



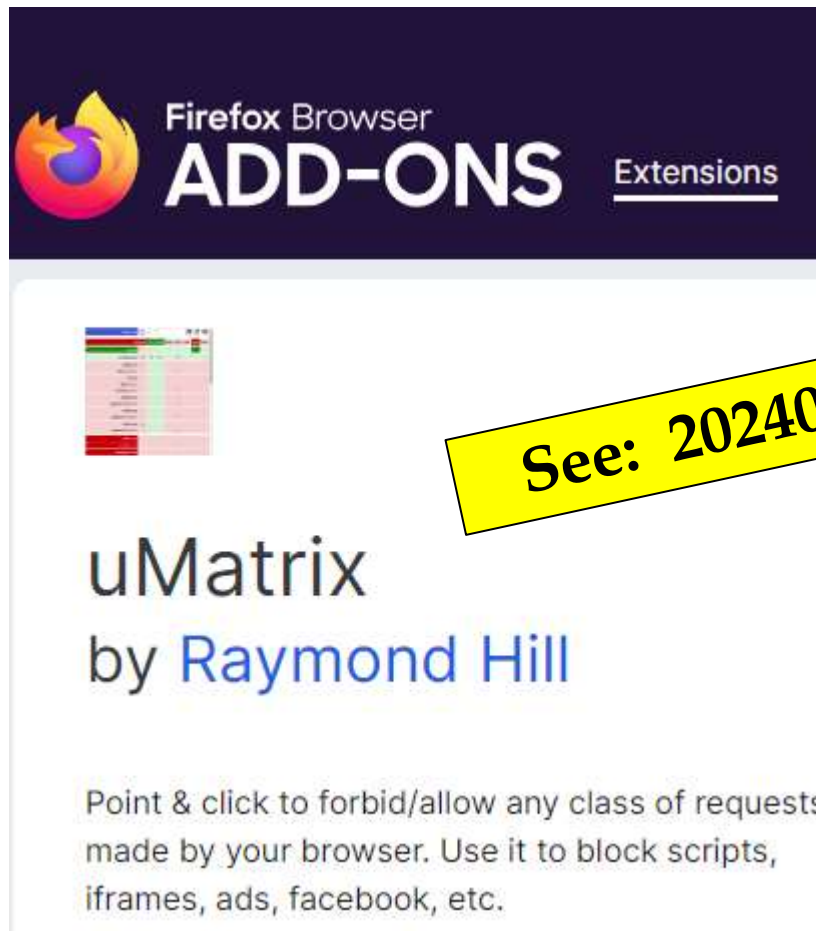
Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

July 31, 2024

Share

Firefox extensions



See: 20240731-uMatrix.pdf

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/umatrix/>

Tom Trottier

Follow Up



- Q&A 2024-07-24 Lynda presented on *YouTube Health*
- Designed to allow Google to elevate reliable health information
- I like that *YouTube Health* is trying to put integrity and trust into their system
 - how are they accomplishing this?
 - is their proposed validation correct, true, unmanipulated and how would they know/verify?
 - what safeguards are in place to ensure numbers are not manipulated by bots?

Follow Up *How YouTube Health works*



- How is *YouTube Health* “putting integrity and trust into their system”
- To be part of *YouTube Health*, content providers must (in part):
 - be a licensed medical professional (doctor, nurse, etc.) or organization
 - have a YouTube channel focused on health info with minimum numbers for views
 - apply to be part of the program

Follow Up *YouTube Health* indicators

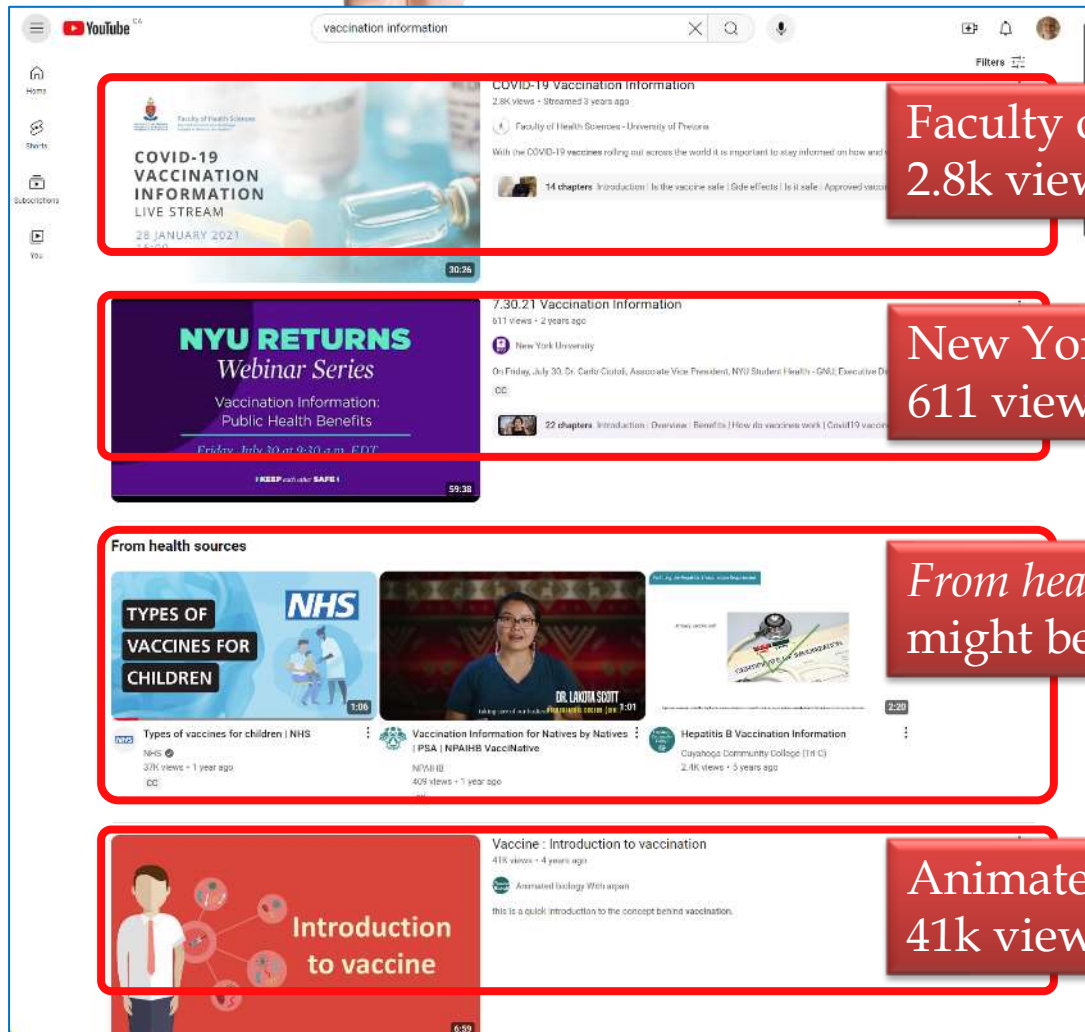
- **Why should I apply for this feature?**
 - ...your channel may be eligible to be **identified as an authoritative health source** on YouTube. Once approved, your videos will have an **information panel containing context for users that the videos they are watching are from licensed healthcare professionals**. Additionally, your videos will be **eligible to show up in our "Health Sources" shelf at or near the top of search** when users search for answers to questions about health topics.
- I could not see any difference in results from
 - Johns Hopkins Medicine – an “authoritative health source”
 - CNN news report – not likely an “authoritative health source”
 - Novartis – not sure how much I would trust info

Follow Up *YouTube Health* indicators



- What is the expected impact of being in this program on my channel and videos?
 - All of your videos will get a label that helps users understand you're licensed (if you're applying as an individual) or that your organization has a licensed healthcare professional.
 - Videos that are relevant to a user's health search will be eligible to appear on the 'from health sources shelf'
- I didn't see any "label that helps users understand you're licensed"
- I do see videos on "From health sources" shelf
 - wasn't clear to me what it meant when a video is on that shelf!

Follow Up Top results search: “vaccination information”



Faculty of Health Sciences - University of Pretoria
2.8k views over 3 years

New York University
611 views over 2 years

From health sources shelf
might be best indicator of trusted information

Animated biology With Arpan
41k views over 4 years

- Two from recognizable sources
- All with pitifully low views over long periods
- I only *think* **From health sources** actually means anything from reading about *YouTube Health*

Follow Up Opaque background processes

- *YouTube Health* may be elevating content from obviously reliable sources such as Johns Hopkins Medicine, American Heart Association, Ontario Medical Association, etc.
 - but do I know and see evidence of this? Not so much.
- There is health information ranking high on YouTube that is not so obviously reliable
 - e.g. people claiming to be doctors with millions of views
- Processes behind ranking on YouTube are not clear
 - and may never be!

Follow Up The Bot problem



- Appears *views* – at least in part – influence rankings
- What is to prevent someone from increasing ranking by having bots artificially elevate *views*?
- Can bots be detected?
- Note: this part applies to more than just *YouTube Health*

Follow Up Can bots be detected?



- Asked Perplexity.AI
 - *Is there any way to know if YouTube “views” numbers have been inflated by bots?*
- Indicators can suggest a YouTube video's view count may have been artificially inflated by bots
- No single factor is definitive proof

Follow Up Can bots be detected?

1. Subscriber-to-view ratio: subscriber-to-view ratio typically 8-12%. If a channel with 10,000 subscribers consistently gets 7,000+ views per video, it may be suspicious.
2. Engagement metrics: Videos with artificially inflated views often lack corresponding engagement in the form of likes, comments, or shares. A high view count with very few likes or comments can be a red flag.
3. Audience retention: Bots typically only “watch” videos for a very short time. If the audience retention graph shows a sharp drop-off in the first few seconds, it could indicate bot activity.
4. Traffic sources: In YouTube Analytics, an unusually high percentage of views from external sources (especially from a single country) can be suspicious. For example, if 98% of views come from an external source in India, it may indicate bot activity.

Follow Up Can bots be detected?



5. Sudden spikes in views: Rapid, unexplained increases in view count that don't correspond with promotional efforts or viral sharing can be a sign of bot activity.
6. Inconsistent growth: If a channel's subscriber count remains stagnant while view counts skyrocket, it could indicate artificial inflation.
7. Low watch time: Despite high view counts, if the overall watch time for videos is low, it may suggest bot activity.
8. Unusual viewer demographics: If the viewer demographics don't align with the content or target audience, it could be a sign of bot activity.

Follow Up Can bots be detected?

- Indicators can raise suspicions
- YouTube actively works to detect and remove invalid traffic
- As bot technology evolves, detection becomes an ongoing challenge for platforms like YouTube
- References:
 - https://www.reddit.com/r/youtubegaming/comments/15su83k/exposing_viewbots_when_fan_behavior_raises/
 - <https://www.clickcease.com/blog/all-about-view-bots/>
 - <https://prodvigate.com/blog/why-youtube-is-reducing-views-and-how-to-avoid-this/>
 - <https://www.monetizemore.com/blog/viewbotting/>
 - <https://youtu.be/9MqNdvZ7wYA>

Follow Up Conclusions



- Is *YouTube Health* helping people find reliable health information on YouTube?
 - there are few clear indicators...at least for now
- Is *YouTube Health* a work in progress?
 - hopefully
 - would be nice to see the promised clear labels such as *licensed healthcare professional* or *authoritative health source*
- Should we be concerned that bots are elevating rankings of false or questionable information?
 - appears Google is doing lots to prevent this
- Big thanks to Lynda for bringing forward *YouTube Health* info and Karen for asking follow up questions
 - looking into it more was an interesting rabbit hole!
 - ...and isn't that what Q&A is all about?

Share

Syncing Google calendar across devices

- I wasn't seeing certain subscribed Google calendars on my Android phone although theses were appearing on my desktop
- A YouTube video provided the solution



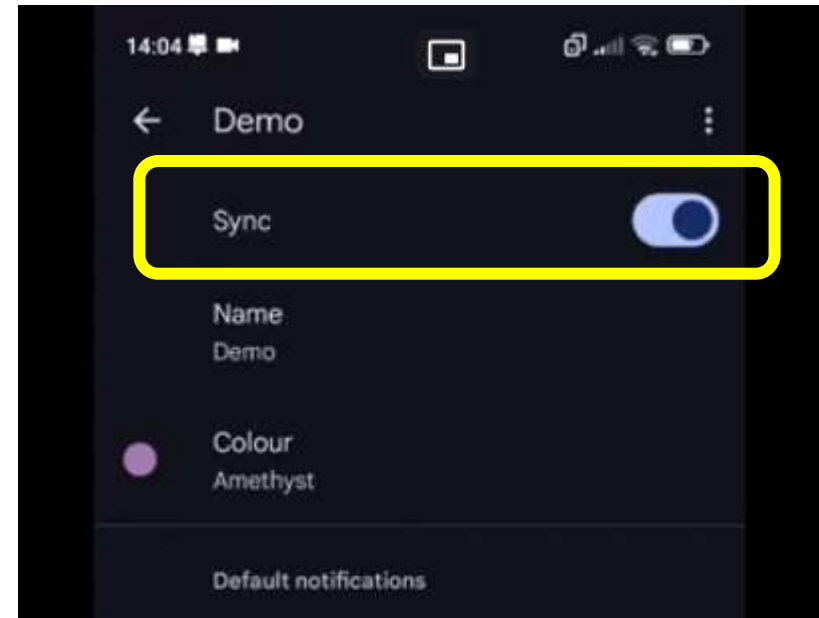
Calendars are missing in the Google Calendar Mobile App

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p5WjG1Tx5s>

Karen Wallace-Graner

In the Calendar app:

- Select *Settings*
- Select *Show more*
- Select desired calendar
- Enable *Sync*



Share

Copy without site tracking

- Right-click on a link in Firefox
- Menu option is “Copy without site tracking”
- Mozilla Support:
 - Firefox Version 120 and later
 - Feature is automatically enabled
 - Safeguards users against URL-based tracking
 - Strips tracking parameters from any copied URL.



<https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/enhanced-tracking-protection-firefox-desktop>

Karen Wallace-Graner

Follow Up Customize browsers' *New tab*

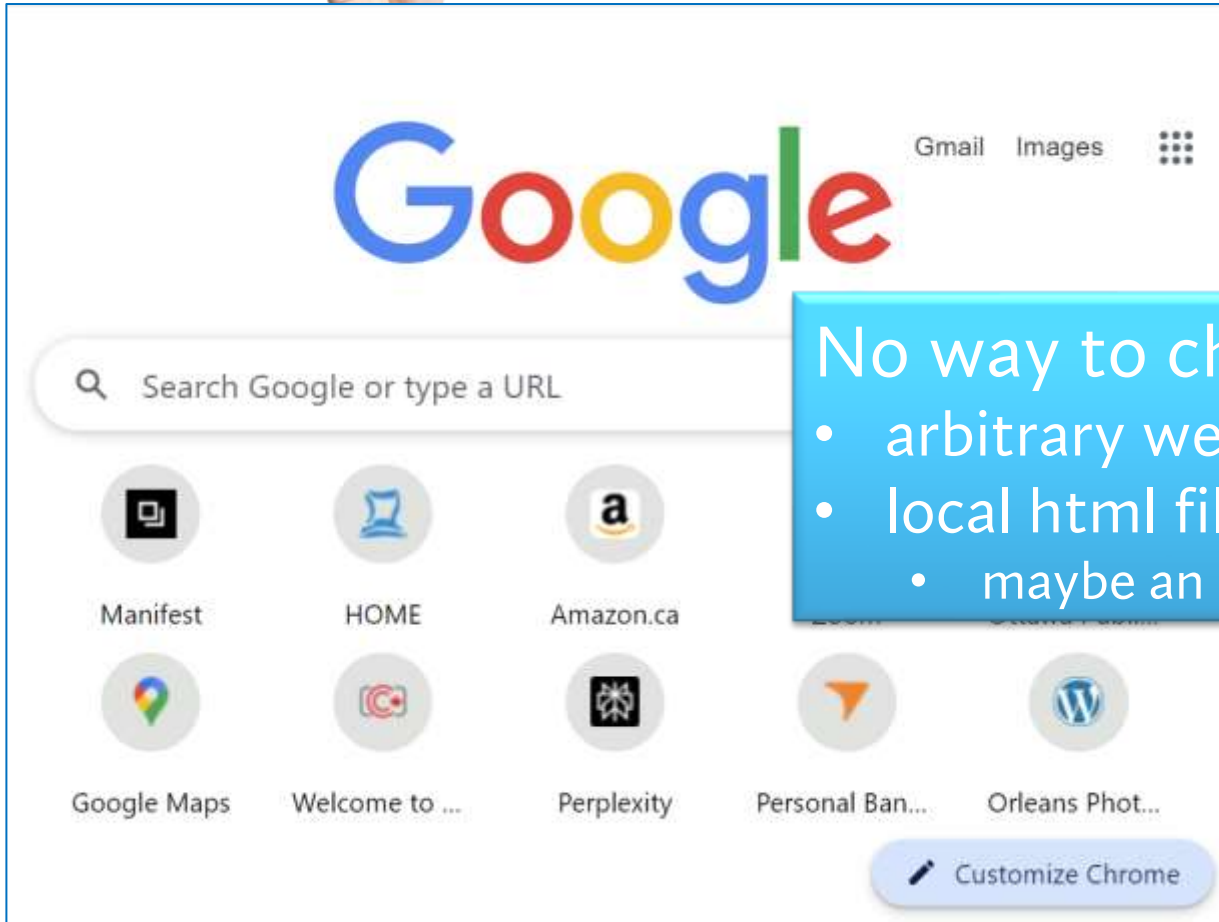
- Q&A 2024-07-24: Manifest browser note taker
 - create note by browsing to <https://manifest.app>
 - bookmark, Home page, icon on Chrome's *New tab* page, etc.
- What if you want Manifest to appear when you create a *New tab*?
- What if you want *New tab* to display a different specific web page or local HTML file
- **Modern web browsers prevent this**
 - notable exception: Vivaldi
Settings > Tabs > New Tab Page

[Share](#) ☐ Manifest browser note taker

- Way cool method to keep ad-hoc notes
- Free and open source
- Access like any website – works in any web browser
- Notes automatically saved
 - everything saved locally
 - nothing sent to other sites/computers
- Can set as your *Home* page for added convenience
 - options: bookmark, bookmark bar, Google *new tab* page, etc



Follow Up Google Chrome's *New tab* page



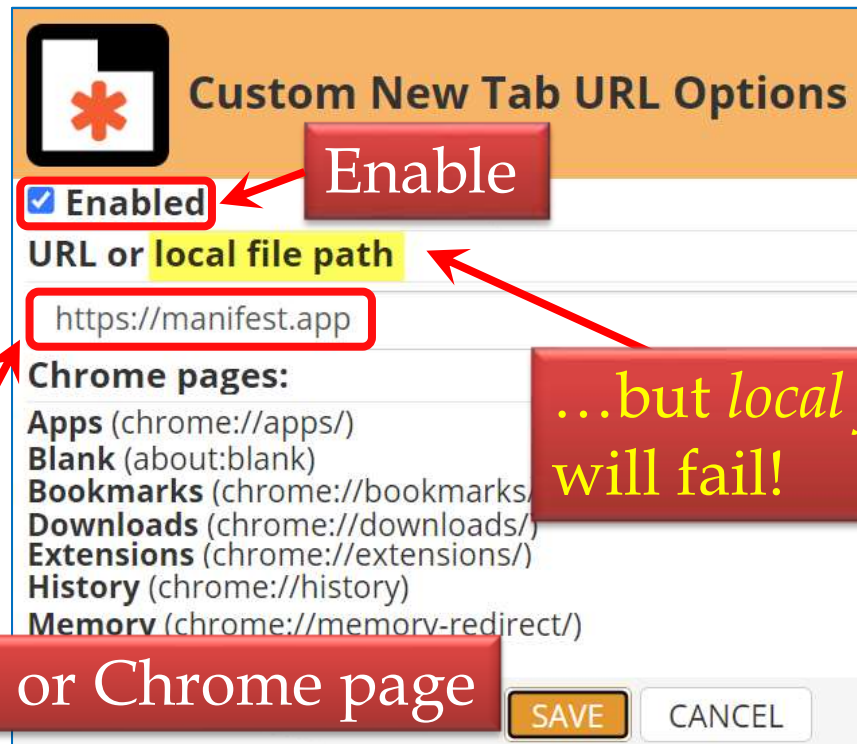
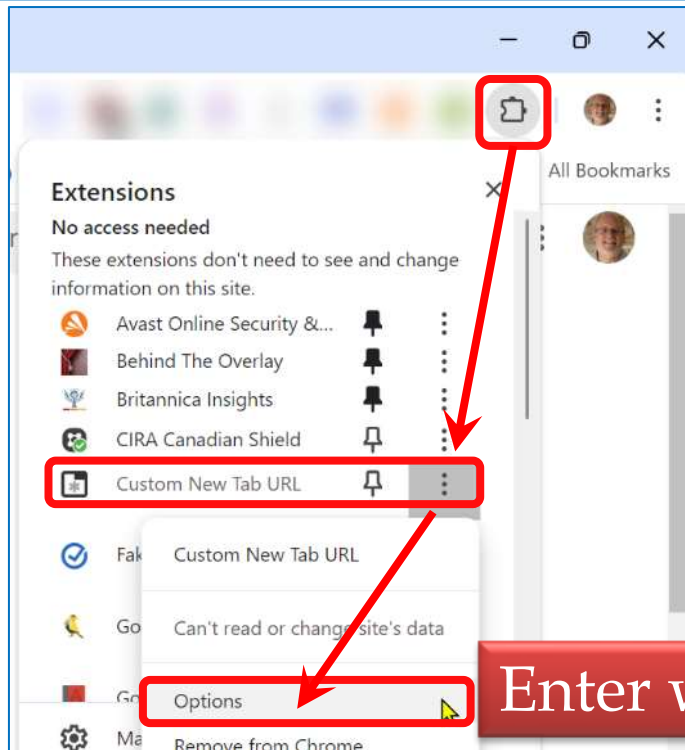
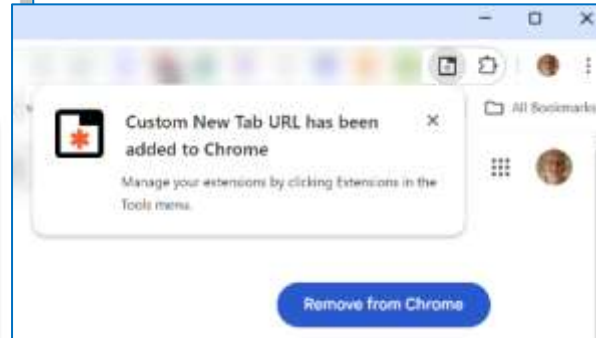
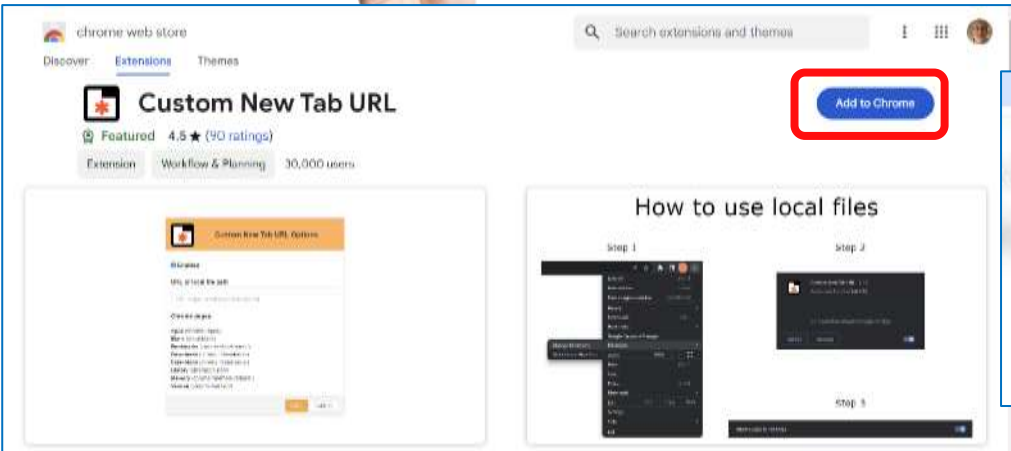
No way to change to

- arbitrary web site
- local html file
 - maybe an index to your most frequent sites

Custom New Tab URL
browser extension to the rescue!

Follow Up

Custom New Tab URL



...but local file path will fail!

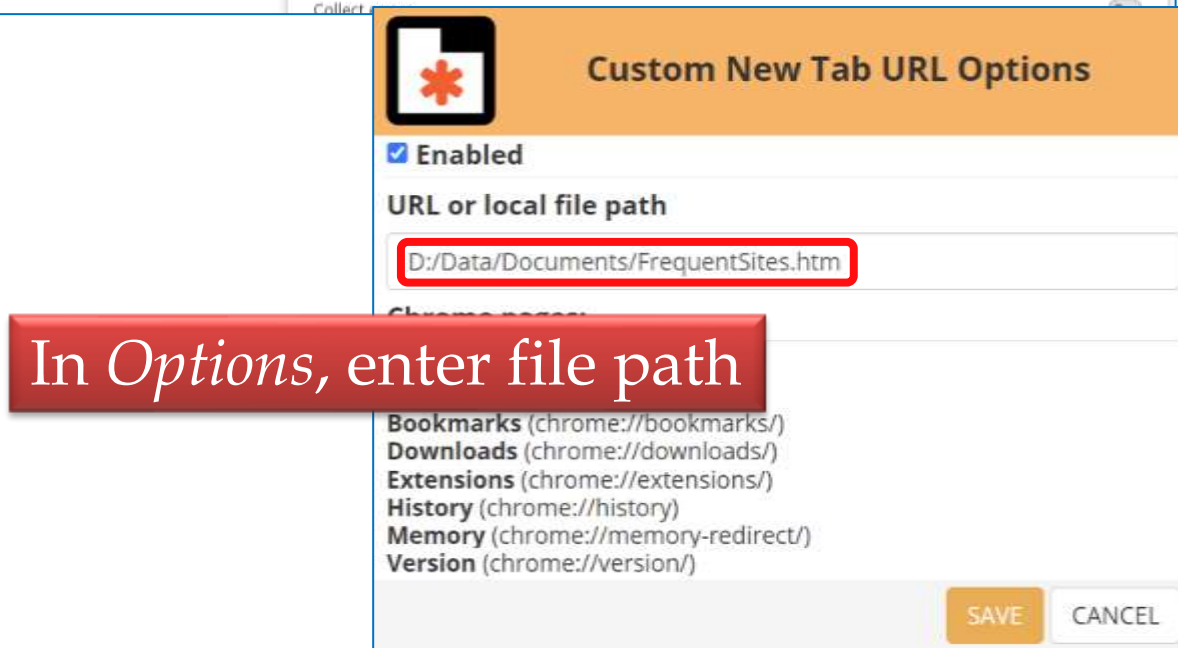
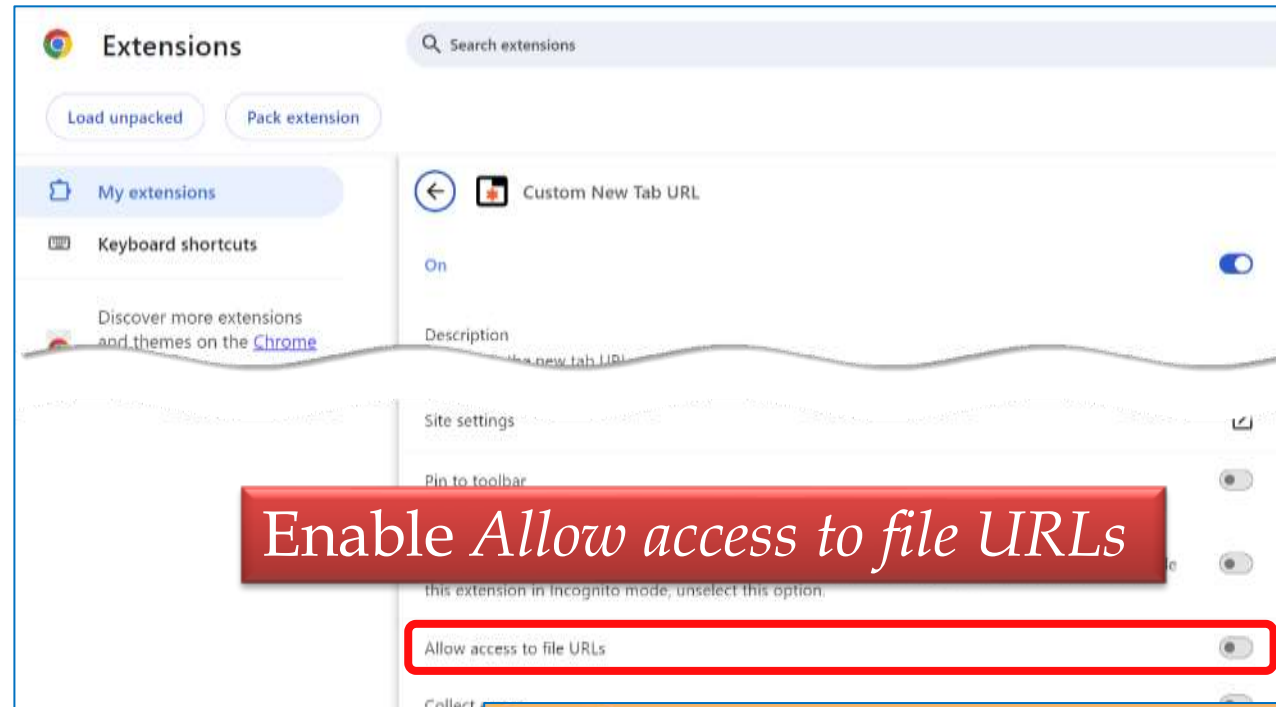
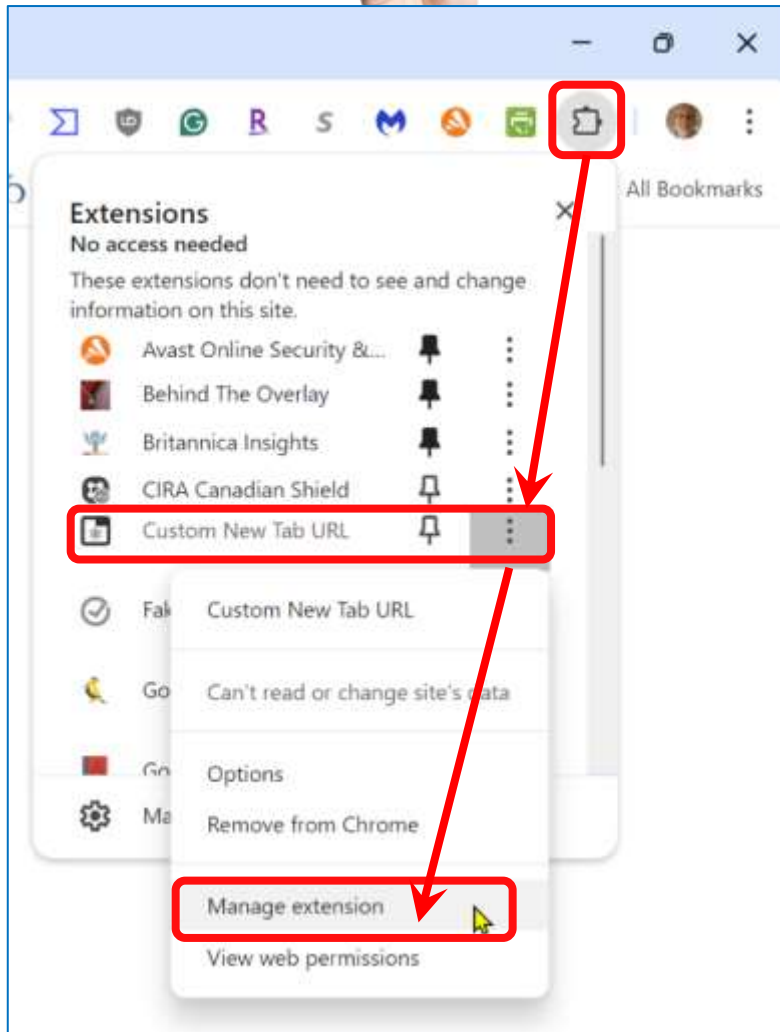
Enter web site or Chrome page

SAVE

CANCEL

<https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/custom-new-tab-url/mmjdbbjnoablegbkcklggeknkfcjkja>

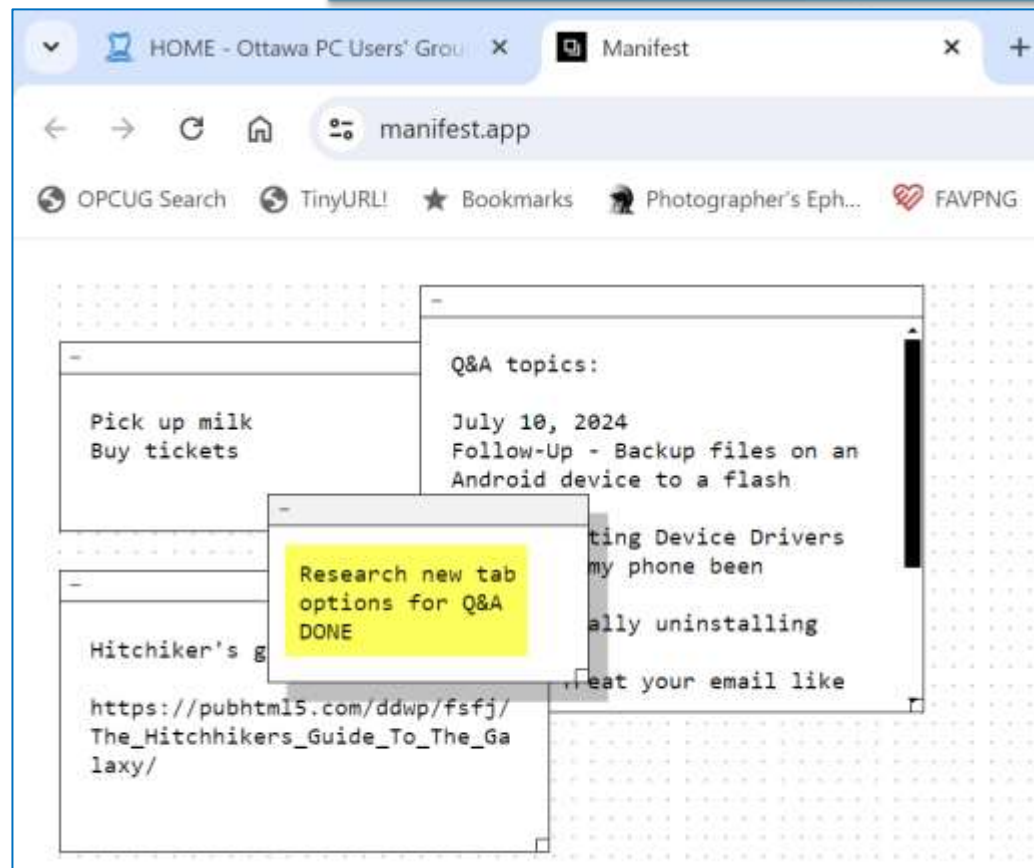
Follow Up *New tab access to a local file*



Follow Up Examples

- <https://manifest.app>
 - *Manifest* note browser note taker (Q&A 2024-07-24)
- <https://opcug.ca>
 - your favourite web page
- D:/Data/Index.htm
 - local file
 - web page with links to all your favourite sites
 - ???

My **New tab** in Chrome

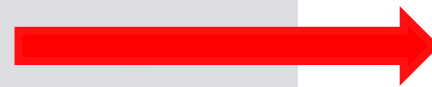
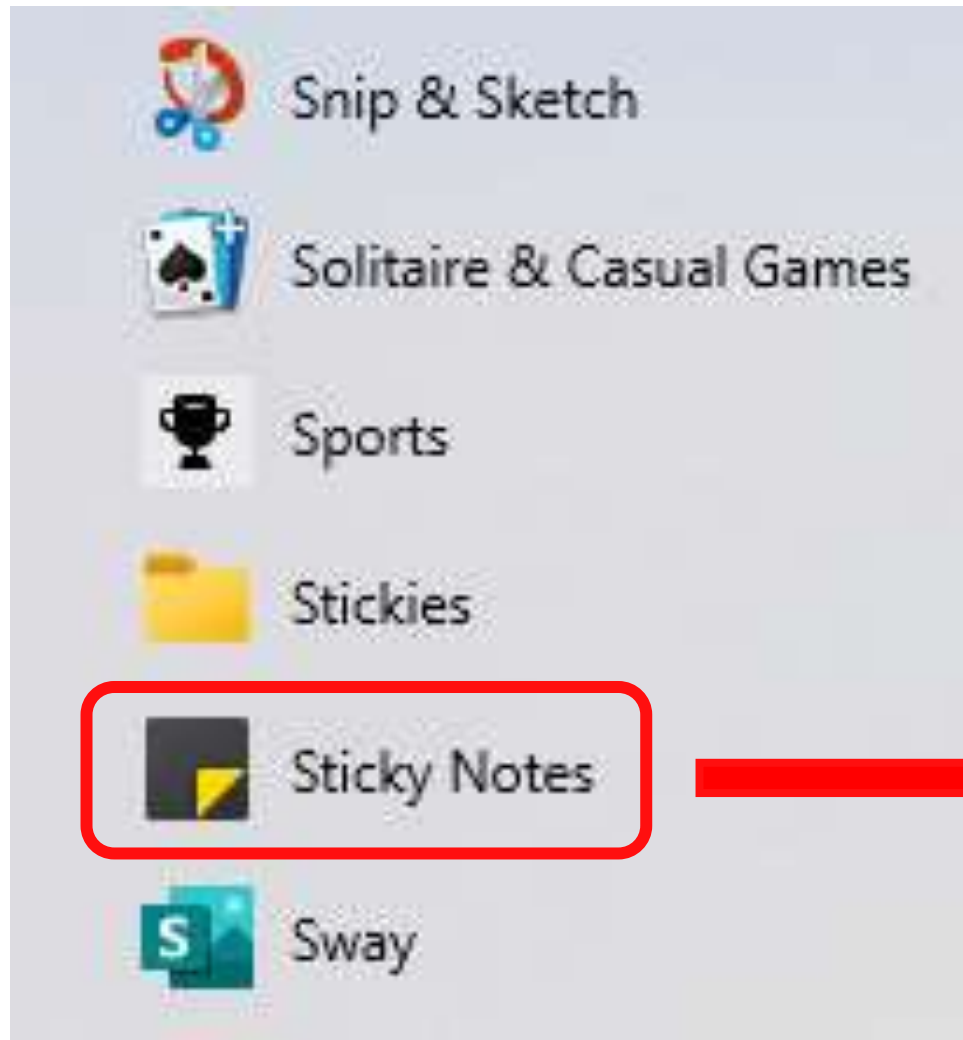


Follow Up Other browsers

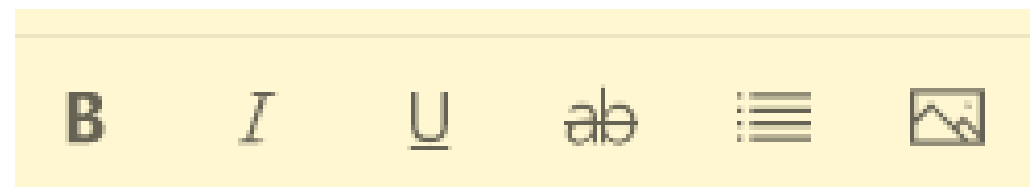
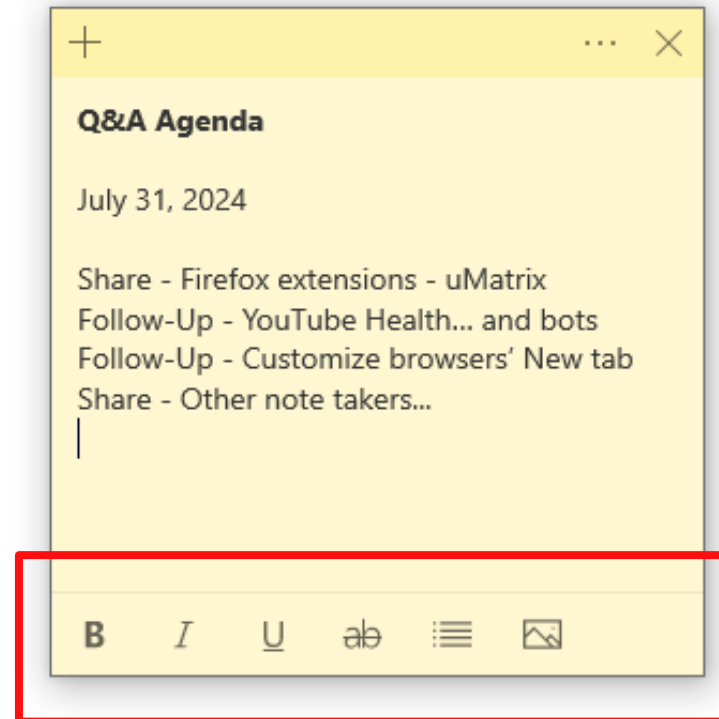
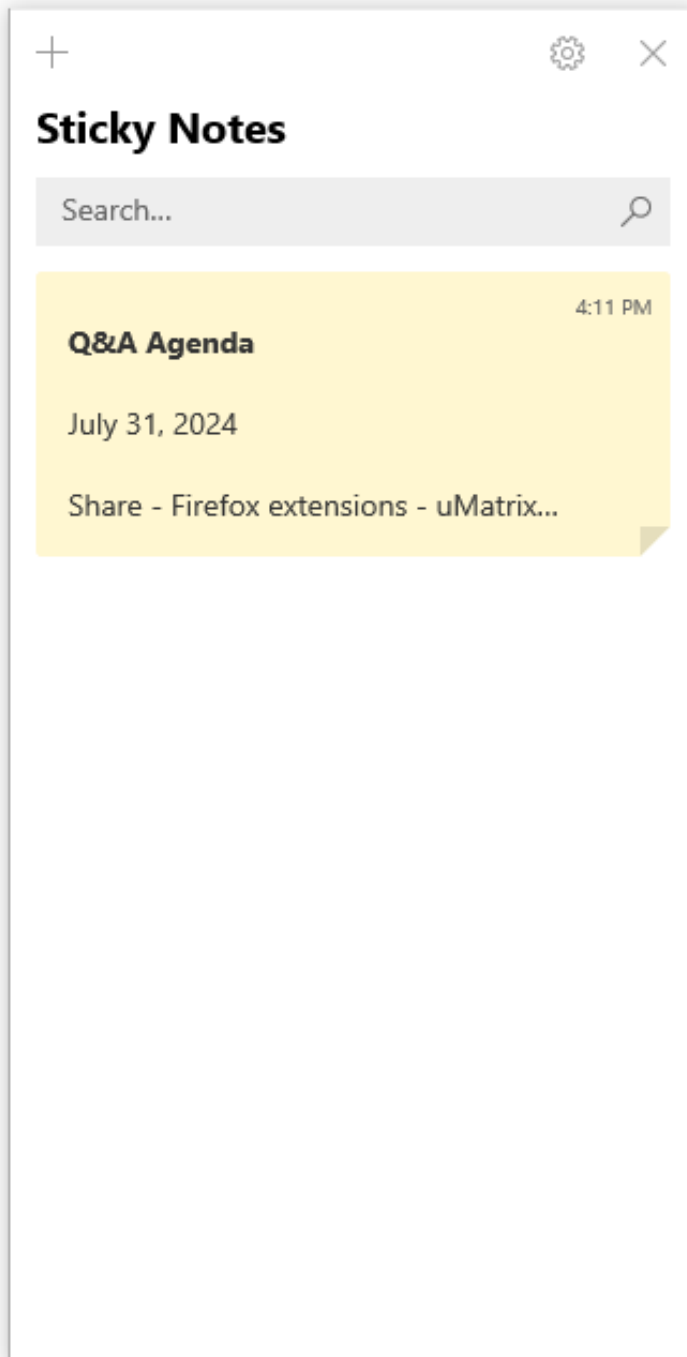
- *Custom New Tab URL* works in some browsers based on Chromium engine
 - works for Edge, Brave, maybe others
 - browse to link in Chrome Web Store using the browser you want extension added to
 - <https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/custom-new-tab-url/mmjbdbjnoablegbkcklggeknkfcjkja>
 - doesn't work in Opera
- Firefox
 - *Custom New Tab Page* extension
 - <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/custom-new-tab-page/>
 - note: doesn't allow access to local files

Share

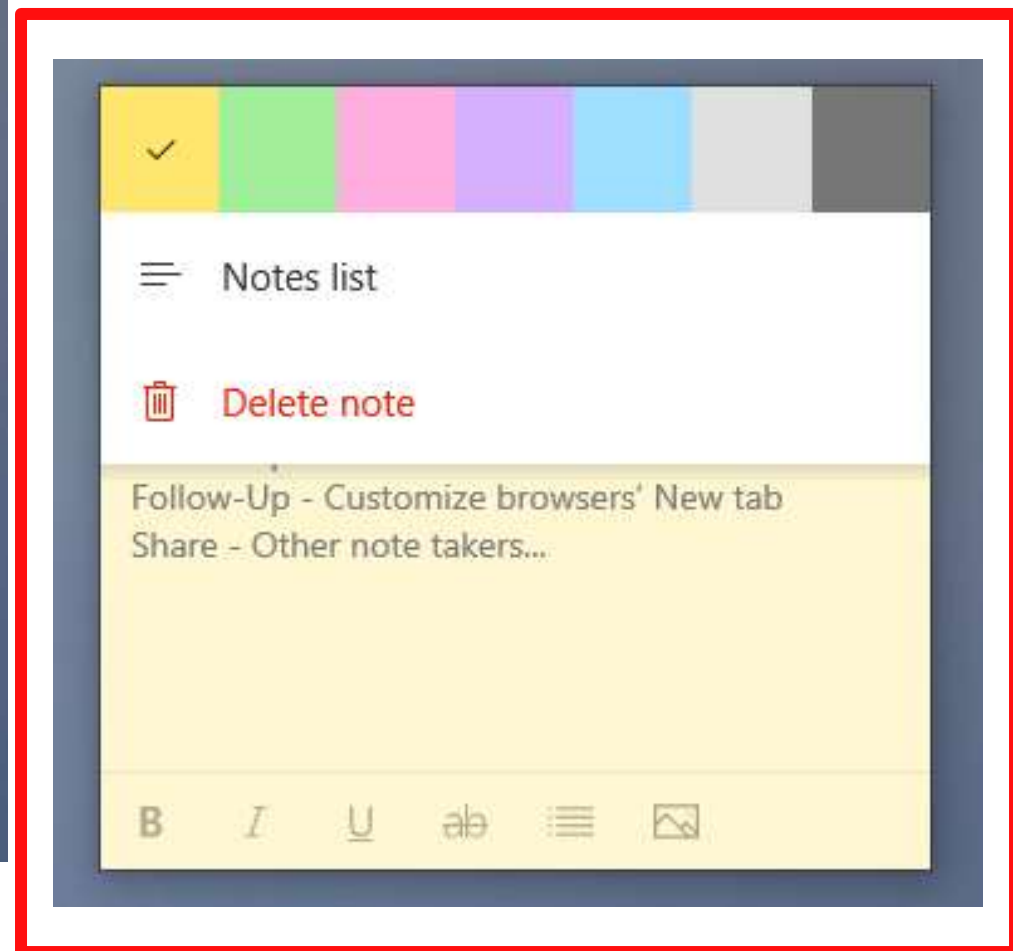
Other note takers...



Windows utility



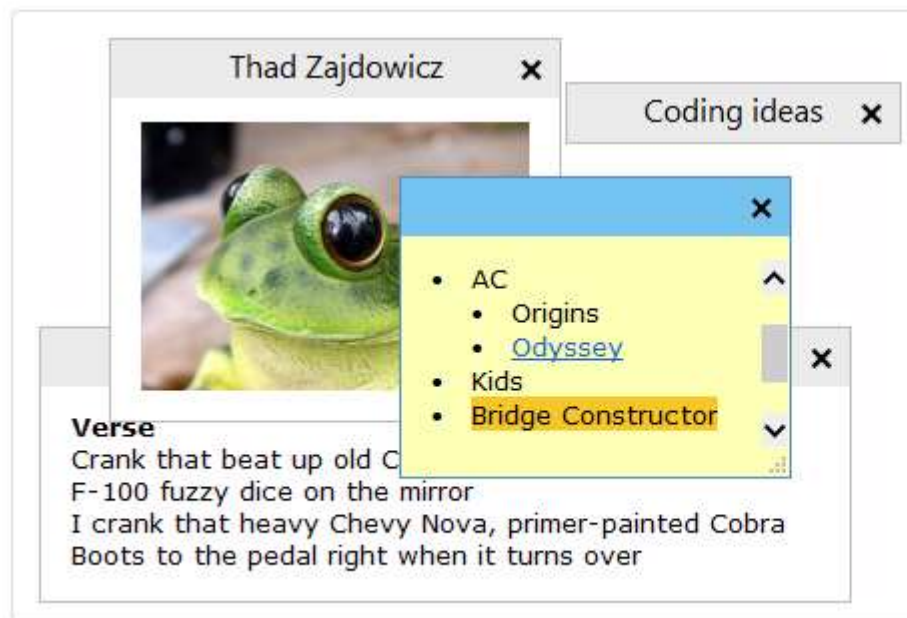
Notes List



Stickies

What is Stickies?

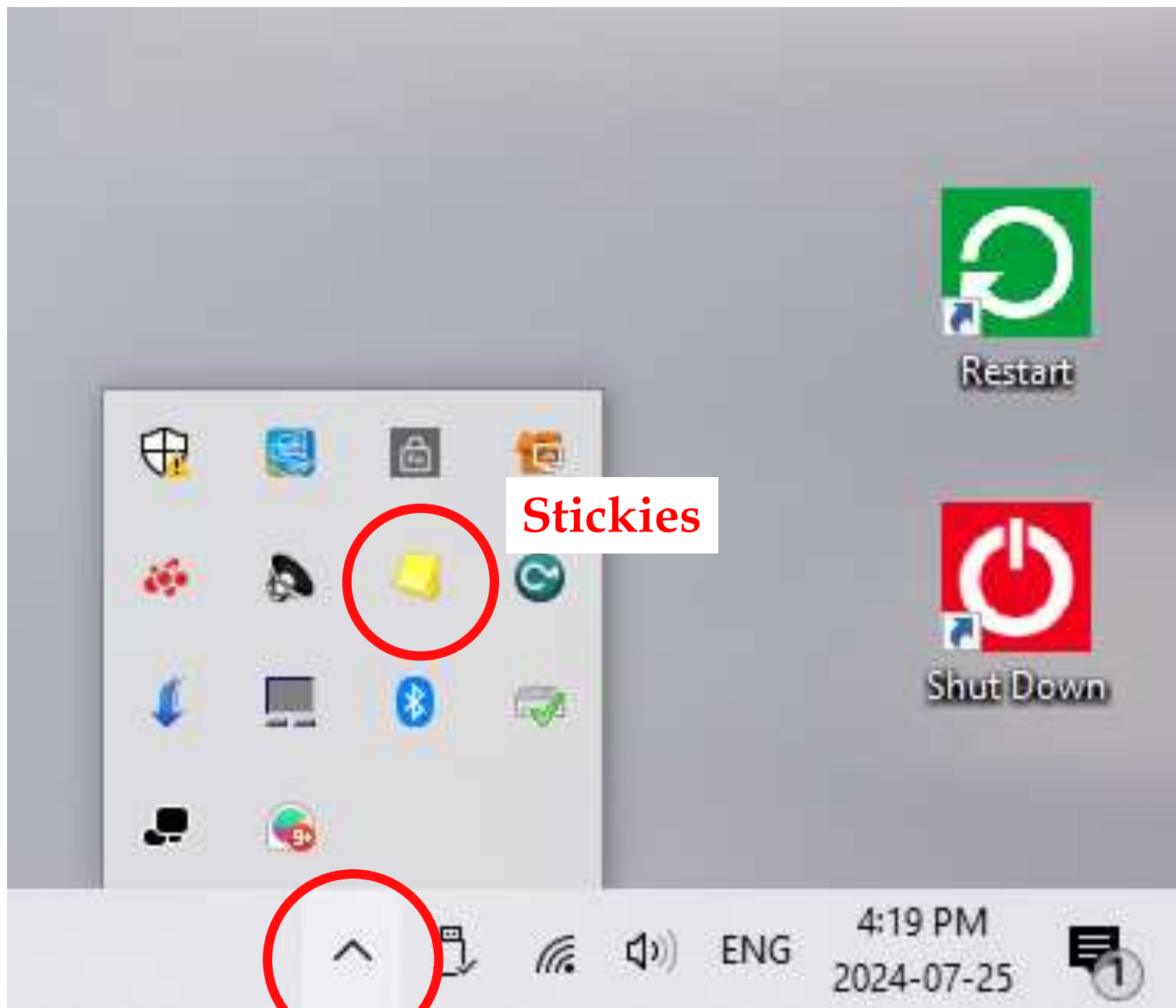
Stickies is a PC utility I wrote to try to cut down on the number of yellow notes I was leaving stuck to my monitor. It is a computerised version of those notes.



<https://www.zhornsoftware.co.uk/stickies/>

Features include:

- Completely free
- Customize fonts, colours, buttons, styles
- Multiple skins available
- Resize notes
- Display text or images
- Set wake-up times and alarms
- Support for multiple character sets
- Notes remain in place until closed, even through reboots
- Snap notes to each other and to the sides of the screen to keep them neatly lined up
- Transfer notes between computers



Stickies

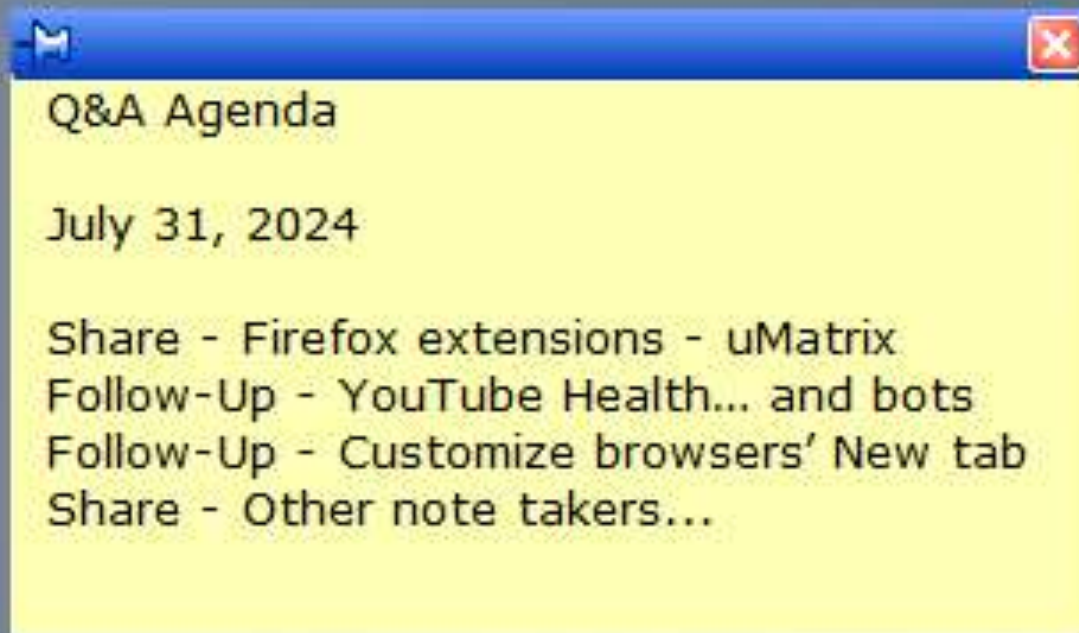
-  **New note** **Ctrl+N**
- New note from >
-  New stick
- Set all >
-  Show / Hide all
-  Rescue offscreen
-  Manage notes... Ctrl+M
-  Friends... Ctrl+Shift+F
-  Settings... Ctrl+O
-  Stickies help... F1
-  About Stickies v10.1d...
-  Exit Alt+F4



