



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

October 30, 2024



YouTubeTech

7 Computing Urban Myths



7 Computing Urban Myths



ExplainingCo...
1.05M subscribers

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7.8K



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6dKHuFiQcQ&t=19s>



Microsoft Copilot

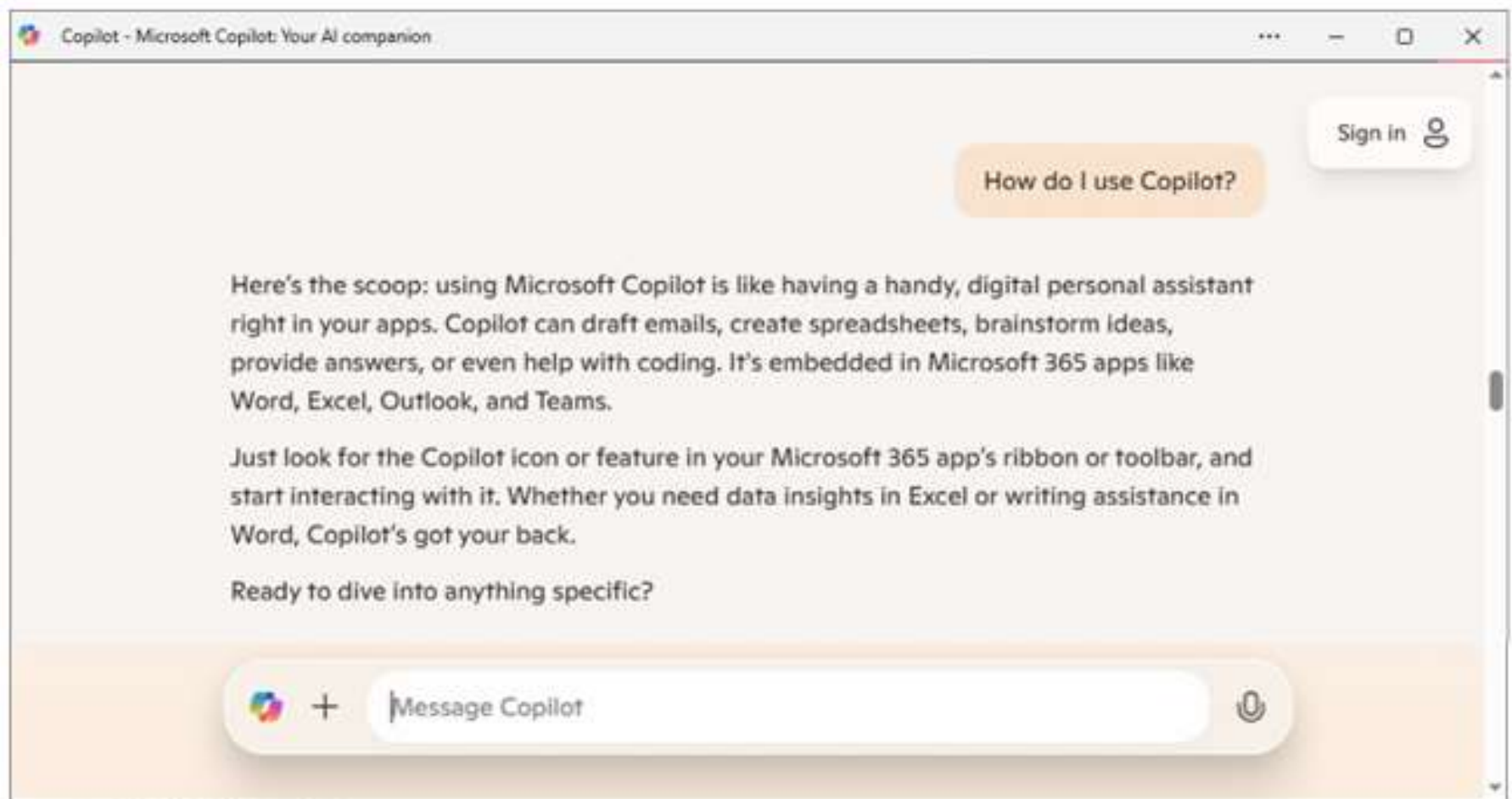
- As part of their updates to both Windows 10 and 11, Microsoft has added Copilot to the taskbars of all my computers
- Can someone familiar with Copilot give a short presentation on how to use it?



