



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

January 3, 2024



Photo courtesy of Lynda Buske

Looking back...

Q&A over Zoom

- 167 sessions
- 5,941 participants
- 1,192 topics



...looking forward, you can

- ask that burning question
- share details of your favourite app or hardware gizmo
- provide a Loonie link or details of an interesting YouTube video or channel
- tell us what you need to know about computer and/or smartphone basics

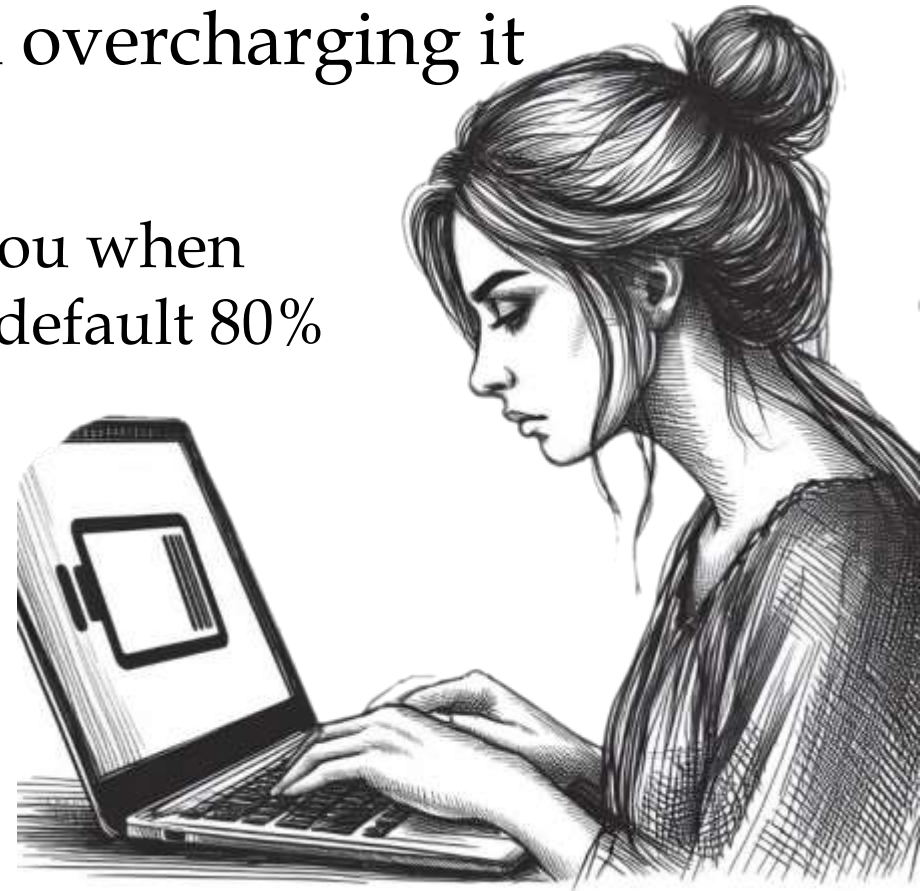


SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

Follow Up Battery Limiter



- Rapidly losing power on laptop battery?
- Might be because you've been overcharging it
- Battery Limiter: free program
 - simple, small software alarms you when charge capacity hits your limit: default 80%
 - optional: 30% to 96%
 - unplug laptop to stop charging & alarm
 - lots of configuration options



Follow Up



When battery reaches charge limit

- pulsing pop-up appears
- alarm sounds

Unplug laptop to stop charging and stop alarm

- visual & audible

Click in window to configure

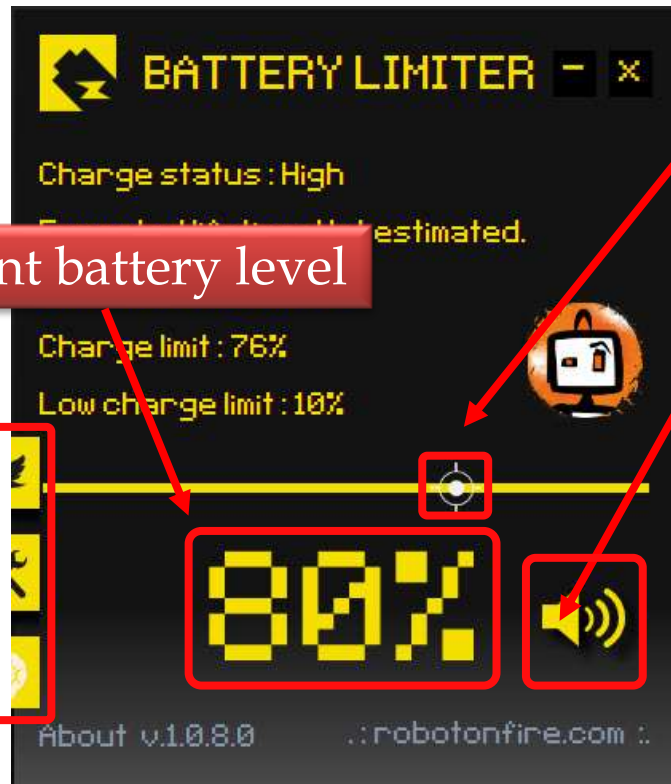


BATTERY LIMITER

Charge limit has been reached!!!
Alarm!!!



Follow Up



Drag slider to set battery limit

- default: 80%
- optional: 30% - 96%

Can click speaker icon to silence alarm

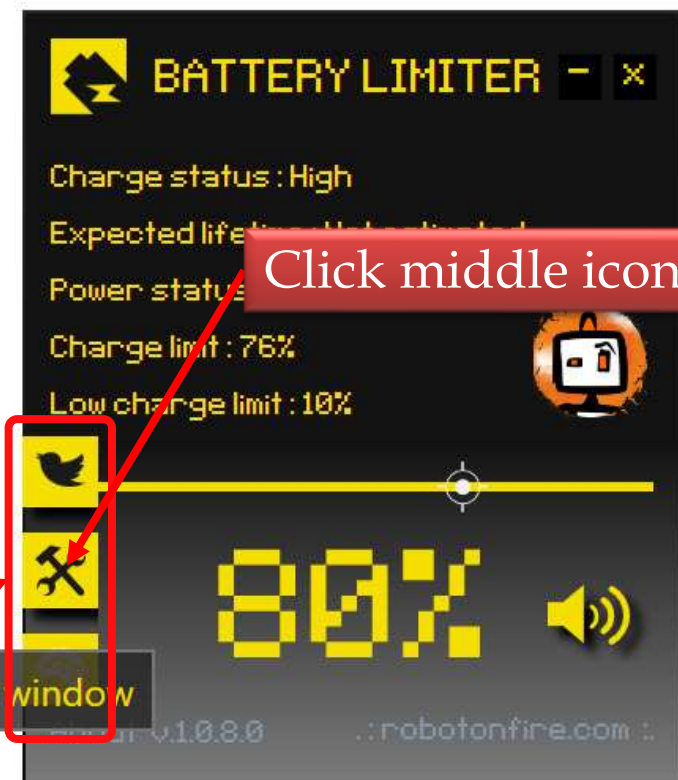
- will stay silent until you turn it back on

Current battery level

Hover mouse over partial icons

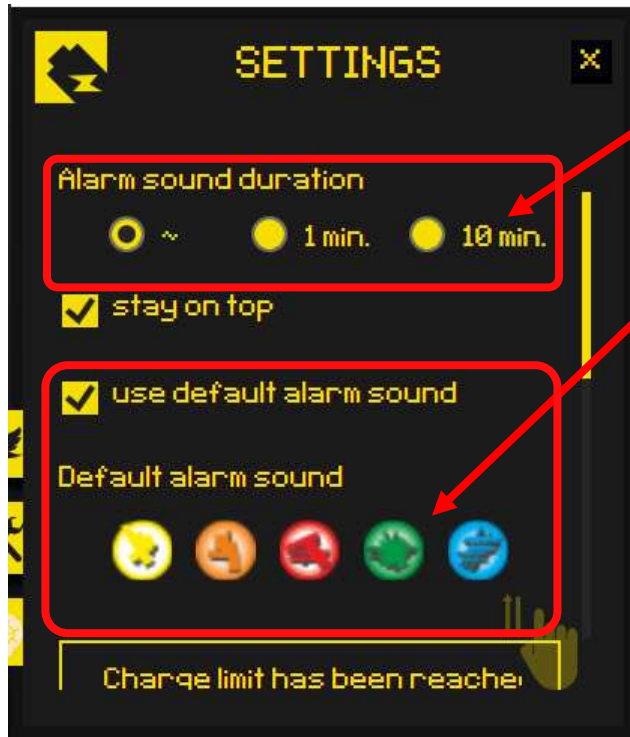
Full icons slide out

open settings window



Click middle icon for *Settings*

Follow Up

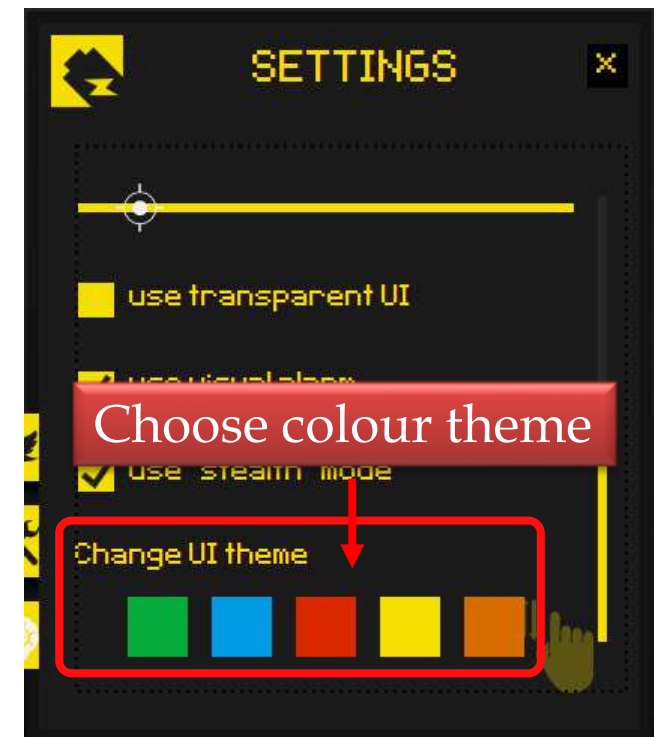
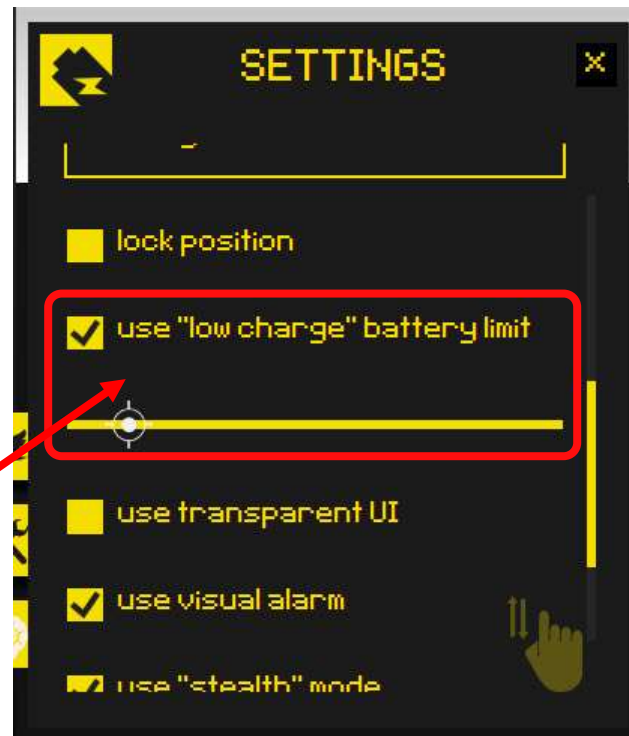


Set sound duration

Choose sound

- can also use a custom sound file

Can set low battery alarm



Follow Up Things to keep in mind

- Battery Limiter *doesn't* stop laptop from charging
 - let's you know – *with in-your-face-and-ears notifications* – when battery charge level is exceeded
- Keeps laptop from going to sleep if lid is open
 - so it can keep running & alert you
 - close lid to sleep laptop
- If you mute alarm by clicking speaker icon in program
 - it stays muted until re-enabled by clicking speaker icon in program
 - to mute alarm temporarily, remove power
- Some configuration changes don't take effect until program is restarted
 - right-click icon in system tray, choose *Exit*
 - re-start program from *Start* menu

More On Reviews



More On Reviews

We looked at product reviews in past presentations on ‘*Cross-Border and Online Shopping*’ (February 13, 2019) and ‘*Online Shopping During COVID-19*’ (April 8, 2020).

This is some more information about online reviews, both on retailer’s websites and on dedicated review sites.

More On Reviews

Online reviews can be very useful for comparing products and services.

There are two major types of reviews:

- Reviews from users of the product giving their (sometimes biased) comments and opinions.
- Reviews based on impartial testing (e.g. wirecutter.com, Consumer Reports).

More On Reviews

User Reviews

- **The more user reviews an item has, the more accurate they tend to be as results are averaged out by larger samples.**
- **The American version of a website (e.g. Amazon) may have up to twenty times more user reviews on the same item, and sometimes the Canadian site also contains reviews from the American site.**

More On Reviews

- User reviews on sites like Amazon and Home Depot tend to be relatively fairly accurate, some other major sites not so much.
- Comparing different similar items on a single website (e.g. Amazon) tends to be more accurate than comparing the same item across different websites due to differences in the processes used to collect or enter the reviews (more on this later). Comparing reviews on a website that edits and filters negative reviews with a website that doesn't won't give comparable results.

More On Reviews

- That said, going to several websites to compare their reviews on the same item can be a real eye opener. It may help you to gauge the accuracy and biases of the website.
- When comparing reviews of several items in the same category, Amazon often highlights one as '*Amazon's Choice*'. This isn't necessarily the best product, but the one with a combinations of the best average reviews, fewest returns, best profit margin, etc.

More On Reviews

Manufacturer's website reviews tend to be less accurate than retailer's websites since there is more incentive to 'fudge' things.

Many reviews on manufacturer's websites are not reviews but are actually testimonials disguised as reviews, or from a promotional event (*"We'll give you the product free if you give us a review of it"*).

Some sites (e.g. Canadian Tire) port in some of their reviews from the manufacturer's or the supplier's web sites.

More On Reviews

On many sites the process of giving a user review steers you towards giving a positive review

- Was the product packed properly?**
- Was the delivery time as promised?**
- Was the customer service polite and courteous?**

Not a lot of questions about the product itself!!!

On some sites, if you give a less than 5 star review, they want you to explain why, which acts as a disincentive from giving a less than 5 star review.

More On Reviews

Two, three and four star user reviews can be more informative than one or five star reviews because the reviewers are less concerned with getting the review process over with quickly, and more concerned with passing on useful information.

Reviews from people that just received the product are less accurate and realistic than reviews from people that actually used the product for a period of time.

Read the reasons people give for their score! If they give reasons relating to an issue important to you it can change your mind. It can also be very revealing of biases or issues not really related to the product.

Fake Reviews

Advertisers, marketers, and other stakeholders are often motivated to produce fake positive reviews for products they wish to promote, or fake negative reviews for competitor's products which they wish to disparage.

There is a whole gray industry in the shadows dedicated to posting false reviews, both positive and negative.

More On Reviews

Some sites like Amazon are taking measures such as verifying that reviewers have actually bought the product, and by giving more weight to reviews from regular known reviewers.

That said, if you do a review on Amazon on your own, you have a blank sheet to deal with unprompted, but if they email you a request to do a review it usually has a questionnaire leading you on.

More On Reviews

Reviews based on impartial testing

- Reviews on sites that create the reviews based on impartial testing tend to be much more accurate and comparable than user reviews. Check to see if the site describes their review or testing process.
- Testing based review sites include (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

More On Reviews

Remember, during the December 20, 2023 Q&A, we looked at how to spot phony or fraudulent review websites.

Related To Reviews

I do a lot of cooking, so I'm always looking for new recipes to try. When searching for new recipes, I often use the review scores to determine which recipes of any given type I look at first.

However, I often get a lot of great useful information from the 'Comments' section at the bottom of the web page.

