



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

June 18, 2025

The Last Ten...



The last ten minutes of our Q&A session will not have any prepared material - so, give some thought to the question that you want to ask!



Poll coming up tonight

We are always looking for new topics for Q&A

According to Perplexity.AI

- *Ten Most Frequently Asked Questions About Using Windows*

Which questions about Windows interest you?

- ☐ I would like to know more about how to ... (check all that apply)
- ☐ install or upgrade Windows?
- ☐ update Windows (monthly updates)?
- ☐ troubleshoot startup?
- ☐ improve performance?
- ☐ manage privacy & security settings?
- ☐ troubleshoot printer connections?
- ☐ personalize desktop, taskbar, & Start menu?
- ☐ manage accounts, passwords, & sign-in options?
- ☐ back up data & recover files or reset Windows?
- ☐ install, uninstall, & troubleshoot apps?

Other Windows questions?

- email to SuggestionBox@opcug.ca



What do you trust?

- How do you feel about making purchases online?
- If you have the name of a business, its address, and testimonials, how do you verify any of these?
- How do you decide whether to give out your credit card information over the Internet?
- Can you trust your software when obtained from Microsoft, Google, SharewareOnSale, JoesSoftware...?
- Do you buy online from BestBuy/Marketplace, Kijiji, Amazon/3rd party resellers, etc?
- What does the lock in the browser really mean?

**Send your answers to SuggestionBox@opcug.ca
We will revisit this question at the next Q&A.**

Reason for the question...

- I was prompted to ask this question after I decided to put a deposit on a tour in the fall.
- The tour company looked legit; it seems they have been in business for several years.
- The testimonials and reviews were all great but that doesn't convince me.



What I learned is:

1. If the tour company is located in Ontario, one can check with TICO (Travel Industry Council of Ontario)
2. Some tour companies work with bigger players. In my case, the tour company is using Trafalgar for support/transport
3. If the tour company literature claims to have stayed at a given hotel(s), then call the hotel and ask

4. I discussed travel insurance with about three separate insurance companies and they all knew the tour operator
5. This tour operator will book flights on Air Canada and receive some compensation (OK with me), so confirm the arrangement with Air Canada

**Sounds like overkill perhaps but
this tour is a whack of money!**

Follow Up Quantum key distribution

Q&A 2025-06-04

Steve Parker:

Did Dave mention Quantum Key?

- he did not



Quantum computing

YouTubeTech

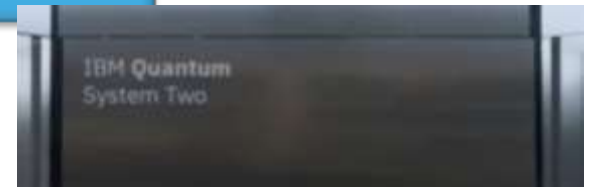
- Quantum Computing Explained by a Retired Microsoft Engineer
- on Dave's Garage, Dave explains
 - qubits
 - superposition
 - entanglement
 - what sort of problems quantum computing will solve...eventually
- One of the better explanations I have seen of quantum computing, but...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzGJw6daRTw>