ENG

4:20 PM
2024-07-25





homesite4

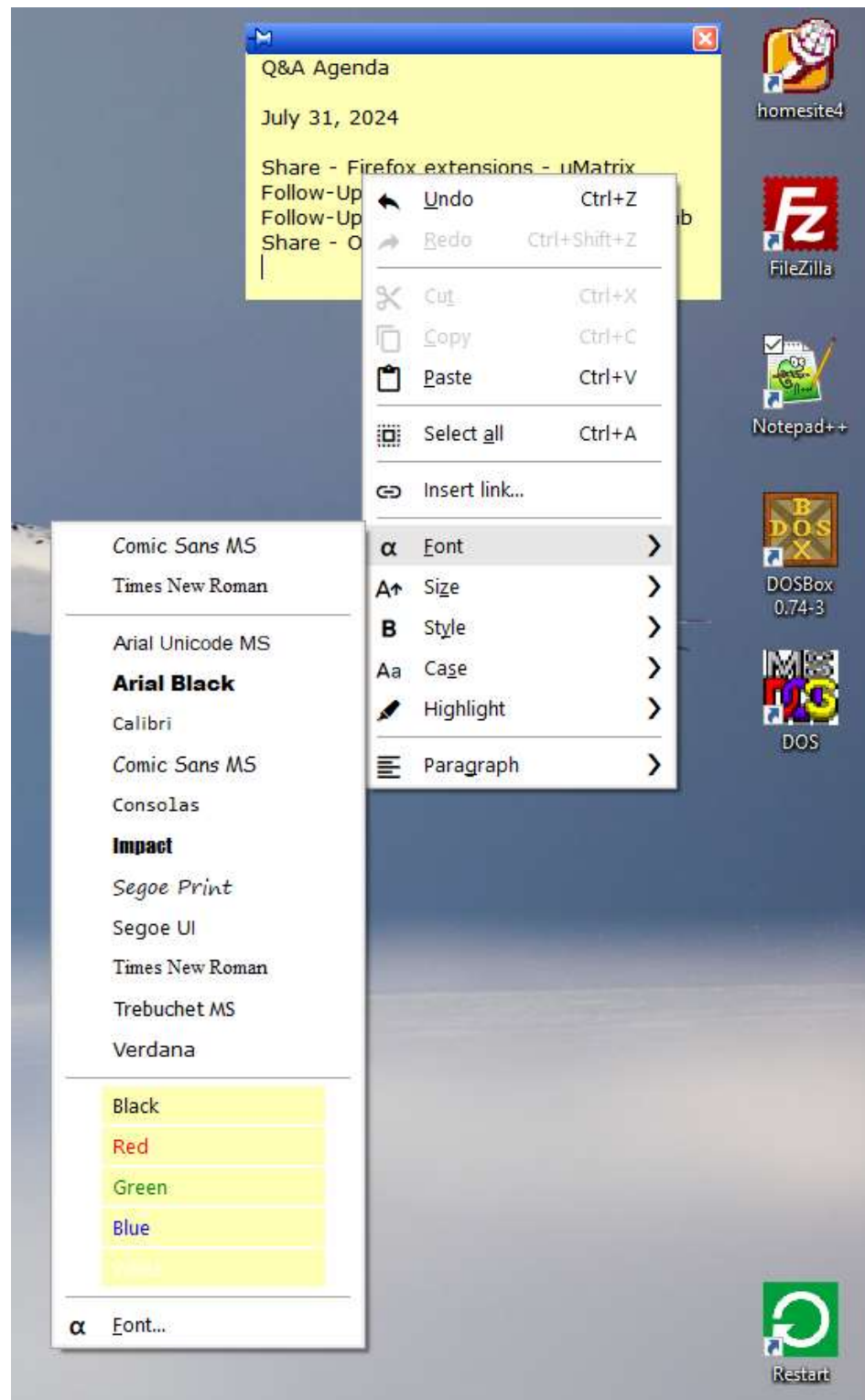


FileZilla



Notepad++

Right-click > Font





Q&A Agenda

July 31, 2024

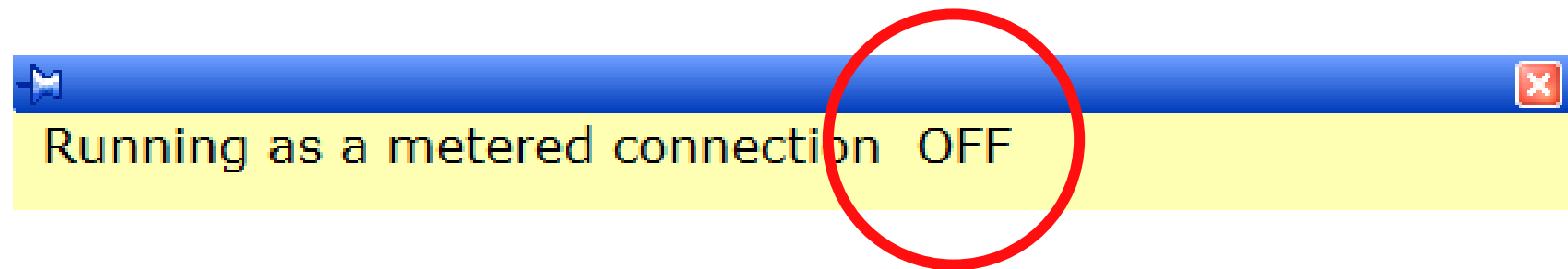
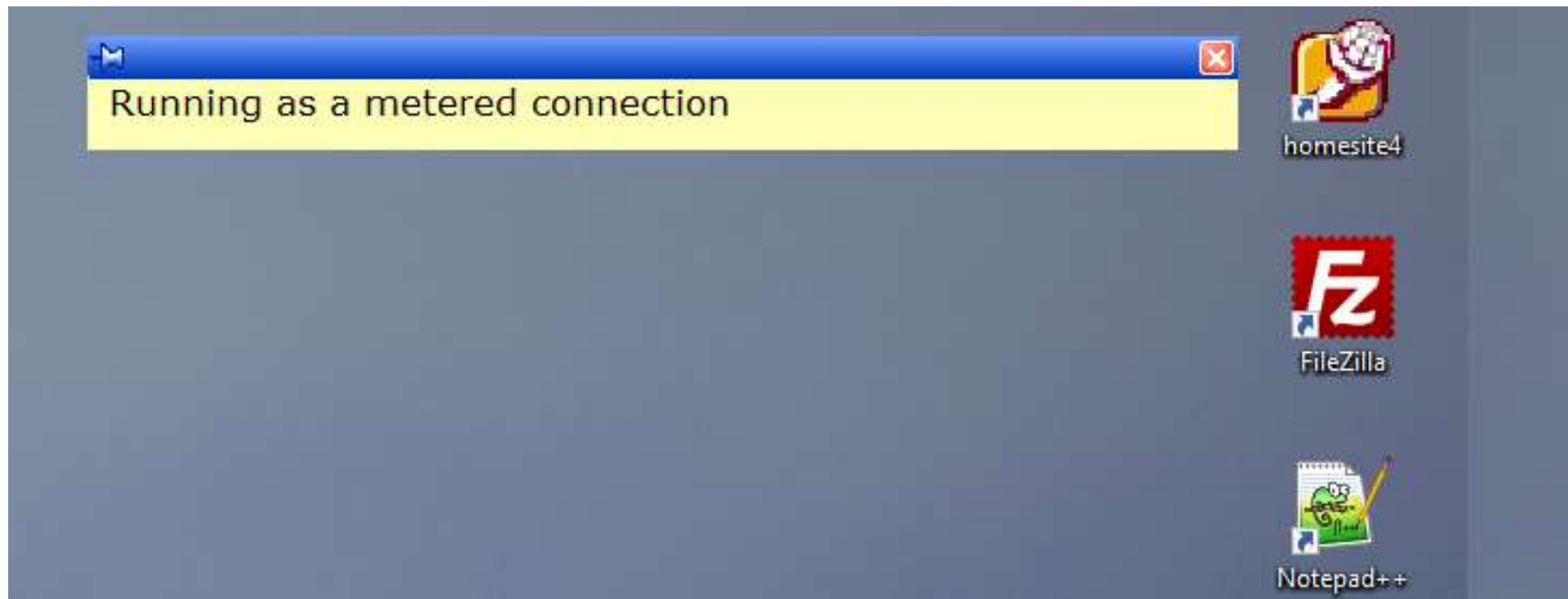
Share - Firefox extensions - uMatrix

Follow-Up - YouTube Health... and bots

Follow-Up - Customize browsers' New tab

Share - Other note takers...

|



Share

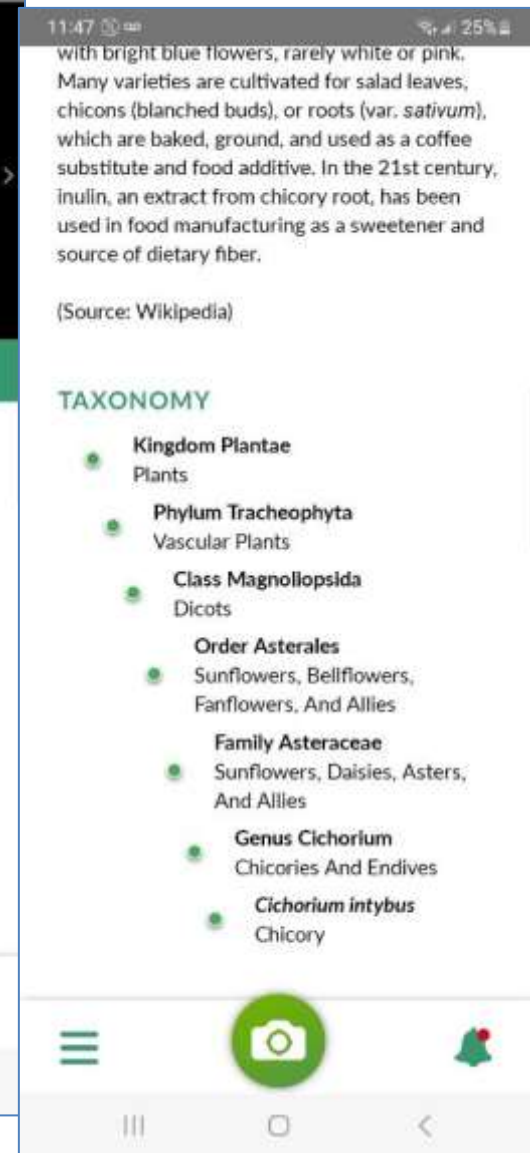
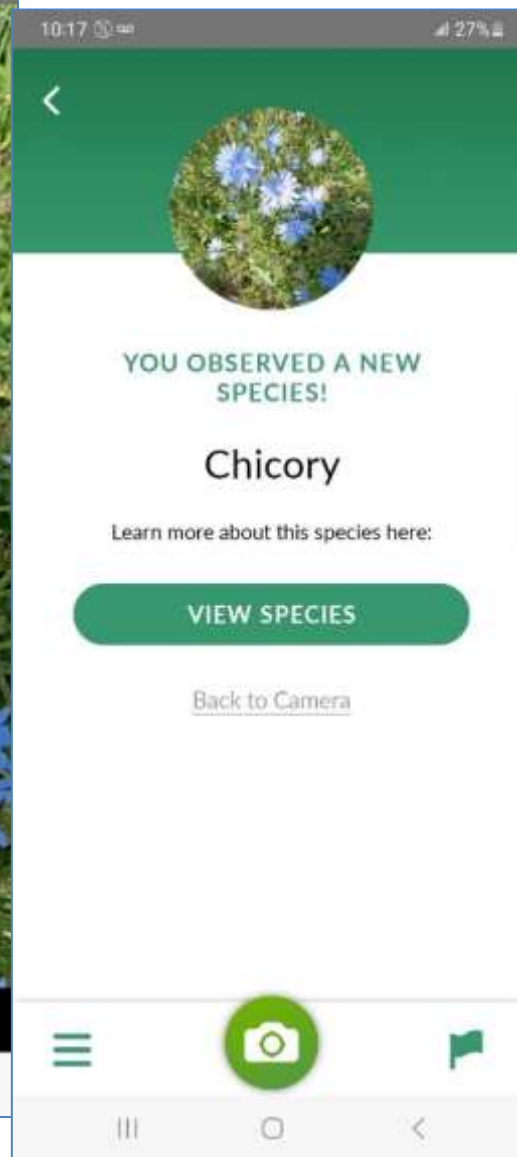
Seek by iNaturalist for Android & iOS



- Identify plants and animals
- Free app with no ads
- No Internet required
- Optional
 - collect badges & complete challenges
 - upload image to iNaturalist
 - crowd-sourced citizen-scientists may identify unknown species
 - you can contribute data on what you have found with one click
- User guide:
 - https://static.inaturalist.org/wiki_page_attachments/3356-original.pdf
- Clear privacy note
 - no data shared with 3rd parties
 - minimal data collected (location: optional, photos & videos, email address)
 - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/datasafety?id=org.inaturalist.seek>

https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app

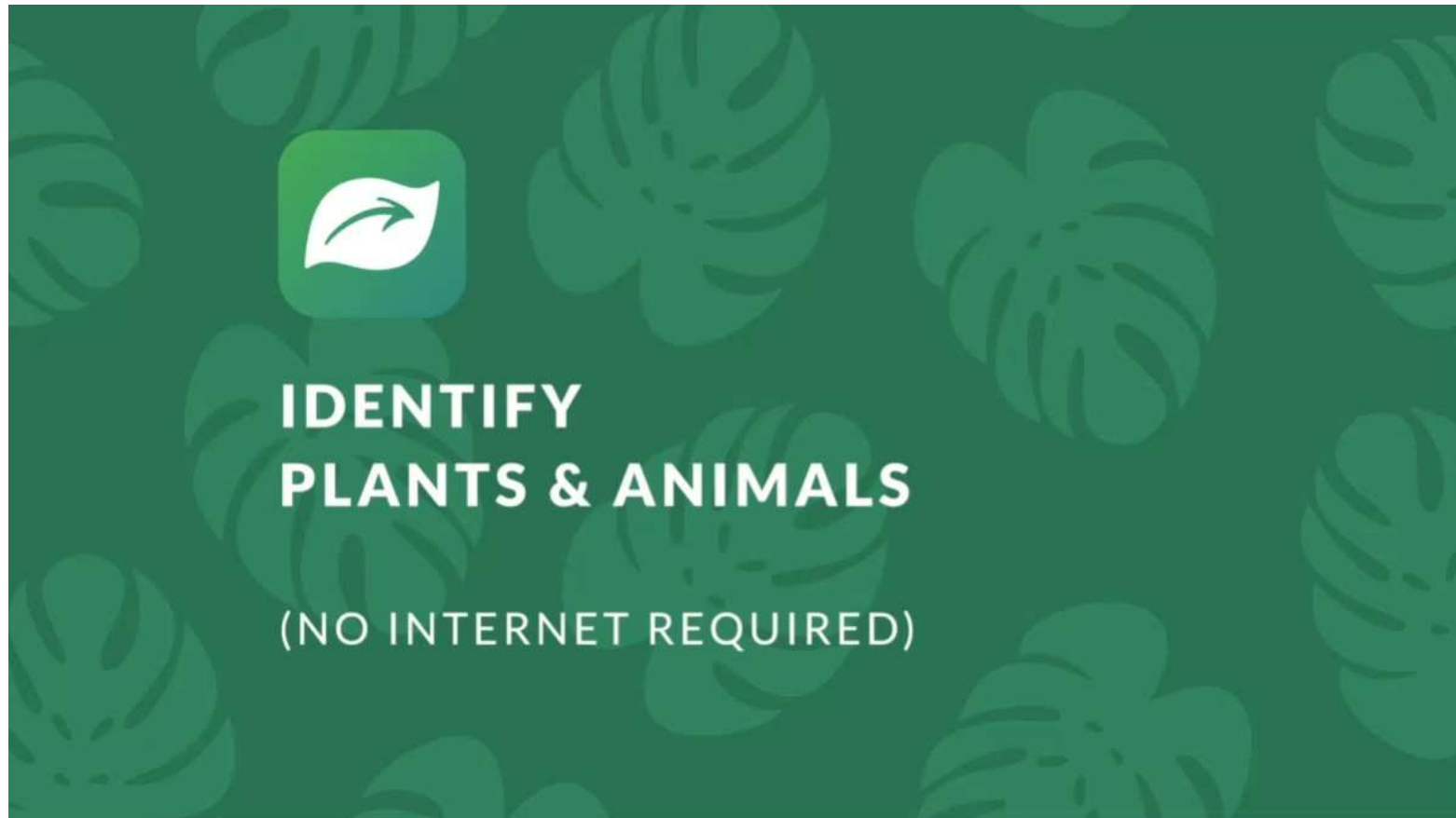
Share



Share

Seek by iNaturalist

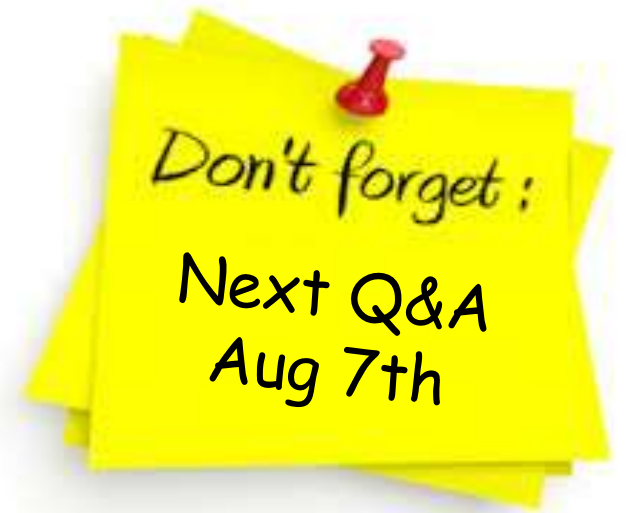
https://youtu.be/i56_R8z1N28



Additional 11-minute video by a user
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsBnkOX0Lxo>



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

** Questions, comments, and shares can be anonymous if requested*