Bob Walker



Let's ask Copilot!





Sign in 

What benefit is there from using the Sign in option?

Signing in offers a bunch of perks:

1. **Personalized Experience:** Customizes content, settings, and recommendations to your preferences.
2. **Access to Premium Features:** Unlocks exclusive features and functionalities in apps.
3. **Sync Across Devices:** Keeps your work and preferences consistent across all your devices.
4. **Security:** Adds an extra layer of security for your data and apps.
5. **Saved Preferences:** Remembers your settings, bookmarks, and history.

Jump in and explore more! Need specifics on any features?



Message Copilot





Sign in 

What is the plus sign used for?

The plus sign (+) is versatile in Python:

- **Addition:** Adds numbers together. Example: `3 + 2` equals `5`.
- **String Concatenation:** Joins strings. Example: `"Hello, " + "world!"` equals `"Hello, world!"`.

A multi-talented little symbol! Want more examples?



Message Copilot





Sign in 

What is the plus sign on the Copilot data entry panel used for?

That plus sign is your ticket to adding new items or data entries easily. It's like a shortcut for expanding your input options, making the whole process more efficient and streamlined.

Adding more to your flow? Let's get those details sorted!



Message Copilot





Sign in 



Sign in for the full experience

Talk with Copilot Voice, share photos, and create images together.

Sign in

No thanks

That plus sign is your ti
for expanding your inp
streamlined.

Adding more to your fl

ry panel used for?

. It's like a shortcut
cient and



how can I sort all the jpg files on my computer into a single list

Sign in 

You can use a simple PowerShell script to list all the JPG files on your computer and sort them into a single list. Here's an example script:

Powershell

 Copy

```
# Get all JPG files in the current directory and subdirectories
$jpgFiles = Get-ChildItem -Path "C:\Your\Path" -Filter *.jpg -Recurse

# Sort the files by name
$sortedFiles = $jpgFiles | Sort-Object Name

# Display the sorted list
$sortedFiles | ForEach-Object { $_.FullName }
```

Replace `"C:\Your\Path"` with the path to the directory where your JPG files are stored. This script will recursively find all JPG files in the specified directory and its subdirectories, sort them by name, and then display the sorted list.

Would you like more help with this script or any other tasks?



Message Copilot





same permission denied error

Sign in 

This isn't supposed to happen; what a buzzkill! The `System Volume Information` folder is tricky because it's deeply protected by Windows.

Try tweaking the PowerShell script to bypass system folders more generally:

Powershell

 Copy

```
# Define the folder path
$folderPath = "C:\Your\Path"

# Function to check if a folder should be excluded
function ShouldExcludeFolder($folder) {
    return $folder.FullName -match "System Volume Information|Program Files|
}

# Get all JPG files excluding specific system folders
$jpgFiles = Get-ChildItem -Path $folderPath -Filter *.jpg -Recurse -Force |
    $_.FullName -notmatch "System Volume Information" -and
    $_.FullName -notmatch "Program Files" -and
    $_.FullName -notmatch "Windows"
}
```

Sort the files by



Message Copilot





Saved to this PC

Sign in 

What is the continuation code for Python?

In Python, you can use a backslash (`\`) to indicate that a statement continues on the next line. Here's how it looks:

Python

 Copy

```
total_sum = 1 + 2 + 3 + \  
            4 + 5 + 6 + \  
            7 + 8 + 9 + 10
```

This keeps your code neat and avoids super long lines. Clean and clear, just the way we like it. Anything else you're diving into?



Message Copilot



Sign in 

I have a hard drive with both a Windows (Drive C:) and a data partition (Drive D:), and a second, separate hard disk with a Linux partition. The Linux disk is fine but both Drive C; and Drive D: have disappeared. What is wrong?