The Race to Harness Quantum Computing's Mind-Bending Power

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_gJp2uAjO0



...starting about 17 minutes in



Steve Parker



YouTubeTech

Windows 10: Four Months to Go

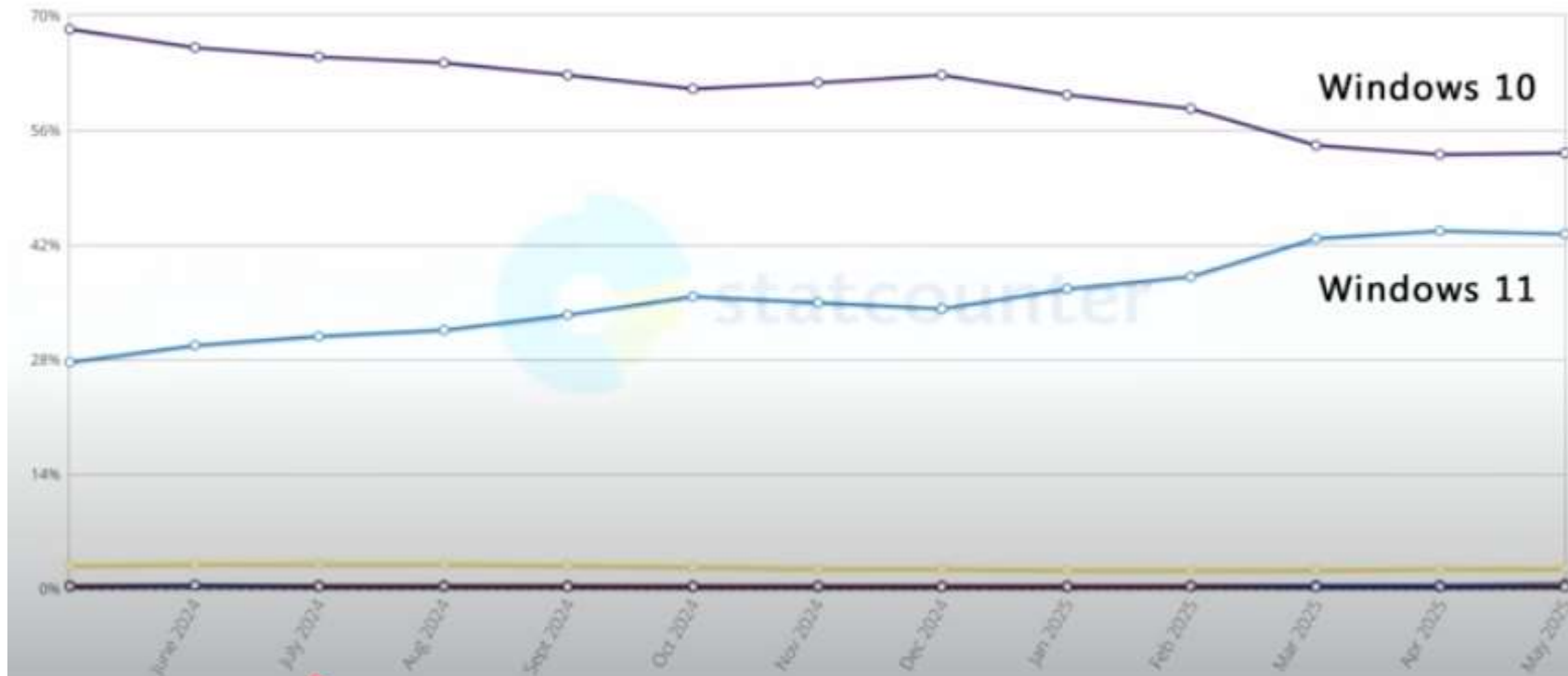


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRjD_XJuo7g

Desktop Windows Version Market Share Worldwide

May 2024 - May 2025

Edit Chart Data



Windows 10 53.2%

Windows 11 43.2 %

OPTION	PROS	CONS
Do nothing	Easy	Security risk
Run Windows 10 offline	Easy	Often impractical
Buy Microsoft ESUs	Buys time	Cost & availability
Buy third party security patches	Buys time	Cost & risk(?)
Migrate to Win 10 Enterprise LTSC	Buys time	Cost & availability
Unofficial Win 11 install	Relatively easy	No official support
Fully migrate to Linux-based OS	Long term fix	App compatibility
Dual boot Linux & offline Win 10	No resource split	Setup/complexity
Linux host with offline Win 10 VM	Flexibility	Splits resources
Win 10 host with Linux VM	Secure browsing	Some security risk



Poll - Which questions about Windows interest you?

Which questions about Windows interest you?

☐ I would like to know more about how to ... (check all that apply)

☐ install or upgrade Windows?

☐ update Windows (monthly updates)?

☐ troubleshoot startup?

☐ improve performance?

☐ manage privacy settings?

☐ troubleshoot printer connections?

☐ personalize desktop, taskbar, & Start menu?

☐ manage accounts, passwords, & sign-in options?

☐ back up data & recover files or reset Windows?

☐ install, uninstall, & troubleshoot apps?

Stand by - Real-time poll is next...



If you have any other questions about
Windows or computer usage just let us know

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca



Share

Humble Bundle

- Bundles of software, games, or eBooks
- eBooks are available in multiple formats, no DRM
- \$1 USD to \$40 USD via Paypal
- Part of the price is a donation to a charity
- You can choose the amount to go to a charity



<https://www.humblebundle.com/>

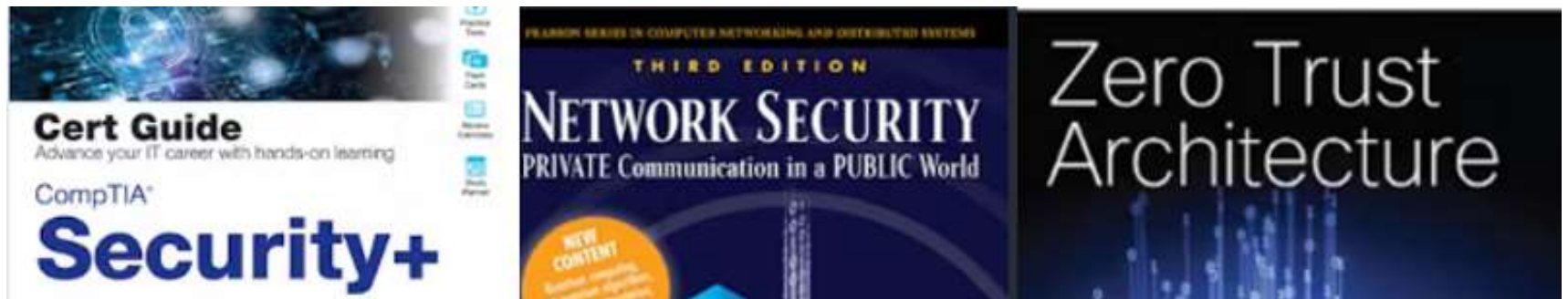
tOM Trottier

Some Book Bundles

- AI Engineering, Learning LangChain, Prompt Engineering for LLMs, Hands-On Generative AI with Transformers and Diffusion Models, and more! **17 books**



- Network Security 3rd Edition, Zero Trust Architecture, The AI Revolution in Networking, and more ! **18 books**



Some Software Bundles

- Wartales, Bloodroots, The Medium, art of rally, Slay the Spire, and more! **8 games**



- YouTube Creators Music, Vintage Radio & Broadcast, Ambiences, Cartoon, Cinematic SFX, and more! **104 items**



Some Current Games

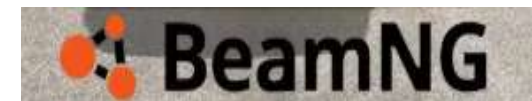
Stellar Blade™ Complete Edition

ELDEN RING NIGHTREIGN



ELDEN RING NIGHTREIGN DELUXE EDITION

Clair Obscur: Expedition 33



BeamNG.drive

Final Fantasy Tactics - The Ivalice Chronicles -

Deluxe Edition

Vintage Story



RoadCraft - Rebuild Edition

Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 Deluxe Edition

RAIDOU Remastered: The Mystery of the Soulless

Army - Digital Deluxe Edition

Enshrouded

Monster Train 2



Follow Up Vulnerability management

- Security vulnerabilities are in most software
 - maybe almost all!
(they just haven't been found yet)
- If exploited by an attacker, could result in
 - identity theft
 - file loss
 - take-over of your computer
- Vulnerability management software examines the software on your computer
 - finds versions you are running where:
 - there are security vulnerabilities
 - a patch is available to fix the vulnerability



Follow Up Vulnerability manager vs. Update manager

- Vulnerability manager *only* cares about vulnerabilities
 - is there a newer version of a program that fixes vulnerability
 - is there a vulnerability in current version & no patch available
 - a vulnerability manager is what *I* really want!
 - if update fixes security vulnerabilities, I will take it...every time
- Update manager *only* cares if a newer version available
 - *may* include vulnerability fixes — no way to tell
 - problem if the newer version is not free
 - you have to decide if you want to pay for update even if it doesn't fix security vulnerabilities
 - not a problem if the program is free!
 - if update doesn't fix vulnerabilities, I may not update

Follow Up Q&A discussions

- Discussed vulnerability/update managers many times
 - Patch My PC Home Updater
 - Glarysoft Software Update
 - Secteer Vulndetect

But...

- we never did comparisons
- is there anything new?

- 2020-12-30
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20201230_PowerPoint.pdf
- 2024-02-07
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240207_PowerPoint.pdf
- 2025-02-19
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20250219_PowerPoint.pdf
- 2025-03-26
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20250326_PowerPoint.pdf

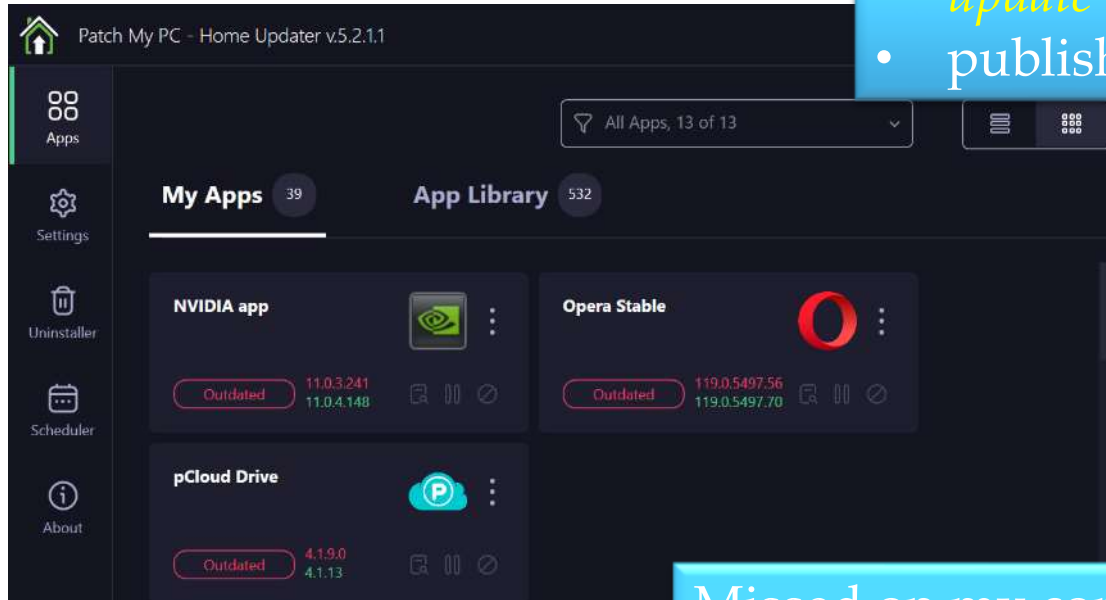
Follow Up Free programs



- Update Managers
 - Patch My PC Home Updater
 - <https://patchmypc.com/product/home-updater/>
 - GlarySoft Software Update
 - <https://www.glarysoft.com/software-update-free/>
 - UniGetUI
 - <https://www.marticliment.com/unigetui/>
- Vulnerability **and** update manager
 - Secteer VulnDetect
 - <https://vulndetect.com/#/>

Follow Up How did they do?

- Patch My PC Home Updater



- *update* manager not *vulnerability* manager
- published list of apps they monitor (532)

Found on my computer

- NVIDIA app
- Opera browser
- pCloud cloud synching app

Missed on my computer

- Ashampoo Photo Recovery (found by Garysoft)
- TextPad (found by Garysoft)
- balena Etcher (found by Garysoft & UniGetUI)
- Components of other apps
 - 7-Zip (found by VulnDetect)
 - OpenVPN (found by VulnDetect)
 - Python (found by VulnDetect)
- Wacom tablet driver (found by VulnDetect)
- portable apps (found by VulnDetect)

Follow Up How did they do?

- Glarysoft Software Update



- *update* manager not *vulnerability* manager
- don't publish list of apps they monitor
 - third-party claims ~130 apps

Title	Latest Version	Size
4 Updates Detected		
 Ashampoo Photo Recovery Publisher: Ashampoo GmbH & Co. KG License: Free Trial Installed Version: 1.0.5.234	3.0.0	10.17 MB
 TextPad (64bit) Publisher: Helios Software Solutions License: Free Trial Installed Version: 7.6.4.0	8.22.1	6.73 MB
 balenaEtcher Publisher: Balena License: Free Installed Version: 2.1.2.0	2.1.3	173.44 MB
 pCloud Drive (32bit) Publisher: pCloud Team License: Free Installed Version: 4.1.9.0	4.1.13	87.51 MB

Not a free update

Found on my computer

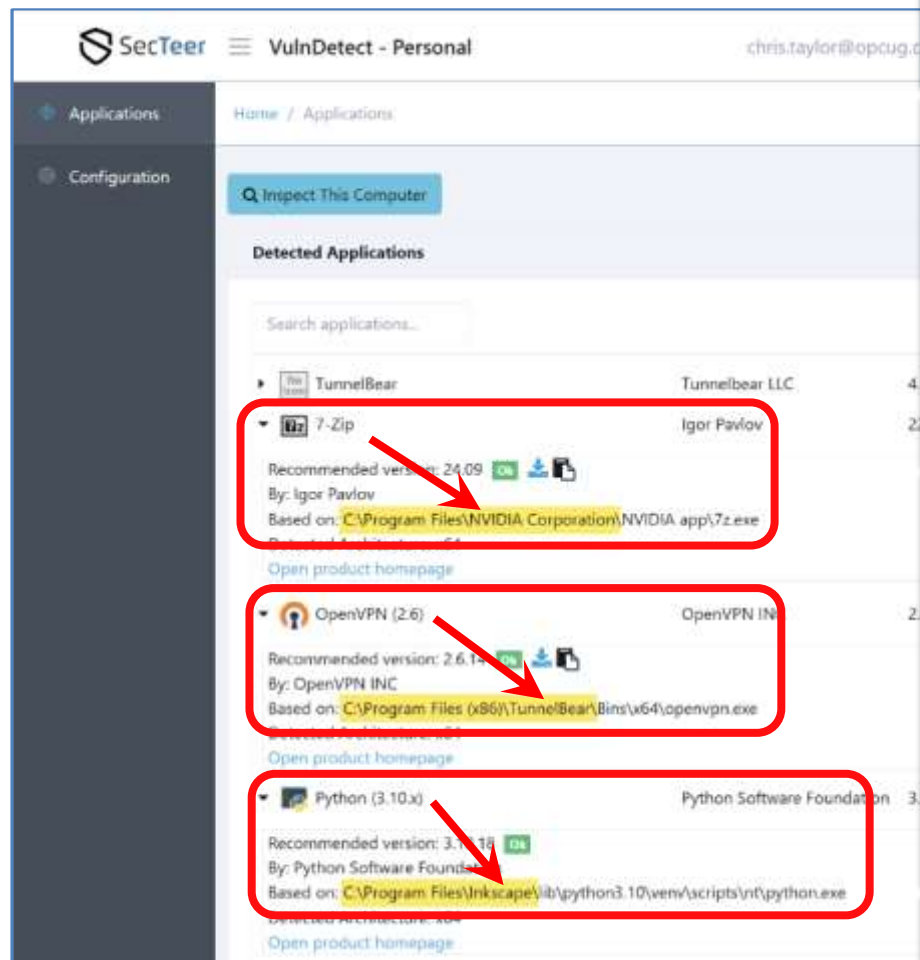
- Ashampoo Photo Recovery
- TextPad
- balena Etcher
- pCloud

Missed on my computer

- NVIDIA App (found by Patch My PC)
- Opera browser (found by Patch My PC)
- Components of other apps
 - 7-Zip (found by VulnDetect)
 - OpenVPN (found by VulnDetect)
 - Python (found by VulnDetect)
- Wacom tablet driver (found by VulnDetect)
- portable apps (found by VulnDetect)

Follow Up How did they do?

- Secteer VulnDetect



Can't update a *component* of another program!

- *update* manager & *vulnerability* manager
- don't publish list of apps they monitor
 - *approx. 1800+ applications*

Found vulnerabilities on my computer

- components of other apps (no other updater found these)
 - 7-Zip
 - OpenVPN
 - Python

Update available (current version secure)

- Opera
- pCloud
- TreeSize Professional
- Wacom tablet driver
- SysInternals Autoruns (portable app)
- KeePass (portable app)

Missed on my computer

- NVIDIA App (found by Patch My PC)
- Ashampoo (found by Glarysoft)
- TextPad (found by Glarysoft)
- balena Etcher (found by Glarysoft)

Follow Up How did they do?

- UniGetUI

Update manager not *vulnerability* manager

- uses 6 software package repositories / package managers
 - **WinGet** (including Microsoft Store): 8,841 applications, including popular desktop software and store apps
 - **Chocolatey**: Over 10,000 packages, primarily desktop and server software
 - **Scoop**: Thousands of utilities and open-source tools
 - **Pip**: Hundreds of thousands of Python packages
 - **Npm**: Over a million JavaScript/Node.js packages
 - **PowerShell Gallery**: Tens of thousands of scripts, modules, and tools

UniGetUI

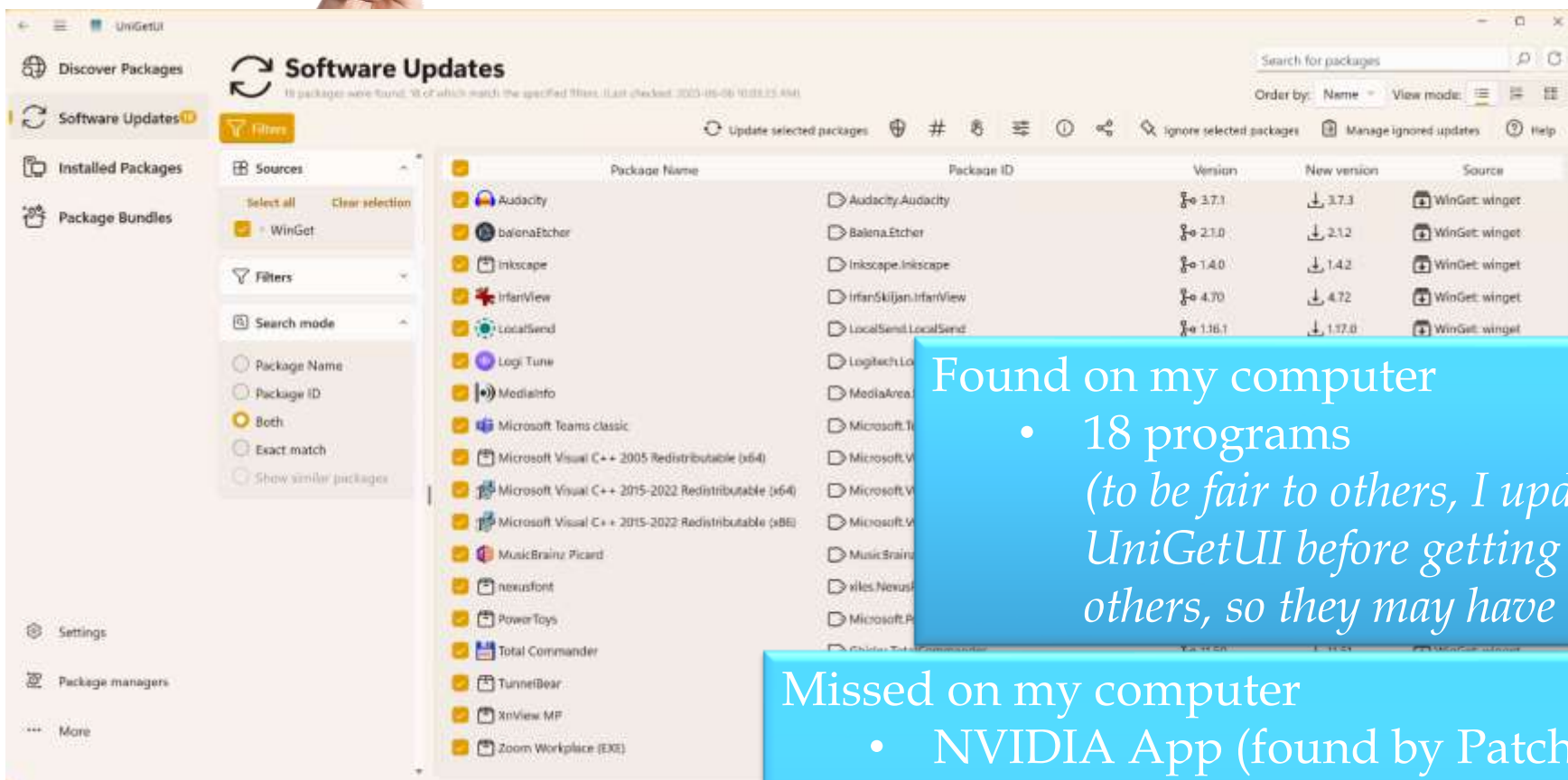
- can only update programs available through a supported repository
- some programs *only* available with a standard installation setup program
 - especially commercial paid-for programs
 - difficult for vendors to publish in a repository *and* charge for program

UniGetUI bonus

- can search for and install new programs
- automagically kept up-to-date

Follow Up How did they do?

- UniGetUI



Found on my computer

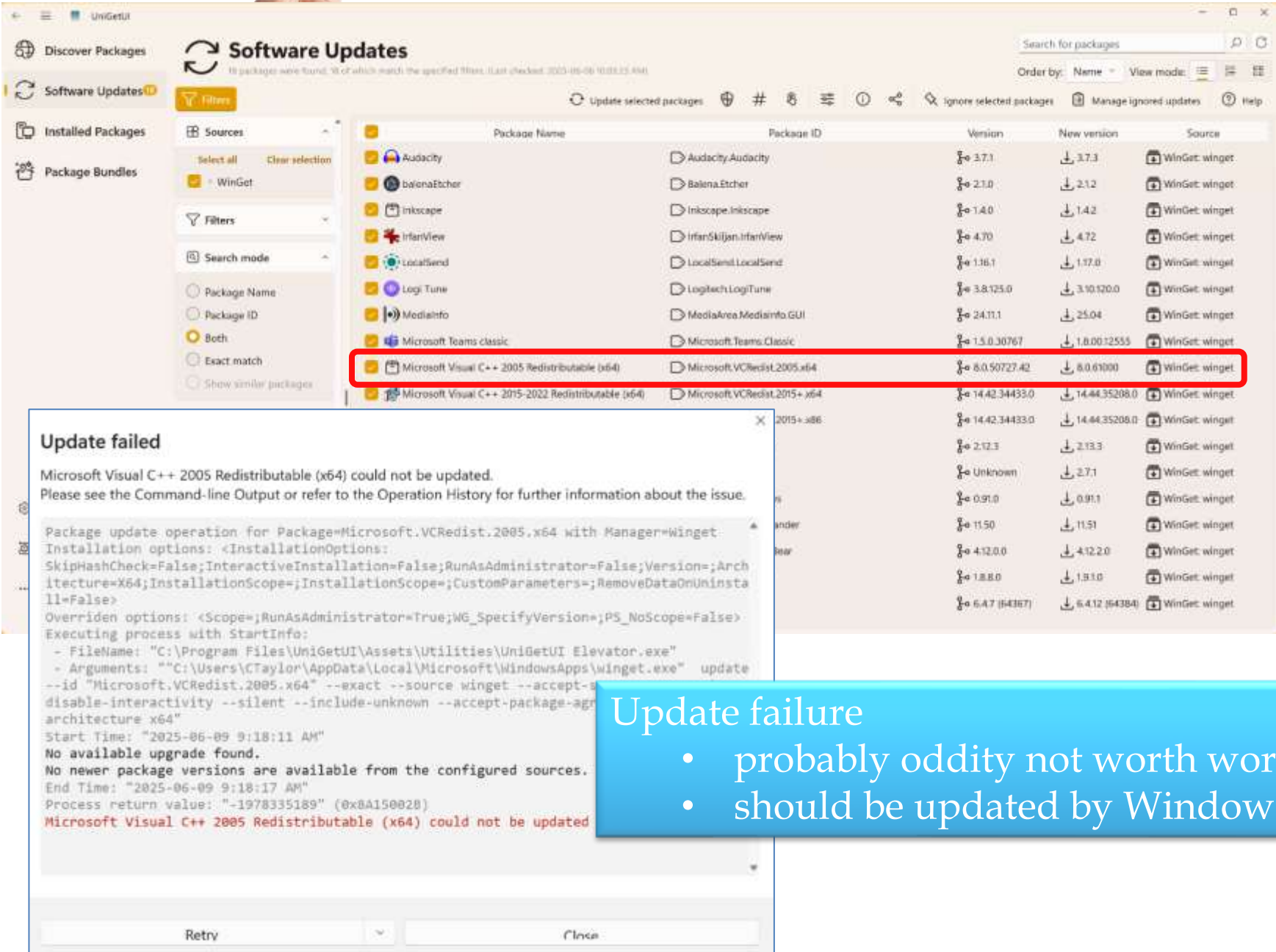
- 18 programs
(to be fair to others, I updated from UniGetUI before getting screenshots of others, so they may have caught some)

Missed on my computer

- NVIDIA App (found by Patch My PC)
- Ashampoo (found by Glarysoft)
- TextPad (found by Glarysoft)
- Components of other apps
 - 7-Zip (found by VulnDetect)
 - OpenVPN (found by VulnDetect)
 - Python (found by VulnDetect)
- portable apps (found by VulnDetect)

Follow Up How did they do?

- UniGetUI



The screenshot shows the UniGetUI interface with a list of software updates. The 'Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Redistributable (x64)' package is highlighted with a red box. Below the list, a dialog box titled 'Update failed' displays the error message: 'Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Redistributable (x64) could not be updated. Please see the Command-line Output or refer to the Operation History for further information about the issue.'

The command-line output in the dialog box is as follows:

```
Package update operation for Package=Microsoft.VCRedist.2005.x64 with Manager=Winget
Installation options: <InstallationOptions:
SkipHashCheck=False;InteractiveInstallation=False;RunAsAdministrator=False;Version=;Architecture=X64;InstallationScope=;InstallationScope=;CustomParameters=;RemoveDataOnUninstall=False>
Overridden options: <Scope=;RunAsAdministrator=True;WG_SpecifyVersion=;PS_NoScope=False>
Executing process with StartInfo:
- FileName: "C:\Program Files\UniGetUI\Assets\Utilities\UniGetUI.Elevator.exe"
- Arguments: ""C:\Users\CTaylor\AppData\Local\Microsoft\WindowsApps\winget.exe" update --id "Microsoft.VCRedist.2005.x64" --exact --source winget --accept-silent --include-unknown --accept-package-agreements --disable-interactivity --silent --include-unknown --accept-package-agreements --architecture x64"
Start Time: "2025-06-09 9:18:11 AM"
No available upgrade found.
No newer package versions are available from the configured sources.
End Time: "2025-06-09 9:18:17 AM"
Process return value: "-1978335189" (0x8A150020)
Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Redistributable (x64) could not be updated
```

At the bottom of the dialog box, there are 'Retry' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Package Name	Package ID	Version	New version	Source
Audacity	Audacity.Audacity	3.7.1	3.7.3	WinGet: winget
BalenaEtcher	Balena.Etcher	2.1.0	2.1.2	WinGet: winget
Inkscape	Inkscape.Inkscape	1.4.0	1.4.2	WinGet: winget
IrfanView	IrfanSkijjan.IrfanView	4.70	4.72	WinGet: winget
LocalSend	LocalSend.LocalSend	1.16.1	1.17.0	WinGet: winget
Logi Tune	Logitech.Logi Tune	3.8.125.0	3.10.120.0	WinGet: winget
MediaInfo	MediaArea.MediaInfo.GUI	24.11.1	25.04	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Teams classic	Microsoft.Teams.Classic	1.5.0.30767	1.8.00.12555	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Redistributable (x64)	Microsoft.VCRedist.2005.x64	8.0.50727.42	8.0.61000	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2022 Redistributable (x64)	Microsoft.VCRedist.2015+ x64	14.42.34433.0	14.44.35208.0	WinGet: winget

Update failure

- probably oddity not worth worrying about
- should be updated by Windows Update

Follow Up UniGetUI...a different result

- I was new to UniGetUI
 - something felt a little odd about it, wanted 2nd opinion
 - asked Alan to try it out
 - very familiar with software repositories
 - standard method of software installation in Linux
- Error *WinGet malfunction detected*
 - clicked *Repair WinGet* – program worked correctly
 - error returned when program next ran (every time)
- Alan has no commercial apps (except for Microsoft 365)
 - should not have issue with an update manager recommending an update that costs money, except...
 - UniGetUI had updates for 143 Python modules!
 - *I don't update Python stuff until something doesn't work. Updating can make things not work!*
 - deselecting the Pip repository fixed that problem
- Alan gave up on UniGetUI

Follow Up Conclusions



- Every program found something others missed
 - maybe should run them all!
- If I didn't want to run all
 - I would choose Secteer VulnDetect and UniGetUI
- Secteer VulnDetect
 - **vulnerability** (& update) manager
 - what I care most about is security vulnerabilities
 - finds portable apps missed by others
- UniGetUI
 - huge number of programs handled
 - over 10,000 programs (WinGet alone lists 8,841)
plus JavaScript, Python, etc. through other package managers
 - but misses lots of programs not available through package managers
 - many programs where vendor wants to be paid!
- Probably continue using Glarysoft and Patch My PC
 - occasionally...

Follow Up Conclusions (con't)

- Be careful of program updates
- Update in commercial *paid for* software may not be free
 - especially major releases
e.g. TextPad v7.6.4.0 to v8.22.1
 - if you update
 - chance updated program won't run until you pay
 - may be difficult/impossible to return to version you had
- Update in free programs less danger
 - newer version may still be unwanted
(e.g. changes in behaviour)
 - probably easy to return to previous version
 - if you have the installation file!

Stay secure!

- standard sign-off on Sophos *Naked Security* podcast

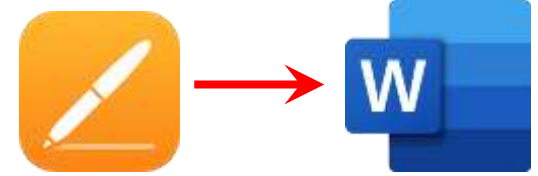


Opening *.pages* files in Win 11

- Looking for a file converter to open Apple *.pages* documents in Windows 11
 - without having to use iCloud, or
 - asking the sender to change the format to .docx
- Apps available in Google no longer considered safe
- Didn't find any clear sign that the pdf converters in the *Microsoft Store* would convert Apple *.pages* documents
- Need an app for occasional use only
- I wonder why it can't be simpler to find a solution



Possible free options



- Free conversion of .pages (Apple Pages) files to .docx (Microsoft Word) files
- Don't require installation of additional software
- Single and batch file conversions
 - CloudConvert: 10 files per day for free
 - <https://cloudconvert.com/pages-to-docx>
 - FreeConvert: 20 files per day for free
 - <https://www.freeconvert.com/pages-to-docx>
 - Zamzar: 2 conversions per day for free
 - <https://www.zamzar.com/convert/pages-to-docx/>
 - Online-Convert: 16 free credits (most conversions=1 credit)
 - <https://document.online-convert.com/convert/pages-to-docx>
 - 11zon
 - <https://bigconvert.11zon.com/en/pages-to-docx>
 - Vertopal
 - <https://www.vertopal.com/en/convert/pages-to-docx>
 - Aconvert
 - <https://www.aconvert.com/document/pages-to-docx/>

Note: these were found through a web search and have not been tested

- does anyone have experience with any of these or others

Beware! 5 Pitfalls of Online File Converters (Jun 30, 2022)

- <https://www.scan2cad.com/blog/tips/pitfalls-online-file-converters/>



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



YouTube Tech

- Many OPCUG members use YouTube and can identify gems that would be of interest to others
- What YouTube videos or channels would you recommend?
- Restrict suggestions for Q&A to tech items (no cute cats or babies!)





Quick Tips: How to use free AI tools in your daily life

Chris Taylor

Beaverbrook, Thursday Jun 19, 2025 at 6:00pm

Armchair Travel – Norway

Lynda Buske

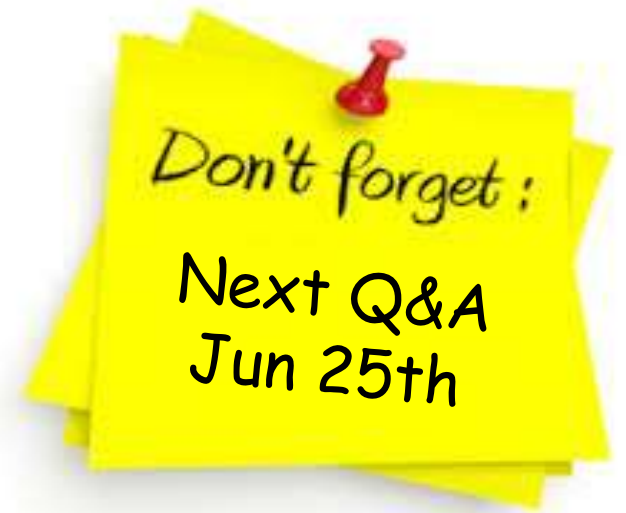
Nepean CentrepoinTE, Saturday Jun 21, 2025 at 2:00pm

Fun With Fonts: The Art and Science of Typography

Chris Taylor

Carlingwood, Monday Jun 30, 2025 at 6:00pm

<https://booking.biblioottawalibrary.ca/program?combine=PC+User>



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca