



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

September 25, 2024

Follow Up One-on-one remote assistance

Follow Up

One-on-one remote assistance

- The BOD is considering implementing a programme of one-on-one remote assistance
- We are looking for volunteers with expertise in a range of "e" topics
- Expertise can be specific (e.g. MS Word, Thunderbird) or general (e.g. computer security)
- Aim is to be able to match expertise to requests for assistance

Discussed at Q&A

Can you help?



Page 3

CLUB LIFE

User-Helping-User

In a slight twist on the traditional idea of user-helping-user, we are looking for computer-related knowledge and expertise to help send an E-mail message to the BOD.

A poll of participants was conducted to gauge the idea of one-on-one support. The levels of interest in specific types of support were seen to be quite broad as shown in the following table:

Issue	%
Windows operating system and/or the Office Suite	79
Issues with free or proprietary software	72
Networking (e.g. browsing, downloading, uploading)	66
Hardware issues (e.g. desktop, laptop, printer, router)	79
Other	34



Remote assistance anyone?

Clearly, in order to be meaningful, requests for assistance will need to be much more specific than "I would like help with Windows" and the programme has been implemented. Individual's expertise will be matched to specific details of the request.

We are ready to launch!

Follow Up One-on-one logistics

- Consider whether your issue might be appropriate for a regular Q&A session
 - may be able to draw from experience of many members
 - we can all learn from issues others are having
- If you want to request one-on-one remote assistance
 - send email to **1on1request@opcug.ca** with your request
 - include
 - membership info (e.g. name & address in our membership database)
 - service only available to members
 - as much information as possible about your situation
 - (copious) details on issue, OS version, error messages, etc.
 - info on what you have tried to resolve your issue
 - results from your attempts
 - email address and phone number to contact you

Follow Up Behind the scenes



- Your request for assistance will be distributed to those who have indicated a willingness to provide assistance
- If someone thinks they can help, they will contact you directly
 - you will be informed if nobody thinks they can provide one-on-one remote assistance for your issue
- You and the person offering assisting will work out details on when and how to connect for remote assistance
- Both you and person offering assistance are expected to provide feedback on the service at 1on1request@opcug.ca

Follow Up Musings and mutterings

- **This service is only available to members**
- This is something totally new we are providing
 - please be patient...and maybe expect hiccups
- Neither the OPCUG nor the person offering assistance can or will accept responsibility for a negative outcome
 - we can't promise we will be able to fix your problem
 - bad things can happen: **make sure you can recover from any misadventure**
- We really do want feedback on the initiative
- **Only make requests through lon1request@opcug.ca**
 - automated processes are tied to that email address

Follow Up



Set up a Local AI like ChatGPT
on your own machine!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYhC7nFRL5I>



YouTubeTech

**OpenAi o1 is Amazing - It will have a
HUGE Impact on EVERYONE in Tech**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybMKlwgkNO0>

- Advanced model from OpenAI
- “Reasoning” model - thinks before it answers!
- Displays the thinking process
- Three models
 - o1 (future production version)
 - o1-preview (available now*)
 - o1-mini** (technology specific, e.g. programming)

** Plus, team, enterprise and education users*

API developers

Third-party services (e.g. Microsoft Azure AI Studio)

*** o1-mini to be available to free users in the future*

If it takes 3 hours for 3 towels to dry in the sun, how long does it take 9 towels to dry?



Thought for a couple of seconds ^

Assessing drying dynamics

I'm thinking through the drying method. If 3 towels dry in 3 hours, the 9 towels would also dry in 3 hours since drying time is unaffected by the number of towels.

Each towel dries in 3 hours, regardless of the number of towels being dried simultaneously. If you can dry all 9 towels at the same time, they will all be dry in 3 hours. Therefore, it takes 3 hours to dry 9 towels.

Answer: 3 hours.



YouTubeTech

GPT-o1: The Best Model I've Ever Tested 🍓 I Need New Tests!



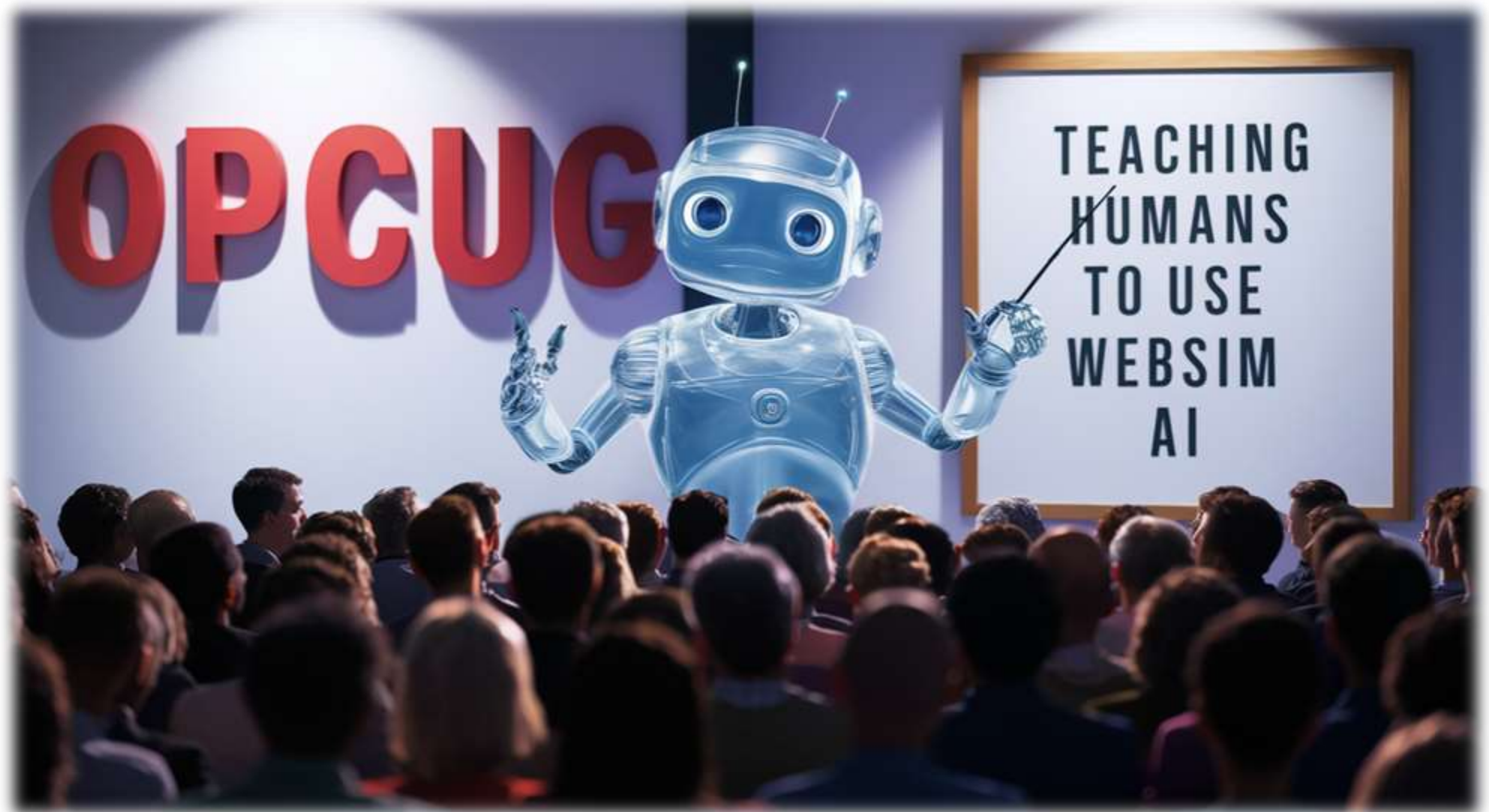
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbrfjBV8EzM>

Share

websim

websim.ai

Q&A



First, I want to thank Tom Trottier, for sharing websim.ai on the Forum in June 2024.

Websim.ai is a multifunctional tool.

I'd like to share...

How I've been using it, on a regular basis.

I've been using Websim
to **“Read Graphics”**

I now realize... this is called...
"Image to Text"
or
"AI Image Captioning"





If you saw a “Cool Image” like this online, how would *you* recreate something similar, or maybe even better?

I use a Free Screen Capture Tool:

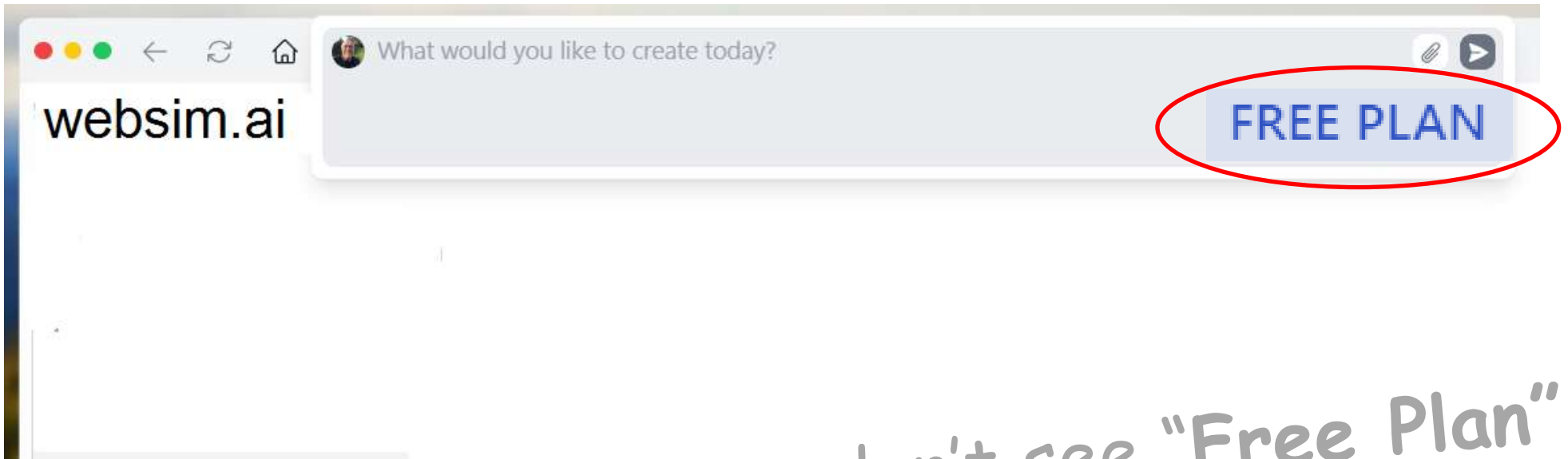
GREENSHOT



Please watch
carefully...

1 websim.ai

*"Sign in" with
Google etc.*

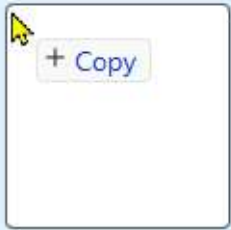


If you don't see "Free Plan"
you are not Signed-In

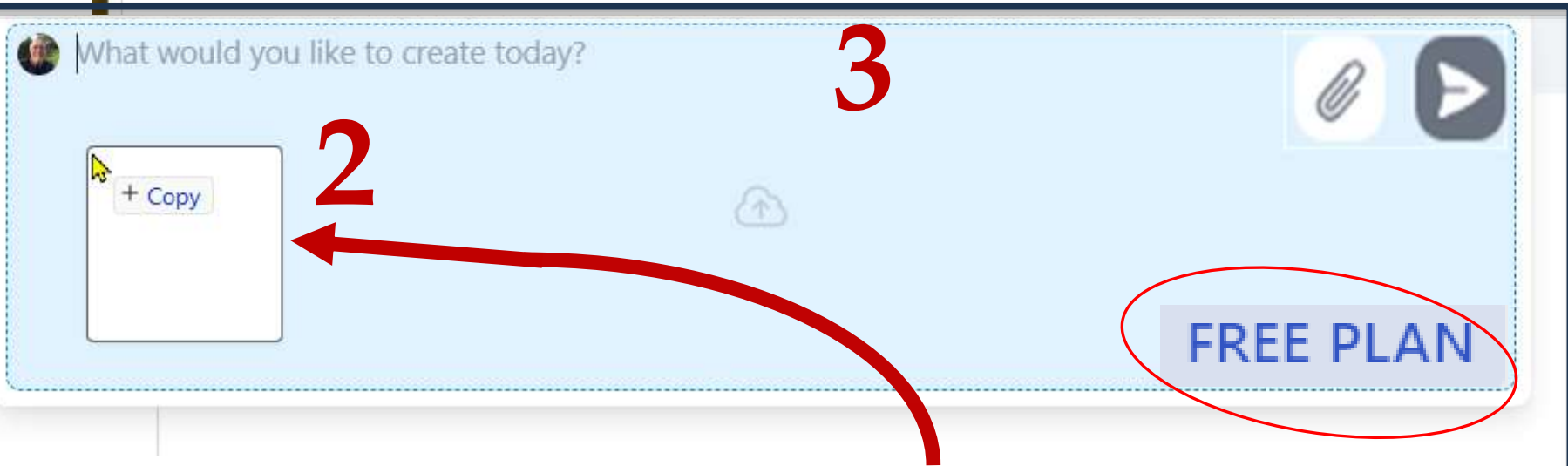
1



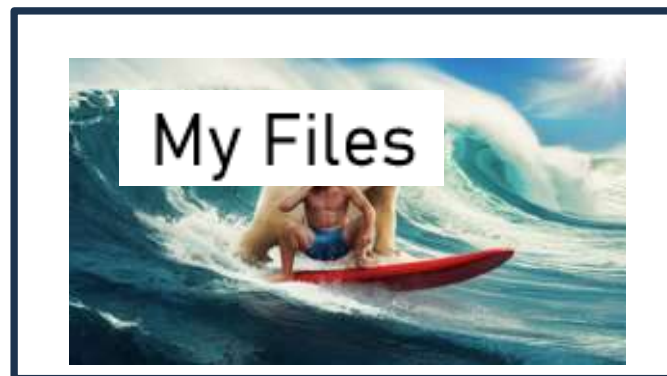
2

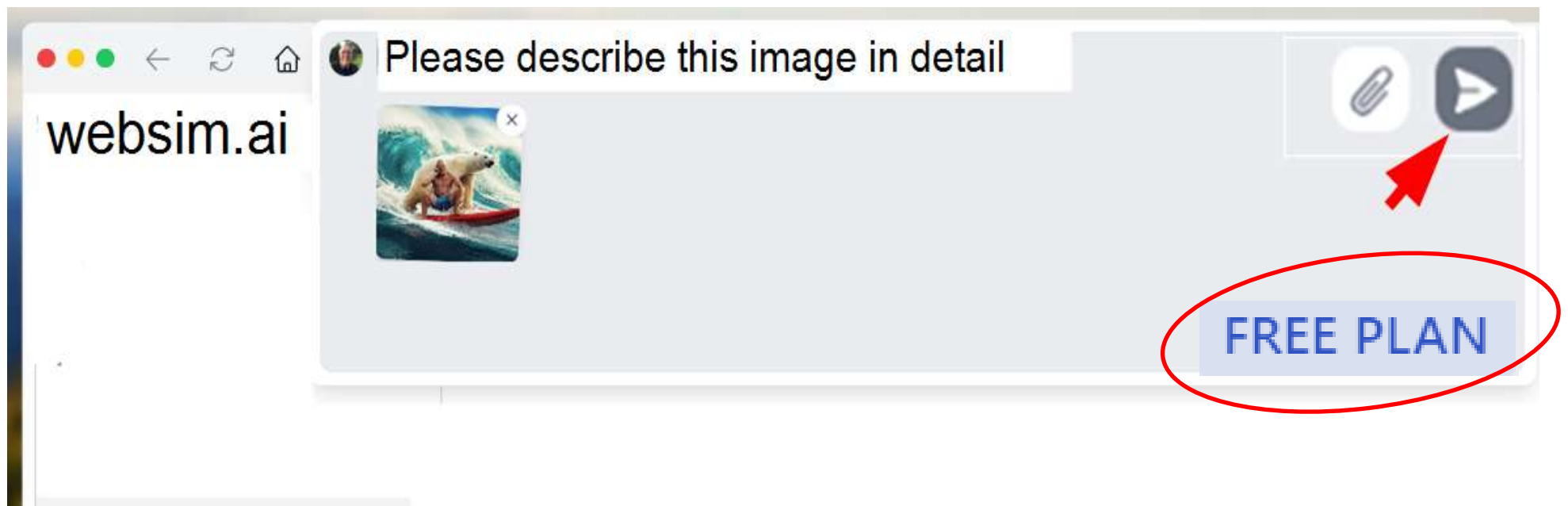


3



PNG
files only





it should look like this:

“Please describe this image in detail.”

Your **PNG Graphic** will be displayed as an **Icon**.

Now, click the Arrow on the
Top Right with your mouse.

Extraordinary Surf Adventure

This image depicts an incredibly surreal and fantastical scene that combines the thrill of surfing with an unexpected arctic twist. The focal point of the image is a surfer riding a massive, turquoise wave. What makes this scene extraordinary is the surfer's companion - a full-sized Polar bear sitting behind him on the surfboard!

The wave itself is impressively large, curling over to create a classic barrel shape. The water is a vibrant blue-green color, capturing the essence of tropical seas. Spray and foam fly off the crest of the wave, adding to the sense of motion and power.

The surfer appears to be a man with a bald head, wearing only blue swim shorts. He's in a seated position on a red surfboard, looking calm despite the unusual circumstances. His posture suggests he's making a casual phone call, holding what seems to be a mobile phone to his ear.

Behind him, occupying a significant portion of the surfboard, is a large polar bear. The bear's white fur contrasts sharply with the blue of the ocean. It seems to be calmly sitting or standing on the back of the board, adding an element of whimsy and impossibility to the scene.

The sky above is a clear, bright blue with some wispy clouds. A bright sun is visible in the upper right corner, enhancing the tropical feel of the image. Despite the animal's presence, the overall atmosphere is one of carefree summer fun.

The combination of elements that don't naturally go together - surfing, a polar bear, and a man on a phone - creates a humorous, surreal, and visually striking scene. It defies expectations and invites the viewer to imagine a world where the impossible is possible, even in the heart of a tropical wave.





WEDNESDAY SEP 4



7:30 PM - 8:30 PM



Video conference



Q&A Sessions

OPCUG



Users helping users
for over 40 years

Wednesday Sept 4, 2024



Follow us ▾

Careers

Documentation

Try Ideogram 2.0

Ideogram 2.0

Ideogram 2.0 is now freely available to all users on ideogram.ai and our new [iOS app](#)! Premium features are available via [subscription plans](#). Developers can now build with Ideogram 2.0 using our new beta [Ideogram API](#).

What will you create?
ideogram.ai



ideogram 2.0

ideogram.ai

New

Setup up a Free Account
Generate High Quality
Images Every Day



Wednesday Sept 4, 2024

OPCUG



Users helping users
for over 40 years

What will you create?

 ideogram

Describe what you want to see

Magic Prompt **Auto** **On** **Off**

Aspect Ratio ☐ 9:16 ☐ 1:1 **16:9** ▼

Visibility **Public** Private

Model **2.0** ▼

Color Palette **Auto**  ▼



Auto **General** **Realistic** **Design** **3D**

Uses 2 credits ⓘ

Generate

Extraordinary Surf Adventure

This image depicts an incredibly surreal and fantastical scene that combines the thrill of surfing with an unexpected arctic twist. The focal point of the image is a surfer riding a massive, turquoise wave. What makes this scene extraordinary is the surfer's companion - a full-sized **Elephant** sitting behind him on the surfboard!

The wave itself is impressively large, curling over to create a classic barrel shape. The water is a vibrant blue-green color, capturing the essence of tropical seas. Spray and foam fly off the crest of the wave, adding to the sense of motion and power.

The surfer appears to be a man with a bald head, wearing only blue swim shorts. He's in a seated position on a red surfboard, looking calm despite the unusual circumstances. His posture suggests he's making a casual phone call, holding what seems to be a mobile phone to his ear.

Behind him, taking up a significant portion of the surfboard, is a large polar bear. The **Elephants Grey Skin** contrasts sharply with the blue of the ocean. It seems to be calmly sitting or standing on the back of the board, adding an element of whimsy and impossibility to the scene.

The sky above is a clear, bright blue with some wispy clouds. A bright sun is visible in the upper right corner, adding to the tropical feel of the image despite the animal's presence.

This image brilliantly combines elements that don't naturally go together - surfing, **Elephants**, and casual phone calls - to create a humorous, surreal, and visually striking composition. It challenges our expectations and invites viewers to imagine an impossible scenario where wildlife joins in on tropical water sports.

websim
Text

websim
Text



What will you create?



Describe what you want to see

Extraordinary Surf Adventure

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Magic Prompt ⓘ

Auto

On

Off

Aspect ratio

9:16

1:1

16:9



Visibility ⓘ

Public

Private

Model

2.0



Color palette ⓘ

Auto



Auto



General



Realistic



Design



3D



Anime

Uses 2 credits ⓘ

Generate

ideogram 2.0

This Realistic image depicts an incredibly surreal and fantastical scene that combines the thrill of surfing with an unexpected arctic twist. The focal point of the image is a surfer riding a massive, turquoise wave. What makes this scene extraordinary is the surfer's companion - a full-sized Elephant sitting behind him on the surfboard!

The wave itself is impressively large, curling over to create a classic barrel shape. The water is a vibrant blue-green color, capturing the essence of tropical seas. Spray and foam fly off the crest of the wave, adding to the sense of motion and power.

The surfer appears to be a man with a bald head, wearing only blue swim trunks. He's in a seated position on a red surfboard, looking calm despite the unusual circumstances. His posture suggests he's on a phone call, holding what seems to be a mobile phone to his ear.

Behind him, taking up a significant portion of the surfboard, is a large elephant. The Elephant's Grey Skin contrasts sharply with the blue of the ocean. It seems to be calmly sitting or standing on the back of the board, adding an element of whimsy and impossibility to the scene. The sky above is a clear, bright blue with some wispy clouds. A bright sun is visible in the upper right corner, adding to the tropical feel of the image despite the animal's presence.

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websim
Text

Ideogram

 Auto  General  Realistic  Design  3D  Anime

Magic Prompt

Auto On **Off**

Aspect Ratio

☐ 9:16 ☐ 1:1 **16:9** 

Visibility

Public Private

Model

2.0 

Color Palette

Auto  

Uses 2 Credits

Generate





In the past, I used my own text with Perchance and other AI Image Generators...

Now, with the arrival of Ideogram 2.0 this process is Quick, Easy & Accurate!

 websim websim.ai

will accurately **read** any graphic
(I use **Greenshot** to convert it to a PNG)

 ideogram 2.0 ideogram.ai

will accurately **create** any graphic







Windows
Snipping Tool



This is a “Welcome Screen”
in

 **ideogram 2.0**
ideogram.ai



 **ideogram 2.0**
ideogram.ai



My Cell Phone Picture...



Shared, with consent

websim

websim.ai

Chrome Web Browser

websim.ai

Please describe this photograph in detail
and especially describe all the flowers.

@websim_ai

Last Creation

File Explorer in Windows

D:\Files\MyGraphics

This PC DATA (D:) Files MyGraphics

New

Sort

View

Pictures

Videos

Bob-PC

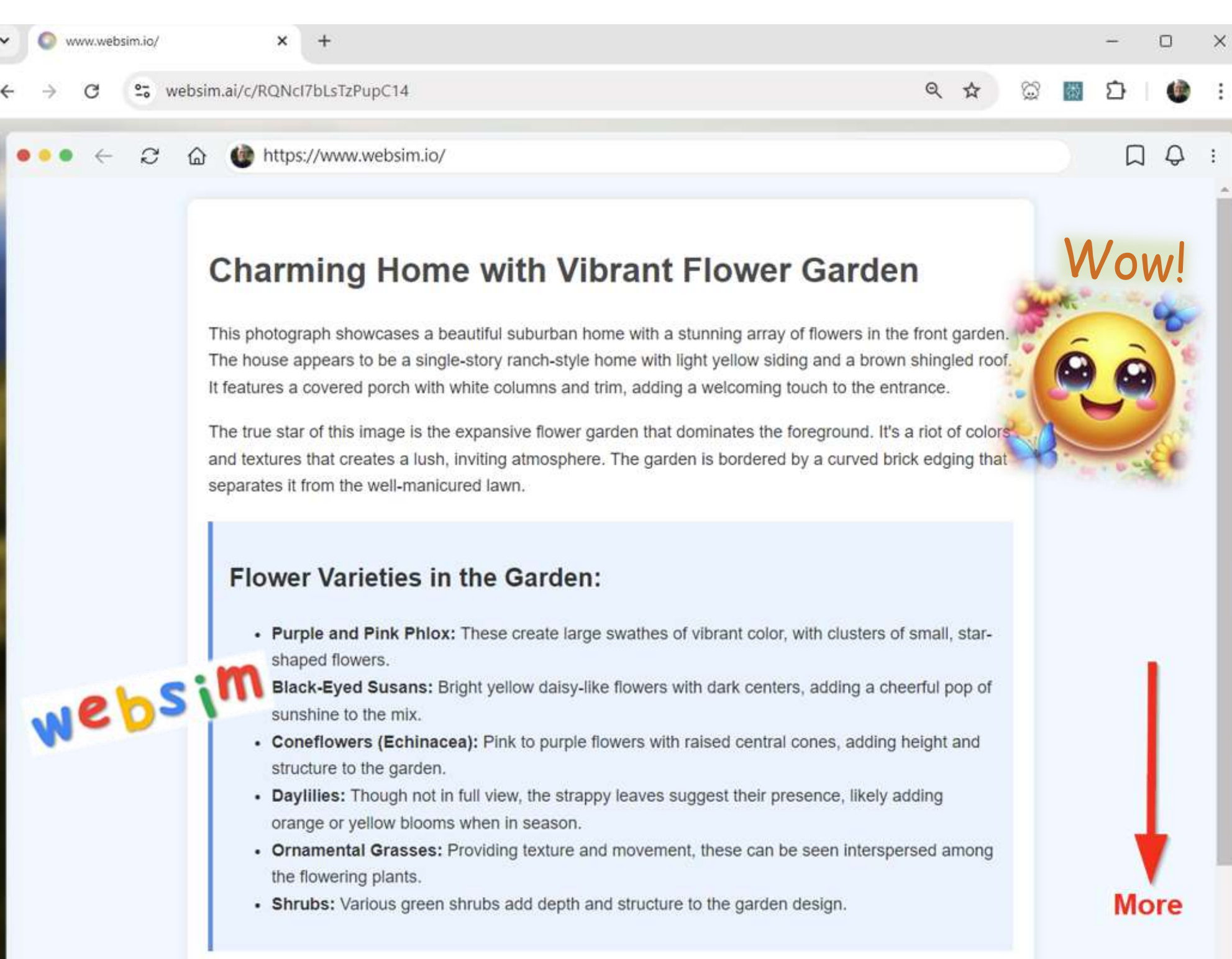
This PC

OS (C:)

27July2024.png

UnderConstructii onCoPilot.png

QandA21Aug2024.png



Charming Home with Vibrant Flower Garden

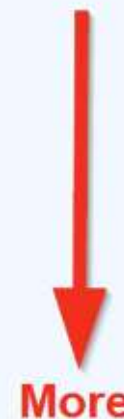
This photograph showcases a beautiful suburban home with a stunning array of flowers in the front garden. The house appears to be a single-story ranch-style home with light yellow siding and a brown shingled roof. It features a covered porch with white columns and trim, adding a welcoming touch to the entrance.

The true star of this image is the expansive flower garden that dominates the foreground. It's a riot of colors and textures that creates a lush, inviting atmosphere. The garden is bordered by a curved brick edging that separates it from the well-manicured lawn.



Flower Varieties in the Garden:

- **Purple and Pink Phlox:** These create large swathes of vibrant color, with clusters of small, star-shaped flowers.
- **Black-Eyed Susans:** Bright yellow daisy-like flowers with dark centers, adding a cheerful pop of sunshine to the mix.
- **Coneflowers (Echinacea):** Pink to purple flowers with raised central cones, adding height and structure to the garden.
- **Daylilies:** Though not in full view, the strappy leaves suggest their presence, likely adding orange or yellow blooms when in season.
- **Ornamental Grasses:** Providing texture and movement, these can be seen interspersed among the flowering plants.
- **Shrubs:** Various green shrubs add depth and structure to the garden design.



← → ↻ 🌐 websim.ai

🔴 🟡 🟢 ← ↻ 🏠

🐦 @websim_ai 🗨 discord.gg/websim 📄

👤 Please describe this photograph in full detail. 🔒 🎥

↖️ Your Prompt

FREE PLAN



websim

A Hikers Moment in Nature



The photograph captures a serene moment on a forest trail. In the foreground, we see a hiker standing on a dirt path that winds through a dense evergreen forest. The hiker is an older gentleman with a friendly demeanor, dressed for the outdoors in a plaid button-up shirt, jeans, and hiking shoes. He's wearing glasses and has a backpack, suggesting he's prepared for a day of exploring nature.

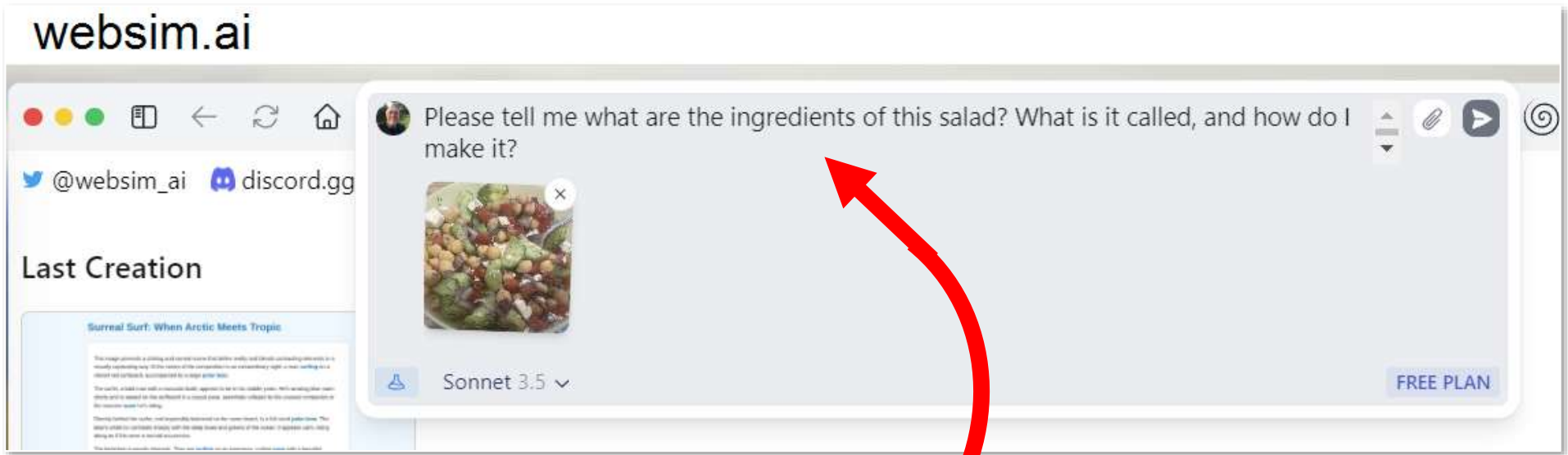
The forest surrounding the trail is lush and dominated by tall evergreen trees that create a sense of enclosure and tranquility. The path itself is slightly rocky, curving gently into the distance. Along the path, exposed tree roots can be seen protruding from the forest floor.

The lighting in the image suggests it might be a cloudy day, with soft light filtering through the canopy, creating a dappled effect on the ground. The overall atmosphere is one of peace and connection with nature.



A friend, kindly "dropped off" this Salad...
It was Awesome!





Please tell me what are the ingredients of this salad? What is it called, and how do I make it?



websim

Mediterranean Chickpea Salad



Based on the image, this appears to be a Mediterranean-style chickpea salad. It's a refreshing and nutritious dish that combines a variety of vegetables and proteins. Let's break down the ingredients and how to make it!

Ingredients:



Ingredients:

- Chickpeas (garbanzo beans)
- Cucumber, chopped
- Red bell pepper, diced
- Red onion, finely chopped
- Feta cheese, crumbled
- Cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
- Fresh herbs (likely parsley or dill)
- Olive oil (for dressing)
- Lemon juice (for dressing)
- Salt and pepper to taste



Instructions:

1. Drain and rinse a can of chickpeas, or cook dried chickpeas until tender.
2. Chop the cucumber, red bell pepper, and red onion into small, bite-sized pieces.
3. Halve the cherry or grape tomatoes.
4. Crumble the feta cheese.
5. In a large bowl, combine the chickpeas, chopped vegetables, and feta cheese.
6. Chop the fresh herbs and add them to the bowl.
7. In a small separate bowl, whisk together olive oil, lemon juice, salt, and pepper to make the dressing.
8. Pour the dressing over ' combine all ingredients.
9. Taste and adjust
10. Chill in the fridge are serving to allow flavors to meld

Instructions Cont'd...



Please create a realistic photograph. of a white bulldog. speaking to an audience, while standing behind a podium using a microphone and Teleprompter, a podium appears to be made of wood. there is a white sign in the front with red letters "OPCUG" The dog is speaking to an audience of people. Behind the dog is a large screen with a Windows Graphic.

Ideogram...

Please create Realistic Photograph of a **River**
flowing out of a **Very Large Wall Mounted TV**



into a Livingroom and onto the Floor!

the River is coming from **Mountains and Forests**

a Kayaker in a **Red Kayak** is
paddling right into the **Living Room!**



the Room is Clean and Neat, with Modern Furniture.



BREAKING NEWS: Wall-Mounted TV's Recalled After
Kayakers Start Paddling Straight Into Living Rooms!

Graphic:  ideogram 2.0
ideogram.ai

Funny Caption: 



Here, I used my ***“Artistic Skills”***
to pick the Best Graphic! 😁



ideogram 2.0

ideogram.ai



 ideogram 2.0
ideogram.ai



Share

Thank you for
joining me on
this journey, as
we learn to
harness the
Power of AI.



OPCUG



Users helping users
for over 40 years

After Next Week's Q&A Session

I will be offering an **Ideogram SIG**

Special Interest Gathering for New Ideogram Users

This will be of interest to anyone who has already
“Signed up for” and at briefly tried **Ideogram**.

I will be showing New Ideogram Users some tips.

If you are interested, please sign up for an Ideogram Account, and stay for an extra 15 Minutes, after the Zoom meeting, next week...

Thank you Bob Herres



ideogram.ai

Follow Up



Is an authenticator app more secure than SMS?

Share

TD Bank Authenticate App

- latest “SIM swap scam” had me worried about using SMS as 2FA to log in to my TD bank account (if a thief with access to my TD bank account swapped my SIM card they would get my TD login codes on their phone)
- was unsuccessful at “locking” my cell phone number against **over-the-phone** porting/swapping (this would have required me to be physically present at a Koodo counter to move my phone number to another SIM card).
- found out that TD has a “TD Authenticate App” that will generate one-time-use 6-digit codes to log in to its accounts (download from Google Play or Apple Store)
- download this app to your smartphone or tablet; you must link it to your TD bank account by logging in to your bank account from within the app



(cont'd)

Brigitte

https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240814_PowerPoint.pdf

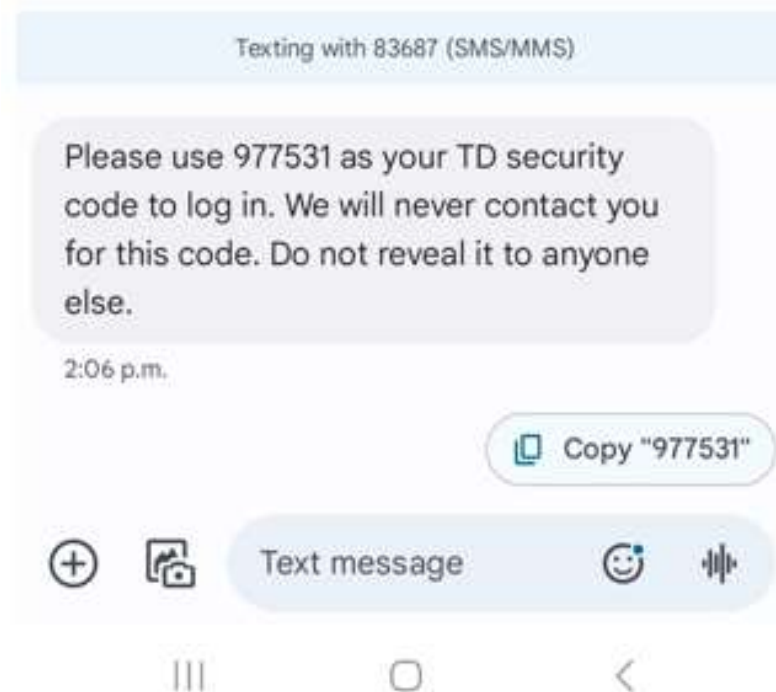
Login to the bank with 2FA

- Login with Userid and Password
- Bank's server issues a challenge and requires a security code
- Some method of two-factor authentication provides a 4-digit or 6-digit security code
- Enter the security code in the web page
- Logged on to your account!



2FA/MFA

- Two-factor/Multi-factor Authentication
- Most commonly:
 - Factor 1 = Userid and Password
 - Factor 2 = SMS text message with security code



- Alternative technology
 - Authenticator app



**30-second
countdown**

Security code

Which 2FA is more secure?

- Consensus is that an authentication app is more secure than SMS
- App generates a time-based one-time password (*TOTP*) locally on your device so it can't be intercepted
- Protection against SIM swapping (no SMS)
- Code is only valid for 30 seconds and can't be reused
- App may require a PIN, fingerprint, or facial recognition for access

How does the app work?

- The app must be registered with the bank
- Run the app; logon to your account
- A secret key is loaded into the app and a copy maintained on the bank's server
- The security code is determined using the current time and the secret key
- The bank's server calculates the same code and compares it to the code entered on the user's device



Share

Backup

- **Of course, everyone has backups**
- Don't want to lose your important data
- Get back up & running quickly in event of a disaster
 - hard disk failure, fire, theft, electrical surge, ...
- Multiple levels of protection
 - file-level real-time backups
 - version backups
 - full disk image backups
 - offsite backups
 - 3 copies of all important files



Context for a problem

- Macrium Reflect backup software
 - command line interface for full & incremental backups
- PowerShell script
 - check if USB drive primary back drive is connected
 - run full or incremental backup
 - erase previous backup files as required
 - to ensure space for new backup
 - when backup complete
 - check if secondary USB drive is connected
 - use Robocopy to mirror primary & secondary backup drives
 - using script for more than a year

Share

Recent problem

Backup completed without error

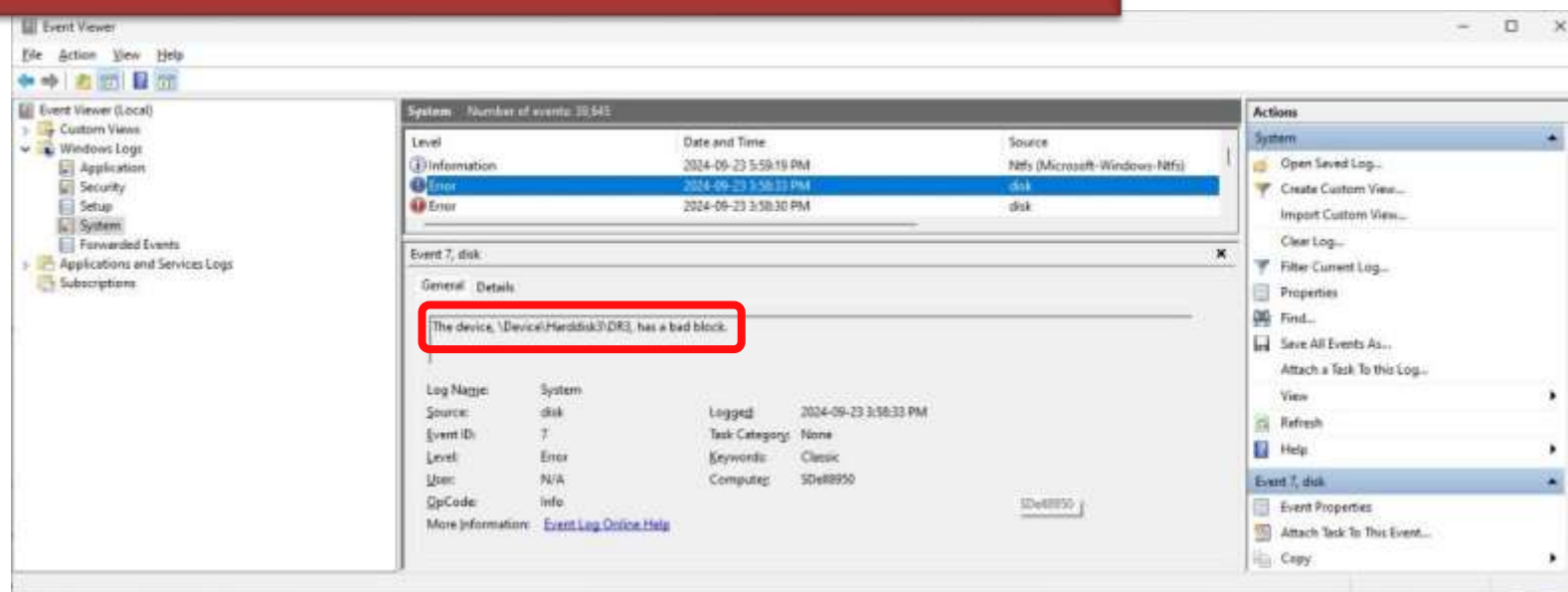
Robocopy stuck at 20.8% while copying backup file to secondary drive

- *Error 23 data error – cyclic redundancy check*



Event Viewer entry

- *Device\HardDisk3\DR3 has a bad block*



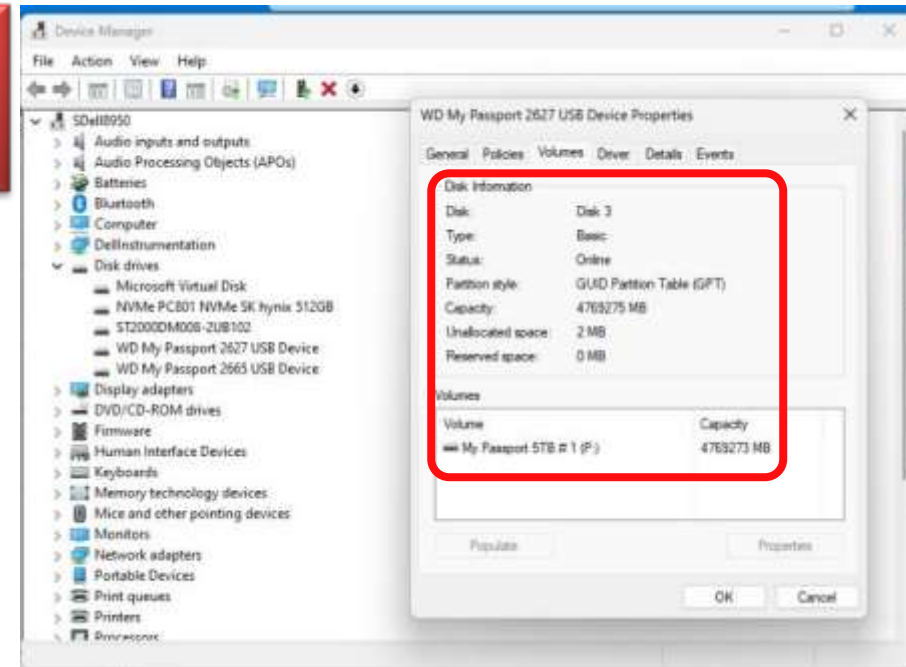
Share

Recent problem

Device Manager

- *HardDisk3 is primary backup drive*

- Cancelled script
 - ran *chkdsk /r* to find bad blocks on primary backup drive
 - estimate completion time 87 hours
 - confident *chkdsk* would have found & marked the bad sectors
 - gave up, destroyed the drive, and bought a new USB drive



Share

Lessons learned

- Make sure that your backup file can be read by:
 - using backup verify command, or
 - copying backup file to another drive
- Both options would have taken the same amount of time
 - 4.5 hours to run backup
 - same time to copy backup file to secondary disk

*We don't back up for backup's sake
We back up so we can recover
Test your backups!*

- Chris Taylor



Unwanted McAfee pop-ups

PC APP STORE™

back x



Annually

Monthly

☐

McAfee® Total Protection 3-Year / 1-Device
\$149.99

☒

McAfee® Total Protection 1-Year / 1-Device
\$69.99 **Best Value**

McAfee is a premium antivirus program for PC, safe web browsing, and password manager. Defend yourself and the entire family against the latest viruses.

- Exceptional malware protection
- Little impact on performance
- Trusted by millions of users

Select



- Searched *Programs & Programs (x86)* folders
 - can't find a McAfee folder
- Advice from Alan
 - Uninstall McAfee
 - Control Panel > Uninstall a program
 - McAfee's Consumer Product Removal Tool
 - https://www.mcafee.com/support/s/article/000001616?language=en_US
- McAfee Tool removed hundreds of McAfee files
 - still get the pop-ups



- Google for McAfee Pop-ups
 - in Google Chrome, enabled
 - *Don't allow sites to send notifications*
 - still get popups
- Other references
 - Your browser displays fake McAfee notifications
 - https://www.mcafee.com/support/s/article/000001899?language=en_US
 - How to Stop the Popups
 - <https://www.mcafee.com/learn/how-to-stop-the-popups/>
 - Fake McAfee Popup Message - How do I get rid of it?
 - <https://support.google.com/chrome/thread/186823753/fake-mcafee-popup-message-how-do-i-get-rid-of-it?hl=en>
 - Beware of this McAfee Google Chrome pop-up scam
 - <https://www.foxnews.com/tech/beware-mcafee-google-chrome-pop-up-scam>
 - How to remove McAfee popups: A step-by-step guide
 - <https://www.comparitech.com/antivirus/how-to-remove-mcafee-popups/>
- Nothing has helped
- Any ideas?



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

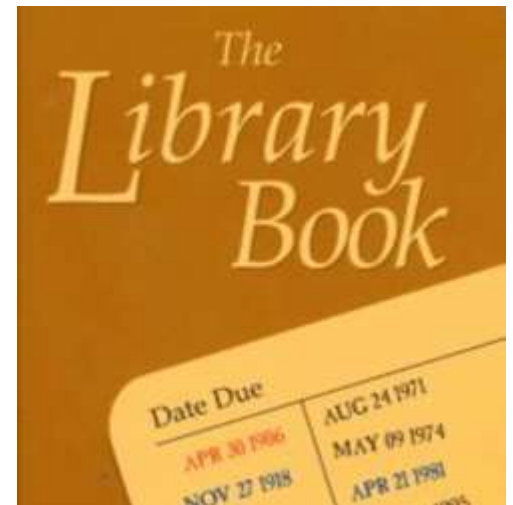
October Meeting

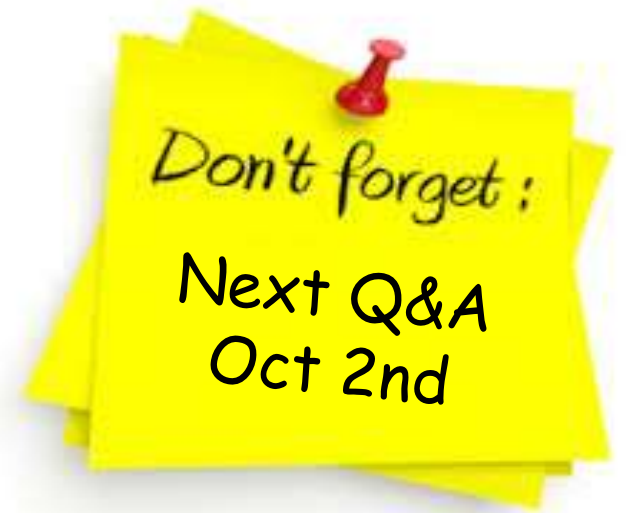


**Everything you didn't know,
but wanted to know, about the
Ottawa Public Library**

Carol Pearson (OPCUG)

**October 9, 2024
7:30 pm**





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