I'm sorry to hear about your hard drive issues! There could be several reasons why both Drive C: and Drive D: have disappeared:

1. **Connection Issues:** Check if the hard drives are properly connected to the motherboard and power supply ¹. Sometimes, cables can become loose or disconnected.
2. **File System Errors:** There might be file system errors on the drives ². Running a disk check can help identify and fix these issues.
3. **Drive Letter Conflicts:** Sometimes, drive letters can conflict with other drives ². You can check and assign drive letters through Disk Management ³.
4. **Driver Issues:** Outdated or corrupted drivers can cause detection problems ². Updating or reinstalling the drivers might help ³.
5. **Hardware Failure:** There's a possibility of hardware failure. Testing the drives on another computer can help determine if this is the case ¹.

Would you like step-by-step guidance on any of these troubleshooting steps?

¹ [helpdeskgeek.com](https://www.helpdeskgeek.com)² www.easeus.com³ www.youtube.com

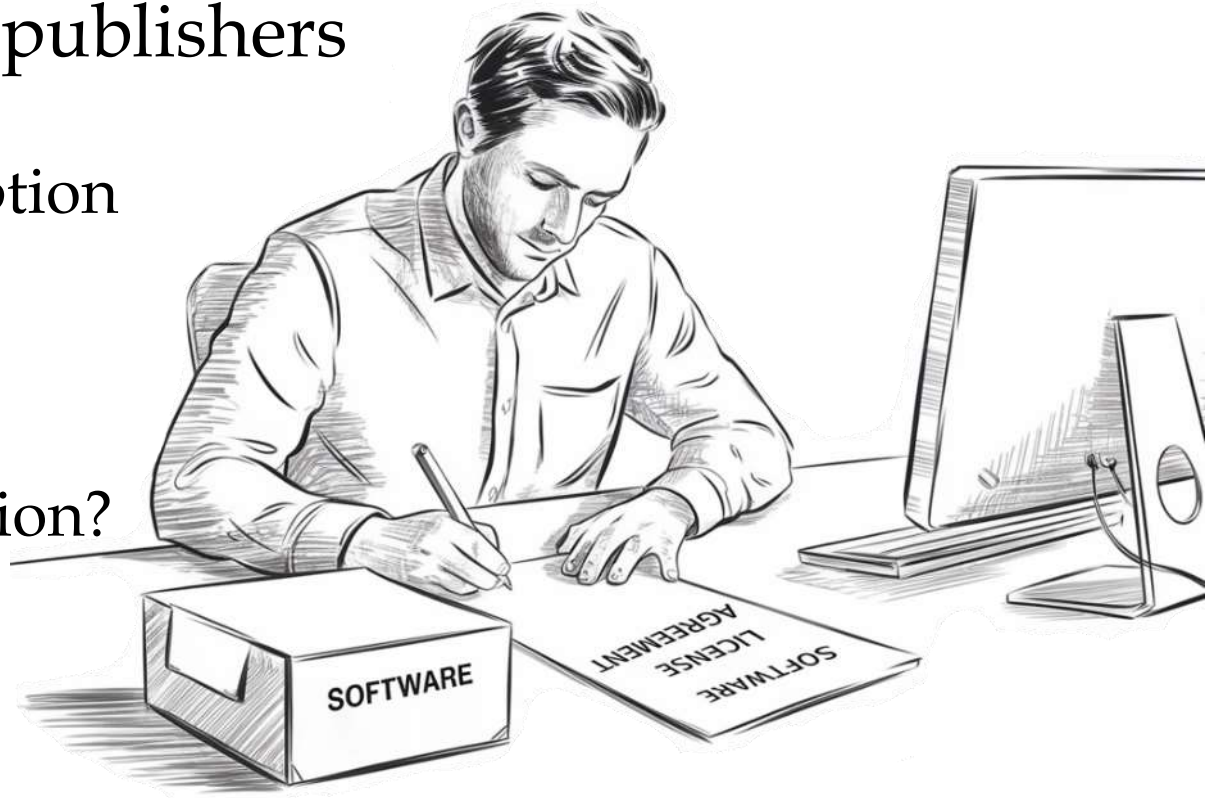
Message Copilot





Software licensing

- You don't **own** software you purchase
- You buy a **license** to allow you to use the software
- Very confusing terms and conditions
- Vary wildly between publishers
 - especially comparing perpetual vs. subscription
 - what is included?
 - what restrictions?
 - what happens if you stop paying subscription?





Subscription vs. Perpetual

- Subscription pricing
 - buy license to use the software for (typically) 1 year
 - lose ability to use the software unless you pay up **every year**
 - lower pricing (each year) than perpetual license
 - often less than half price of perpetual
 - often includes other enticements
 - Microsoft 365: up to 6 users and 1 TB cloud storage per user
 - ON1 allows installation on 5 devices (vs. 3 devices for perpetual)
- Perpetual pricing
 - buy a license and use the software forever
 - upgrade to newer versions only when you want
 - may get a reduced *upgrade* price
 - usually supported by vendor for a set period
 - often vendor supports V^{n-1} (current version + last version)
- Subscription pricing generally better deal
 - **if** you always stay current or don't skip more than one version
 - **and** not worried about losing access if decide not to pay yearly fee



CHRIS'S Microsoft Office / 365

- Microsoft 365 (subscription)
 - \$79/yr (single user)
 - \$109/yr (family: 6 people)
 - (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, OneNote, Access, Teams, Publisher, Editor, Clipchamp: *whole enchilada*)
 - 1 TB OneDrive cloud storage per user
- Microsoft Office 2024 (perpetual - single computer)
 - \$170 (Home: Word, PowerPoint, Excel)
 - \$320 (Home & Business: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, **Outlook**)
 - \$550 (Professional: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, **OneNote, Access, Teams, Publisher**)
 - *Professional 2024 not widely available!*



ON1 Photo RAW



- ON1 Everything Plus
 - subscription: \$259/yr (5 computers) includes:
 - plugins for Lightroom/Photoshop
 - 1 TB cloud sync
 - *ON1 Plus*: video courses, library of extra brushes, textures, clouds, etc.
- ON1 Everything
 - subscription: \$129/yr (2 computers) includes:
 - plugins for Lightroom/Photoshop
 - 200 GB cloud sync
- ON1 Photo RAW MAX 2025
 - perpetual: \$245 (3 computers) includes:
 - plugins for Lightroom/Photoshop
 - 200 GB cloud sync
- ON1 Photo RAW 2025
 - perpetual: \$143 (2 computers)
 - no plugins, no cloud sync



Adobe Photoshop Elements

- Used to be perpetual license
- **Now only 3 yr license: \$140**

Chris: How many years until PhotoShop Elements only available as a 1-year subscription?





TechSmith Snagit



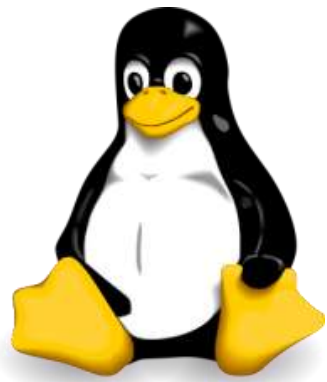
- Subscription: \$53.29/yr
- Perpetual: \$86.07
 - includes one year of maintenance
 - optional maintenance after year one \$29.93/yr
- Version 2024 is last version available as perpetual license
 - TechSmith promises maintenance will be available for 5 years
- Lengthy info
 - <https://support.techsmith.com/hc/en-us/articles/27009223314701-TechSmith-Transition-to-Annual-Subscription-Pricing-Model-in-2025>



The future

- More & more publishers moving to perpetual licensing
 - steady revenue source (*publisher advantage*)
 - steady stream of new features (*user advantage*)
 - perpetual license model causes publisher to hold new features until new release
- Currently many publishers offer both perpetual and subscription licenses
 - generally perpetual prices are better for those who skip versions
- Once publishers get all their customers on subscription
 - will cost advantage of perpetual licenses vanish?
 - no way of knowing





Trading up to Linux – Part 4

Phase 1

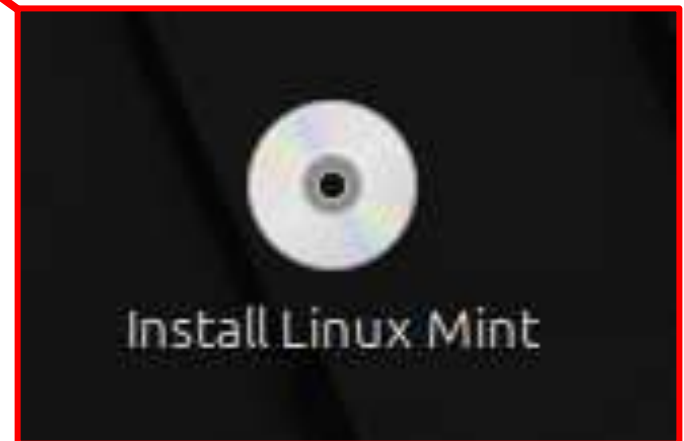
- ✓ • Download Linux Mint 22 (Wilma)
- ✓ • Create a bootable USB drive
- ✓ • Boot the computer into Linux from the USB
- ✓ • Check the hardware compatibility
- ✓ • Review the applications bundled in the distro

Phase 2

- Install Linux dual-booted with Windows
- Boot into Linux and Windows from the grub menu



Linux desktop



Installation Process

- Double-click on *Install Linux Mint*
- Launches an installation wizard
- Many of the required inputs are straightforward
- Some may require a little explanation (to follow)
- An illustrated, step-by-step guide is available at:

[https://linuxnorth.wordpress.com/
installing-linux-mint-as-a-dual-boot-system/](https://linuxnorth.wordpress.com/installing-linux-mint-as-a-dual-boot-system/)



Welcome

English

Español

Esperanto

Euskara

Français

Gaelge

Galego

Hrvatski

Íslenska

Italiano

Kurdî

Latviski

Lietuviškai

Magyar

Nederlands

No localization (UTF-8)

No change required

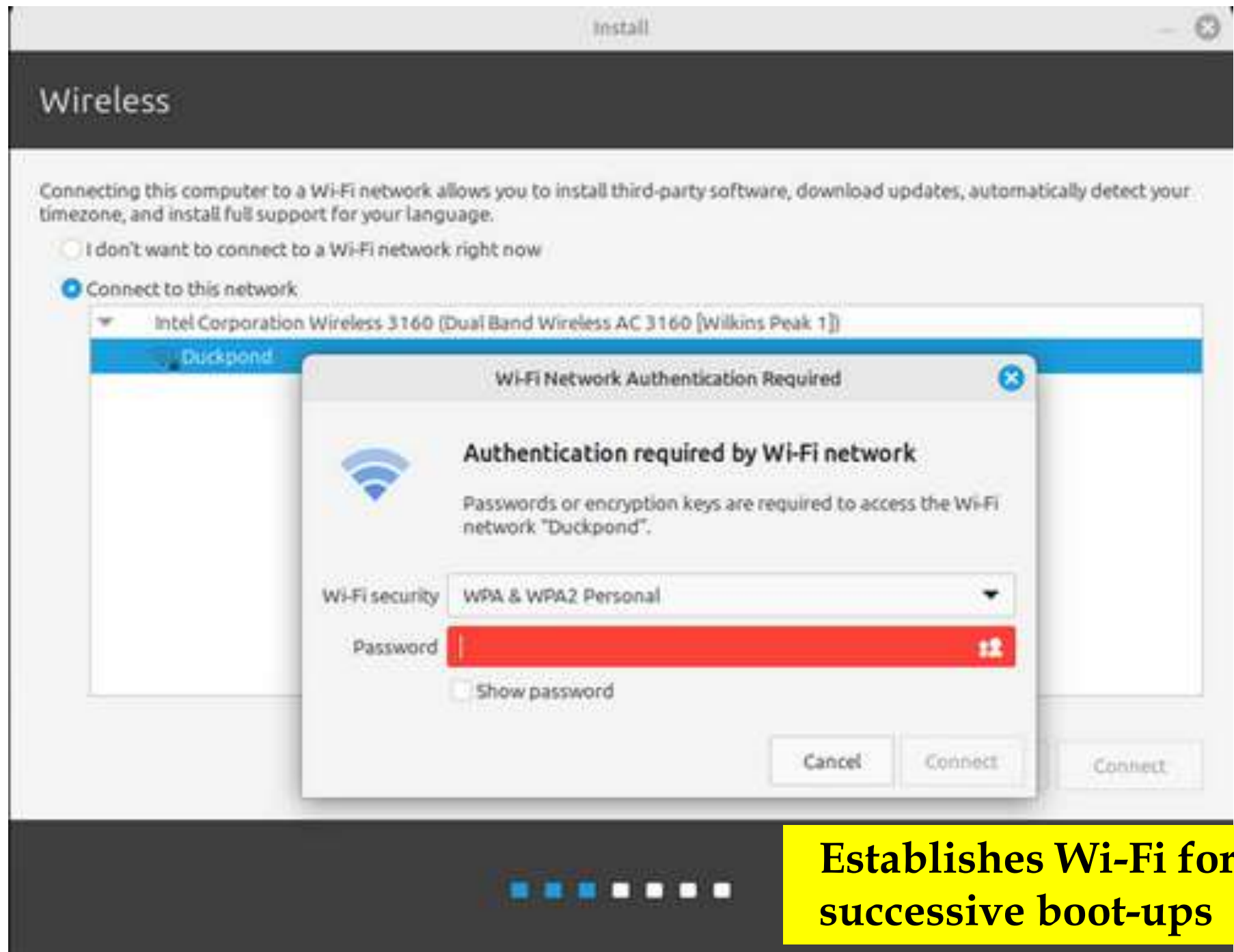
Press Continue

Quit

Back

Continue





Establishes Wi-Fi for all successive boot-ups

Multimedia codecs

☒ Install multimedia codecs

Multimedia codecs are required to play some video formats and to properly render some websites.

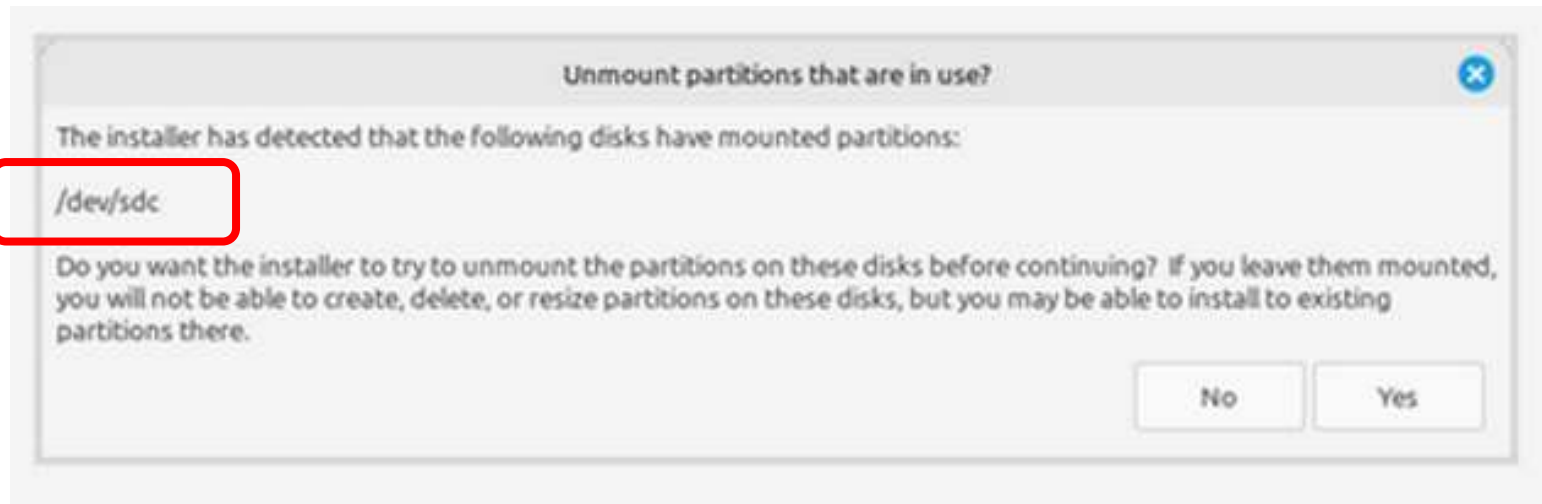
Install non-free media codecs

Quit

Back

Continue





/dev/sdc is the live-USB drive

**We will not modify any partitions
on this drive**

**But, the simplest response is *Yes*
to unmount the USB drive**

Installation type

This computer currently has Windows Boot Manager on it. What would you like to do?

- ☒ Install Linux Mint alongside Windows Boot Manager
Documents, music, and other personal files will be kept. You can choose which operating system you want each time the computer starts up.
- ☐ Erase disk and install Linux Mint
Warning: This will delete all your programs, documents, photos, music, and any other files in all operating systems.
[Advanced features...](#) None selected
- ☐ Something else
You can create or resize partitions yourself, or choose multiple partitions for Linux Mint.

The default *Install Linux Mint alongside Windows Boot Manager* produces the dual-boot system

[Quit](#)[Back](#)[Install Now](#)

Install Linux Mint alongside Windows Boot Manager

Select drive: SCSI2 (0,0,0) (sda) - 250.1 GB ATA Samsung SSD 840

71.5 GB ▼

Allocate drive space by dragging the divider below:



4 smaller partitions are hidden, use the [advanced partitioning tool](#) for more control

The slider will increase/decrease the partition sizes (Mint needs ≥ 20 MB)

Quit

Back

Install Now



Both warnings relate to the creation of the Linux partition

We need to authorize the changes

Install

Where are you?



This establishes the time zone (EST)
(There is no entry for Ottawa)

Toronto

Back

Continue



Install

Who are you?

Your name: ✓

Your computer's name: ✓
The name it uses when it talks to other computers.

Pick a username: ✓

Choose a password:  Weak password

Confirm your password: ✓

☐ Log in automatically

☒ Require my password to log in

☐ Encrypt my home folder

Progress bar: 6 steps, 4th step highlighted

Anything can be entered (except that the username must begin with a lowercase letter)

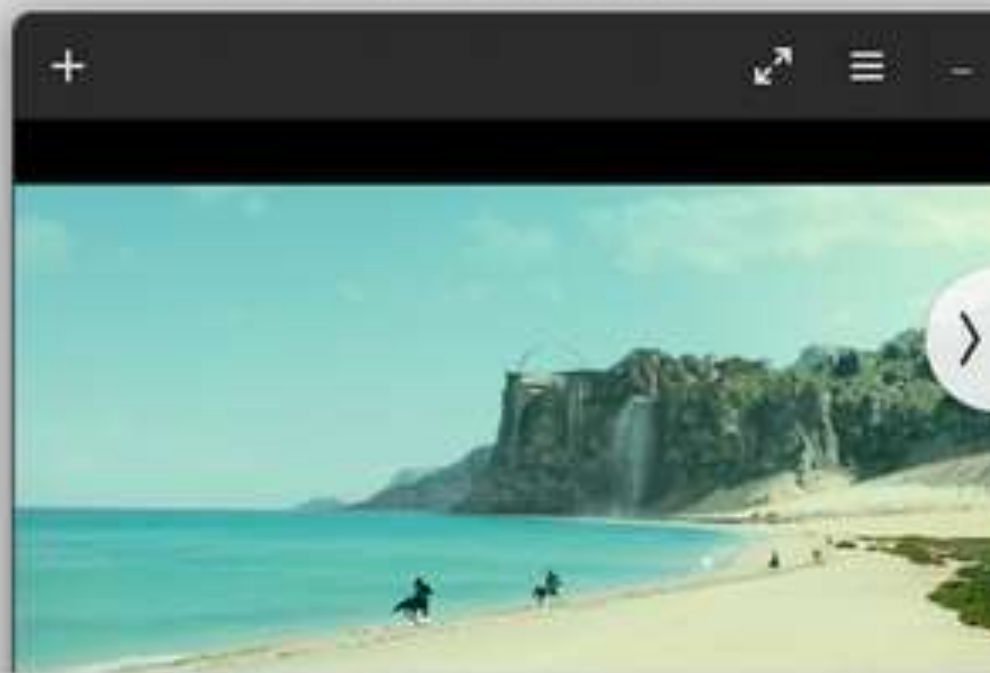
Leave the login/encryption entries as the defaults

Watch movies and videos

Enjoy a high-definition movie or a video with VLC and the Media Player. All modern codecs are supported.

Featured software

-  Celluloid
-  MPV
-  VLC



► Installed mint-meta-codecs (amd64)

Skip

Installation Complete



Installation has finished. You can continue testing Linux Mint now, but until you restart the computer, any changes you make or documents you save will not be preserved.

Continue Testing

Restart Now

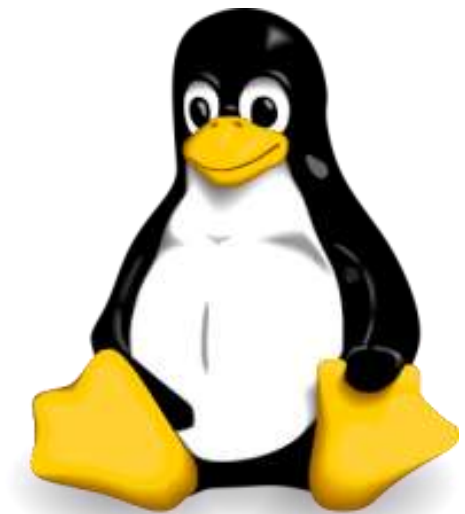
The Plan

Phase 3

- Activate the firewall
- Update the Linux system
- Configure/customize the desktop

Phase 4

- Install new applications





**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

How to Buy a PC

Chris Taylor

Main; Saturday Nov 02, 2024 at 10:30am

Restoring Old Photos

Lynda Buske

Alta Vista, Thursday Nov 07, 2024 at 6:00pm

Windows Performance Tune-Up

Chris Taylor

Sunnyside, Tuesday Nov 12, 2024 at 6:00pm

Selected topics only!

<https://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/program?text=pc+users>



National
Capital
FreeNet

Libertel
de la Capitale
Nationale

3. Wed. Nov. 13th workshop on Password Managers

2:00pm-3:30pm

Hybrid in-person and online

We are told: don't write down passwords; don't reuse passwords; make passwords long and complex. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group will dispel myths about passwords and tell you what really matters.

Chris will show how to use free software to protect your passwords and related information. And he will talk about digital legacy, so your online accounts don't die with you. Don't let your online accounts get compromised. It's easy and free.

Register here: www.ncf.ca/Passwords

November Meeting

Artificial Intelligence

Brett Martensen
Adaptron Inc.

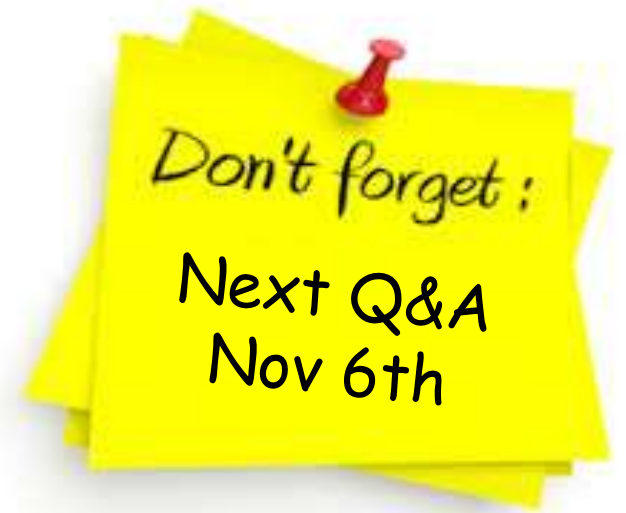
November 13, 2024
7:30 pm

OPCUG



Users helping users
for over 40 years





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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

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