



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

November 6, 2024



Failure of SSD

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?



- It was a hard drive failure
- But, to my surprise, this Samsung (Sandisk) hard drive had a five year warranty
- I just received the RMA number today
- I'm glad I had kept the bill of sale!!!

Normand



Bob Herres <bobherres@gmail.com>

to opcug-member-forum@googlegroups.com

Wow Normand

Glad to hear it all worked out !

and Great news about the Warranty!

I'm sorry I wasn't able to contribute anything but I certainly learned a few things during your adventure and I'm sure many others did also.

Thank you for sharing, -and thank you to all those who contributed!

Bob

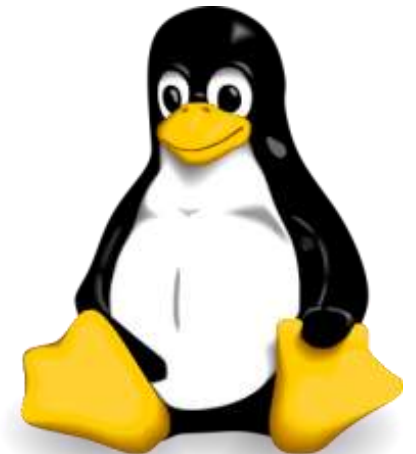
I'm sure everyone is now scrambling to set up a "Receipt Filing System" 😊





Installed partitions in Linux

- 00:59:59 Jocelyn Doire: Do you need 2 partitions for Linux, one for the Linux and one for the cache(?)?
- In a dual-boot system, there are two main partitions, one is the original installation of Windows and the other is (typically) a new partition for Linux
- However, Linux may have an additional partition named the Swap Area
- On my system, no swap area was created when I installed Linux
“alongside Windows”



/dev/sda - GParted

GParted Edit View Device Partition Help

/dev/sda (232.89 GiB)

/dev/sda6
194.08 GiB

/dev/sda7
35.63 GiB

Partition	Name	File System	Mount Point	Label	Size	Used	Unused
/dev/sda1	EFI system partition	fat32	/boot/efi	ESP	500.00 MiB	38.95 MiB	461.05 MiB
/dev/sda2	Basic data partition	fat32		DIAGS	40.00 MiB	4.03 MiB	35.97 MiB
/dev/sda3	Microsoft reserved partition	unknown			128.00 MiB	—	—
/dev/sda4	Basic data partition	ntfs		WINRETOOLS	2.00 GiB	445.65 MiB	1.56 GiB
/dev/sda5		ntfs			529.00 MiB	445.36 MiB	83.64 MiB
/dev/sda6	Basic data partition	ntfs		Windows 10	194.08 GiB	129.97 GiB	64.11 GiB
/dev/sda7		ext4	/		35.63 GiB	10.28 GiB	25.35 GiB

0 operations pending

Windows 10 195 GB partition
Linux 35 GB partition



One-on-One Remote Assistance

- The overall details of *One-on-one remote assistance*
 - <https://opcug.ca/one-on-one-remote-assistance/>
- Broad overview
 - you send request for assistance to lon1request@opcug.ca
 - request gets sent to group of volunteers
 - a volunteer thinks they can help with your problem
 - volunteer connects remotely to your computer
 - can see your screen and
 - (optionally) operate your mouse and keyboard
 - problem is resolved
 - you provide feedback on the process



**One-on-One
Remote Assistance**
(members only)

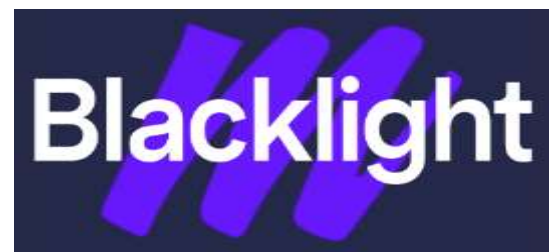
Share

Are websites tracking you?

- As reported in *Cool Tools* by *The Intelligence*
- Blacklight: *a real-time website privacy inspector*
 - who is peeking over your shoulder on the internet?
 - Blacklight will scan any webpage
 - reveals user-tracking technologies on the site
 - who's getting your data
- You may be surprised at what you learn

<https://theintelligence.com/>

<https://themarkup.org/blacklight>



Share

My favourite photo editor ON1 Photo RAW

The Markup
Blacklight

Above average number of ad trackers

www.on1.com

Options ▾ Scan Site

Blacklight Inspection Result

- 8** Ad trackers found on this site.
This is **more than** the average of **seven** that we found on popular sites
- 9** Third-party cookies found.
This is **triple** the average of **three** that we found on popular sites
- Tracking that evades cookie blockers wasn't found.
- We did not find this website capturing keystrokes.
- f** When you visit this site, it tells Facebook.
- G** Google Analytics' "remarketing audiences" feature not found.

Some of the ad-tech companies this website interacted with:

The inspected website contacted some well known actors in the ad-tech industry. Not all of these loaded to above. For more info, see the full report. Blacklight found a list of ad-tech companies and an idea of how the ad-tech industry works.

Adobe
Alphabet
Microsoft

Triple average number of 3rd party cookies

Expand for explanation

9 Third-party cookies found.
This is **triple** the average of **three** that we found on popular sites
These are commonly used by advertising tracking companies to profile you based on your internet usage.
Blacklight detected **9** third-party cookies on this site. Blacklight detected cookies set for **Alphabet, Inc.** and **Microsoft Corporation**

Finked on me to Facebook

My photo editor company
finked on me to Adobe???

Share

Should you be concerned?

Ad trackers

Websites containing advertising tracking technology load JavaScript code or small invisible images that are used to either **build your advertising profile or to identify you for ad targeting** on this site. These techniques are often used in addition to cookies to **profile you**.

Blacklight detected trackers on this page sending data to companies involved in online advertising. Blacklight detected scripts belonging to **PubMatic, Inc., Media.net Advertising FZ-LLC, and eight other companies**.

Facebook

When you visit this site, it tells Facebook.

The Facebook pixel is a snippet of code that sends data back to Facebook about people who visit this site and allows the site operator to later target them with ads on Facebook. A Facebook spokesperson told The Markup that the company **set up this system so that a user doesn't have to be "simultaneously logged into Facebook and viewing a third-party website for our business tools to function."** Common actions that can be tracked via pixel include **viewing a page or specific content, adding payment information, or making a purchase**. The Facebook pixel appeared in thirty percent of popular websites when we **scanned them** in September 2020.

Capture keystrokes

We found this website capturing user keystrokes.

Key logging is when a website **captures the text that you type into a webpage before you hit the submit button**. This technique has been used to identify anonymous web users by matching them to postal addresses and real names. This technique was used by four percent of popular websites when we **scanned them** in September 2020. On the site you are inspecting, information entered in the **postal-code** field was logged. Blacklight detected a script belonging to the company **Functional Software, Inc.** doing this on this site. **However...**

There are other reasons for key logging, such as providing autocomplete functionality. Blacklight cannot determine the intent behind the inspected website's use of this technique.

Share

PC Magazine

65

Ad trackers found on this site.

This is **more than** the average of **seven** that we found on popular sites

104

Third-party cookies found.

This is **more than** the average of **three** that we found on popular sites



When you visit this site, it tells Facebook.

The Verge

82

Ad trackers found on this site.

This is **more than** the average of **seven** that we found on popular sites

190

Third-party cookies found.

This is **more than** the average of **three** that we found on popular sites

Fox News

74

Ad trackers found on this site.

This is **more than** the average of **seven** that we found on popular sites

76

Third-party cookies found.

This is **more than** the average of **three** that we found on popular sites



This website loads trackers on your computer that are designed to evade third-party cookie blockers.

Share

What about opcug.ca?

The Markup

Blacklight

A Real-Time Website Privacy

Blacklight Inspection Result

Whew! 😄

opcug.ca

Visited opcug.ca on Oct. 30, 2024, 09:05 ET

Blacklight Inspection Result

0 No ad trackers found on this site.
We found an average of seven on popular sites.

0 No third-party cookies found.
We found an average of three on popular sites.

Tracking that evades cookie blockers wasn't found.

Session recording services not found on this website.

We did not find this website capturing keystrokes.

Facebook Pixel not found on this website.

Google Analytics' "remarketing audiences" feature not found.

No ad-tech companies were found on this website.

0

No ad trackers found on this site.

We found an average of seven on popular sites.

0

No third-party cookies found.

We found an average of three on popular sites.



Tracking that evades cookie blockers wasn't found.



Session recording services not found on this website.



We did not find this website capturing keystrokes.



Facebook Pixel not found on this website.



Google Analytics' "remarketing audiences" feature not found.

Blacklight did not detect any third-party user tracking technology present on this website. This can mean that this website is not tracking users. This is true of privacy-protecting sites and also of some websites that collect a lot of first-party data.

Share

Can you do anything about it?

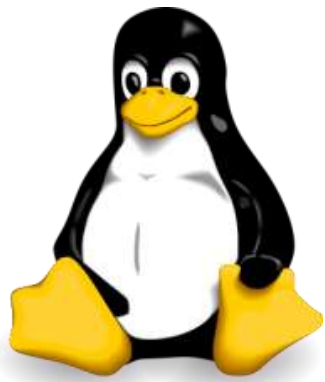
- Q&A in 2024
 - September 18 https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240918_PowerPoint.pdf
 - YouTube Tech - Ad-blocking DNS
 - July 31 https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240731_PowerPoint.pdf
 - Share - Firefox extensions – uMatrix
 - June 26 https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240626_PowerPoint.pdf
 - Share - μBlock Origin Deep Dive
 - March 20 https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240320_PowerPoint.pdf
 - Follow-up - Ad-Blockers and Tests
 - February 21 https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240221_PowerPoint.pdf
 - Share - Test ad/tracker blockers
- & check Q&A index https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/Q&A-Index.pdf



Extended Security Updates

- End of life for Windows 10 is October 14, 2025
- Microsoft will offer Extended Security Updates
- Critical and important security updates
- No new features, bug fixes, technical support
- Cost will be \$ 30.00/per computer
- Updates will only be available for one year
- You are only buying time
- If you purchase ESU, on October 14, 2026 you will be back to square one!

<https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2024/10/31/how-to-prepare-for-windows-10-end-of-support-by-moving-to-windows-11-today/>



Trading up to Linux – Part 5

Phase 3

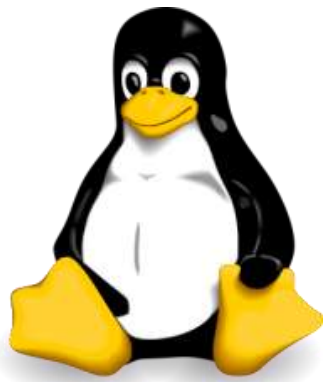
- Activate the firewall
- Update the Linux system
- Configure/customize the desktop

Phase 4

- Install new applications

Phase 5

- Running Windows programs in Linux



Trading up to Linux – Part 5

Phase 3

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

Phase 4

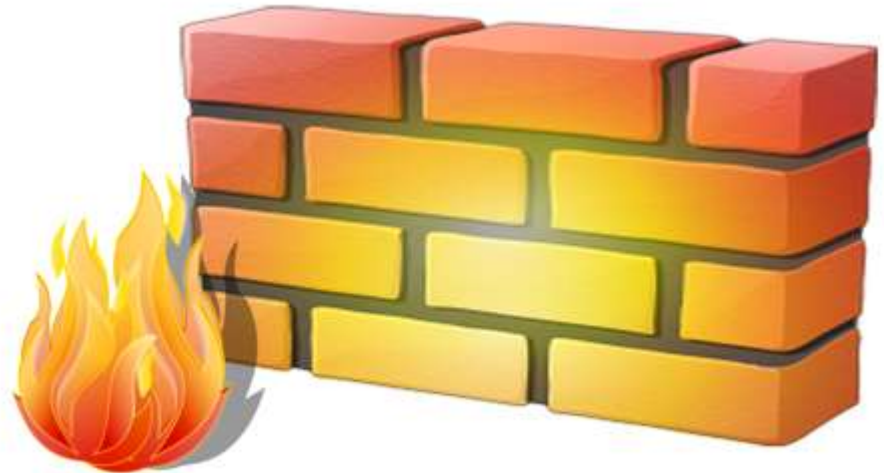
- Install new applications

Phase 5

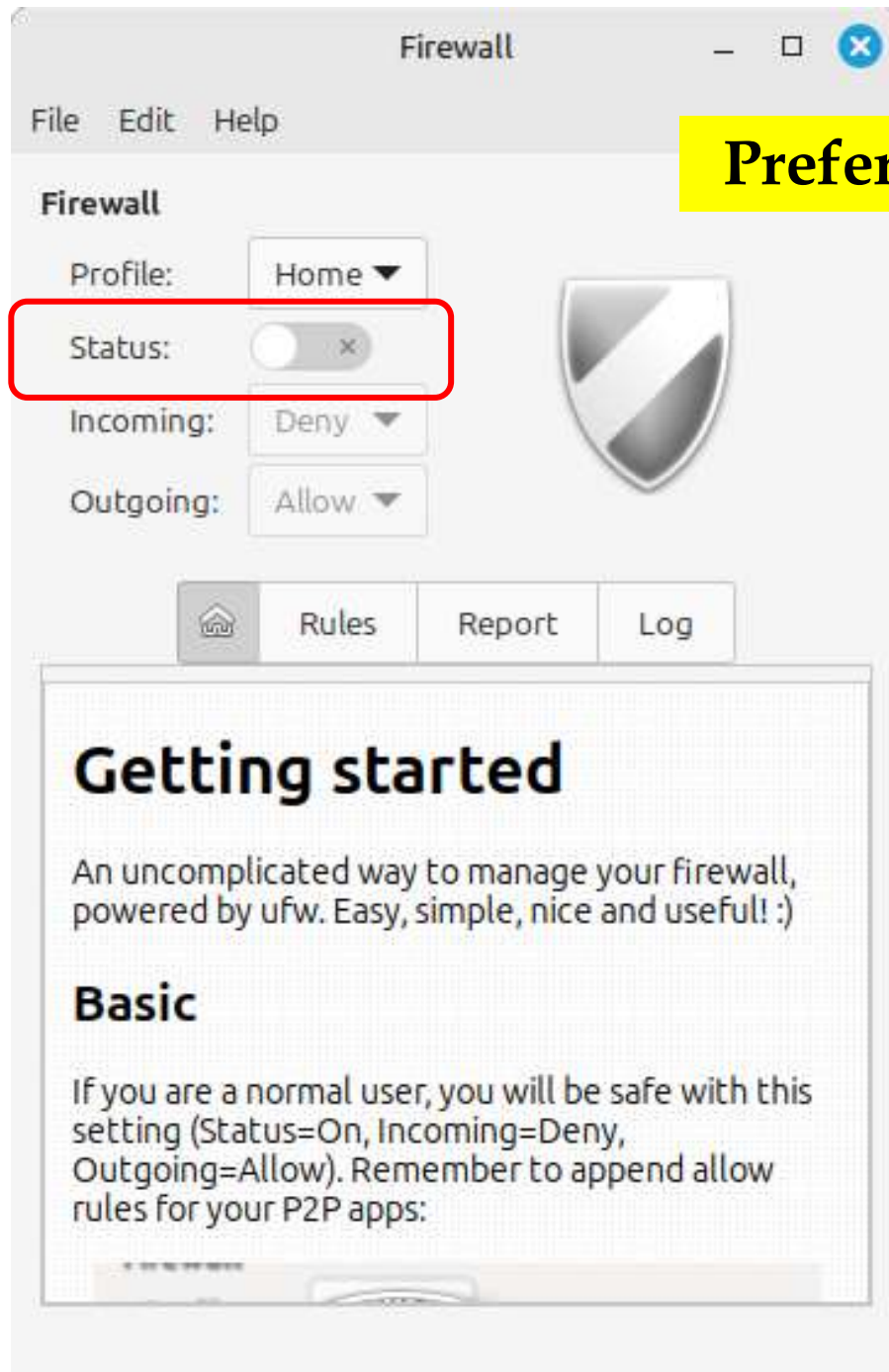
- Running Windows programs in Linux

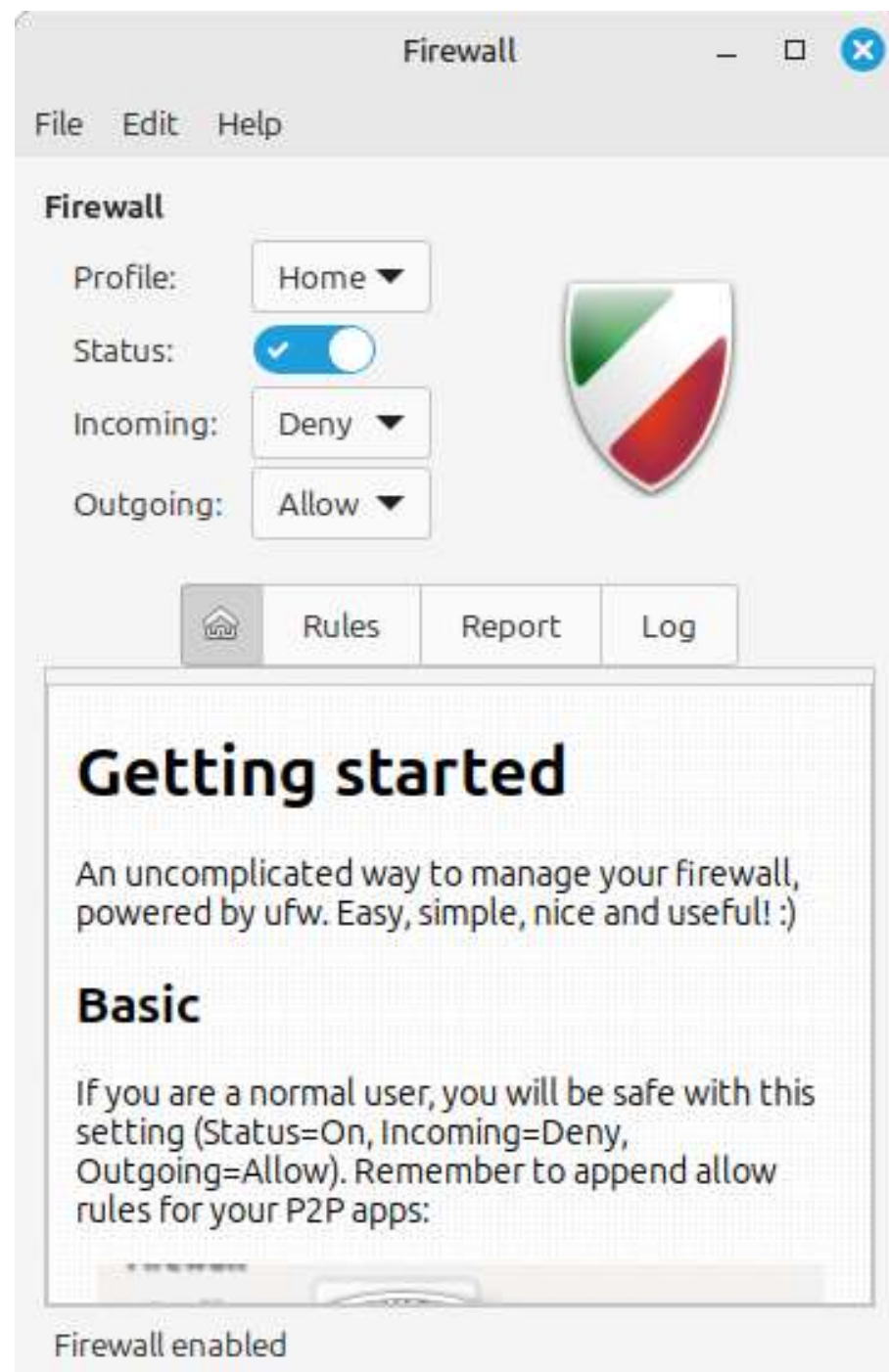
Firewall

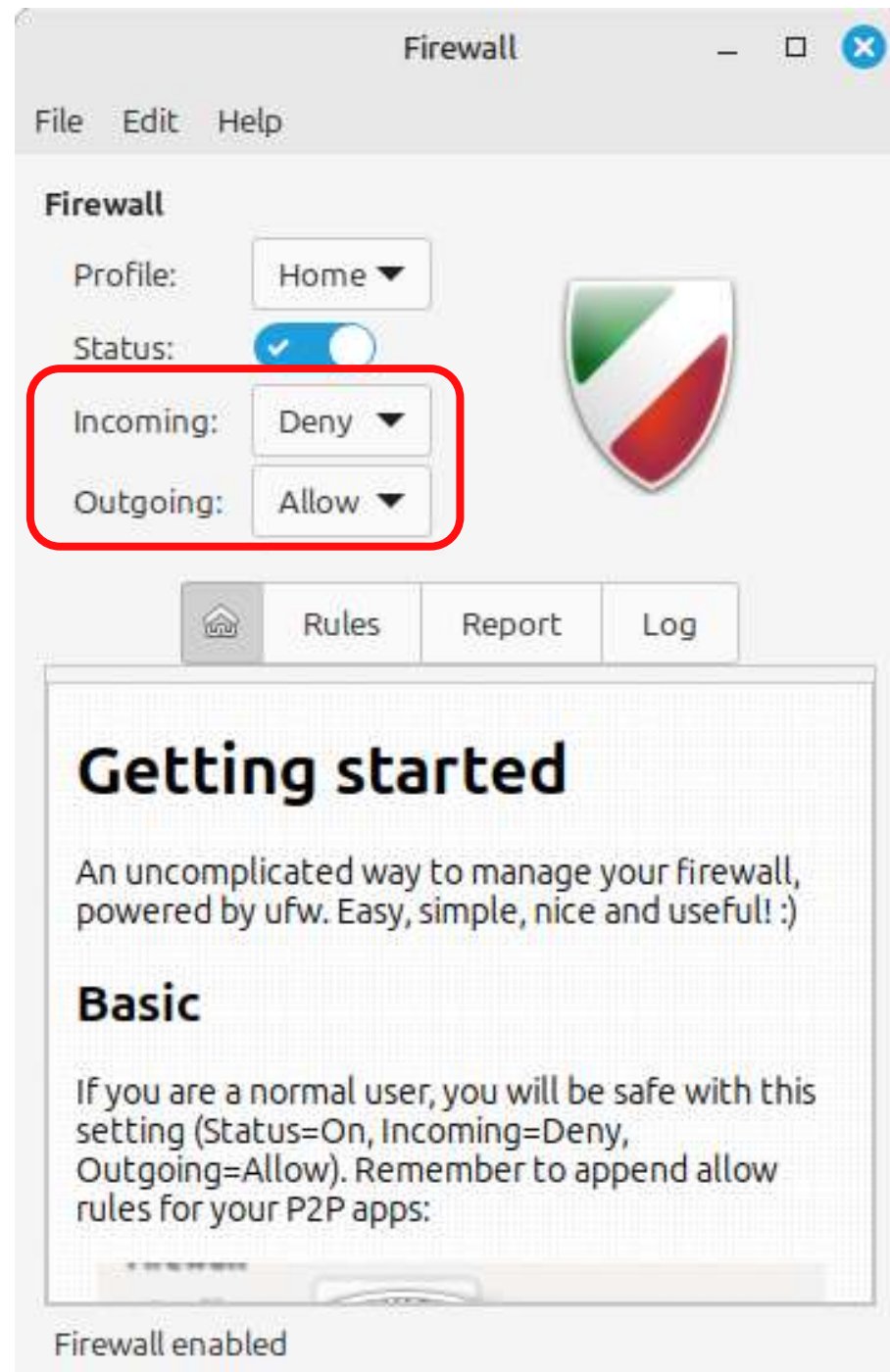
- Linux has a built-in firewall
- Uncomplicated Firewall (UFW)
- Not activated by default



Preferences > Firewall Configuration

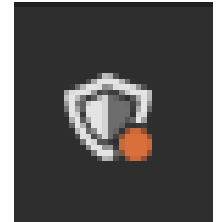






Update Manager

- An icon on the right-end of the panel indicates when updates are available
- Applying updates is under the control of the user (double-click on the icon)
- There are three categories of updates:
 - security patches (shield icon)
 - kernel updates (lightning bolt icon)
 - software updates (up-arrow icon)
- Recommendation is to apply all available updates



File Edit View Help



Clear



Select All



Refresh



Install Updates

Welcome to the Update Manager

This tool provides your operating system with software and security updates.



Security updates

Apply security updates to patch vulnerabilities and keep your computer safe.



Software updates

Apply software updates to fix bugs in your computer.



System snapshots

Set up system snapshots to protect yourself from mistakes and regressions. If anything breaks simply restore the last snapshot.

Linux Mint recommends to set up automated system snapshots and to apply all available updates. This way, your computer is always secure and you can go back in time and recover from any potential regression.

[Help](#)[OK](#)



Do you want to switch to a local mirror?

Local mirrors are usually faster than packages.linuxmint.com.

- Can select a Canadian mirror
(as for downloading the distro's ISO file)
- The default source (linuxmint.com) does not give any issues
- I press the No button

Yes

No

Three types of update



- **Shield - Security Updates**

address critical vulnerabilities and security flaws in the operating system and installed software



- **Lightning Bolt - Kernel Updates**

support for new hardware, bug fixes for the kernel, and performance improvements



- **Up-Arrow - Software Updates**

new features, bug fixes, and performance enhancements for installed applications

Update Manager

File Edit View Help



Clear



Select All



Refresh



Install Updates

Type	Upgrade	Name	New Version
	☒	vim Tool to make (or reverse) a hex dump	2:9.1.0016-1ubuntu7.3
	☒	webkit2gtk Web content engine library for GTK	2.44.3-0ubuntu0.24.04.1
	☒	wpa Client support for WPA and WPA2 (IEEE 802.11i)	2:2.10-21ubuntu0.1
	☒	Linux kernel 6.8.0-45.45 The Linux kernel	6.8.0-45.45
	☒	apparmor User-space parser utility for AppArmor	4.0.1really4.0.1-0ubuntu0.2
	☒	apport Python 3 library for Apport crash report handling	2.28.1-0ubuntu3.1
	☒	bzip2 High-quality block-sorting file compressor - utilities	1.0.8-5.1build0.1
	☒	cinnamon The Cinnamon desktop environment	6.2.9+wilma

Information

Packages

Changelog

104 updates selected (963 MB)

Update Manager

File Edit View Help

Clear

Select All

Refresh

Install Updates

Type	Upgrade	Name	New Version
Shield	✓	vim Tool to make	2:9.1.0016-1ubuntu7.3
Shield	✓	webkit2gtk Web content	2.44.3-0ubuntu0.24.04.1
Shield	✓	wpa Client support	2:2.10-21ubuntu0.1
Lightning	✓	Linux kernel The Linux kernel	6.8.0-45.45
Up Arrow	✓	apparmor User-space pa	4.0.1really4.0.1-0ubuntu0.2
Up Arrow	✓	apport Python 3 libr	2.28.1-0ubuntu3.1
Up Arrow	✓	bzip2 High-quality b	1.0.8-5.1build0.1
Up Arrow	✓	cinnamon The Cinnamon	6.2.9+wilma

Information

Packages

Changes

104 updates selected (963 MB)

⚠

This upgrade will trigger additional changes

The following packages will be installed:

linux-headers-6.8.0-45

linux-headers-6.8.0-45-generic

linux-image-6.8.0-45-generic

linux-modules-6.8.0-45-generic

linux-modules-extra-6.8.0-45-generic

linux-tools-6.8.0-45

linux-tools-6.8.0-45-generic

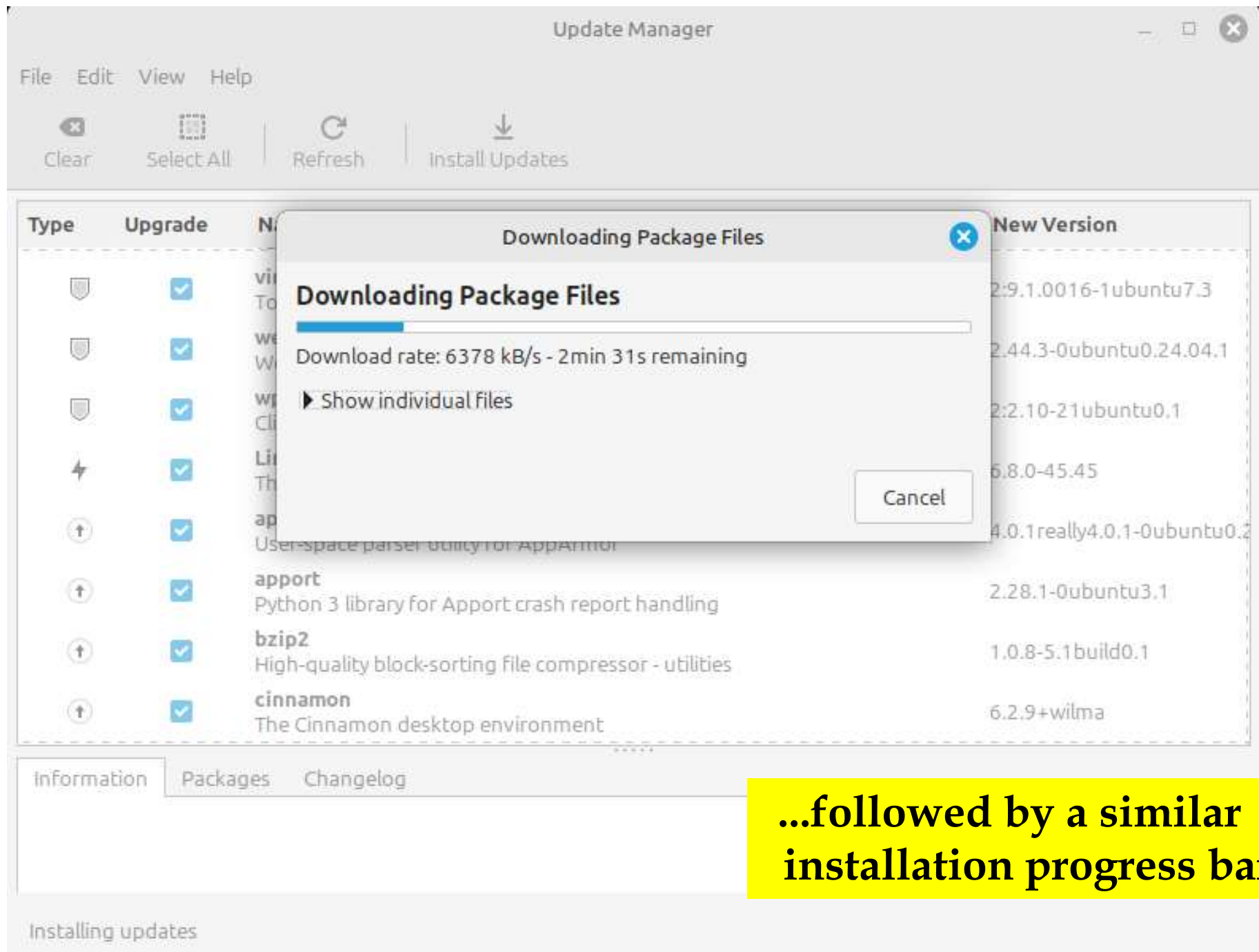
linux-tools-common

python3-feedparser

python3-html2text

Cancel

OK



Update Manager

File Edit View Help



Clear



Select All



Refresh



Install Updates



Your system is up to date

Linux Mint recommends to set up automated system snapshots and to apply all available updates. This way, your computer is always secure and you can go back in time and recover from any potential regression.

System snapshots

- I use regular full disk imaging and file/folder synchronization to provide the ability to restore the Linux system and/or my personal data files
- I don't set up system snapshots (Timeshift)

Software updates

- I do apply all available updates
- Updates are available frequently but are usually few in number and small in size
- The update process is very rapid
- Updates can be applied when I decide!



YouTubeTech

10 FREE SOFTWARE That Are Better Than WINDOWS APPS!



Brett In Tech ✓
1.38M subscribers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKgfGG7-Rp4>



How to know if your laptop is running on the battery?

- Twice now, I've received a message on my laptop that says I need to plug in because the battery is low
- Funny though, each time I was already plugged in. I'm always plugged in!
- The power cord on the back of the laptop didn't seem loose and I checked the AC adapter which is warm/hot when it's working
- Ideally, I would like to have an icon on the taskbar that shows the battery is in use
- I googled for that but no luck

Elizabeth O'Driscoll



Ask Perplexity AI

how do i know if my windows laptop is running on the battery or is plugged into the wall?

❖ Sources

How to Fix a Windows 11 Laptop That's Plugged In but Isn't Charging

 cnet · 1

Any Windows program to measure wattage of laptop charging over ...

 reddit · 2

The Battery status does not show if the battery is charging or not

 answers.microsoft · 3



View 3 more

✱ Answer

To determine whether your Windows laptop is running on battery power or plugged into the wall, you can follow these simple steps:

Check the Battery Icon

1. **Locate the Battery Icon:** Look at the system tray in the bottom right corner of your screen.
2. **Interpret the Icon:**
 - If the battery icon shows a plug symbol or indicates "Plugged in," your laptop is connected to a power source.
 - If it shows just a battery without a plug, your laptop is running on battery power.



Keep asking (follow-up question)

what displays the battery icon

🔗 Sources

How to Restore Missing Battery Icon in Windows PC - freeCodeCamp

 freecodecamp · 1

How To Fix Battery Icon Not Showing On Taskbar In Windows 10

 youtube · 2

Battery Icon Missing from Taskbar in Windows 10 - Simple Fix

 youtube · 3



View 5 more

🌿 Answer

The battery icon on a Windows laptop is typically displayed in the system tray, located in the bottom-right corner of the screen. This icon provides a visual representation of the battery's status, indicating whether the laptop is running on battery power or is plugged into an AC outlet.

How to Display the Battery Icon

If the battery icon is missing, you can restore it by following these steps:

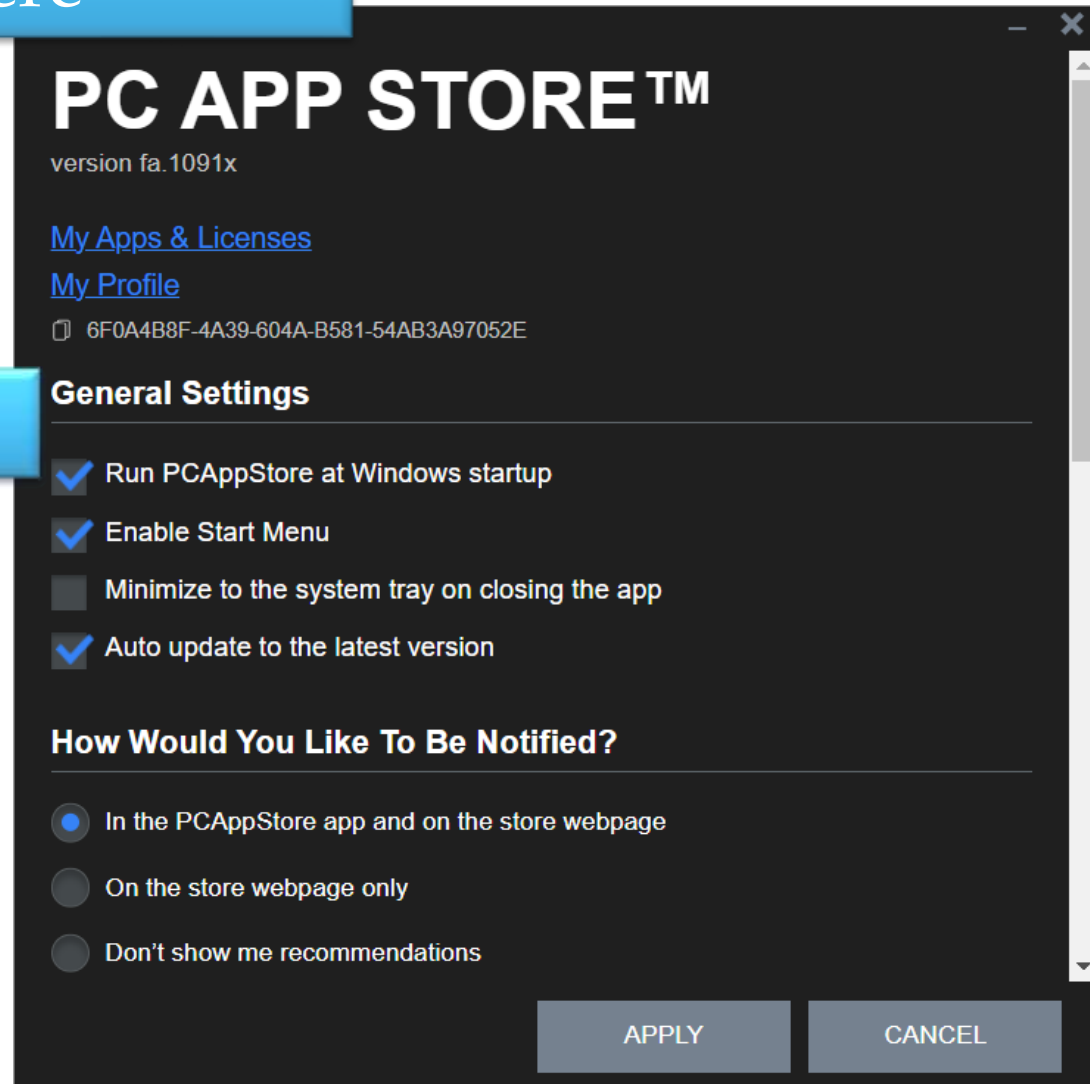
1. **Right-click on the Taskbar:** Find an empty space on your taskbar and right-click.
2. **Select Taskbar Settings:** From the context menu, choose "Taskbar settings."
3. **Navigate to Notification Area:** Scroll down to find "Notification area" and click on "Turn system icons on or off."
4. **Enable Power Icon:** Ensure that the toggle for "Power" is turned on. If it's greyed out, further troubleshooting may be necessary  .



PC App Store

This showed up on my desktop today
I have no idea how it got there

Is it a problem?





Ask Perplexity AI

- **What is "PC App Store"? Is it malicious?**
- PC App Store is legitimate software distribution platform owned by a UK-based *Fast Corporate*
 - frequently exploited by cybercriminals to distribute malware
- Likely bundled with other software
 - potentially including malicious programs
- PC App Store associated with several risks:
 - may display unwanted advertisements
 - may gather personal data or lead to identity theft
 - may install other unwanted applications
- Solution
 - remove manually or use a reputable antivirus program



Removing PC App Store (part 1)

- Uninstall using normal Windows process
 - Windows 11
 - *Settings > Apps > Installed apps*
 - Windows 10
 - *Settings > Apps > Apps & features*
- Find ***PC App Store***
- Right-click
- Select *Uninstall*



Removing PC App Store (part 2)

- Delete remaining files
 - search for *fa_rss* or *PCAppStore*
 - including hidden files and subfolders
 - delete the files & folders
 - take ownership of these files if needed
 - right-click on the file/folder
 - select *Properties* > *Security* tab > *Advanced*
 - click *Change* next to *Owner* field > *Advanced* > *Find Now* > select your username in list > *Check Names* > *OK*
 - if above doesn't work, use Command Prompt
 - open *Command Prompt* as administrator
 - type ***takeown /F "path\to\file" /R /D Y***
 - replace ***"path\to\file"*** with actual file path
 - type ***icacls "path\to\file" /grant administrators:F /T***



Removing PC App Store (Part 3)

- Scan with antivirus software
- Reset browser settings
 - Chrome: *Settings* > search for *Reset settings*
 - will disable extensions, and delete cookies & other temporary site data
 - Bookmarks, history, and saved passwords won't be affected
 - Firefox: *Help* > *More troubleshooting info* > *Refresh Firefox...*
 - will remove extensions and customizations
 - bookmarks and passwords won't be affected
- Clear browser data and cache
- Empty Recycle Bin
- Restart computer



Not for the faint-of-heart?

- If you don't feel comfortable following all those steps
- Maybe this would be a candidate for *One-on-one Remote Assistance*
- <https://opcug.ca/one-on-one-remote-assistance/>
 - be sure to reference this Q&A session





To prevent future infections

- Be cautious when downloading free software
 - adware is often bundled with it
- Only download software from official sources
- Keep operating system and software up-to-date
- Use reliable antivirus program with real-time protection
- Attend *Protecting your PC* at the Ottawa Public Library
 - <https://opcug.ca/mec-category/opl-presentations/>

Subject:	[OPCUG-Member-Forum] 90 years old
Date:	Wed, 6 Nov 2024 19:06:27 -0500
From:	Micheline (Gmail) <johnson.micheline@gmail.com>
Reply-To:	opcug-member-forum@googlegroups.com
To:	opcug-member-forum@googlegroups.com
CC:	Micheline (Gmail) <johnson.micheline@gmail.com>

I reached the age of 90 years old today. I never thought I would do that.
And I can still use a computer - more or less.

- Micheline

*HAPPY
Birthday
micheline!*





**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



OPCUG PRESENTATIONS AT THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Restoring Old Photos

Lynda Buske

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

Selected topics only!

Windows Performance Tune-Up

Chris Taylor

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

Basic Photo Editing with Photoscape X

Lynda Buske

Rockcliffe Park, Thursday Nov 14, 2024 at 5:30pm

<https://bibliooottawalibrary.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

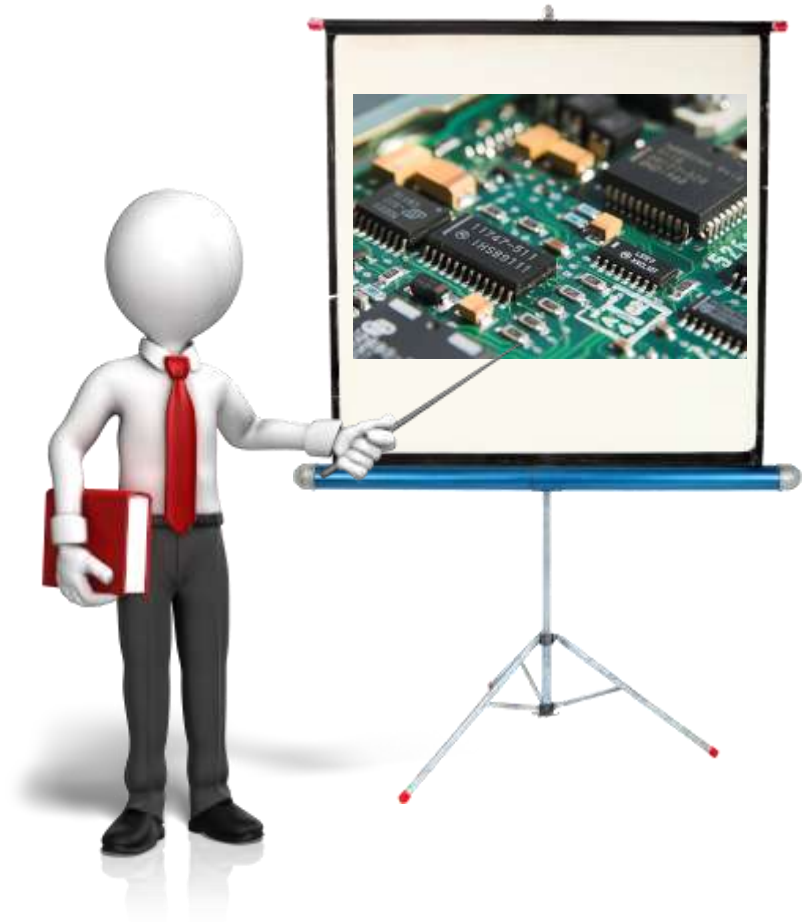


What do you need to know about computer hardware, operating systems, applications...?

Do you know of a speaker who could make a presentation on this topic?

Let us know at:

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca





No Q&A on
November 13
(Monthly Meeting)



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

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