



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

December 27, 2023

Share

USB – Speed Test

SONY

Electronics

Support ▾

What are the USB data transfer rates and specifications?

The Universal Serial Bus (USB) specification stipulates five data transfer rates:

- USB 1.0/Low-Speed: 1.5 Megabits per second (Mbps)
- USB 1.1/Full-Speed: 12 Mbps.
- USB 2.0/Hi-Speed: 480 Mbps.
- USB 3.0/SuperSpeed: 5 Gbps.
- USB 3.1/SuperSpeed: 10 Gbps.

<https://www.sony.com/electronics/support/articles/00024571>

Windows System Assessment Tool

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ⓘ We're no longer updating this content regularly. Check the [Microsoft Product Lifecycle](#) for information about how this product, service, technology, or API is supported.

[Recommended Version](#)[Winsat](#)[winsat dwm](#)[winsat d3d](#)[winsat mem](#)[winsat disk](#)[winsat cpu](#)[winsat media](#)[winsat mfmedia](#)[...](#) / [Management and Tools](#) / [Command-Line Reference](#) /[⊕](#) [⋮](#)

Winsat

Article • 08/31/2016

In this article

[Syntax](#)[Assessments](#)[Remarks](#)[Additional references](#)

Applies To: Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8

[https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2012-r2-and-2012/cc770542\(v=ws.11\)](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2012-r2-and-2012/cc770542(v=ws.11))

winsat disk

Article • 08/31/2016

Examples

- The following example assesses the sequential I/O read performance of drive C:

```
winsat disk -seq -read -drive c
```

 Copy



No colon for the drive letter

Sufficient to use (for Drive W:)

```
winsat disk -drive w
```

Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19045.3803]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>winsat disk -drive e

Windows System Assessment Tool

> Running: Feature Enumeration ''

> Run Time 00:00:00.00

> Running: Storage Assessment '-drive e -ran -read'

> Run Time 00:00:02.81

> Running: Storage Assessment '-drive e -seq -read'

> Run Time 00:00:03.61

> Running: Storage Assessment '-drive e -seq -write'

> Run Time 00:00:56.88

> Running: Storage Assessment '-drive e -flush -seq'

> Run Time 00:00:14.69

> Running: Storage Assessment '-drive e -flush -ran'

> Run Time 00:00:24.16

> Dshow Video Encode Time 0.00000 s

> Dshow Video Decode Time 0.00000 s

> Media Foundation Decode Time 0.00000 s

> Disk Random 16.0 Read 12.17 MB/s 5.5

> Disk Sequential 64.0 Read 66.22 MB/s 5.9

> Disk Sequential 64.0 Write 10.14 MB/s 2.8

> Average Read Time with Sequential Writes 6.135 ms 5.6

> Latency: 95th Percentile 10.729 ms 5.6

> Latency: Maximum 1732.202 ms 1.9

> Average Read Time with Random Writes 9.791 ms 4.6

> Total Run Time 00:01:43.91



Why does my computer freeze?

- From time to time, desktop computer freezes and the screen goes blank for about 10-15 seconds
- Use Bitdefender Total Security but suspected a possible security problem
 - took computer those who built the machine, who I trust
 - they said there was no security issue
- Is behaviour indicative of any security problem?
- Is it possible a bad actor has deeply embedded dangerous software making it hard to detect?
- Is it most likely a function of age or something else?
- Should I be worried?
- Where could it take it for a deep dive into the system to seek out any dangerous software?



Double-check for malware

- Bitdefender — well-respected anti-malware program
 - but all anti-malware programs can miss something
- Free on-demand scan
 - ESET
 - <https://www.eset.com/ca/home/online-scanner/>
 - Trend
 - <https://housecall.trendmicro.com/>
 - Panda Cloud Cleaner
 - <https://www.pandasecurity.com/en/homeusers/cloud-cleaner/>
 - F-Secure
 - <https://www.f-secure.com/en/online-scanner>
 - Norton Power Eraser
 - <https://support.norton.com/sp/en/us/home/current/solutions/kb20100824120155EN>
 - Microsoft Safety Scanner
 - www.microsoft.com/security/scanner/en-us/default.aspx
 - Sophos Scan & Clean
 - <https://www.sophos.com/en-us/free-tools/virus-removal-tool>



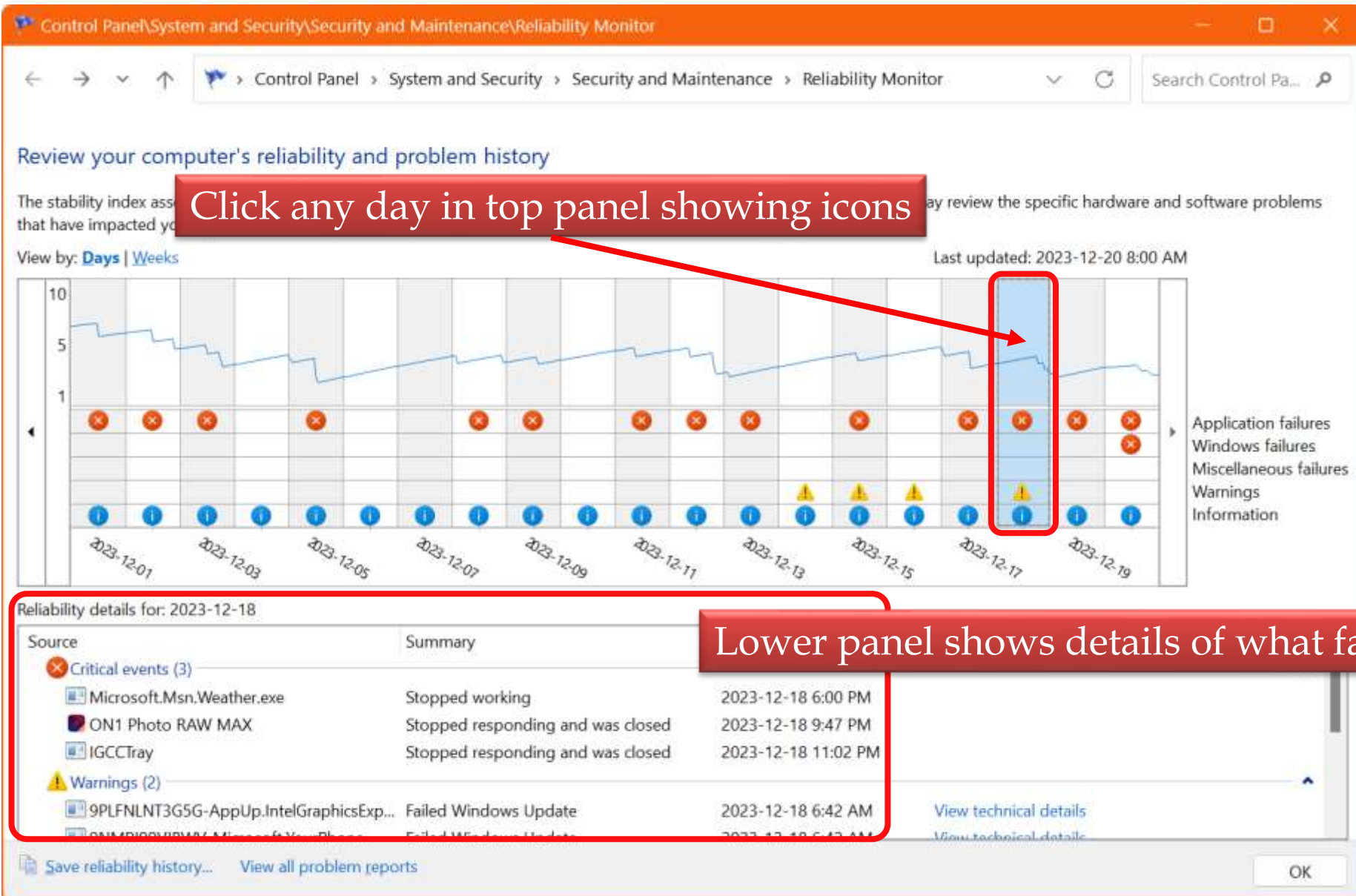
But malware probably not the problem

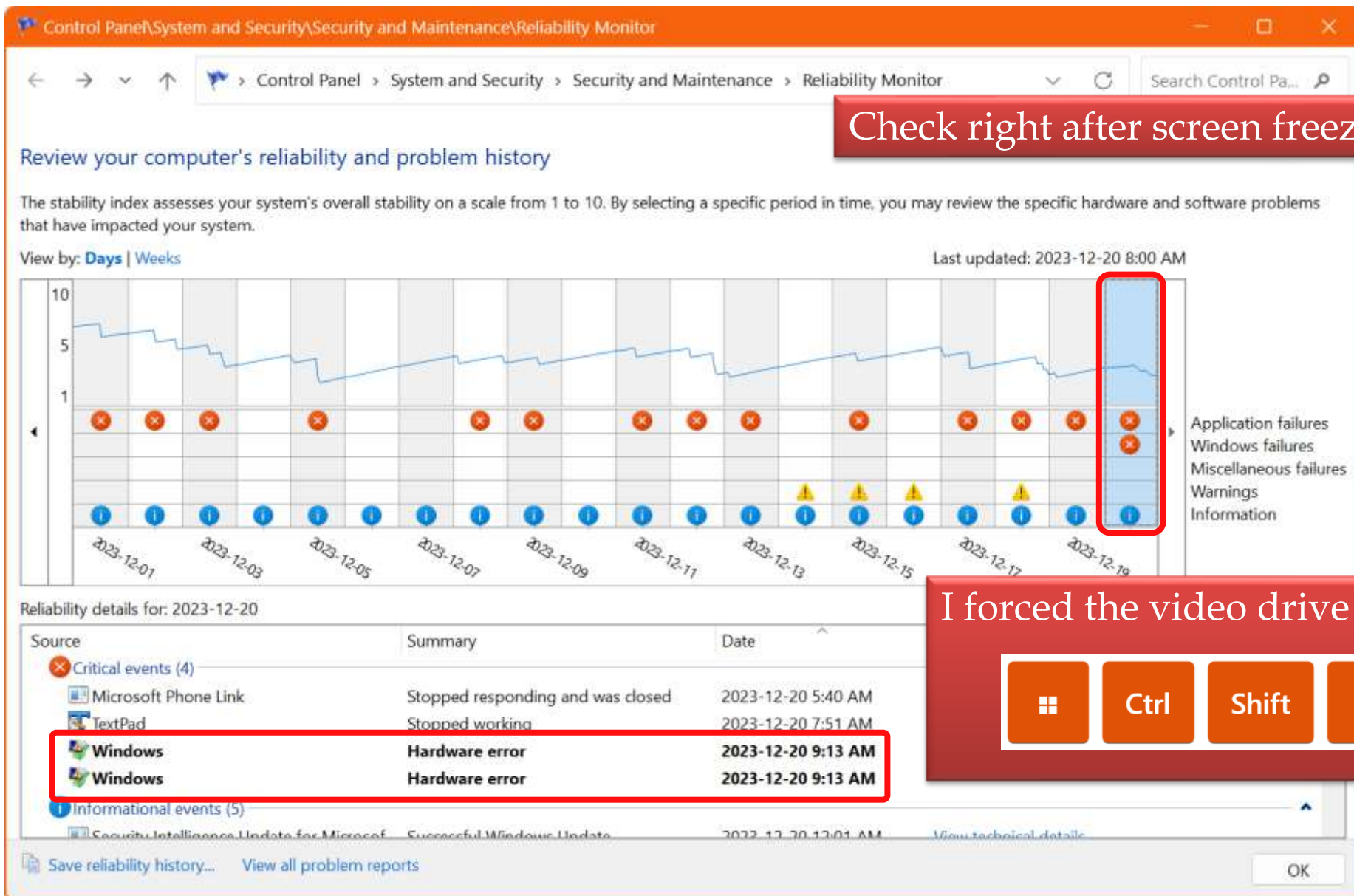
- Not heard of malware causing such problems
- When checked out they probably tested with several anti-malware programs
- Could be a hardware or driver problem
- In particular video card
 - screen goes black and then recovers
 - if the video driver crashes, Windows will reload the driver



Run Control Panel

- *System and Security > Security and Maintenance > Reliability Monitor*





Check right after screen freezes

I forced the video drive to reload



Ctrl

Shift

B



What can you do then?

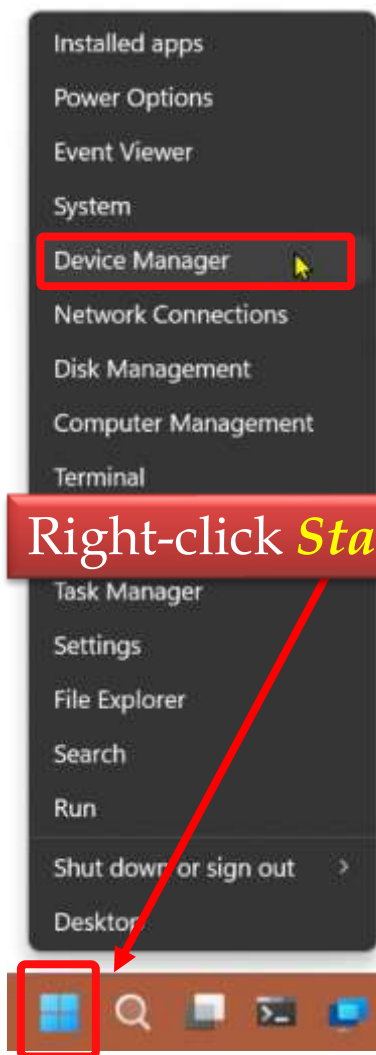
If it appears to be a hardware failure, try updating drivers

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the Windows Settings application, illustrating the steps to update drivers:

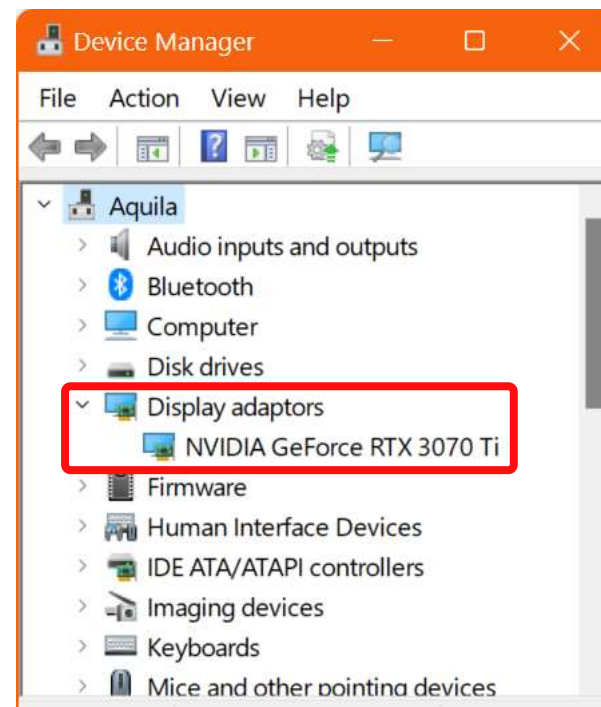
- First Screenshot (Left):** Shows the main Settings window. The 'Windows Update' option in the left-hand navigation pane is highlighted with a red box.
- Second Screenshot (Middle):** Shows the 'Windows Update' page. The 'Advanced options' link under 'More options' is highlighted with a red box.
- Third Screenshot (Right):** Shows the 'Advanced options' page. The 'Optional updates' link is highlighted with a red box. Below it, the 'Optional updates' page is shown, with the 'Driver updates (4)' section highlighted by a red border. This section lists four updates: Samsung - Display - SyncMaster 2333SW, SyncMaster Magic CX2333SW(Digital); Brother - Multi-Function Printer, Other hardware - Brother MFC-7460DN Remote Setup Port; Brother - Multi-Function Printer, Other hardware - Brother MFC-7460DN; and Brother - Printers - Brother MFC-7460DN Printer. A 'Download & install' button is visible at the bottom of this section.



Updating video drivers



Right-click *Start* – click *Device Manager*



Identify your Display adapter
Check vendor's website for updates



Any other ideas?



Share

Just for Fun



Share

Time-Traveling to August 2023



chrome web store

I was in the chrome web store...
expecting gadgets...

I found
Mouse Odometer!

Share

Time-Traveling to August 2023



chrome web store

Add to Chrome



Mouse Odometer



Featured

5.0



(1 rating)

Extension

Just for Fun

132 users

Share



chrome web store



Featured Badge

The **Featured Badge** is given to extensions meeting technical standards and high user experience benchmarks. The Chrome Team manually evaluates for adherence to guidelines, ensuring an enjoyable experience, use of latest APIs, and privacy respect. This includes a clear store listing with quality images and a detailed description.

Share

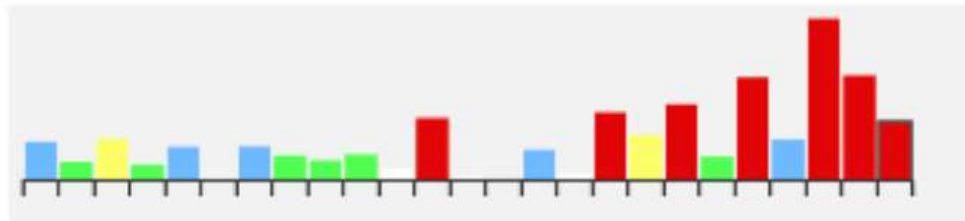
Time-Traveling to August 2023



ODOMETER

8.972 kilometers in pixels!

☐ Show Odometer



Today **1,070,136** pixels

Max 2,959,381 pixels

Avg. 656,785 pixels

By The Trav v0.9.0

[RedundantRobot](#)

[Github](#)

[Twitter](#)

[CodePen](#)

Share

Time-Traveling to August 2023



chrome web store

Overview

- Keep track of the distance your mouse has moved!
- How busy are you everyday surfing the web? Keep track of how far you move your cursor around the screen.
- The mouse odometer will carefully track how far you move your mouse on the pages you browse! Be sure to check your movement history within the options menu and check what level you achieve.
- Clicking on your total distance in the options will also show other metrics of distance you have traveled.

5 out of 5 ★★★★★

1 rating

Share

Time-Traveling to August 2023



chrome web store



Logan ★★★★★ Apr 23, 2022

GOOD!

2 out of 2 people found this helpful • Was this helpful?

5 out of 5 ★★★★★

1 rating

Details

Version
0.8.0

Offered by
travis.lawrence12

Updated
June 22, 2022

Size
79.18KiB

Developer



Email

travis.lawrence12@gmail.com

Languages
English (United States)

This developer declares that your data is

- Not being sold to third parties, outside of the approved use cases
- Not being used or transferred for purposes that are unrelated to the item's core functionality
- Not being used or transferred to determine creditworthiness or for lending purposes

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Time-Traveling to August 2023



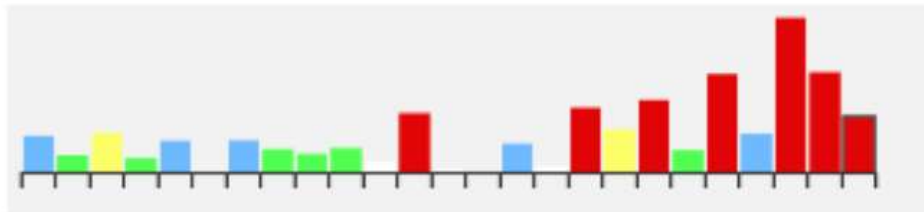
chrome web store



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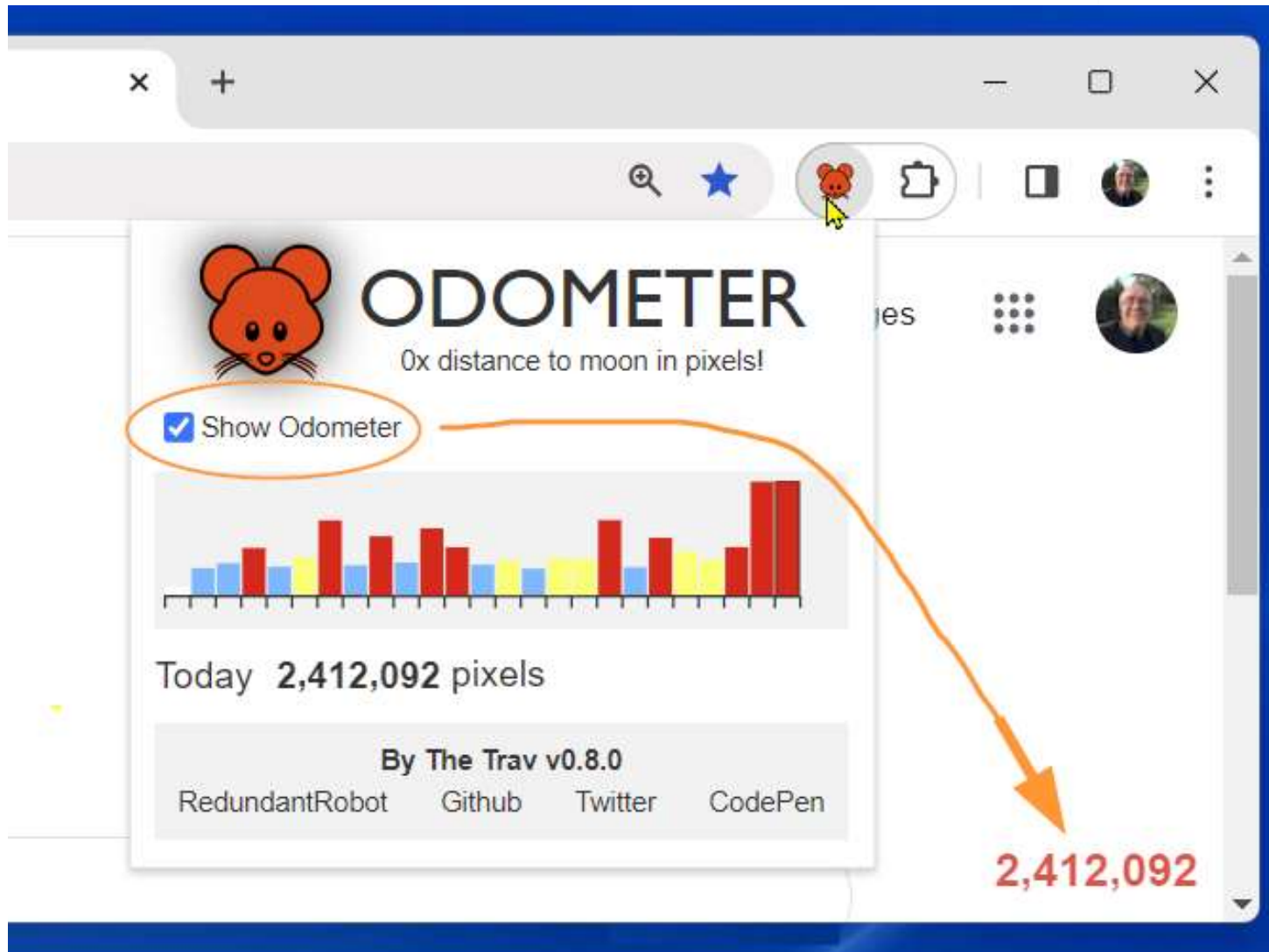
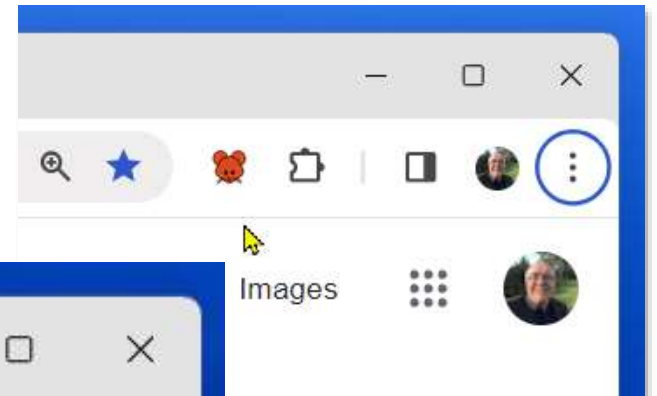
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[CodePen](#)

Share



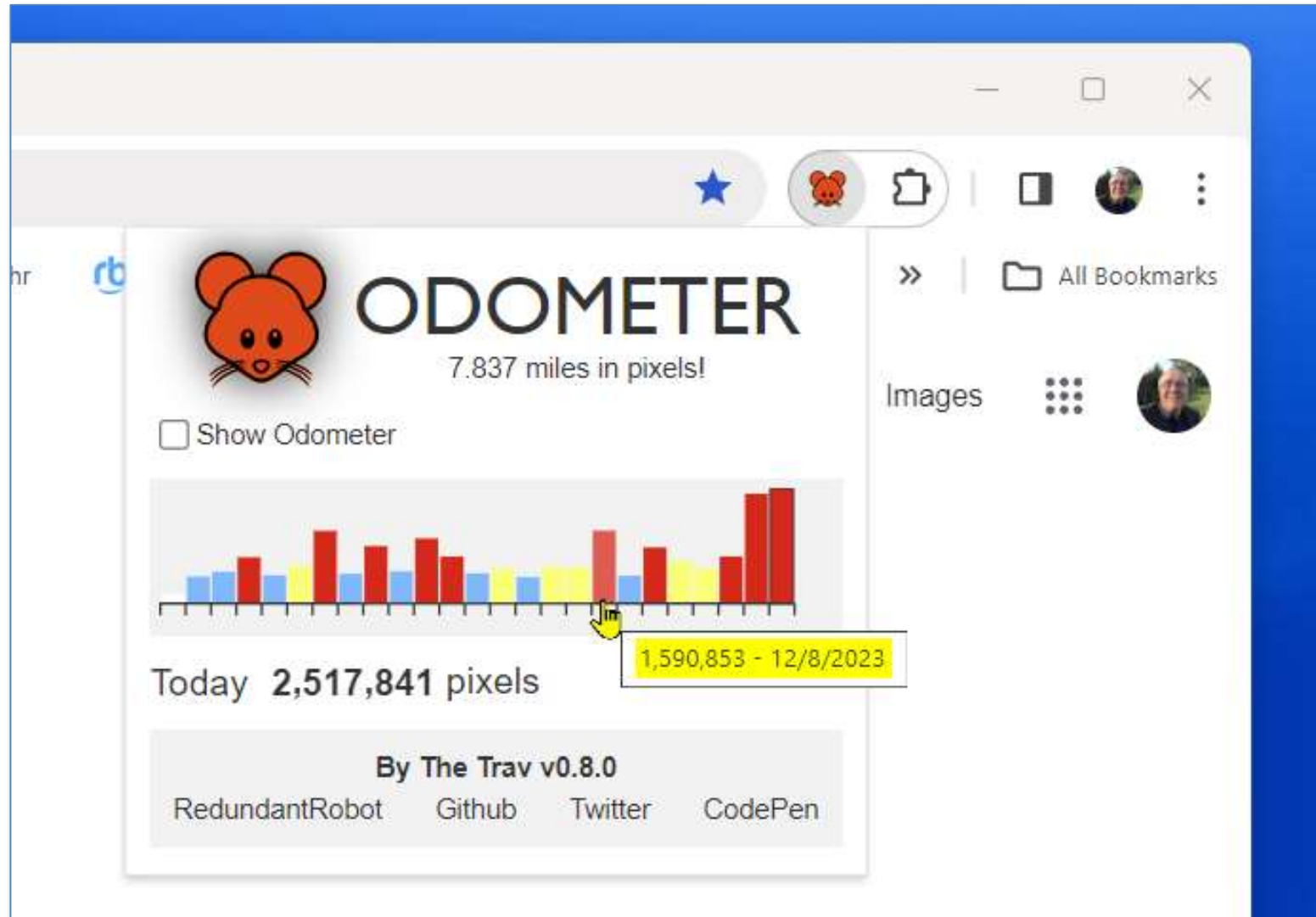
Mouse Odometer



Share



Mouse Odometer



Share



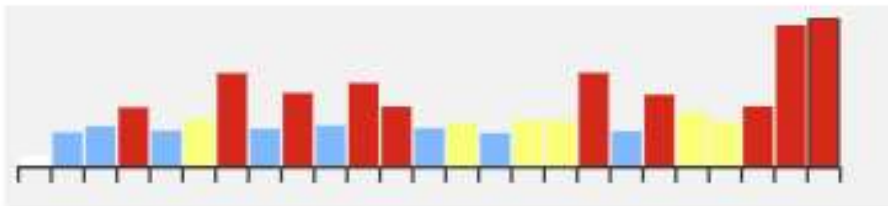
Mouse Odometer



ODOMETER

12.613 kilometers in pixels!

☐ Show Odometer



Today **2,517,841** pixels

By The Trav v0.8.0

[RedundantRobot](#)

[Github](#)

[Twitter](#)

[CodePen](#)



All Bookmarks

Images



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Mouse Odometer

Seems Travis offers other items, all free



Travis Lawrence

@TravisL12



SHEEPSHAVER TUTORIAL

I wrote this Mac OS emulator tutorial
collected over the years and I do m



APOD EXTENSION [Chrome](#)

This is an Astronomy Picture of the
There are multiple key commands a
things outer space and I've had the



CHROMA EXTRACT

A tool I built to paste in a large colle
The colors will be split into their hex
two color sorting algorithms. The va



SUPER MEGA BASEBALL 3 ROSTERS

This is the data for the game Super Mega Base



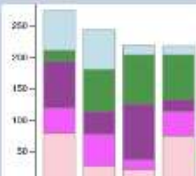
REALLY EPIC HARDBALL (SMB4)

This is the rosters, teams, biographies, and trai



MOUSE ODOMETER [Chrome](#)

Track how far your mouse moves everyday and



D3 STUFF! [Demo Page](#) [GH Repo](#)

D3 is a graphing library for javascript that I hav
some fun plots.

Share



Mouse Odometer

Since I've been enjoying this for about 6 months. I decided I should I do a review!



Mouse Odometer



Featured

5.0 ★ (2 ratings)

Extension

Just for Fun

141 users

[Share](#)

Mouse Odometer

My Review



Bob Herres ★★★★★ Dec 14, 2023

I've been using this now for 6 months. I'm absolutely thrilled. I don't look at it very often. But sometimes, it's nifty to see how far the mouse has been traveling. Today for instance today it traveled 1,925,281 pixels. During the last six months, it's traveled 45,528,873 pixels, or 7.485 miles in pixels or 12.046 kilometers in pixels. It's certainly not something that you need but it is fun to look at it occasionally. I can assure you it's never given me a problem.



Travis Developer Dec 15, 2023

You made my day with your review Bob. Some software is just meant to be vaguely amusing and I'm very happy that Mouse Odometer is living up to that definition.

Share



Mouse Odometer

So, while Mouse Odometer may do much for your fitness...

It'll certainly give you something to brag about during those water cooler conversations.



Share



Mouse Odometer

Oh, you ran 5 miles this morning?
That's cute. I moved my Mouse
Pointer a virtual distance equivalent to
the circumference of the Earth. Twice.



Share



Mouse Odometer

Mouse Odometer

Not something you need

Just for Fun



chrome web store



Featured Badge



FRAUD

ALERT



From pre-Black Friday to the January sales, this is a great time of year to get great deals on the products you want.

Let's look at a few ways to avoid being taken advantage of.

Phony Review Sites

- I've often Googled '*Best xxx for 20yy*' to find current ratings on a type of software, hardware or anything else I'm looking to buy, and gotten links to sites that gave great comparative reviews of the best products available at the time.
- Lately however, I've come across some phony review sites run or sponsored by the product that got the top rating, usually with a notably better score than the next best other product rated on the site, and usually with a much better score than the same product got on legitimate review sites (if indeed it was even reviewed at all).

Phony Review Sites

How to spot a phony site:

- The site has an ambiguous name like *'consumerexpertreview.com'*. The home page for this particular site actually even says *"This site may earn from qualifying purchases from Amazon and other links"*, and the home page has no links to any reviews (at least it didn't a few days ago), you apparently get to the reviews through Google searches.
- Legitimate sites are more likely to have names you've likely heard of such as (note: this list is far from complete):
 - Consumer Reports (paid site)
 - The New York Times and Wirecutter (a division of NYT)
 - PC Magazine
 - CNET
 - Trustpilot
 - And many other legitimate sites

Phony Review Sites

How to spot a phony site:

- The '*top rated product*' is likely a brand you've never heard of before. Popular name brands don't normally set up phony sites.
- The '*top rated product*' is often significantly cheaper than most of the name brands listed below it.
- The reviews of the NOT top rated products are likely plagiarized from legitimate review sites.
- There may be links to purchase ALL of the rated products, but the links lead somewhere like Amazon (who pays a bounty for these links), not to each brand's own website, and Amazon's own review and rating for the '*top rated product*' is often significantly lower than the phony site's review and rating.

Too Good To Be True?

- Recently I've come across some deals on name brand software from Microsoft (Office, Windows) and other software companies for ridiculously low prices that seemed just too good to be true.
- The deals come through several sites like *neowin.net*, *techrepublic.com* and even *ottawacitizen.com* (note: some ads on this site are made to look like stories), as well as referrals made in the OPCUG Forum.
- Regardless of who the offer is through, fulfillment is often by, and payment is to, Stack Commerce (rated 4.2/5 by Trust Pilot).

Too Good To Be True?

- The deals are usually time limited, sometimes just for the day (e.g. Black Friday, Cyber Monday).
- These deals are actually usually legitimate (e.g. In the last couple of months I've bought Microsoft Office 2021 Professional Plus (license for 3 PC) for CAD\$29.99, and Microsoft Windows 11 Pro for CDN\$30.21).
- In the rare event that the deal IS phony, or there are problems fulfilling the order properly, you MAY be able to resolve it through PayPal or your credit card company.

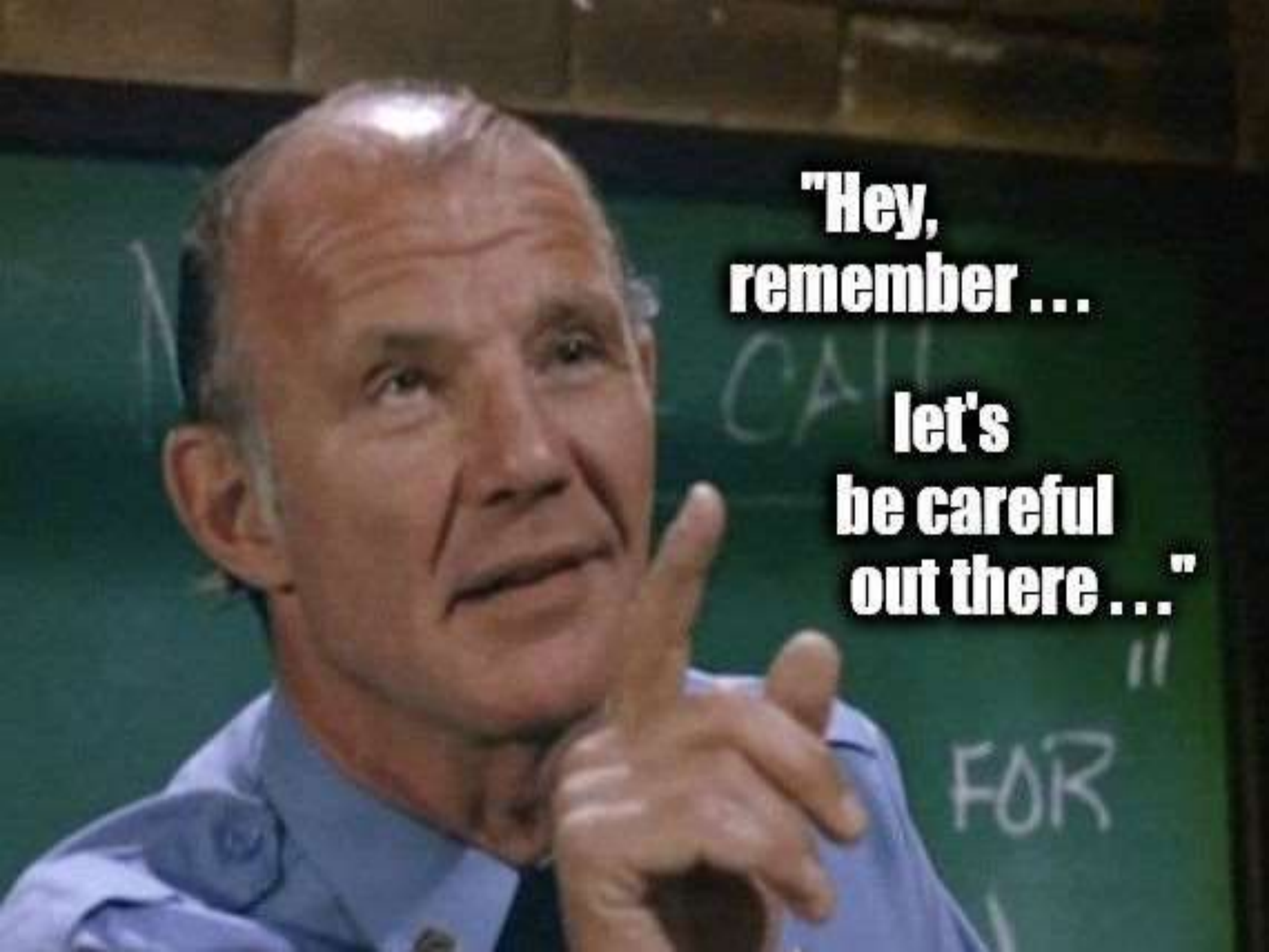
Hidden Subscriptions

- I was recently sent a '*Special Offer*' from InPixio (photo editing software and apps) (I reviewed their '*Photo Focus*' app at the 2 August 2023 Q&A, see '*Hocus Focus*') for InPixio Photo Studio Ultimate *including* something like 30 LUT's, a bunch of backgrounds, etc., etc. for only \$30 for 5 PC's.
- I was going to bite (it was only \$30 after all), but then I noticed in the finest of very fine print on the very last page before confirming the order that the \$30 *WASN'T* for a lifetime license for that version of the products, but *INSTEAD* was for the first year of a subscription, and then it would renew automatically at \$99/year.

ALWAYS BEWARE THE FINE PRINT!!!

Speaking of Fine Print

There are lots of great deals this time of year on products including electronics, but make sure there is no '*fine print*' about the deal you are interested in saying it is 'refurbished' or 'open box' if you are expecting brand new.

A middle-aged man with thinning hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a dark tie, is pointing his right index finger towards the camera. He has a serious, slightly stern expression. Behind him is a green chalkboard with some faint, handwritten text in white chalk. The text on the board includes "CALL" and "FOR" on separate lines, with some other illegible marks. The lighting is somewhat dramatic, with a bright spot on the man's forehead.

**"Hey,
remember ...**

**let's
be careful
out there..."**

January Meeting



Fraud 101: Beware of Scammers

Constable Sébastien Lemay
Ottawa Police Service

January 10, 2024
7:30 pm



Share

Lynda's musings on AI

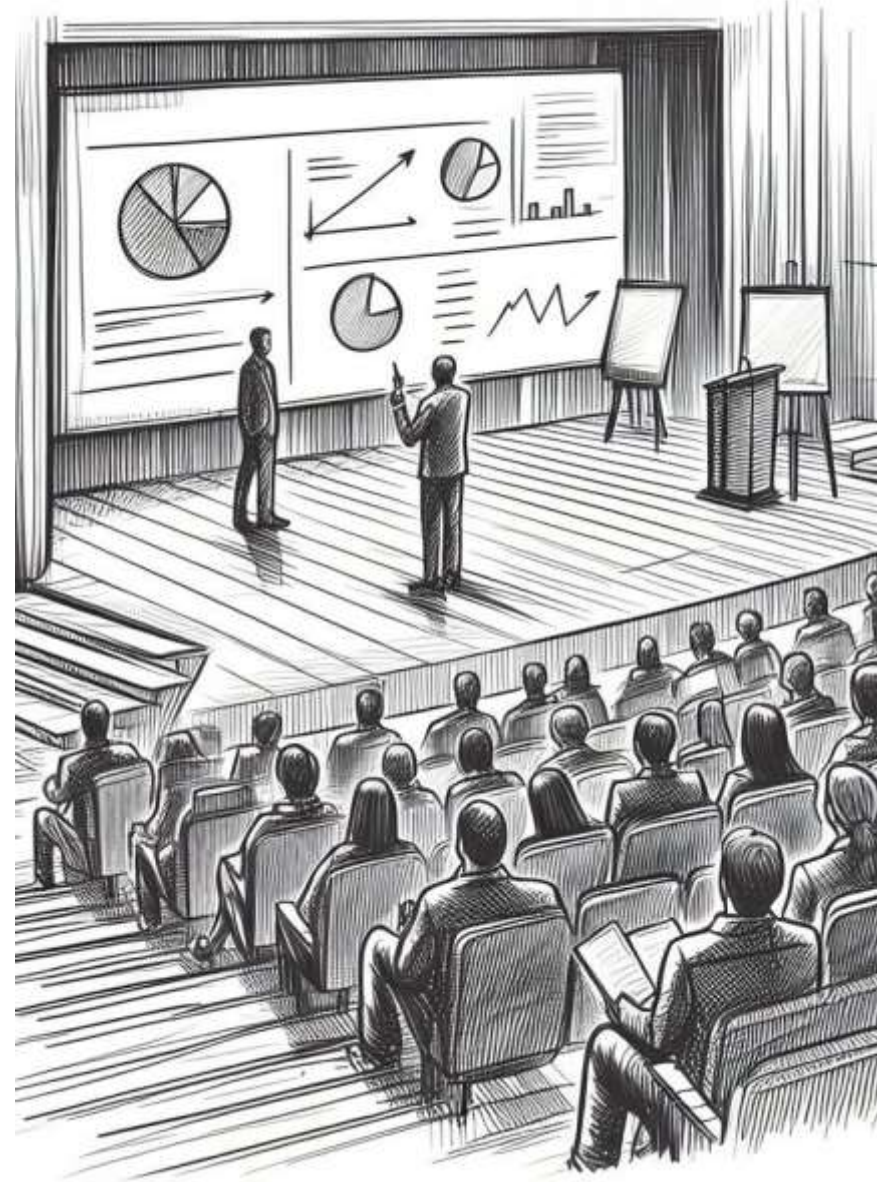
With respect to work

- For an older employee
- For a manager
- For a new Canadian
- For research & analysis

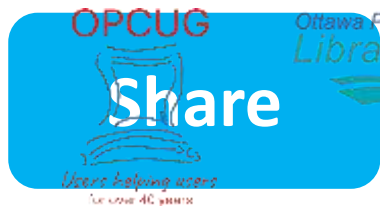


Presentations at the Ottawa Public Library

- OPCUG presentations at the Ottawa Public Library
 - January through March, 2024
 - 20 presentations
 - 10 topics
 - 3 presenters
 - event list:
<https://opcug.ca/#upcoming>

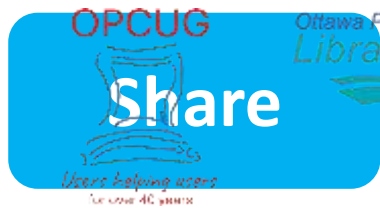


- 10 topics chosen by OPL branches for Jan-Mar, 2024
 - we have offered 17 topics
 - <https://opcug.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024-01to03-OPLpresentationTopics.pdf>
- Want to see a specific presentation at your OPL branch
 - speak to the local librarians
 - even with the schedule “finalized”
 - we can add additional presentations
- Also, if OPL branches don't want some topics
 - we may be able to give some of these at a regular monthly meeting or another time though the OPCUG Zoom account
 - April is next available OPCUG monthly meeting



Topics

- Chris's topics
 - 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



Topics

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



Hardware Recycling

- I would like to dispose of some good routers (2-3 years old), an older Dell Core-i7 computer and a Dell Core-i7 laptop
- Is there any organization or person in town who repairs/repurposes such electronics to perhaps those who cannot afford them?
- Otherwise, E-waste seems to be the only option



Ron Amero



CompuCorps

DONATE AND RECEIVE A TAX RECEIPT

Canada wide tax receipts for hardware or cash donations.
Donate in person, ship to us or request a local corporate pickup.

DONATE

DISCOUNTED HARDWARE FOR SALE

Shop current inventory, with prices 30% below market.
Pickup in person or select flat rate tracked shipping option.

SHOP



Sale
20X RAM 2GB 1Rx8 PC3 10600S-
9-10-B1 Hynix HMT325S6BFR8C -
H9 NO AA - #677 - 23
~~CAD\$180.00~~ **CAD\$153.00**



Sale
10X Various Desktop PC Graphic
Card GPU Lot - Untested - #664
~~CAD\$200.00~~ **CAD\$170.00**



Sale
DELL XPS M1530 Core 2 Duo
T8300 @ 2.4GHz, 4GB RAM,
120GB HDD, Windows 10 Home
Activated - #654
~~CAD\$75.00~~ **CAD\$63.75**

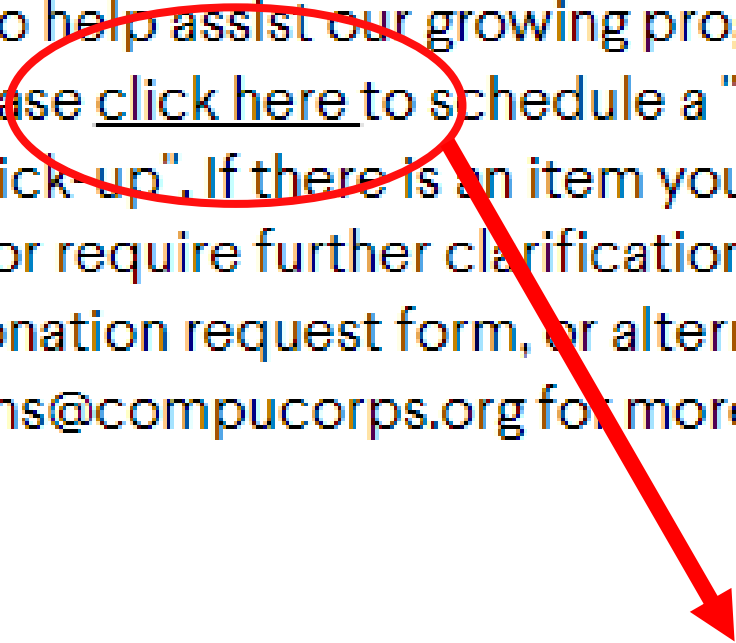


Sale
Dell XPS M1530 15" Inch Laptop,
Core 2 Duo T7500 @ 2.20GHz,
3GB RAM, 250GB HDD, Windows
10 Home Activated - #646
~~CAD\$65.00~~ **CAD\$55.25**

<https://www.compucorps.org>

Acceptable Donations:

CompuCorps accepts a wide variety of hardware and software donations to help assist our growing programs. If you would like to donate, please [click here](#) to schedule a "residential drop off" or "business pick-up". If there is an item you wish to donate that is not on this list, or require further clarification, please feel free to include it in your donation request form, or alternatively you may contact us at operations@compucorps.org for more information.



404

Page not found

[Go Home](#)



March 3rd, 2023 Donation - Paul H.

This donor graciously donated two HP Laptops and 3 Chargers

TOTAL TAX RECEIPT AMOUNT: 342.50



March 12th, 2023 Donation - John T.

This donor graciously donated the following items, iMac, apple keyboard, apple mouse, iPad 1, iPad 3, mac mini, airport extreme wireless, tp-link router, 6 WD Red 3TB HDDS and a jaybird wireless headset.

TOTAL TAX RECEIPT AMOUNT: 1,545.00

All donated hardware data is erased for free

Hardware Donation Process

1. Complete form below.
2. Package donation, label with your name.
3. Ship/drop off daily at address below.
4. Tax receipts emailed in 30 days for eBay value.

[Click here](#) to see how much your hardware or cash donation could save you at tax time for this year.

We **(ONLY)** accept laptops, tablets and smartphones.

Dymon Storage Carling - Drop Off Address

CompuCorps, Unit #378 1554 Carling Avenue Ottawa, ON K1Z 7M4

Dymon Storage Barrhaven - Drop Off & Shipping Address

CompuCorps, Unit #B223 1000 McGarry Terrace Ottawa, ON K2J 4G8

DROP OFF INFORMATION:

Inform Dymon staff of drop off for CompuCorps, include unit # if required.

No need for approval, donate at your convenience after submitting the form.

Donations (MUST) be labelled with name to receive a tax receipt.



What hardware donations does CompuCorps accept?

If there is something you would like to donate that isn't listed below, please feel free to include it in your donation form as a line item or include a picture of the item, that way we can determine if it has use in our programs.

operations@compuCorps.org

What hardware donations does CompuCorps accept?

If there is something you would like to donate that isn't listed below, please feel free to include it in your donation form as a line item or include a picture of the item, that way we can determine if it has use in our programs.

operations@compucorps.org

Could you please clarify what computer hardware items you do accept?

From Operations Compucorps <operations@compucorps.org> 

To Alan <alan.german@opcug.ca> 

Subject Re: Computer hardware donations?

Hello Alan, we currently accept laptop, tablets, smartphones and very small form factor desktops.

Feel free to make your donation by filling out the donation form on our website's front page.

Thanks and happy holidays!

CompuCorps, Andrew



Does anyone know of any organizations that will reuse donated hardware?



If you donate an old or unused modem or router, we will test it and if it works, will reconfigure it to provide an affordable modem for other NCF members.

You can also donate other unused electronic goods that we might be able to find another life for, just let us know when you drop it off if you want it recycled or if it can be re-used.

<https://www.ncf.ca/en/high-speed-internet/e-waste-depot/>



Only posts that are giving away or requesting free, legal and family-friendly items are allowed.

<https://trashnothing.com>



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

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

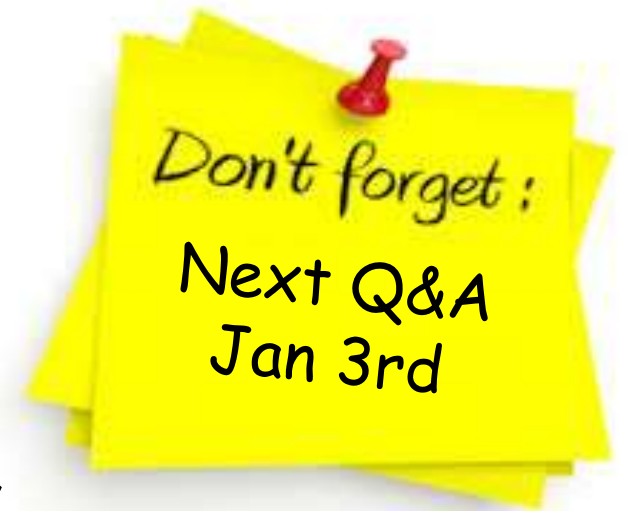
2
for
1

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!**

New Year's Resolutions

1. Join OPCUG (2 years for the price of 1!)
2. Share my favourite PC program or Android app at Q&A
3. Write an article for the newsletter
4. Send a question to SuggestionBox@opcug.ca
5. Plan a 15-minute presentation for the next "Members' Favourites" night
6. Attend the next Q&A Session on Wednesday, January 3rd
- 7.



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