Share

How to make a digital collage



Lynda Buske

<https://opcug.ca/Photography/MakingPhotoCollage.pdf>

Share

How to make a digital collage

Using free Photoscape X editing program

- Method one with *Collage* tab
- Method two with *Insert* tab

<http://photoscape.org/ps/main/download.php>



Viewer

Editor

Cut Out

Batch

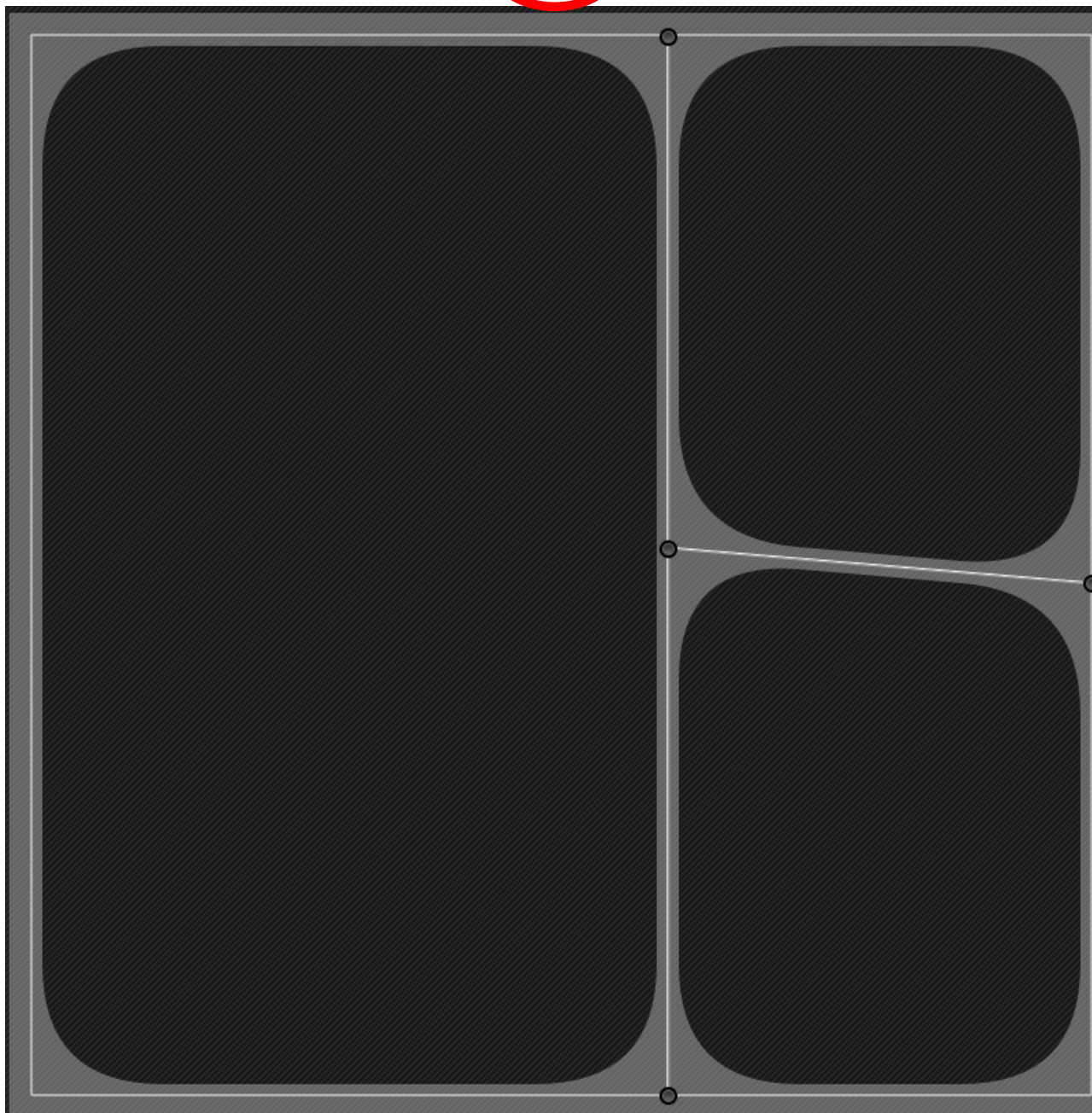
Collage

Combine

Create GIF

Print

Tools



Size (px)

800 x 800

% PX

Spacing

20

Margin

20

Roundness

-60

Background

Background
Opacity

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

0

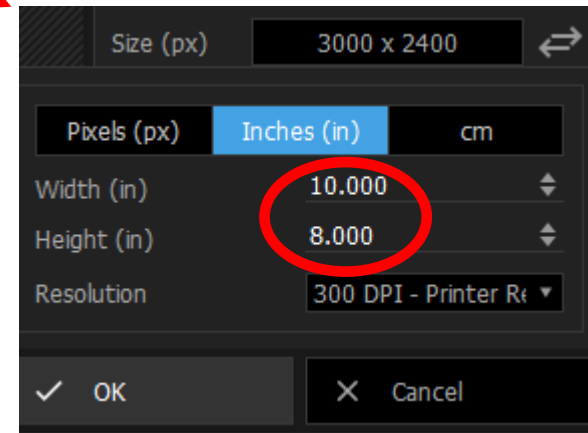
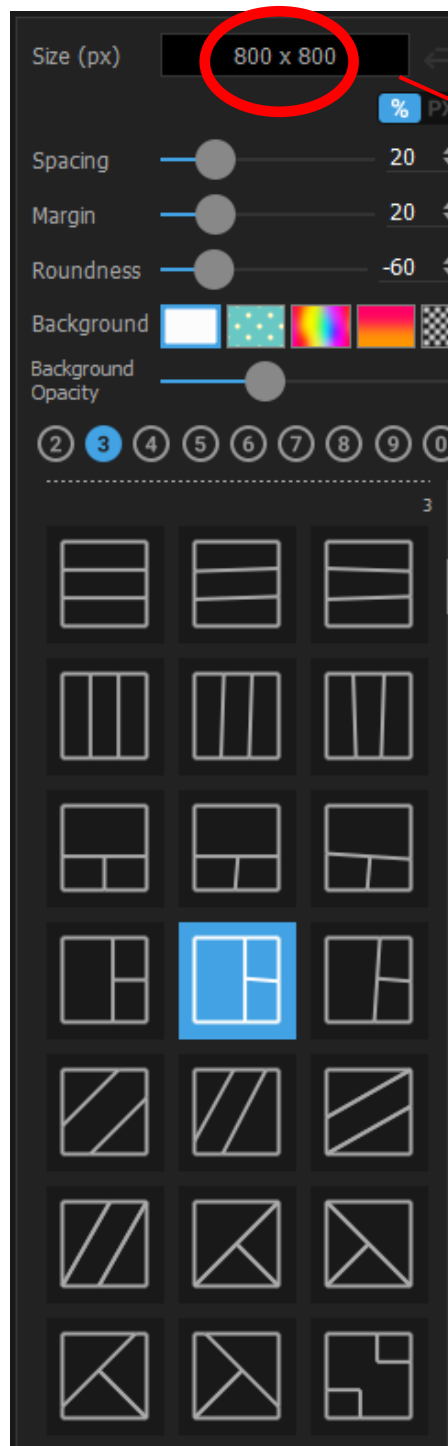
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Nuthatches

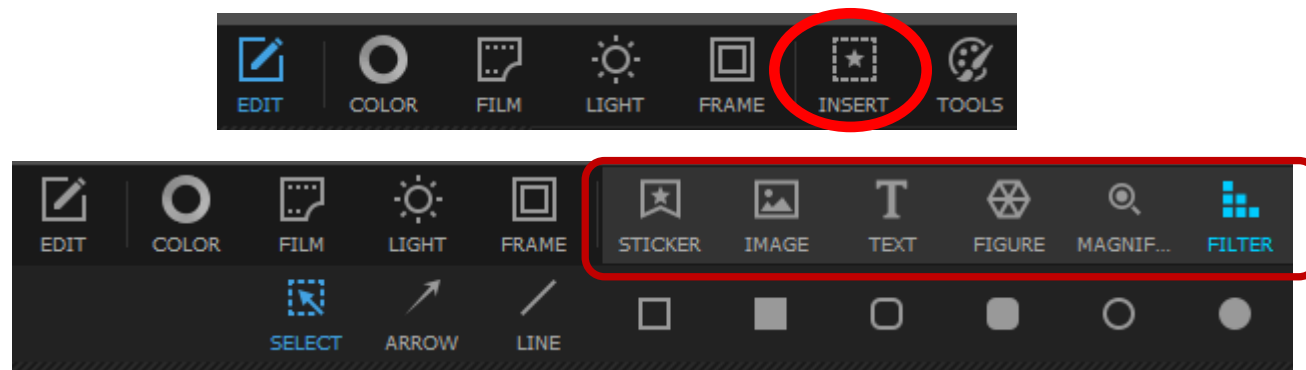




For printing, select a standard size like 8x10 or 11x14

Using the Insert function

- First, create a blank background of any colour/pattern.
Refer to Jan 2024 Newsletter.
<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2401NEWS.pdf>
- If you are going to print, make sure it is cropped to the correct size before you layer in your photos.
- Then use the insert function to layer photos onto the background.



More freedom with Insert method

Ollie's Best Life





Bergen, Norway

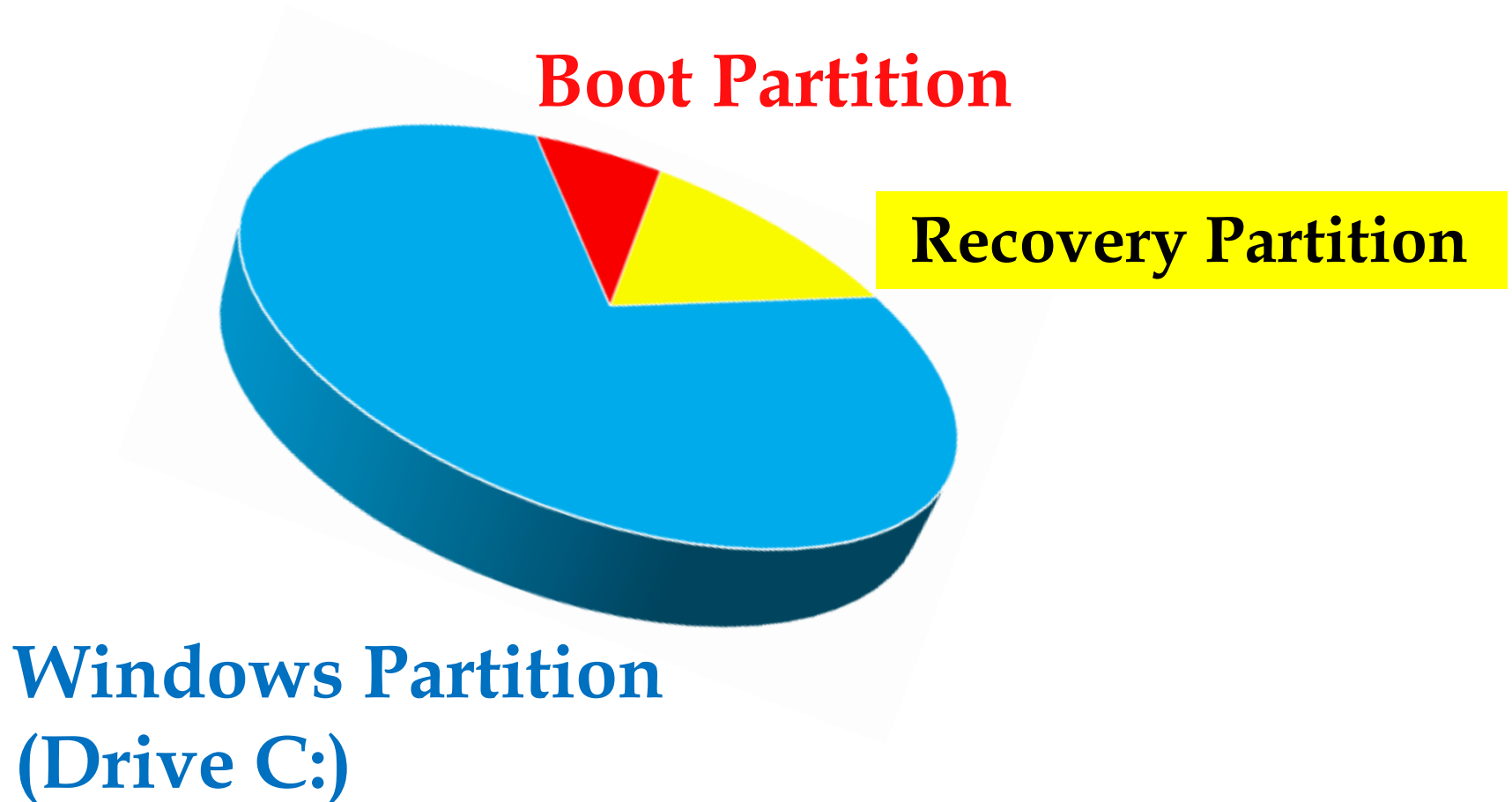


Enjoying 2019!



Share

Disk Partitions



Partitioning Schemes (Tables)

- **Master Boot Record (MBR)**
 - 4 primary partitions
or 3 primary plus 1 extended
(24 partitions maximum)
 - 2 TB capacity
 - Legacy (BIOS)
- **GUID Partition Table (GPT)**
 - 128 partitions maximum
 - 9.7 ZB (i.e. large!) capacity
 - Modern (UEFI)

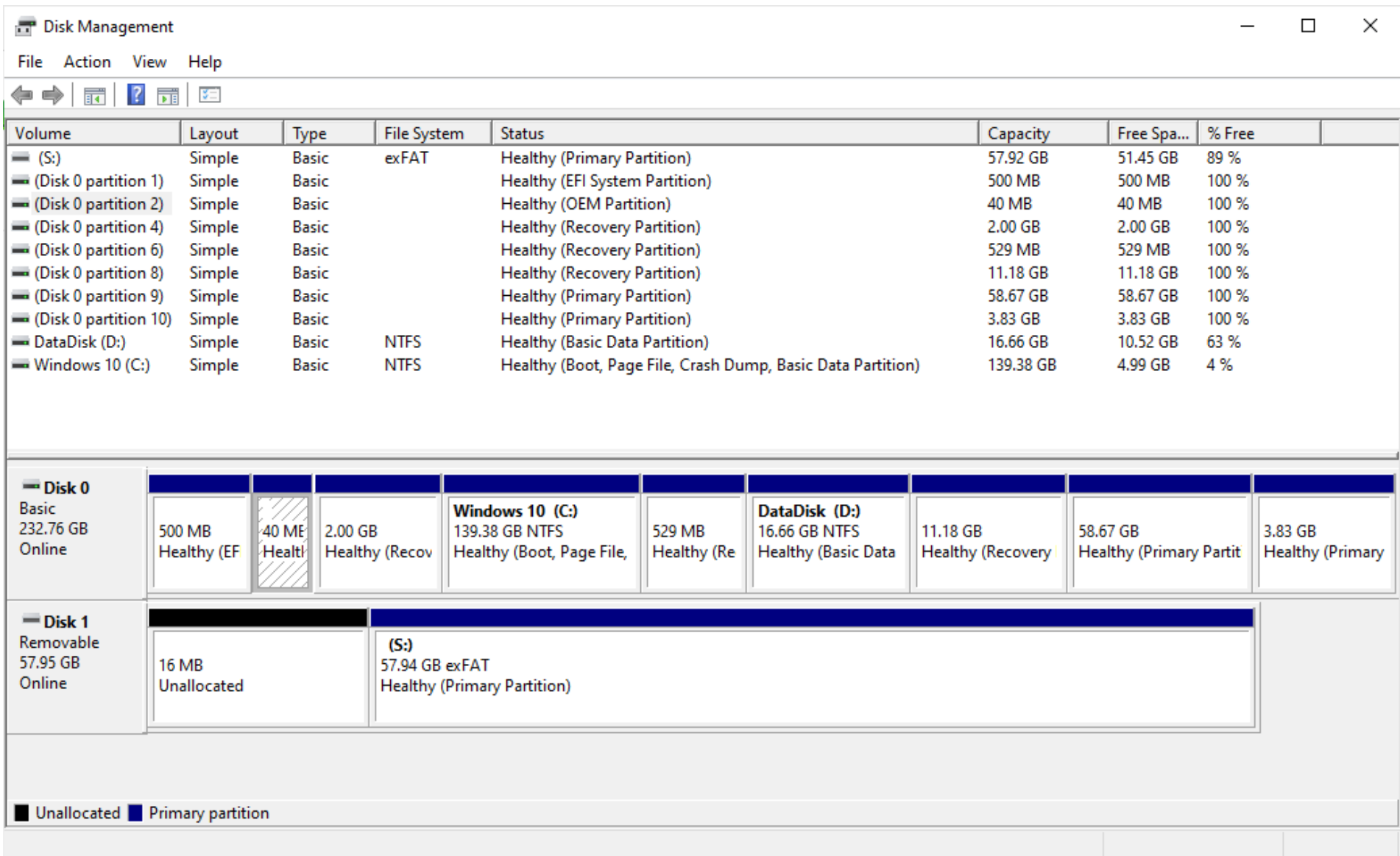
GUID = Globally Unique Identifier

BIOS = Basic Input/Output System

UEFI = Unified Extensible Firmware Interface

GPT/UEFI Partitions for Windows 10

- Recovery Partition
(450 MB, Windows Recovery, WinRE
can be multiple recovery partitions)
- EFI System Partition
(100 MB)
- OEM Partition
(if provided by computer manufacturer)
- MSR Partition
(16 MB, Microsoft Reserved Partition
not visible in Windows Disk Management)
- Windows Partition
(size depends on drive capacity)



Why would we want to add partitions?

- **Dual-boot Linux**

Linux must be installed on a separate partition from that used by Windows
Typically, Linux also uses a separate “swap area”

- **Dedicated Data Drive (Partition)**

Separate the data files and folders from the operating system and the installed applications

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Separate the data files and folders from the operating system and the installed applications

Dedicated Data Drive

- **Better Data Organization/Control**
 - Windows and the installed applications are (loosely) organized in folders on the disk (Windows, Program Files, etc.)
 - Windows maintains control of the OS
 - Applications are updated by the developers
 - Personal data files are created, and their storage location are (usually) specified by the user
 - Clear demarcation between the OS, the applications, and personal data files keeps everything well organized

Dedicated Data Drive

- **Easier Backup**
 - Windows is updated (typically) once a month (Patch Tuesday)
 - Updates to applications usually occur less frequently
 - Data files may change in each session
 - Windows and applications can be reinstalled; original data files cannot!
 - A simple backup strategy is to maintain current copies of all personal data files
 - Backing up an entire disk partition is simple and captures everything

Data Backup

- **Disk Imaging**
 - Full disk image backup file
 - Can image just the data partition
 - Use incremental imaging to use space on the backup drive efficiently
- **File/Folder Synchronization**
 - Maintain up-to-date copies of only files and folders that have changed on the dedicated data drive
- **Software Solutions**
 - Use (free) software to automate/schedule data backups

Coming Up:



- **Disk Partitioning**
 - Shrink the system volume to create unallocated disk space
 - Create a dedicated data partition
- **Data Backup**
 - File/Folder Synchronization
 - Disk imaging using incremental backup



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

January Meeting



Fraud 101: Beware of Scammers

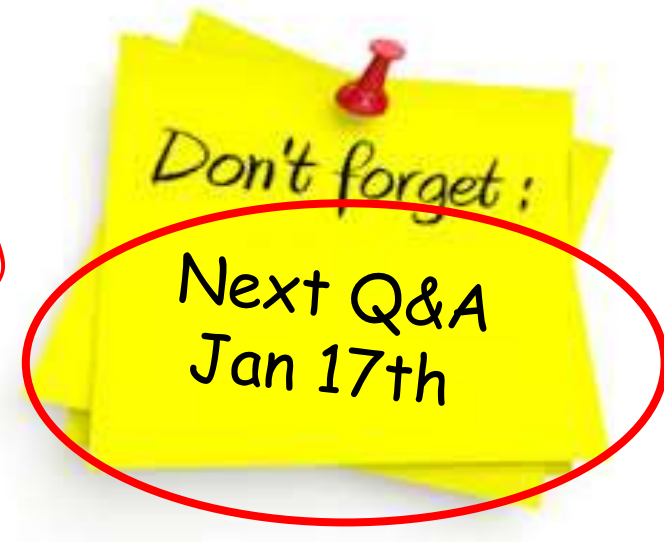
Constable Sébastien Lemay
Ottawa Police Service

January 10, 2024
7:30 pm





No Q&A on
January 10
(Monthly Meeting)



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca