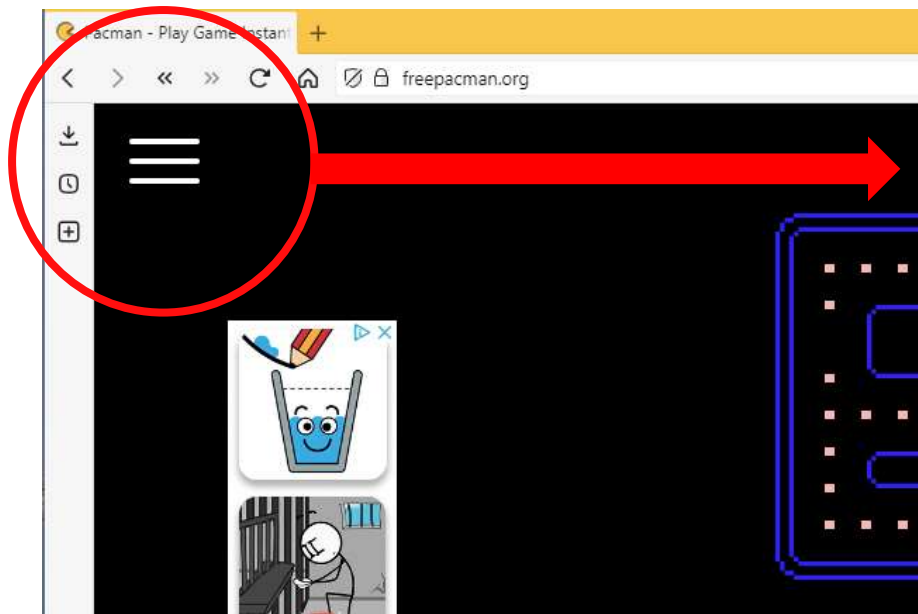
- Open up your browser
- Head to Google.ca
- Type in "pacman"
- Don't hit enter, click on the Google Graphic
- You will see Google Search & I'm Feeling Lucky
- Click on "I'm Feeling Lucky"
- Brace yourself...
- Suddenly, you'll be yourself transported back in time to the era of pixelated ghosts and wakka-wakka sound effects
- Yes, it's Pac-Man on your browser!



Bob Herres

190 HIGH SCORE 470





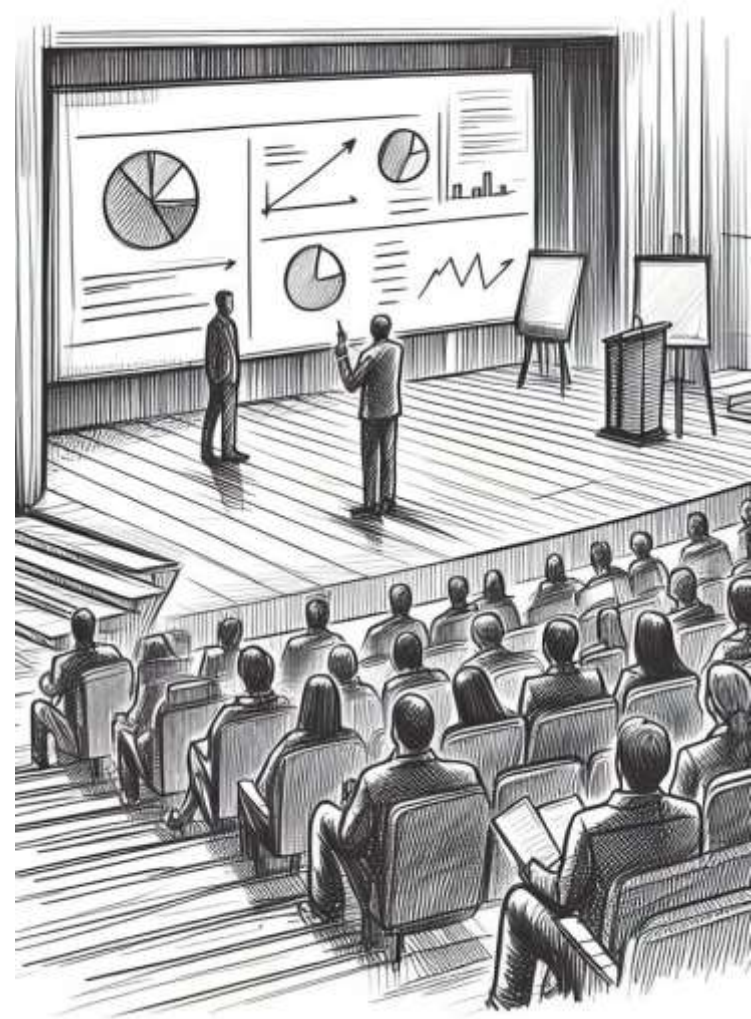


**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



Presentations at the Ottawa Public Library

- The OPCUG has offered to give presentations at the Ottawa Public Library for January-March, 2024
 - list has been shared with OPL branches
 - branches have not yet responded
- If you would like to see a particular presentation at your OPL branch, speak to the local librarians
 - even once schedule has been “finalized”
 - we can add additional presentations
- Complete listing of the presentations **with descriptions**





Chris's presentations

- Typography - the art and science of written communications
- Keeping passwords safe
- Protecting your PC
- Whoa, backup! Effective strategies for keeping your computer files safe
- Windows performance tune-up
- Who's the Boss - you or your camera?
- How to buy a PC
- How to buy a digital camera
- How to secure a home wireless network



Lynda's presentations

- How to take better vacation photos
- Tips and techniques for better photos
- Basic photo editing - learn easy, stunning techniques
- How to make a hard copy photo book
- How to make a photo collage with free software



Alan's presentations

- Is free software really free?
- Building a Website – No Coding Required!
- Linux 101 - An Introduction to the “Other” Operating System

Free Membership in OPCUG!

- Are you an OPCUG member?
- There is no need to pay to renew!
- The Board of Directors is waiving membership renewal fees
- This will apply to all members in good standing as of April 1, 2024
- So, **don't send us any money**



Your next membership year is absolutely free!

SPECIAL
OFFER

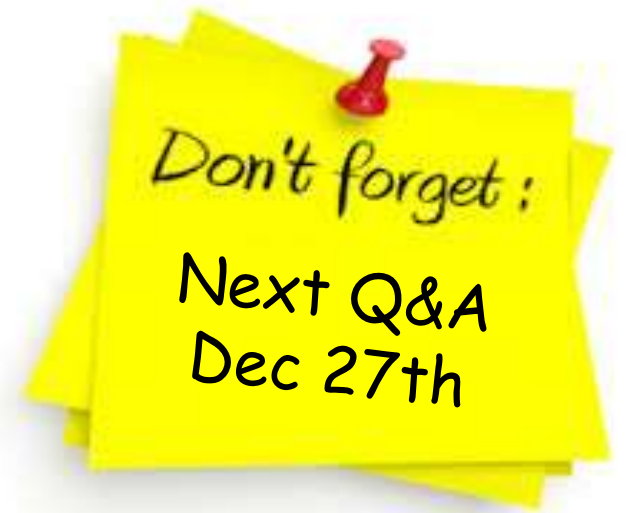
2
for
1

Not currently a member?

- Buy a one-year membership for \$20
- You will be a member in good standing on April 1, 2024
- Your membership expiry date will be extended by a further year
- **Two years membership for the price of one!**

**OPCUG's Board of Directors
wishes you a very...**





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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca