



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

April 23, 2025



Best Virtual Machine

- What is the best way to make a complete Virtual Machine of my existing Windows 10 Pro SSD on an upgraded Windows 11 Pro SSD?
- This will make it easier to compare and re-customize what gets lost in translation
- I have installed VirtualBox, VMware Workstation (now free from Broadcom), Macrium viBoot and Windows Sandbox
- Macrium viBoot should have been the easiest, except the program crashed when selecting the .mrimg file
- Trying Sysinternals Disk2vhd next...

Steve Parker

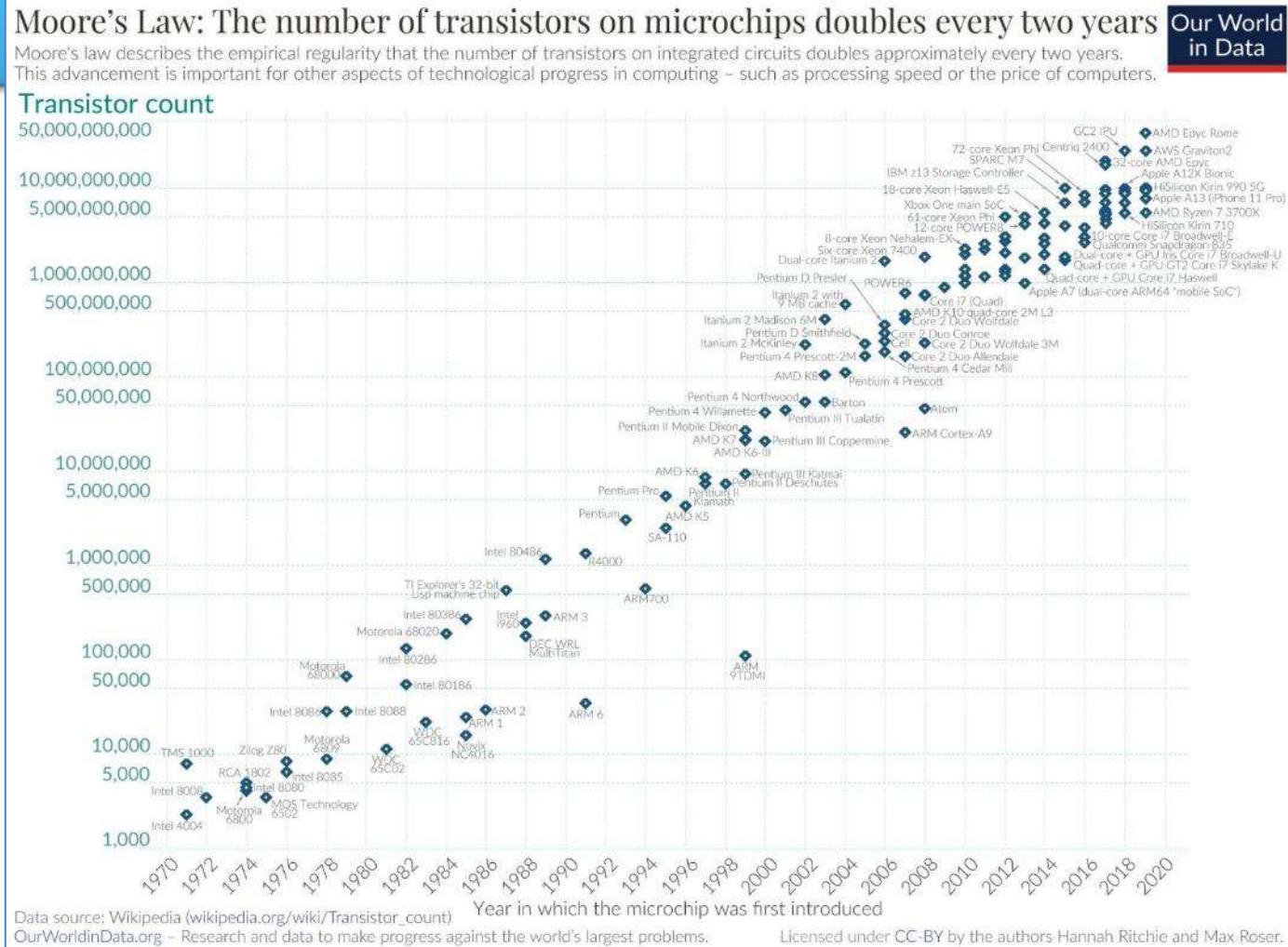
Moore's Law

- predicted the number of transistors in integrated circuits would double every year
- 1975 revised prediction to every 2 years

No consensus on when Moore's law will cease to apply

But the capital cost of a semiconductor fabrication plant increases exponentially over time

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore%27s_law



Share

Badging Gmail

- Installed Gmail as a PWA (progressive web app)
- PWA: web page that looks and feels like a separate app
 - gets its own icon on Windows taskbar
 - separate from Chrome as a web browser
- I use two email programs
 - Thunderbird for one email account gets “badging”
 - can tell at a glance if there is unread email
 - Gmail PWA (for Gmail account) doesn't get badging
 - can't see if there is unread email

Gmail doesn't show unread emails

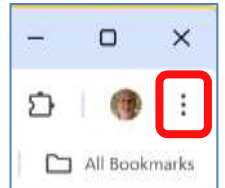
Thunderbird shows unread emails



Share

Gmail as PWA in Chrome

- Using Google Chrome, go to your Gmail Inbox
- Click the kebab menu (top-right)
- Click *More tools*
- Click sub-menu option *Create shortcut...*
- Name the shortcut *Gmail*
- **Important:** check box labelled *Open as window*
- Once new Gmail window opens
 - right-click Gmail icon on taskbar and choose *Pin to taskbar*



Share

Install extension

- Chrome web store
 - <https://chromewebstore.google.com/>
- Search for & install *Gmail Taskbar Unread Badge*
 - may need to restart Gmail running as PWA
- In Windows *Settings*
 - *Personalization > Taskbar > Taskbar behaviours > Show badges on taskbar apps*

Gmail icon now shows number of unread emails



Follow Up

Bing vs Google for search

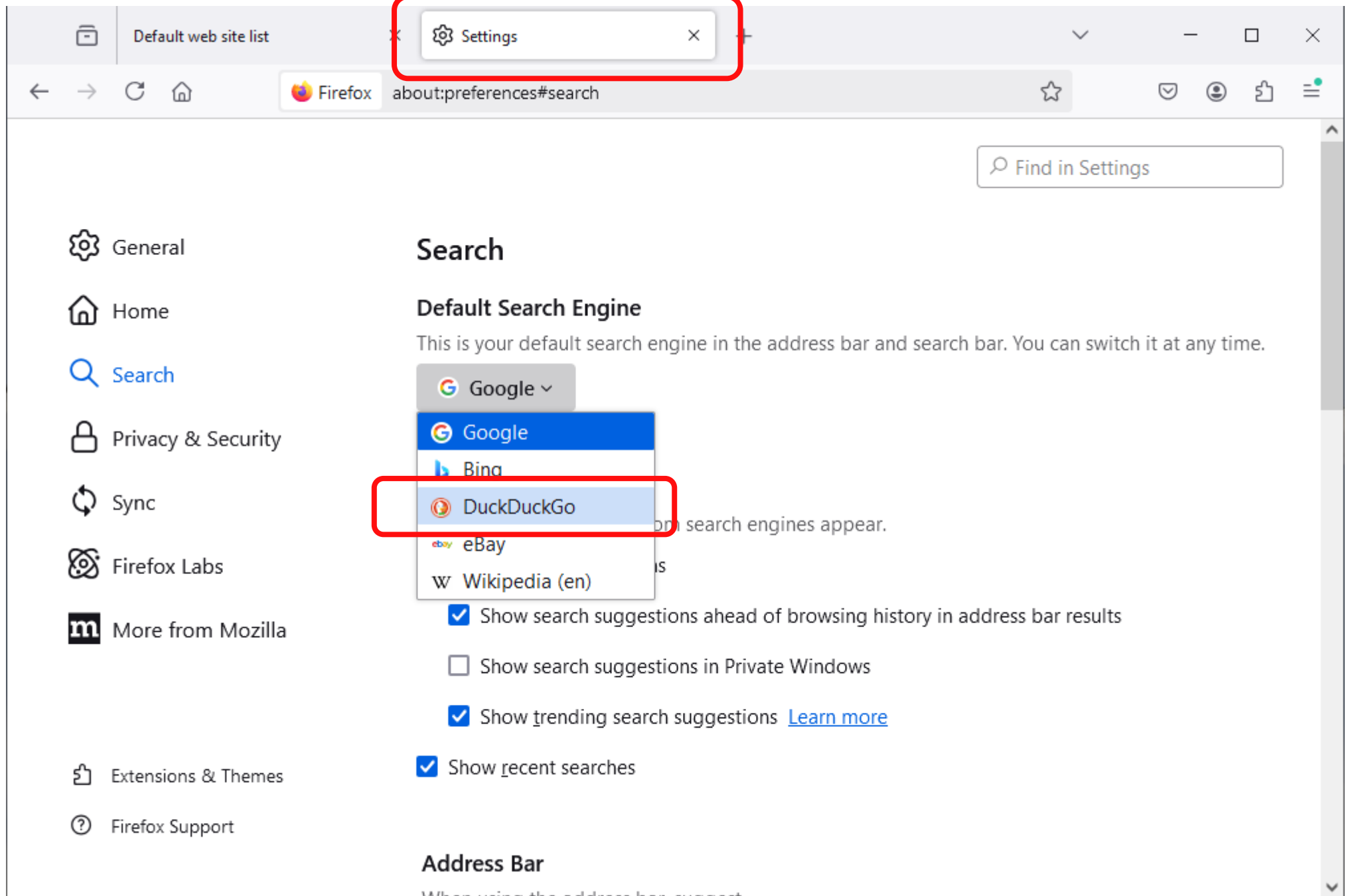


Suggestions in the Chat Window

- The majority of comments were from members indicating a preference for DuckDuckGo



<https://duckduckgo.com>



Default web site list

opcug q&a

opcug q&a — Search with DuckDuckGo

This time, search with:     W    

Search Engines

[Google!](#)
[Perplexity AI](#)

Weather

[CBC weather - Ottawa](#)
[Ottawa radar](#)
[Accuweather - Ottawa](#)
[The Weather Network - Ottawa](#)

Birding

[eBird Ottawa](#)
[Lanark](#)
[Leeds and Grenville](#)
[Renfrew](#)
[Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry](#)
[Prescott and Russell](#)
[Gatineau](#)
[Les Collines-de-l'Outaouais](#)
[Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas](#)
[OFO](#)
[OFNC](#)
[Red-tailed Hawk Nest \(Cornell\)](#)
[Bird Academy \(Cornell\)](#)

Alan and Carol's Home Page

[Microsoft 365](#)

Skiing

[NCC](#)
[XC Ottawa](#)

Banks

[TD Canada Trust](#)
[RBC Dominion-Securities](#)
[Tangerine](#)
[Exchange Rates - TDCT](#)
[Exchange Rates - ICE](#)
[Exchange Rates - Ultimate](#)
[Currency Conversion](#)

Other Organizations

[Ottawa Rambling Club](#)
[Rideau Trail Association](#)
[Ottawa Public Library](#)
[Canadian Museum of Nature](#)
[CBC Music Streams](#)

Metro

[Loblaws](#)
[Food Basics](#)
[No Frills](#)
[Farm Boy](#)
[Freshco](#)
[Adonis](#)

Movies

[Silver City](#)
[Cinéstarz](#)

Hot Buttons

[Facebook](#)
[Maciej and Sylvain's Blog](#)

Alan

[Linux](#)
[Dropbox](#)
[Q&A Drive](#)

opcug q&a at DuckDuckGo

https://duckduckgo.com/?t=ffab&q=opcug+q%26a&ia=web



opcug q&a

All Images Videos News Maps Shopping Chat

Always private

Canada (en)

Safe search: moderate

Any time

opcug.ca
https://opcug.ca › qa

...

Q&A - Ottawa PC Users' Group

Apr 2, 2025 - Our **Q&A** sessions are held on each Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 pm (except for the week of our monthly club meeting that is normally held on the second Wednesday of the month.)
Historical Note: Over the years, **OPCUG** has had a number of Special Interest Groups (SIG's).

Archives

Q&A - ARCHIVES Prior to July 8, 2020, Q&A sessions were held in person...

Honour Roll

OPCUG Honour Roll. Several commercial organizations as well as...

Friends

OPCUG Friends. A volunteer-run organization such as the Ottawa PC...

OPL Presentations

OPCUG PRESENTATIONS AT THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY All our...

Reviews

Members of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG) are pleased to share...

Fraud Watch

FRAUD WATCH Check out the latest scams below (updated October 23,...

opcug.ca
https://opcug.ca

...



flash drives ottawa



All Images Videos News Maps Shopping

Always private ☐ Canada (en) ☐ Safe search: moderate ☐ Any time ☐

Amazon

<https://www.amazon.ca> › Shop › flash drive on amazon

flash drive on amazon - Deals On flash drive on amazon AD

Get Deals and Low Prices On flash drive on amazon At Amazon. Protect Your Laptop From Scratches and Bumps Without Breaking the Bank.

4K HDMI Cables - Stories in first person - Fast Delivery Options



eBay

<https://www.ebay.ca>

Flash Usb Drive On eBay - Find It All On eBay AD

But Did You Check eBay? Check Out Flash Usb Drive On eBay.



Staples Canada

<https://www.staples.ca> › collections › usb-flash-drives-7251

USB Flash Drives | staples.ca

Shop our collection of flash USB drives at Staples.ca. Find thumb drives, memory sticks and flash drives on sale. Shop today!

External Hard Drives

Backup and store your files on an external hard drive. Shop Staples to fin...

Save on USB Flash Drives

Save on USB Flash Drives

Share

Quandry of quishing



Smashing Security podcast #412



<https://grahamcluley.com/smashing-security-podcast-412/>
• quishing portion begins @ 17:20

Share

QR code vulnerabilities



- Quishing: QR code phishing
 - you don't necessarily know where you will end up
 - 12% of all phishing emails in 1st half 2024 contained a QR code
- Hijacking switch attacks
 - malicious QR code put over a legit QR code
 - e.g. to pay for parking or charging electric vehicles
- Privacy invasion attacks
 - woman accidentally shared her restaurant ordering code while sharing food photos
 - others used her code to order \$60,000 worth of food
- Brushing scams
 - scammers sends an unsolicited package
 - often appearing to be from Amazon
 - QR code to report to vendor – takes you to phishing site

Share

Interesting stats



- Quishing increased 10-fold between 2021 & 2024
- Global payments using QR codes expected to exceed US\$2.7T in 2025
- More info in show notes for Smashing Security 412
 - <https://grahamcluley.com/smashing-security-podcast-412/>

Share

Protecting yourself



- Education
 - stay informed about quishing tactics
 - share knowledge with friends, family, & colleagues
- Verify the source
 - verify legitimacy prior to scanning any QR code
 - be cautious of QR codes received in unsolicited emails or public places
- Use secure QR code scanners
 - some QR code scanner apps provide preview of URL before opening
 - **caution:** scammers can use URL shorteners to hide malicious links
- Avoid scanning random QR codes
 - don't scan QR codes in unexpected or suspicious contexts
 - e.g. flyers on the street or messages from unknown senders
- Leverage phishing-resistant multi-factor authentication
 - enable phishing-resistant MFA on your online accounts
 - adds extra layer of security
 - more difficult for scammers even if they obtain sign-in credentials
- Avoid scanning *any* QR codes!

Share

GadgetPack

Windows 10 / Windows 11

Bob Herres

What Happened to Desktop Gadgets?

Mini Applications lived on your Desktop

Originally
introduced with
**Windows Vista
& Windows 7**

Removed by
Microsoft with
Windows 8



What is **GadgetPack**?

A free utility that restores

Windows Desktop Gadgets to Windows 10 & 11

- Formerly known as **8GadgetPack**
- Created by Helmut Buhler (Germany)
- First released in July 2012
- Latest version: December 2024

The logo for GadgetPack, featuring the word "GadgetPack" in a white, serif font, centered within a blue rectangular box with a slight gradient and a soft shadow.

GadgetPack

Why Use GadgetPack?

Why not Windows Widgets?

Gadgets remain visible on Desktop, at all times

Gadgets can be placed anywhere

Free Gadgets: Over 60

VS.

Widgets: 31 (some are paid)

Gadgets offer better customization options



Software > Operating Systems > Windows

Why You Should Use Desktop Gadgets Instead of Widgets in Windows 11 or 10

News

By Ed Tittel published June 29, 2023

First introduced in Vista, Desktop Gadgets stay on the desktop at all times.



Comments (9)

This writer prefers Desktop Gadgets for practicality, convenience & ease of use...

What Gadgets are available?



7 Sidebar



Agenda



All CPU M...



App Laun...



Breathe



Calendar



Chameleo...



Clipboard...



Clock



Control Sy...



Countdown



CPU Meter



CPU Utiliz...



Currency



Custom C...



Date & Ti...



Date Time



Desktop ...



Desktop F...

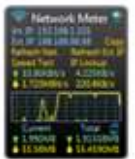


Digiclock



Digitalclo...

What Gadgets are available?

						
Drive Acti...	DriveInfo	Drives Me...	Drives Mo...	Feed Hea...	FlipClock	Glass Cal...
						
Glassy CP...	Glassy Ne...	GPU Meter	HUD Time	iBattery	Launch C...	MiniRadio
						
Mousome...	MSN Wea...	Multi Met...	My Weath...	Network ...	Network ...	Network ...

What Gadgets are available?



Piano



Picture Pu...



Pomodoro



POP3 Mai...



Power Sta...



Recycle Bin



Reminder



Remove D...



searchALL...



Shutdown...



Slide Show



Sticky Not...



Sticky Not...



System M...



Top Five



Top Proce...



Turn off PC



Unit Conv...



Volume C...



WeatherC...

You might think “60 Gadgets is a lot”

But what you’ve seen, is just the *surface*

Many of these gadgets are highly customizable, with multiple styles, features, and settings!

For example, that simple **Desktop Clock?**



It actually offers **9 Distinct Designs**, each with or without a second hand, and much more...

Gadgets I'm using now



**Sticky
Notes**
are Handy

6:15 PM
APRIL 19
SATURDAY



Gadgets I'm using now



Tweak it 'til it works
just right for you!



Always on top

Opacity

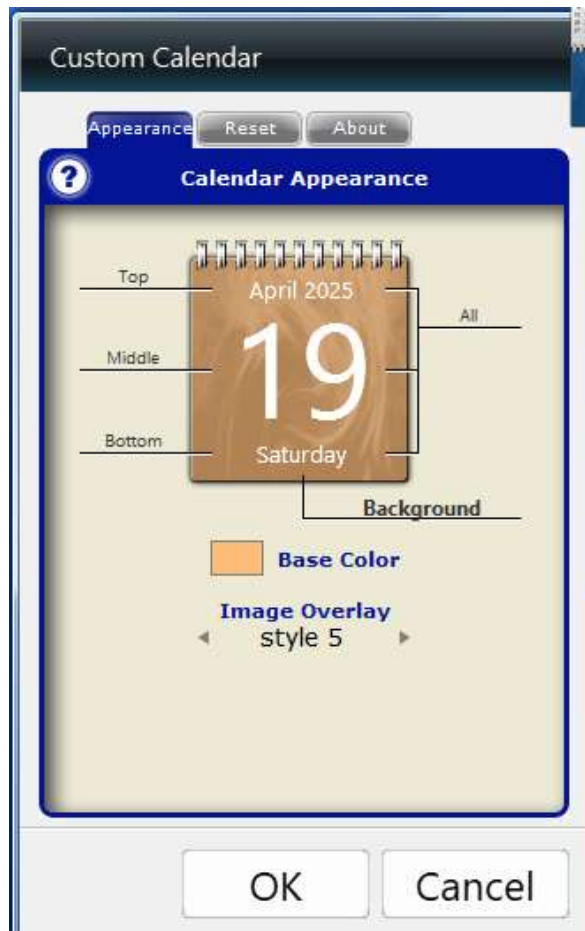
Colors

Font

Options



Everything is Fun and Easy to Customize



Why is Gadgetpack Free?

- **Passion Project** by developer **Helmut Buhler**
- Non-commercial motivation



- Community-focused approach
- No ads or paid upgrades
- Relies on user appreciation

Installing GadgetPack

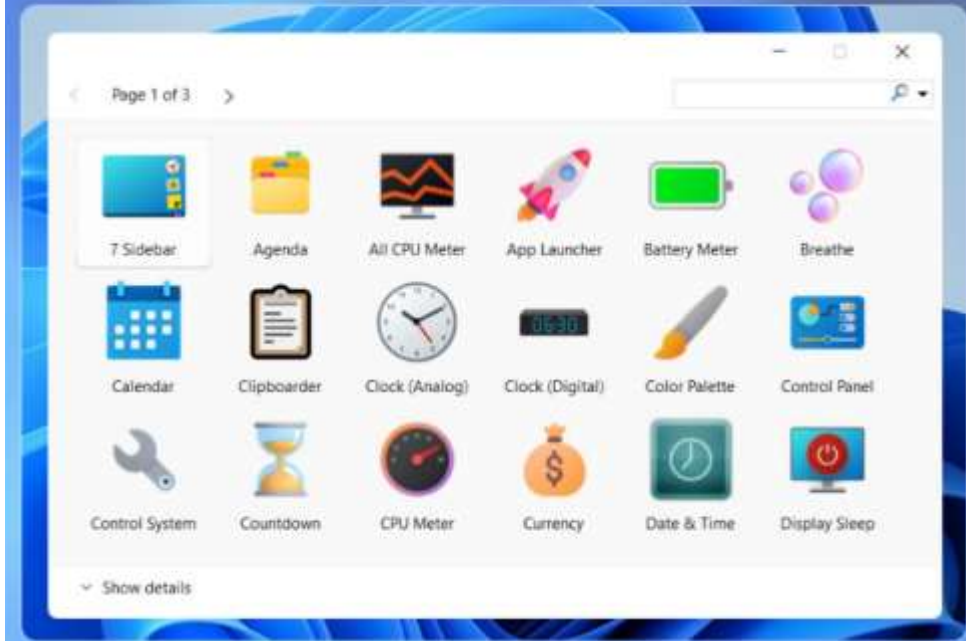
- Download from official website:
gadgetpack.net
- Run the installer (approx. 17MB)
- Complete installation wizard
- Right-click desktop and select "**Gadgets**"
- **Enjoy Choosing Gadgets!**



GadgetPack

Share

Use gadgets in Windows 11 / 10



gadgetpack.net

Download v38.0

2024-12-25 · 17MB



Thank You
Bob



YouTubeTech

The Real Reason Windows is Free - And what that costs you!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KNhHThIU84>



Windows Update Error

- Has anyone seen and fixed a download error for:
*2025-04 Cumulative Update for Windows 10
Version 22H2 for x86-based Systems (KB5055518)*

Windows Update



Updates available

Last checked: Today, 1:07 PM

Your device is missing important security and quality fixes.

2025-04 Cumulative Update for Windows 10 Version
22H2 for x86-based Systems (KB5055518)

Status: Download error - 0x800f0805

[Retry](#)

Q&A-Index.pdf

Find in Page: Windows Update 8 of 10

Q&A-Index.pdf 35 / 44 100%

Ask - Importing Excel Data, into a Fillable PDF Form
Share - Dell SupportAssist
Share - Automatic Dialing
Ask - Copying info from Google Sheets to Google Docs
Loonie Links - Weekly Grocery Prices
Share - Test ad/tracker blockers

FEBRUARY 28, 2024
Share - Google Sheets Tips
Loonie Links - FortNine
YouTube Tech - ThioJoe
YouTube Tech - The PC Security Channel
YouTube Tech - Storage Media Life Expectancy: SSDs, HDDs and More!
Ask - Windows Update Broken
Share - What is the right browser for both you and your Windows PC?

MARCH 6, 2024
Follow-up - Windows Update Broken
Follow-up - Checking the ram in your PC
Share - Protecting your bank accounts, debit and credit cards
Share - Disk Partitions – Reusing old disks
Share - Facebook First Impressions
Ask - Update for Access (Solved!)
Ask - How to assess accuracy of AI chatbots

MARCH 20, 2024
YouTube Tech - The Making of GNU

PowerPoint Presentation

opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240228_PowerPoin... Search Google JS Off

PowerPoint Presentation 16 / 53 57%

- Reset Windows update components
(Run cmd as Administrator)
`net stop wuauserv`
`net stop cryptSvc`
`net stop bits`
`net stop msiserver`
`ren C:\Windows\SoftwareDistribution SoftwareDistribution.old`
`ren C:\Windows\System32\Catroot2 Catroot2.old`
`net start wuauserv`
`net start cryptSvc`
`net start bits`
`net start msiserver`
Reboot

- Install updates one after the other

00 100 % 9:47 AM

← Settings

🏠 Home

Find a setting 🔍

Update & Security

🔄 Windows Update

📦 Delivery Optimization

🛡️ Windows Security

↶ Files backup

🔧 Troubleshoot

🔄 Recovery

✅ Activation

Windows Update



Updates available

Last checked: Today, 7:44 AM

Your device is missing important security and quality fixes.

Security Intelligence Update for Microsoft Defender Antivirus - KB2267602
(Version 1.427.316.0) - Current Channel (Broad)

Status: Downloading - 39%

2025-04 Cumulative Update for Windows 10 Version 22H2 for x86-based
Systems (KB5055518)

Status: Download error - 0x800f0805

[Retry](#)

Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool - v5.132 (KB890830)

Status: Downloading - 82%

[View optional updates](#)



Get the latest updates as soon as they're available

Be among the first to get the latest non-security updates, fixes,
and improvements as they roll out. [Learn more](#)



Off

← Settings

Home

Find a setting

Update & Security

Windows Update

Delivery Optimization

Windows Security

Files backup

Troubleshoot

Recovery

Activation

Windows Update



Error encountered

Last checked: Today, 7:44 AM

Your device is missing important security and quality fixes.

There were problems downloading some updates, but we'll try again later. If you keep seeing this, try searching the web or contacting support for help. This error code might help: (0x800f0805)

Retry

View optional updates



Get the latest updates as soon as they're available

Be among the first to get the latest non-security updates, fixes, and improvements as they roll out. [Learn more](#)



Off



Pause updates for 7 days

Get latest updates to pause again



Install updates as soon as possible



 Windows Update

Troubleshooting couldn't identify the problem

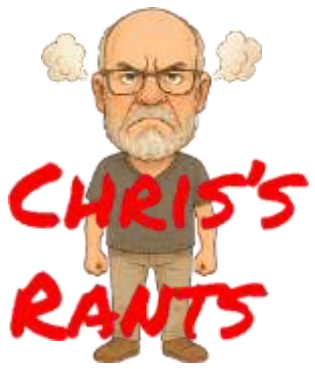
You can try exploring other options that might be helpful.

→ [Give feedback on this troubleshooter](#)

→ [Close the troubleshooter](#)

[View detailed information](#)

Close

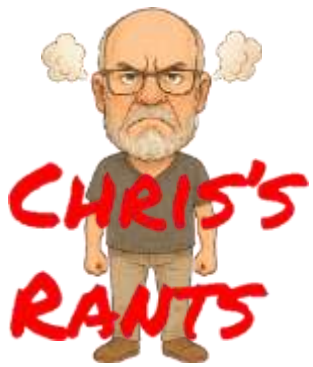


Password restrictions

- I have given *Keeping passwords safe* presentation about 20 times
 - I take passwords seriously
 - I realize the importance of strong passwords
- I fully support websites requiring strong passwords
 - especially if they follow NIST guidelines
 - <https://pages.nist.gov/800-63-4/sp800-63b.html>



Requirements that don't
make sense frustrate me!



Needed a new account at (unnamed) website

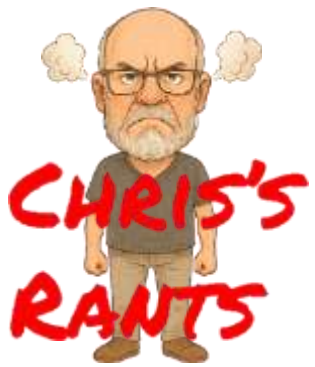
Decided on a 21-character complex password

- uppercase
- lowercase
- number
- special character

Created a new entry in password manager

The screenshot shows a 'Password Manager' window titled 'Add Entry'. The window has a yellow title bar with a lock icon and a close button. Below the title bar is a dark blue header with a key icon and the text 'Add Entry' and 'Create a new entry'. The main area has tabs for 'General', 'Advanced', and 'Properties'. The 'General' tab is active, showing fields for 'Title', 'User name', 'Password', 'Repeat', and 'Quality'. The 'Title' field contains 'Weird Restrictions Website'. The 'User name' field contains 'MyUsername'. The 'Password' field contains 'IFaPassworddontWork9!'. The 'Repeat' field is empty. The 'Quality' field shows a progress bar at '90 bits' and '21 ch.'. There are icons for 'Icon', 'Show/Hide Password', and 'Generate Password'. At the bottom are 'Tools', 'OK', and 'Cancel' buttons. A red box highlights the password field, and a red arrow points from the password field to a separate text box above it containing the same password.

Copied password to the clipboard



SIGN IN

Password

Re-enter

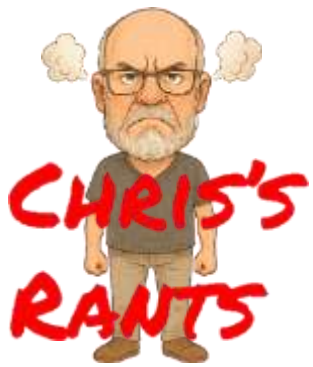
Put cursor in *Password* field

Hit Ctrl-v (paste)

Nothing happened

Website had disabled ability to paste password

- **WTF???**



SIGN IN

Password

***** 

Re-enter Password

Typed in password manually

Re-entered password manually

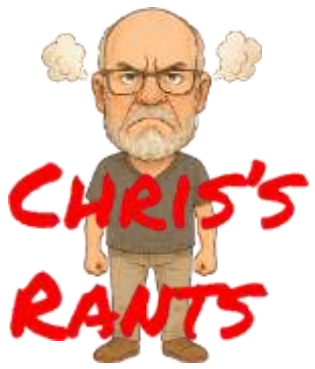
Error message

- *Must include special character*

IFaPassworddontWork9! has !

- ! on list of special characters at site

Clicked eyeball to reveal password



SIGN IN

Password

IFaPassworddontWork9

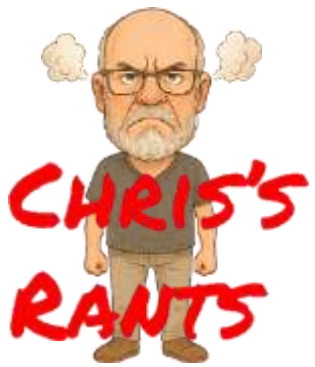
Re-enter

Missing ! at end

Tried to add it

Only 20 characters allowed

- I repeat...**WTF???**



Changed password from

- IfaPassworddontWork9!

to

- If!PassworddontWork9

SIGN IN

Password

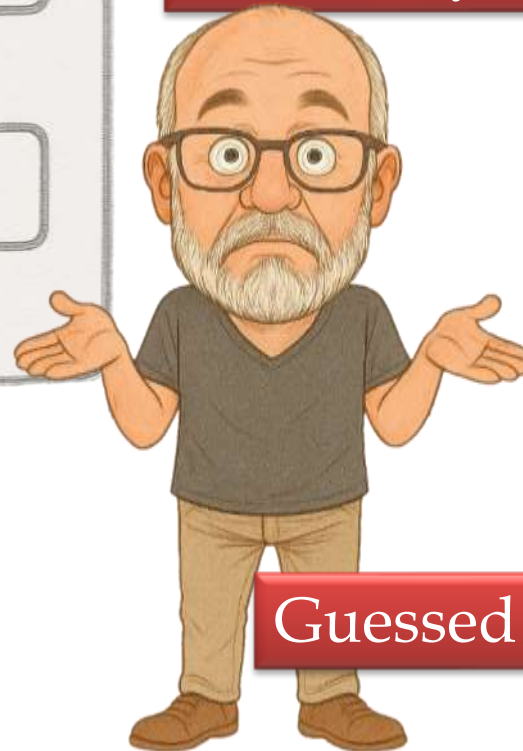
If!PassworddontWork9

Re-enter Password

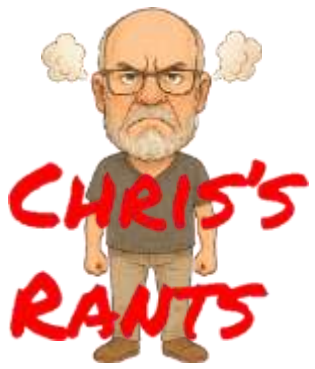
If!PassworddontWork9

Error message

- *Restricted words not permitted*
- didn't say what words were restricted



Guessed they objected to *Password*



What the **!@#*S** ???



SIGN IN

Password

If-!@#*S-NotAllowed1

Re-enter Password

If-!@#*S-NotAllowed1

Changed password
• included **!@#*S**

Password worked...*finally*



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



Quick Tips: How to use free AI tools in Your Daily Life

Chris Taylor

Rosemount, Thursday Apr 24, 2025 at 6:00pm

Keeping Passwords Safe

Chris Taylor

Centennial, Friday Apr 25, 2025 at 2:00pm

Macro Photography

Lynda Buske

Elmvale Acres, Saturday Apr 26, 2025 at 2:00pm

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



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca