




Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.



Vol 40 No 6

16 June 2025

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8=11	OneDrive your storage is full!	Keith Catts	President	
12-15	APCUG Articles	Various	Editor	APCUG

Meeting Timetable

Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

9:30am	Q&A	John Tacey
11pm	"Your Storage is Full"	Keith
	Lunch -- GM - Report to the Club	Keith
1:00pm	Linux workshop	Fred / Keith All

If you have a question that may need a bit of a look up, let me know before the meeting



Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

SIGNIFICANT BITS

the Journal of
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PC-type computers*
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The Members' Web Page

Meeting Days

15 June 2025
20 July 2025
17 August 2025
21 September 2025
19 October 2025
16 November 2025
21 December 2025
19 January 2026

Submission Deadline

Friday 5 July 2025

Please use e-mail if possible

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Hi All,

We had a near full house last meeting and had a good look at the programme for Linux going forward.

Fred is just about all over this so he has agreed to take the lead and will run the programme.

How many of you are getting the message" your Storage id Full. This is your remote storage or "Cloud" that is full and they want you to pay for increased storage – every year.

Microsoft and others, are pushing this and catch people out with buying more storage. Microsoft further manipulates it by stopping you from turning off auto sending to the remote storage when you click on save. They appear to have negated the ability to change the storage locations in its Office products and even turn back on with updates.

Will have a look at the issue in the morning presentation.

See you at the meeting

Keith

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comment · field**

Reports

Presentation and Education

Presentation:

Morning 11am. OneDrive Storage issue.

After Afternoon 1pm: Linux Work Shop

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 13 members at the May meeting.

Treasurer's Report

May 2025

Opening Balance at 1/5/25	2065.81
---------------------------	---------

Income

00.00

Total Income

00.00

00.00

Expenses

No expenses

0.00

Total Expenses

0.00

Month's gain

00.00

Balance at 31/5/25

2065.81

Ross Skyring



Q&A - May meeting

I forgot my Ubuntu user password

<https://askubuntu.com/questions/753599/i-forgot-my-ubuntu-user-password#753610>

Linux Ubuntu Lost User Password

Search with the string " Linux Ubuntu Lost User Password ".

<https://duckduckgo.com/?t=lm&q=Linux+Ubuntu+Lost+User+Password&ia=web>

Remember that Linux has two passwords:-

1. Administrator
2. User

Home Page / Portal Links Do Not Work

Everything worked fine last Month or Week and now it is No Can Do.

The IT geniuses have been fiddling. The problem is most likely that your browser is no longer capable of working with the page.

Using a Different Browser might Help

Some websites are outdated and are not optimized with the new Chrome browser updates, which is why Chrome fails to open these sites. So, if the URL is not working after certain attempts, you should check it out in a different browser.

Some websites don't get along with certain browsers. This is often the case if you use a browser with a smaller market share, like Safari or Edge. It's always a good idea to install several browsers. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are good choices because they both have a large market share.

If you try to load a website and you see a blank screen, your browser might be the issue. Try to switch browsers the next time you encounter unexpected behavior in web apps, inconsistent scrolling, or elements that don't display correctly.

If the website you want to access is particularly old, you might want to see if it opens in Internet Explorer.

Add DuckDuckGo to Chrome Browser

<https://duckduckgo.com/duckduckgo-help-pages/desktop/chrome>

How to Make DuckDuckGo the Default Search Engine in Chrome

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-DuckDuckGo-the-Default-Search-Engine-in-Chrome>

MAJOR Known Issues with Ubuntu 25.04 Installs and Upgrades - Known Active

Issue <https://meta.askubuntu.com/questions/20681/maj>

or-known-issues-with-25-04-installs-and-upgrades-known-active-issue?cb=1

When searching the Web it may be necessary to vary the Search String if you are having difficulty in finding what you want or use a different Search Engine.

Note: This record of the Q&A session topics relies on my biological volatile memory (a.k.a. the 'forgettory').

Gleanings from e-newsletters and other sources.

Reviews

Nvidia GeForce RTX 5060 Ti vs. AMD Radeon RX 9070:

Which Midrange Graphics Card Is a Better Buy?

By Michael Justin Allen Sexton Apr 19, 2025

Ready for a new GPU for 1440p play? Let's stack up Nvidia's new GeForce RTX 5060 Ti 16GB against the AMD Radeon RX 9070 to see how they run.

<https://au.pcmag.com/graphics-cards/110641/nvidia-geforce-rtx-5060-ti-vs-amd-radeon-rx-9070-which-midrange-graphics-card-is-a-better-buy>

The Best PC Cases of Computex: 15 Unmissable New Chassis for Your Next Build

By John Burek May 25, 2025

There was plenty of outrageous tech to behold in Taipei this year, but these 15 PC cases are the ones that really cranked the creativity dial to 11.

<https://au.pcmag.com/pc-cases/111228/the-best-pc-cases-of-computex-2025-15-unmissable-new-chassis-for-your-next-build>

High-End Headphone Throwdown! Sony WH-1000XM6 vs. Bose QuietComfort Ultra vs. Apple AirPods Max

By Christian De Looper May 16, 2025

We've lab tested the three best pairs of noise-cancelling headphones you can get and are here to tell you how they stack up on ANC, audio quality, comfort, connectivity, and more.

<https://au.pcmag.com/headphones/111034/high-end-headphone-throwdown-sony-wh-1000xm6-vs-bose-quietcomfort-ultra-vs-apple-airpods-max>

The Best Malware Removal and Protection Software for 2025

By Neil J. Rubenking Apr 17, 2025

We've tested more than 100 anti-malware apps to help you find the best malware protection and removal software for all your devices.

<https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/48370/the-best-malware-removal-and-protection-software>

New Releases

Adobe Air

License: Freeware

File name: 51.2.1.3

File Size: 6.00 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: HARMAN

URL: [http://www.](http://www.essentialpim.com/)

Essential PIM 12.2.2

License: Free

File name: Essential PIM.exe

File Size: 71.18 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: URL: <https://www.essentialpim.com/pc-version>

Glary Utilities 6

License: Freeware

File Name: Glary_Uilities_v 6.25.0.30.exe

File Size: 27.00 MB

Platform: Windows 8, 7, 2000, XP, Vista. 32/64bit version.

Publisher: Glarysoft Ltd

Languages: 44 Languages [Help Translate]

URL: <http://www.glaryutilities.com/>

Release Notes:

Optimized Disk Cleaner: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Tracks Eraser: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Software Update: optimized the version comparison algorithm, and increase the comparison speed by 30%

Optimized Empty Folders Finder: add folder delete validation to prevent accidentally deletion of non-empty folder

Minor GUI improvements

Minor bug fixes

Glary Utilities is a freeware with registry and disk cleaning, privacy protection, performance accelerator and amazing multifunctional tools. It can fix dogged registry errors, wipe off clutters, optimise Internet speed, safeguard confidential files and maintain maximum performance.

It is designed for both novice and professionals. User-friendly interface shows clear & detailed directions. For novice, all work can be done with just 1 or 2 clicks, while for professionals, abundant options are available.

Key features:

Optimise, clean and boost the speed of your Windows.

Protect your privacy and security.

Block spyware, trojans, adware, etc.

Fix certain application errors.

Simple, fast and user friendly interface.

For private use only.

URL: <http://www.glaryutilities.com/>

Google Chrome (32bit) 137.0.7151.56

License: Free

File name: ChromeSetup.exe

File Size: 115.43 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Google

URL: <https://www.google.com/chrome/>

LibreOffice

License: Freeware

File name: LibreOffice_25.2.3_Win_x86.msi

File Size: 331 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: The Document Foundation

Comments: Contains the functions:-

Writer

PDF

Presentation

Spreadsheet

URL:

https://mirror.freedif.org/TDF/libreoffice/stable/6.2.0/win/x86/LibreOffice_24.84.4_Win_x86.msi

Mozilla Firefox 139.0 65.32 MB

License: Freeware

File name: Mozilla_Firefox_(32bit)_v139.0.exe

Update

File Size: 65.32 MB

O/S: Windows 7 to 11 Publisher: Mozilla Corporation

Comments:-

To force a manual update:-

Menu Button > ? Button > 'About Firefox'

URL: <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>

Mozilla Thunderbird

License: Freeware

File name: Thunderbird Setup 139.(GB).exe

File Size: 66.75 MB O/S: Windows XP SP2 to 10

Publisher: Mozilla Corporation

URL: <http://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/thunderbird/>

NotePad++ (32bit)

License: Freeware

File name: NotePad_v8.8.1.exe

File Size: 6.35 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Notepad++

URL: <https://notepad-plus-plus.org/>

The Sage VII English Dictionary and Thesaurus

Category: English Dictionary and Thesaurus

License: Non-commercial users can use the evaluation license indefinitely.

Release Date: May 2024

File name: TheSage_Setup_7.66.2820.exe

File Size: 81.2 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Sequence Publishing

Note: Also available as portable version

URL:

<https://www.sequencepublishing.com/1/thesage/thesage.html>

WordWeb

WordWeb Version: 10.5

Category: Dictionary - Thesaurus

Languages: English, Spanish, German, Indonesian, Italian, Portuguese, More.

License: All users may use WordWeb for 30 days for evaluation purposes.

After 30 days you may use it only if you take fewer than three flights in any 12-month period (i.e. at most one return flight per year).

If you fly more than this, you must purchase WordWeb Pro to continue using the software after 30 days.

See licensing for details. See wordweb.info

File name: wordweb10.exe File Size: 26.9 MB

O/S: Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows 10

Publisher: WordWeb Software

URL: <https://wordweb.en.downloadastro.com/>

Want more? See the New Releases list:

<http://ct.com.com/>

Tips etc.

6 Simple Tricks I've Learned That Make My Windows PC Boot Faster

By Whitson Gordon May 21, 2025

Does Windows take a long time to start up? Don't wait forever! I've learned six tips that will speed up your computer's boot process.

<https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/86691/how-to-make-your-windows-pc-boot-faster>

Signal Slams Microsoft's Recall, Disables Screenshots on Windows 11

By Jibin Joseph May 22, 2025

Signal says it was forced to devise its own method to block Recall screenshots.

<https://au.pcmag.com/team-messaging/111166/signal-slams-microsofts-recall-disables-screenshots-on-windows-11>

Microsoft Adds Gen AI Features to Paint, Snipping Tool, and Notepad

By Will Mccurdy May 25, 2025

Windows Insiders can generate AI stickers in Paint and text in Notepad by entering prompts.

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/111233/microsoft-adds-gen-ai-features-to-paint-snipping-tool-and-notepad>

Microsoft Finds Password-Stealing Lumma Malware on 394,000 Windows PCs.

By Jibin Joseph May 24, 2025

The malware often hides behind fake CAPTCHAs and has been used to commit financial fraud. Microsoft took down 2,300 domains that ran it and updated Defender to identify it.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/111196/microsoft-finds-password-stealing-lumma-malware-on-394000-windows-pcs>

Lose the Trackers: The Best Private Browsers for 2025

By Michael Muchmore May 25, 2025

When you access the internet with a standard web browser, marketers can mine your data and target you for sales. The best private browsers help you foil their efforts with tracking protection and more.

<https://au.pcmag.com/browsers/88452/stop-trackers-dead-the-best-private-browsers-for-2021>

Huge Breach Exposes 184M Logins for Apple, Google, and Many Others. Here's What You Need to Do.

By Emily Forlini May 24, 2025

Security researcher Jeremiah Fowler tells us the dataset is 'one of the most dangerous discoveries I have found in a very long time.' He shares his advice for how to keep your info off similar lists.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/111175/security-nightmare-researcher-finds-trove-of-184m-exposed-logins-for-google-apple-more>

What Is a Computer Virus, Really?

By Neil J. Rubenking May 23, 2025

You've heard the term, but what does it actually mean? Learn from our expert how these self-replicating programs sneak in, spread, and slow your system down, plus what you need to know to stay ahead.

<https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/111173/what-is-a-computer-virus-really>

How to Stop Your Smart TV From Spying on You

By Lance Whitney May 27, 2025

Your internet-connected TV has Automatic Content Recognition (ACR) features that track what you watch. Here's how to disable it, along with smart privacy advice from the FBI and three security experts.

<https://au.pcmag.com/dvd/66546/how-to-stop-smart-tvs-from-snooping-on-you>

Want a Better PC Experience? 14 Quick Ways to Tweak Your Windows Taskbar

By Lance Whitney May 27, 2025

The Windows Taskbar provides quick and easy access to your favorite apps, but it also offers several settings you can customize to change how it works.

<https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/111257/want-a-better-pc-experience-14-quick-ways-to-tweak-your-windows-taskbar>

Microsoft's AI Weather Model Is More Accurate, Less Expensive Than Traditional Forecasting

By Adrianna Nine May 23, 2025

That's according to a research paper written largely by Microsoft employees, at least.

https://www.extremetech.com/computing/microsofts-ai-weather-model-is-more-accurate-cheaper-than-traditional-forecasting?utm_source=email&utm_campaign=whatsnewnow&zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDIZFhs8z4qnmols_AknqwLVhZpQWW_idjicVKNaoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D&lctg=24359534815

Want More Privacy Online? Change These Browser Settings

By Kim Key Apr 02, 2025

A few simple tweaks to your browser can reduce the amount of personal information you give up to advertisers and other tech companies. Here's what to change in Chrome, Edge, Firefox, and Safari.

Kim Key

<https://au.pcmag.com/browsers/110368/want-more-privacy-online-change-these-browser-settings>

What to Do When You Get Hacked: Follow These Steps Now

By Neil J. Rubenking Apr 02, 2025

It can be a nightmare when someone hacks your credit card, email, or identity. Knowing what to expect can help; knowing how to head off the hackers is even better. We're here to guide you through both.

<https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/49662/what-to-do-when-youve-been-hacked>

Google's Futuristic Beam Tech Almost Made Me Forget I Was on a Video Call

By Rob Pegoraro May 23, 2025

A Google I/O demo of the system HP is about to bring to market shows an uncanny fidelity, with some amusing glitches, bringing us all a lot closer to the Holodeck.

<https://au.pcmag.com/video-conferencing-software/111187/googles-futuristic-beam-tech-almost-made-me-forget-i-was-on-a-video-call>

I Gave Gemini Access to My Gmail, and It Weirds Me Out

By Ruben Circelli May 23, 2025

When I signed up, Gemini didn't ask for permission to embed itself in my email. Now, Google's chatbot knows way more about me than I want it to. Here's how to opt out.

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/111169/i-gave-gemini-access-to-my-gmail-and-it-weirds-me-out>

Find My Car: How to Locate Your Vehicle With a Smartphone

By Lance Whitney May 28, 2025

Can you never remember where you parked your car? These apps let you mark its location and provide directions back.

<https://au.pcmag.com/news/47463/how-to-use-a-smartphone-app-to-find-your-car>

This Is the Only Way I Share Passwords, and Why You Should Too

By Jill Duffy, Kim Key May 29, 2025

Still writing down your passwords or sending them via email or text? That's a bad idea. It's safe and simple to share your login details, as long as you use the right tool for the job.

<https://au.pcmag.com/password-managers/93805/how-to-share-passwords-safely>

Here Endeth John's Jots

Here Endeth John's Jots

"Your Storage is full"



Cloud Storage or as it really is Remote Storage.

The cloud is nothing more than storage in a building at some remote location.

It is a service provided (at a cost or a small size free) by Microsoft (OneDrive); Apple (iCloud); and others such as Dropbox and Google (Google Drive).

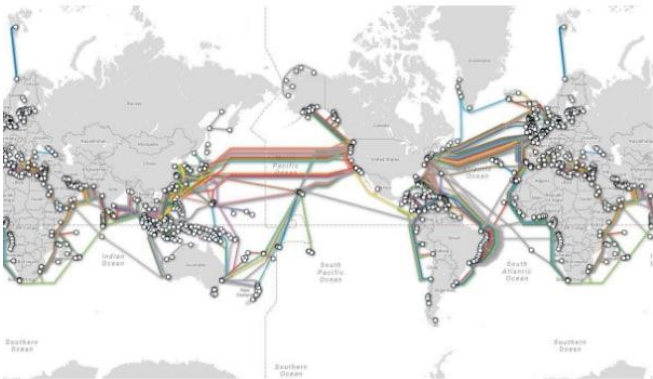
Buy an apple or Microsoft computer and their "cloud" option is installed as part of the OS installation. They are limited to 5Gb after that you have to buy more capacity.

The Cloud is in fact very solid and on the ground.



Storage inside the facility

Just rows and rows of SSD devices.



This is how data is transferred by wires in the ground and under the sea; add some satellites.

Remote Storage is offered with many reasons for you to use it but little advice on why you may not want to use it.

Being able to access your data from anywhere via a Browser and logging into your account.

Available large capacity storage; may offer a backup of your data.

Is fully managed and multiple backup by the suppliers.

But may be you are concerned about security and confidentiality of your data.

Paying sizable \$ for large storage.

Keeping track of your storage over time. You did it and forgot it only to lose access or see it deleted due to inactivity.

Lose some access locally.

Find you delete data in the cloud only to see it deleted every were.

Keep in mind that if you have devices from different suppliers i.e. Microsoft and Apple etc. you may find that you have data saved in multiple places.

OneDrive because you are using a windows computer.

In iCloud because you are using iPhone or iPad.

In Samsung Cloud if it is a Samsung phone or tablet.

There may well be other for different device manufactures.

OneDrive

This is installed a part of windows and is readily available to all users of a Windows computer.

This look is not how to use it or set it up, but to address issues that arise from the default use of it.

By default Microsoft (MS) want you to use OneDrive and has set it so that happens if you do nothing about the standard install.

By default MS will have documents you create and save by default into the pre provided folders of Desktop; Documents; Pictures; Music Videos; Downloads.

Therefore, you need to be watchful of where the file you create is save to.

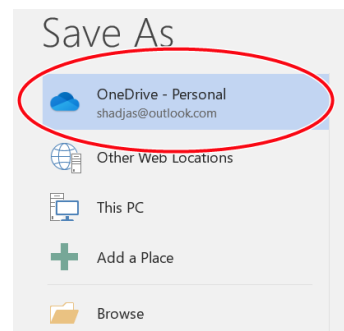
You will soon find you have runout of storage capacity.

Many uses find they have messages advising they have run out of storage.

Create a MS Word of any Office application and you will find it saves to Oneline.

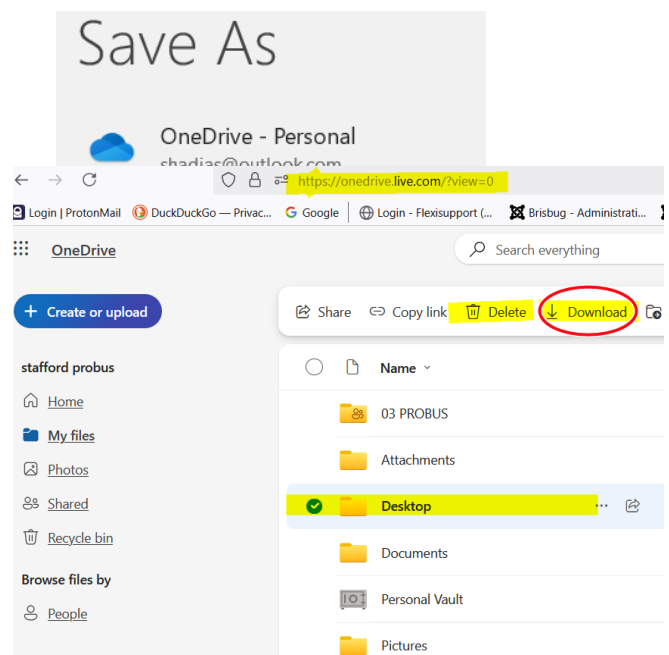
Default save shown by the

OneDrive pre selected



Don't look or select a different location and it will save to OneDrive

To change the location you need to select



By browsing you can find the location you want and save the file there and not in OneDrive

So How do you change the default setting.

This is not a straight forward process and the way Microsoft works may also not be a permanent fix as Microsoft and indeed Apple are not unknown to make changes that reinstate a process they want to keep.

So you will need to watch out for a return to a default save to OneDrive following a future update.

Do Not select any pop up or option to back up.

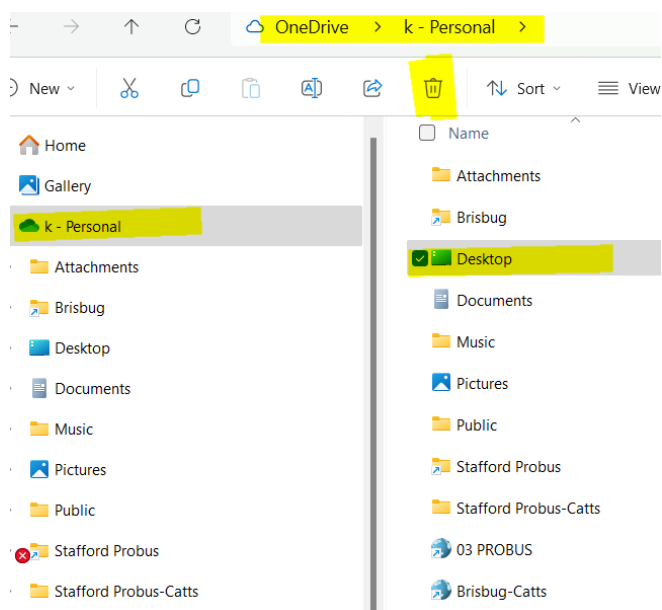
If you never want to use OneDrive the best fix is to uninstall it.

IMPORTANT never delete a file or uninstall OneDrive before you have copied all your data back to you local hard drive storage.

If you delete data from OneDrive either through the folder in Windows Explorer or Online the data will be deleted completely;

It will not be returned to the local computer before deletion.

Windows Explorer on local computer



You can delete data from either location by selecting and the use the delete bin

You can use copy and paste to copy data from the Windows explorer OneDrive folder and past to a location on the local computer.

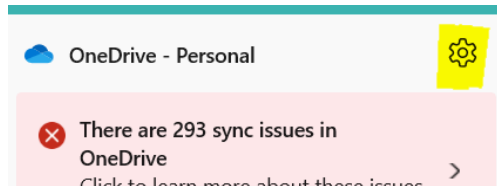
You can select the data in OneDrive Online and click the Download option to save the data back to the local computer.

With the Data saved and safe you can now look at closing off the various places you need to check and change options to remove default saving to OneDrive.

Stop any back up settings. Go to the OneDrive Settings
Click cloud icon in the system tray

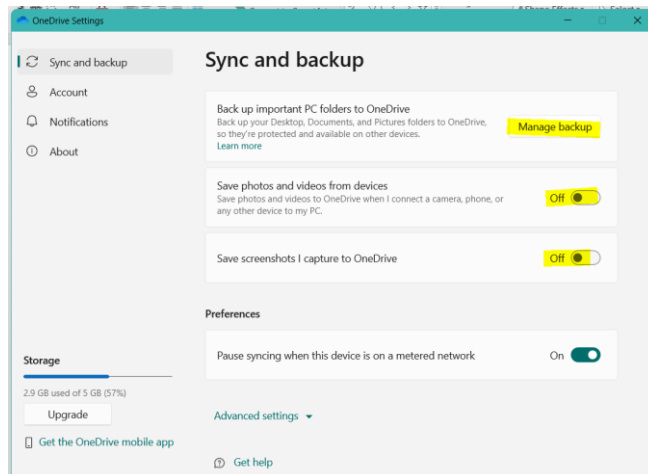


Click gear wheel icon to open OneDrive settings

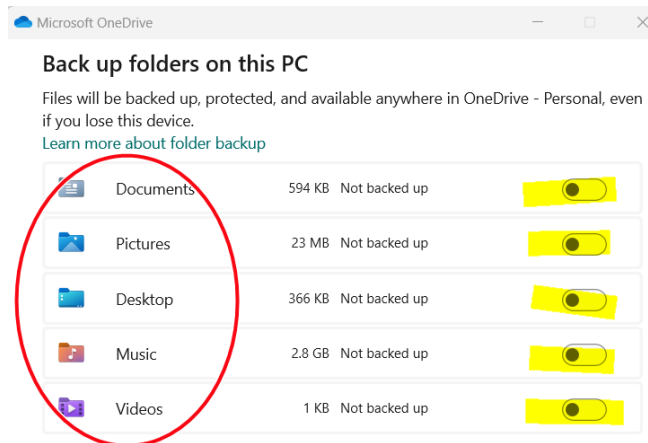


Turn off the save options

Click Manage backup



Turn Off all save options.



Watch out for any automatic reset, at any time.

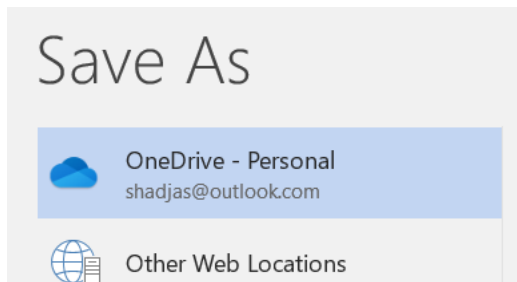
It will turn on any time you accept a pop up to backup your files.

You have now stopped the default and any other locations you may have added to OneDrive back up.

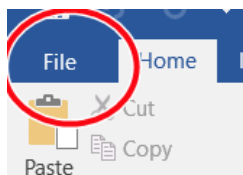
Check, if you have saved other locations that will sync to OneDrive, they will continue to save to OneDrive

Next you need to find any apps that are set to automatically save to OneDrive.

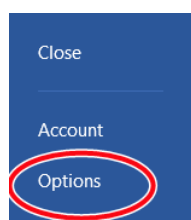
All MS Office apps will default save to OneDrive.



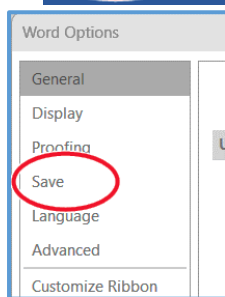
You need to look for settings or options that control how an app works.



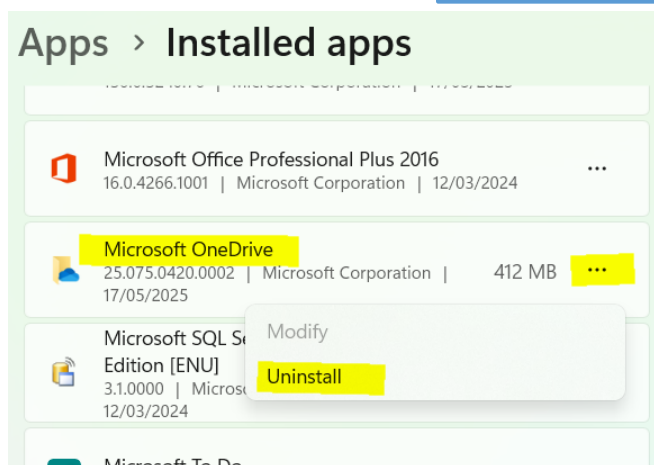
Click on file and then options in each office app.



From the drop down list click on Options

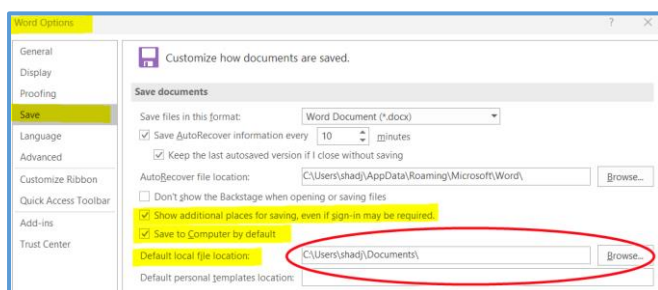


Click on the save option in the next screen



You will find that the default local file is set to C:\Users\shadj\ OneDrive\documents

This is a folder in your user folder that saves to OneDrive.



In the save option screen tick the boxes marked in yellow.

In the Default local file location, change the entry to one on the local computer. You can use the browse button to navigate to the location.

Here you can simply remove the word OneDrive and the \ back slash, to make the change to what is shown in the screen shot.

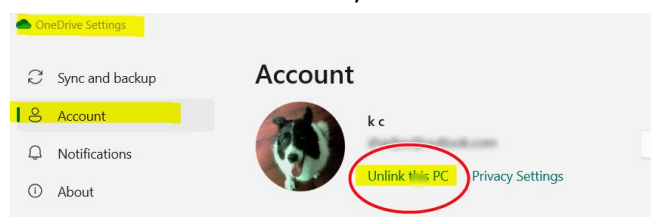
Don't use OneDrive or need it at all you can remove it.

Having said that you may find later changes by Microsoft adds it back, so you may have to do it again or may not be able to remove it at all.

From the pop up on the taskbar select settings.

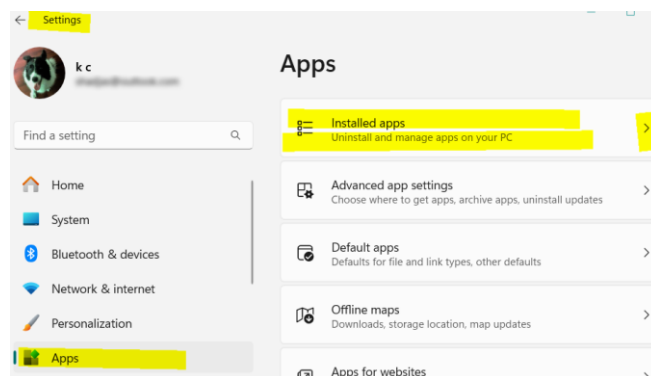
From the screen that opens select Account.

Click unlink to unlink it from your MS account.



To remove the app.

Open Windows settings from the start button, or search.



Select Apps

Expand Installed Apps

Scroll down to OneDrive

Click in the ellipse (three dots)

Click uninstall from the drop down

Follow the instructions to remove the app

For Mobile devices follow a similar thought process and first save all file you want to keep to another device.

Then start in Settings and look for the storage used and follow instructions to close.

Use a search to find out how to do it for your particular device.

There is a process to reinstall OneDrive when needed.

Keith

APCUG ARTICLES

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President's Corner

To Charge or Not to Charge? (That's Only One of Many Questions)

by Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group

www.uchug.org

We have many batteries in our lives because we use a lot of battery-powered technology. Of all those devices, big and small, the one battery-powered device that almost every person has at this point in human civilization is the smartphone. Even in developing countries where water distribution and sanitation systems are woefully lacking, cell phone infrastructure is often very robust and advanced.

Over 8 billion people live on the planet today. Around 7 billion smartphones and approximately 16 billion mobile devices make these devices a shared human experience. From the migrant or homeless person to the CEO, from whatever ideology, religion, political tribe, gender, or gender identity we may be part of, we are all the same in one way: we are all out there looking for a place to charge our phones.

I've written a few columns recently about the wide range of battery-powered devices we use and how to care for them: small battery devices (like electric toothbrushes and earbuds) and medium-sized battery devices (like laptops, hand tools, and smartphones). Being a near-universal device, the smartphone needs a bit more elaboration on its charging. It is unique in that it is almost always on; I doubt anyone turns their phone off (entirely powered down) at night. Nothing else we use is depended on for so much.

I used to think that charging battery-powered devices was fairly straightforward. All you had to do was pick an inactive time, plug the device into a wall-powered charger until it was fully charged, and you were ready to go again. Most devices weren't run so much that you regularly ran out of power when using them. A spare battery could

keep you going for those devices where that could be an issue. I bought two extra batteries for my Panasonic Lumix digital camera to make sure photo-taking could last all day on my vacation trips. I have two battery packs for my DeWALT cordless drill, so I don't run out of power in the middle of a day of home improvement.

Some devices are designed to be on continuous charge when not being used. Our Roomba floor vacuum stays parked on its charging base when not cleaning. My Braun electric toothbrush and hair trimmer are stored in their charging cradles. It may not be the best for its battery, but I always keep my HP laptop plugged in (I use it like a desktop computer and only occasionally run it on the battery).

Our phones are not like these devices; we need them to be on all the time. We use them a lot, and we take them everywhere. Tethered operation won't work; we generally can't swap batteries, and though we can power and charge from a USB battery pack if needed, this typically limits our mobility.

When my wife and I had ordinary cell phones, we usually charged them overnight every night. After I got my first smartphone, a Samsung Galaxy J3, in 2017, I did the same. I believe I always used the AC charger (with USB output) and cable that came with the phone. I used this phone for five years (and still have it); the battery seemed to work pretty well during that time. Ultimately, it may have been down about 20% in usable capacity, but that was not the primary reason I looked for a replacement. My old phone could no longer run all the apps I needed, so in mid-2022, I got a Samsung Galaxy S22. Its battery seemed to last longer, but it was probably larger and more advanced. I initially charged it overnight with the charger and cable that came with it.

The battery management system (BMS) of the S22 is undoubtedly more sophisticated than the one in the J3. The S22 displays time and battery capacity remaining (as a percentage of full charge) with a single screen tap (though it is dimmed in intensity, making it harder for old eyes to read). It can also operate in fast charge mode. When charged from a typical USB source (charger or

battery pack), it displays "Charging," along with the charge level and an estimated time remaining to full charge. At 64% full, it might indicate it would take 1 hour and 15 minutes to full level. When charged from a charger or battery pack capable of fast charging, the phone displays "Fast charging," the equivalent fill time estimate might be shown as 37 minutes.

My ideas about charging overnight changed after reading the article "Recharging your Battery" by Kurt Jefferson, editor of the newsletter for the Central Kentucky Computer Society (<https://ckcs.org>), which was republished in our group's November 2022 newsletter. The thrust of this APCUG PUSH article is that the batteries in smarter products should only be charged to between 40% and 80% of capacity, not left to be charged to 100% overnight, as many folks do. The main reason stated was the problem of additional heat from being on the charger all night. I have read other articles and heard from others who are adamant about the need to charge 40-80% to prolong battery life.

One problem with the 40-80% method is that it is much less convenient. It is easy to plug your phone in at bedtime and unplug it in the morning, knowing you now have a full charge for the day. Charging to a specified charge level means watching the phone while charging; I'm unaware of how to set the phone to shut off charging at 80% full.

Charging to 80% also means giving up 20% of the phone's operating time compared to a full charge. I typically use only 30-40% of my phone's battery capacity daily, which varies with usage. A day of driving with Google Maps and handling my navigation can drain my battery by late afternoon.

The most challenging part for me in switching to the 40-80% plan was finding a consistent charge time. I settled on early in the morning as, at that time, I would spend around an hour at my desk at work, allowing the charging to be (sort of) monitored. This worked for a while, as the fast charging mode meant I only had to be around the phone for about 30 minutes. Unfortunately, the only power outlet in my cubicle was under the

work surface, so I had to crawl under it to plug in and unplug it.

Last holiday, I learned about USB battery packs that can charge phones using fast charging modes. In the 2022 Black Friday sales, I bought myself a Baseus 65W, 20,000 mAh power bank. It can fast charge a Samsung S22, so I can take it to work and charge my phone there each morning without crawling under my desk. Its capacity allows me to charge my phone daily for about a week under normal usage. It is supposed to be the largest-capacity lithium-type battery that can be taken on a plane. It has a digital display that can show its capacity, charging voltage, and current when providing power to another device. I liked it so much that I got a second one and bought a third in this year's Black Friday sales.

Now, I charge my phone almost exclusively from these battery packs. I've partially bought into the 40-80% charging philosophy; I seldom let my phone go below 40%, but I'll usually charge to around 90% rather than 80%. To me, to have that extra 10% capacity is worth a little lower battery lifespan. Of course, I'll occasionally not pay attention to it as much as I should, and I find it has charged 100%. To me, it is kind of like being on a diet; you can follow it most of the time, but cheating on occasion is not fatal.

I've read many articles on battery charging, but the most useful source of information is Battery University, a free educational website (<https://batteryuniversity.com>) sponsored by Cadex Electronics, a battery-oriented company in Canada. This site has a lot of information on all types of batteries. It has many articles about how Li-ion batteries work, how they should be charged, and how to get the most life out of them. There are several rules to maximize battery life, some easier to follow than others.

I follow many Battery University recommendations in taking care of my phone battery, but I sometimes feel it is impractical to follow them all fervently. The battery that lives the longest is the one that is seldom used, but where is the fun and usefulness in that?

Verify the Safety of Websites

By Terry Harvey, Program Chair and Newsletter Editor. Wisconsin All-Computer Users Club

<https://wauc.apcug.org/>

Verifying the safety and legality of a website is crucial for online security. Here are some steps to follow:

1. Check the website's URL: Ensure it starts with "https://" instead of "http://". The "s" indicates a secure connection.
2. Look for security indicators: A lock symbol or the word "Secure" in the browser's address bar confirms a secure connection. Avoid sites with warnings or certificate errors.
3. Research the website: Search for reviews, ratings, or experiences other users share. Be cautious if there is a lack of information or negative feedback.
4. Check for contact information: Legitimate websites provide valid contact details, including a physical address and phone number. Verify if the information is accurate and reachable.
5. Assess content quality: Poor grammar, excessive ads, or suspicious content can indicate an untrustworthy site.
6. Review privacy policy and terms of service: Ensure they are transparent, well-written, and provide clear information on data collection, storage, and usage.
7. Use website reputation services: Online tools like Google Safe Browsing or Norton Safe Web can check a site's safety rating.
8. Trust your instincts: If something feels off or too good to be true, it's wise to proceed with caution or avoid the website altogether.

Remember, online safety is an ongoing practice. Stay updated with the latest security measures and use reliable antivirus software for additional protection.

LibreOffice Basic Programming using ChatGPT

By Alan German, Treasurer
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Published in Ottawa PC News (August 2023)

<https://opcug.ca>

ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/chat>) is an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that, amongst other

things, can create text based on a request from an end user. So, I thought I would use it to write an article for the newsletter by entering "Write an article for OPCUG's newsletter on LibreOffice Basic Programming." Had I gone ahead with this, you would now be reading the following:

"LibreOffice is a free and open-source productivity suite that provides several applications, including Writer, Calc, Impress, and Base. These applications are designed to provide a comprehensive set of tools to meet the needs of any user. LibreOffice also comes with a built-in programming language called LibreOffice Basic, which allows users to automate tasks and create custom solutions to enhance the functionality of the suite."

But, first let me explain the scenario. I have a LibreOffice document (ODT file) that contains the lists of topics that have been covered over the past three years in our weekly online Q&A sessions. Each week, I build an agenda for the upcoming session as a simple text file (TXT) that lists the titles of the topics to be discussed next. This text file is used for various purposes, one of which has been manually adding the list of new topics to the main ODT index file. I wanted to automate this latter process by developing a macro that would read the topics from the text file and add them to the end of the ODT file.

I don't know all that much about object-oriented programming, so, when I want to create a macro for a document in LibreOffice Writer, my practice is to use Google to search for code extracts that I can then modify and string together to produce the final product. And, this is precisely what I did to build the required macro in this case.

But then I saw a YouTube video of an individual using ChatGPT to create computer code in a number of programming languages by simply telling the AI bot what was required. Now, perhaps LibreOffice Basic is a bit of a backwater item in terms of mainstream programming, but I figured that it would be worth a shot to see if I could use ChatGPT to develop the code for my macro.

I know how to read and write lines of text from an ASCII file. My problem is that the ODT file isn't a simple text file. The ODT format is a special type

of ZIP file that contains a number of XML and other components. So, the trick is to have the macro open the ODT file, identify the component that contains the body text of the document, add the desired lines at the end, and close the file.

At present, it's possible to use ChatGPT at no cost. All that is required is to create an account on the system or login using an established Google account. Once logged in, one enters a request as a string into a text box. My request was *"Write a program in LibreOffice Basic to add a string to the end of an odt file."*

The result was amazing – as shown, in part, by the following screenshot:



Write a program in LibreOffice Basic to add a string to the end of an odt file



Certainly! Here is an example of how you can do this in LibreOffice Basic:

1. Open the odt file that you want to modify using the `Load` method of the `Desktop` object.

```
Dim oDoc As Object
oDoc = ThisComponent.Load("/path/to/file.odt")
```

2. Retrieve the document's text object using the `getText` method of the `oDoc` object.

```
Dim oText As Object
oText = oDoc.getText
```

ChatGPT effectively produces a custom tutorial on building the macro. Each required step in the process is explained, and the relevant code extract displayed.

```
Sub AddStringToODTFile
    Dim oDoc As Object
    Dim oText As Object
    Dim oEnd As Object
    ' Open the document
    oDoc = ThisComponent.Load("/path/to/file.odt")
    ' Retrieve the text object
    oText = oDoc.getText
    ' Insert the string at the end of the document
    oEnd = oText.getEnd
    oText.insertString(oEnd, "This is the string that will
be
```

Finally, all the code that has been developed for the requested macro is shown as a complete block:

In essence, this code segment is very close to the macro code that I had produced over some considerable time, having had to research several web postings to identify the required techniques. Clearly, it is very generic code and only covers part of what is required for the final macro. But, it is evident from this simple test that the AI bot is fully capable of generating "modules" of code that can readily be adapted for the desired purpose and that such modules could be quickly consolidated into a fully functional macro.

The other consideration is that the current version of ChatGPT is at an early stage in the development of AI tools. As such applications become more sophisticated and the computer systems running them become more powerful, it is highly likely that their use in computer programming will become ubiquitous.

Even now, ChatGPT is perfectly capable of developing useful code in a number of popular programming languages. For example, in addition to producing macros for LibreOffice Basic, it is just as easy to develop Python scripts. So, ChatGPT is a useful tool for anyone seriously developing programs, macros, and scripts, and is a really interesting option for those who wish to learn the techniques.

Bottom Line

ChatGPT
(Proprietary, web-based system)

OpenAI
<https://openai.com>

