This Month's General Meeting
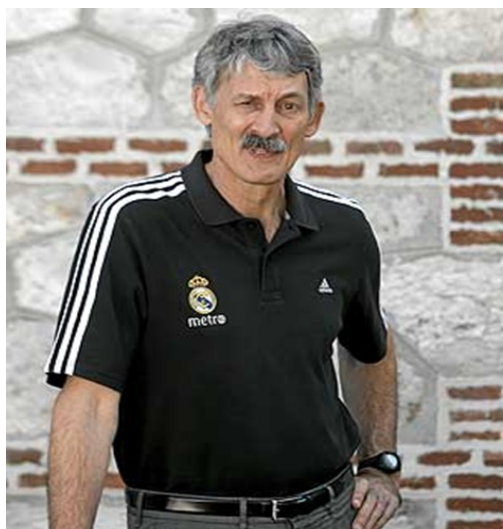**Tuesday, August 13, 2024**
will start at <u>3:00 P.M.</u> @
FFG Christ Lutheran Church

August 13th Presentation
@ 3: 00 P.M.

Technical Issues

Our favorite "techie" Randy Knowles, will give this month's presentation …

Covering various tech issues that he runs across in his tech support business over the years

Inside This Issue

<u>Please Note:</u> All Meetings will now be on the second Tuesday of each month. Starting at **3:00 P.M.**
<u>Location:</u> Christ Lutheran Church
481 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade TN

Join the Club!

Anyone interested to attend the general meeting or any of the SIG meetings as a guest will be charged $3.00 per person for any or all meetings in that month. Afterwards, you are encouraged to become a member of the Plateau PC Users Group. Our Club cannot exist without you, the members.

Membership Dues

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st. of each year. Annual dues are $24 per single person / $30 per family. Persons/families joining during the fiscal year have dues payable as follows:

Join In	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June
Single	**$24**	$18	$12	$6
Family	**$30**	$22	$15	$7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCLAIMER

All members of the Plateau PC Users Group are willing to help one another in the area of advice and tutorial instruction over the phone. If you should require more involved services or instruction, we have a few members who are very knowledgeable in several areas. As a responsible consumer, it is up to you to discuss, before retaining a member, any and ALL charges for repair services and time consuming tutorial activities.

It is not the desire of this Board of Directors to set fees for individuals for services rendered, nor the responsibility to intervene between members who enter into a contract among themselves.

The GAZETTE is published using the following: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, and Microsoft Windows. The Gazette is the monthly newsletter of the Plateau PC Users Group, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: No warranty, express or implied, is made by the PPCUG, the Gazette editorial staff or its contributing editors. This extends to all losses incidental or consequential from the use or non-use of any information in any issue of the Gazette.

All images used in the newsletter, website, blogs, class materials or handouts ("media") are obtained from a "free use" source, preferably images that have been released as "CCO Public Domain".

PPCUG, Inc. 20234-2025 Board Members

President	George Sengstock	(224) 760-3948
Vice-President/	Charlie Merrick	(931) 210-8013
Treasurer	Richard Del Frate	(931) 456-2251
Secretary	Richard Del Frate	(931) 456-2251
Membership	George Sengstock	(224) 760-3948
Publicity	George Sengstock	(224) 760-3948
Gazette Editor	Gordon Botting	(931) 456-2184
APCUG Rep	George Sengstock	(224) 760-3948
Equipment Custodian	Bob Willis	(931) 456-6511
Webmaster	Alan Baker	(931) 239-0877

Directors at Large

Alan Baker	Gordon Botting	Jim Buxton
Barbara Duncan	Richard Del Frate	Randy Knowles
Bob Willis		

Printed by, Business Equipment Clinic
539 West Ave. Suite 101 Crossville TN 38557

How to Change the Default View When Starting Outlook

Do you live in your Microsoft Outlook Calendar? Or, would you like to start your work day from your To Do or Tasks list?

Let's look at how to change the Outlook default view when starting Microsoft Outlook.

When you launch Outlook, the standard view is to show your Inbox. Although email is an integral part of Outlook, your work day might instead be focused on your appointments and meetings or on your to-do list.

Fortunately, it's easy to change the default folder from the Inbox to another view when you first open Outlook.

To change to your Calendar or To Do (Tasks) list when you first start Outlook:

1. From the **File** tab, pick **Options** and then **Advanced**.
2. Next, move to the **Outlook start and exit option**. Notice that the **Inbox** folder is the standard choice.
3. Pick **Browse**.
4. In the **Select Folder** dialog box, select the folder you want to appear when you start Microsoft Outlook, such as **Calendar** or **Tasks**.
5. Choose **OK** to close.
6. Finally, close and reopen Outlook to display your new Outlook default view.

It's that easy to set up Outlook to display your Calendar or tasks from the very beginning.
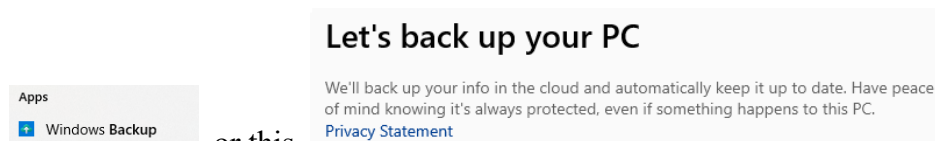
What Happened to Windows Backup?

George Sengstock
Plateau PC Users Group (PPCUGInc.com)
June, 2024

As the plot against humanity continues, the concept of "**free**, simple and self-reliant" regarding PC Backup has been declared unacceptable. Windows 10 had a familiar built-in backup and restore utility until it suddenly disappeared.   In its place you will now find a 'Cloud Only Solution' that is an abomination.
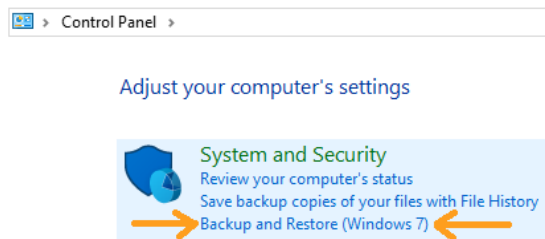
So if you see this **Windows Backup** (Apps) or this (Let's back up your PC — We'll back up your info in the cloud and automatically keep it up to date. Have peace of mind knowing it's always protected, even if something happens to this PC. Privacy Statement) DON'T DO IT! This new utility is a New World Order way of making it so you'll "own nothing and like it" while having to rent anything related to personal security and backup. When you rely on a cloud-based backup, having the company go bankrupt might as well be the Biblical Apocalypse when it comes to your personal files.

Backup should always be done with physical media that you control and is accessible even when the internet and your primary computer have failed. Instead, try the following ideas:

1. **Adopt an application neutral, simple file copy method for routine data only backups.** This will consist of copying the C:\Users folder along with any other folders you have created for storing important files. Use one of the following occasionally to perform a full system backup:
2. Use the "File History" option in Control Panel and use the <u>System Image Backup</u> option in the lower left corner.   Here's a video: https://youtu.be/lNwP8mHvQkE
3. **Use the app(s) that came with your most recently purchased external hard drive.** For example, Western Digital drives come with WDApps.
4. Buy (not rent) a 3rd party backup utility and RETAIN THE INSTALLER. This defeats the point of doing free backup though.
5. It turns out you can go full retro and run the "Windows 7" version of Backup in Windows 10 (and some 11)! The following describes how to do this.

Running Legacy Backup in Windows 10 or 11
1. Launch Control Panel.
2. In the "System and Security" group you will see **Backup and Restore (Windows 7).**

Control Panel >

Adjust your computer's settings

System and Security
Review your computer's status
Save backup copies of your files with File History
Backup and Restore (Windows 7)

3. Suggestion: make a desktop shortcut to this: **%windir%\system32\sdclt.exe**
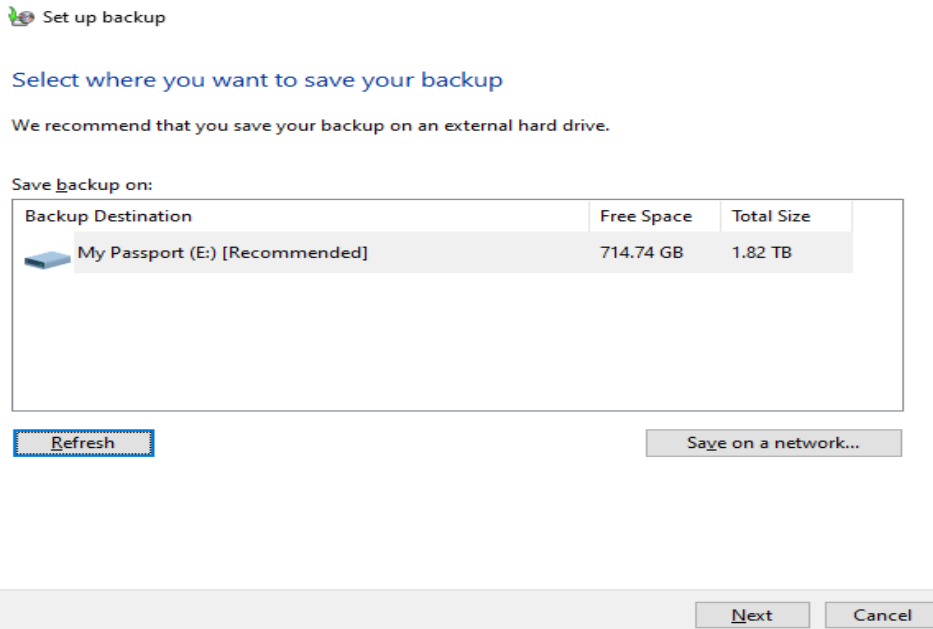
4. Plug in your backup drive.

5. The first time run you will "Setup the Backup Plan".

Backup and Restore (Windows 7)

← → ∨ ↑ 🔼 › Control Panel › System and Security › Backup and Restore (Windows 7)

Control Panel Home

🛡 Create a system image

🛡 Create a system repair disc

Back up or restore your files

Backup

Windows Backup has not been set up.   🛡Set up backup

Restore

Windows could not find a backup for this computer.

🛡Select another backup to restore files from
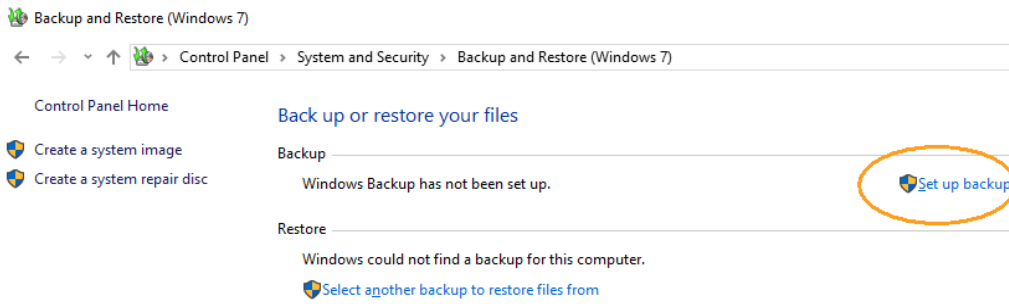
6. Select the external drive, click Next

🔼 Set up backup

Select where you want to save your backup

We recommend that you save your backup on an external hard drive.

Save backup on:

Backup Destination	Free Space	Total Size
🗄 My Passport (E:) [Recommended]	714.74 GB	1.82 TB

[Refresh]   [Save on a network...]

[Next]   [Cancel]

7. Choose Automatic or Customize.

🔼 Set up backup

What do you want to back up?

◉ Let Windows choose (recommended)

Windows will back up data files saved in libraries, on the desktop, and in default Windows folders.
Windows will also create a system image, which can be used to restore your computer if it stops
working. These items will be backed up on a regular schedule.

○ Let me choose

You can select libraries and folders and whether to include a system image in the backup.
The items you choose will be backed up on a regular schedule.

8. This is what I selected when using "Let me choose". Note that System backup is selected. I perform the System image backup only occasionally.

9. During a backup this screen appears. While running one can walk away and do something else or continue working.

The legacy backup app allows one to configure the time a backup will automatically start. Remember the computer must be on and the external drive connected for this to happen. I tend to disable automatic start and initiate my backups manually.

Another Look at Artificial Intelligence

By Joel Ewing, President, Bella Vista Computer Club
Bits & Bytes, February 2024
https://bvcomputerclub.org
president@bvcomputerclub.org

(For a general description of artificial intelligence, also see the article "What Is Artificial Intelligence" in the April 2019 edition of the BVCC *Bits & Bytes* at https://bvcomputerclub.org/PDF/B&B/2019-04.pdf)

Background

Although having a background in Computer Science, I do not consider myself an expert on AI; but like many, I have seen over the last decade the improved (but not perfect) ability of smartphones to translate the spoken word into written text, chatbots on the Internet and telephone call centers that can briefly make you think you have reached a human, and the fairly sophisticated behavior of "self-driving" cars, including some experiments with autonomous self-driving vehicles in restricted environments.

When in full "self-driving" mode, a Tesla car can recognize enough of the environment around it to sense and follow lane markings, sense other vehicle types and their relative speeds on all sides, interpret speed limit signs, stop signs, stop lights, a variety of warning signs, speed limit signs, adjust speed for sharp curves and slower vehicles, to make decisions on passing slower vehicles. When navigation mode to a destination is engaged, an extensive road map database allows it to know when to turn and what lane it needs to be in for the next turn, to suggest the optimal super-charger stations for long trips, and to automatically pre-condition the battery temperature for optimal charging speed before arriving at a charging station to minimize charging time. Yet with all that sophistication, Tesla's most important safety features are (1) monitoring the human driver for alertness and (2) alerting the human driver to take over if the road conditions go outside the bounds the automation can reliably handle. This is great for removing much of the monotony of long-distance driving on consistently marked interstate highways but not so valuable for city driving, where road repairs, obstructions, and local driving customs tend to demand more human interaction.

The topic of AI was recently raised in a professional computer-related online discussion list I follow. I have also been involved in a church-related Religion & Science group meeting on Zoom over several years that have discussed, among other topics, whether humans are the only life forms on Earth that are conscious or aware, AI, and whether machines could ever cross the thresholds of self-awareness and become aware and direct competitors of humans,

possibly even a threat. Some of the following thoughts come from those discussions.

AI Current Capabilities

AI may easily surpass humans in the ability to analyze and deduce conclusions from a large amount of data and propose actions – it already has done that in some areas that are sufficiently limited in scope.

 AI is already being utilized to assist in medical diagnosis, such as interpreting medical scans, where large scans may need to be analyzed tediously to look for minor anomalies.

Many Internet search engines utilize some AI techniques to improve the quality of the results.

Some of the more interesting recent free Internet search additions are ChatGPT, BardAI, and BingAI, which can accept queries in natural language and return paragraph responses that appear appropriate, almost human-like. It is possible to request responses in the form of specific types of poetry (ChatGPT) or to request the creation of an image featuring certain objects (BingAI).

Without getting too much into details, at least two main techniques are involved under the covers for the deep learning of advanced AI: trained digital neural networks and large databases created by analyzing many natural language sources of information.

● Input Layer   ● Hidden Layer   ● Output Layer
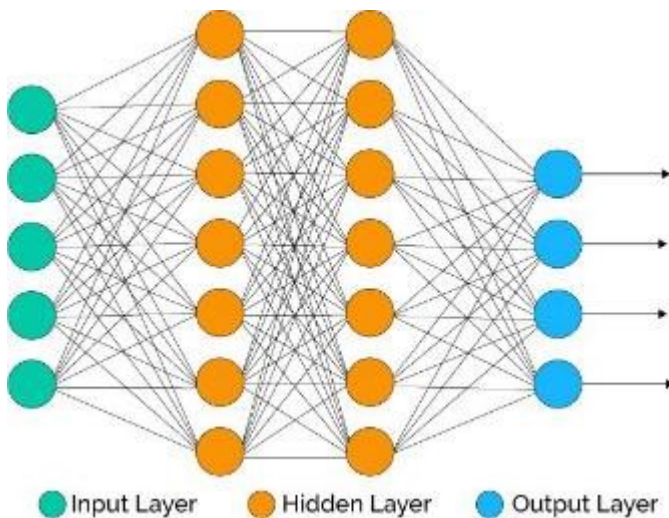
Digital neural networks attempt to emulate the brain's design on a small scale. The idea is that you have a large number of nodes (neurons) that are interconnected to nearby layers of the network, but that each of the interconnections can be adjusted by giving a "weight" to each of the connection paths to determine what strength of incoming signals is sufficient to activate the neuron. To "teach" a neural network, you must supply many different combinations of input signals (on the left), for which the desired output (on the right) is known, and modify the weights so that the correct outputs are obtained for as many as possible, hopefully, all, input value combinations. This is a computationally expensive and, thus, energy-intensive process, but once the best weights are obtained, it is easy to replicate the neural network. The illustration on the right only has 23 nodes. A useful neural network may have thousands of nodes.

Neural networks are particularly useful for cases without clear written rules for arriving at the outputs, like pattern recognition of images and sounds, interpreting the ambiguous parts of natural language speech and text, and predicting large social system behavior like the stock market. While it can be hoped that a new combination of inputs not used in the training process will also produce reasonable outputs, this is not guar-

anteed and heavily depends on how the training data was chosen. Another drawback of neural networks is that there is no way to explain how they arrived at any specific output from some specific input.

It is clear from ChatGPT's behavior that it has access to an extensive database of contemporary and historical literature. Whether that does or should include those materials still under copyright protection is debated as to whether that violates fair-use restrictions. To be of greatest use, the natural language must be parsed to determine what is being discussed (nouns) and related descriptions (adjectives) and actions (verbs) and deduce further relationships. From that, it is possible to produce indexes and statistical probabilities of relationships. Applying a similar parsing to information requests, it is possible to either find sentences or paragraphs relevant to the query or (more complex) possibly construct "original" relevant sentences based on known associations with the query topic.

AI Limitations

One problem that needs to be addressed is that a considerable amount of data is loose in the real world, which is misinformation, and too much garbage in still produces garbage.

Many humans have problems telling the difference between fact and fiction and between reality and conspiracy theories. Humans have biases in their data choices, yet they will choose the data sources to program future AI. This will inevitably cause some problems.

Every year, you find people, sometimes prominent people, that stumble across a parody or satire written in the style of a news article, mistake it for real news, and make a fool of themselves by calling others to take action against the alarming "news" they have just uncovered. Such humor is usually so over-the-top that it is easily recognized by ordinary people aware of current events. However, some still take it as factual, even if it is on a website like "The Onion," which is well-known for only publishing imaginary news releases.

One needs to understand that while AI can provide helpful guidance within the realm for which it has been trained, it is not infallible. If you ask a neural network to categorize an unexpected combination of inputs, it may make an incorrect identification. Suppose you ask an AI system trained from analyzed text about a topic that lacks accurate information. In that case, it may make incorrect inferences from data that it thinks are similar because they appear statistically related. Even if it has processed relevant information, it may not be able to accurately interpret context, implicit relationships, and time ordering of relationships. If you ask an ambiguous question ("Show me something like X"), the AI may not understand the distinction between creating something fictional that looks like "X" versus finding a fact like "X."

There have already been at least two instances reported in the news of a judge berating attorneys for submitting supporting briefs referencing legal precedents that didn't exist because some AI system created a plausible fictional reference to support their legal argument.

The general public is already indifferent to AI's limitations and abusing AI: asking questions of AI apps in areas where the AI is poorly trained and trusting without verification of fallible responses as being authori-

tative because a machine produces them. Some newsworthy cases of this abuse have been reported when fatalities result after owners of cars with AI autopilots requiring supervision find ways to entrust the AI with unsupervised autonomous driving, and a crash occurs when the AI encounters situations it is not designed to handle.

Could AI be Dangerous

Some theorize that if we could build a neural network of enough complexity – many orders of magnitude larger than possible today – at some point, a threshold might be passed. That creation might become self-aware and possibly worthy of being called sentient. What discoveries such a tool could make and create! The problems are multi-fold: If it has more knowledge than any human and can exercise creative thought faster than any human, its analysis of human history may lead it to the conclusion it should be the master, not the enslaved person, of humans. This has long been a persistent cautionary theme of science fiction writers. In the fictional Dune prequel "The Battle of Corrin," where sentient machines and humans have long been at war, there is a fictional quote from the sentient robot Erasmus: "Humans were foolish to build their competitor – but they couldn't help themselves."

Suppose we were to succeed in creating machines that could truly approach the complexity and creativity of the human mind. Might they not also be subject to some of the same dangerous mental instabilities as human minds when confronted by conflicting "facts" or subtle design deficiencies? Fatal problems like those afflicted the fictional HAL 9000 in "2001: A Space Odyssey" and the M-5 Multitronic computer in "The Ultimate Computer" Star Trek episode.

I don't think we are at any risk within my lifetime of finding a way to cross that threshold, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't be concerned that AI in its present state has the capability of causing harm.

AI-based tools used by financial institutions to evaluate whether to approve or deny credit requests have been found to exhibit bias against granting loans to those in minority groups. The AI tools were programmed using data about loans that had been approved subject to historical biases against minorities. Without great care in programming, AI can be used to justify that there is no bias when the reality is that the bias was included in the AI programming and is just more hidden.

Another way we are already seeing AI being abused is by its use to create and spread misinformation on the Internet. While not perfect, it is already good enough to produce deep-fake video and audio and false news reports and control bots on social media networks that spread messages to promote and amplify division and hate. There is some hope that it may be possible to employ AI on the other side to detect and suppress such abuse, but that does require corporations to accept that responsibility.

Another area that should be a serious concern is the possibility that AI could be given the power to make and implement life-and-death decisions without adequate human oversight or just to propose actions that humans might blindly follow in a life-or-death situation. The science fiction genre is full of plots suggesting how badly this can go – possibly human enslavement or extinction.

When you grant AI the power to make decisions and take actions in the real world, most of us want "intelligence" involved, wisdom, and morality. Most of us want decisions made by others that impact our lives to be constrained by a moral compass of what is right and fair. We have no idea how to build that awareness into AI, and since there is no universal agreement on whose standard of morality to use, that may be an impossible task. Even if there was agreement on how to define morality and how to embed that concept into AI, do we trust fallible humans to consistently implement that design without error?

A legitimate concern is that if future AI regulation or its enforcement is inadequate, some individual or corporation with more power and money than wisdom may go rogue, ignore whatever AI restrictions are in place or commonly accepted, and create a dangerous AI device because of a belief it will enhance their short-term profit.

We must be very cautious about what kinds of decisions and actions we entrust to AI in the short and long term. We also need to research how best to enforce that caution. Perhaps future AI, appropriately applied, might even become part of the solution.

Exploring Linux, A Backup Solution for Linux Systems

By Alan German, Treasurer
Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada
https://opcug.ca
Editor: brigittelord (at) opcug.ca

While several disk imaging programs are available to back up Linux systems, very few feature a graphical user interface (GUI). Foxclone is one of the exceptions. Furthermore, it is open-source software with two major features that make it worthy of further examination.

Foxclone can be downloaded in two versions, each providing an ISO file. One version, labeled as standard, is based on Ubuntu Linux Version 18.04 (Bionic Beaver). The focal version is based on Ubuntu Linux Version 20.04 (Focal Fossa).

I selected the most recent version and installed the ISO file on a multi-boot USB drive using Yumi (https://pendrivelinux.com/yumi-multiboot-usb-creator/). Foxclone isn't supported directly in Yumi, so it is necessary to select *Try an Unlisted ISO* as the source for the ISO file. Once the relevant files have been copied, the USB can be booted, and Foxclone is listed in the boot menu under the category *Unlisted ISOs* as the file *foxclone51_focal.iso*.

Booting from this menu item loads a Linux desktop that includes icons for Foxclone and the Fox guide user manual: a file manager and a web browser. The Linux panel (equivalent to the Windows taskbar) is displayed across the bottom of the screen, with a button to access the main menu in the lower-left corner. The options available are more limited than those for a full Linux distro. However, they still include applications such as a text editor, PDF reader, Terminal, and the GParted partition editor.

Running Foxclone displays the main program window with sections where the drive is to be backed up,

its partitions, and the destination drive and partition, which can be selected for the backup process. The program scans the computer's filesystem and populates the entries for the source and target drives. Consequently,
the backup drive must be present when Foxclone is initiated so that it can be displayed as being available as a target.
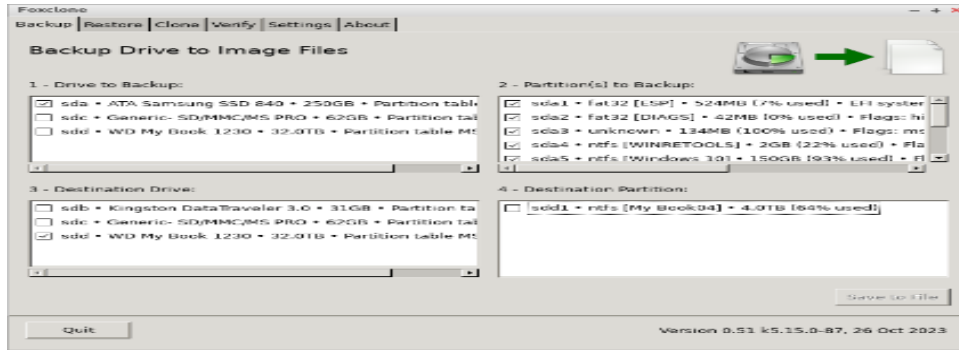
Once a drive to be backed up has been selected, all the partitions on this source drive are automatically selected for backup. Still, individual checkboxes allow the selection to be refined. Selecting an external USB drive as the destination drive and pressing *Save to File* brings up a second dialogue box where the target location can be further specified by browsing the drive's file system. Other options are to create a backup folder and overwrite the current date (in the format 20240215) as the default prefix for the names of the backup files.

A final dialogue box requests confirmation of the backup selections, and pressing *OK* starts the backup process. The result is essentially a series of compressed image and text (log) files that relate to the contents of the individual disk partitions (identified here as sda1, sda2, etc.)
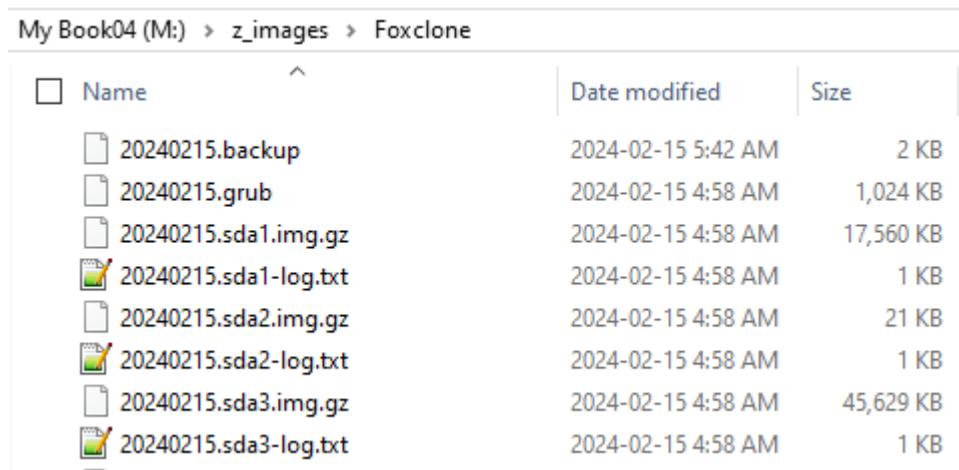
Restoring a disk image or partition is essentially the reverse of the backup process and is accessed through the *Restore* tab at the top of the program window. Other tabs provide options to clone disks, verify backups, and change various program settings. An *About* tab indicates the software version and

its release date, together with a notice that the program is free software under GNU General Public License (GPL) terms.

The Foxclone User Guide (63 pages) can also be downloaded from the developer's website. The manual provides clear, detailed instructions about every aspect of using the program, with the text illustrated using annotated screenshots. Documentation is even provided on the utility programs (image viewer, text editor, etc.) provided in the distribution, with overviews of disk partitioning and bootloaders.

Foxclone supports both Linux and Windows, runs from a bootable USB drive, is intuitive, and has excellent documentation. The program runs a Linux distro as a live USB, and while this won't be an issue for Linux users, even those familiar only with Windows will know to double-click the Foxclone icon on the desktop to run the program. The user interface is simple, and the backup process is easily understandable, so running this software is worth a try.

Bottom Line


Foxclone (Open source)
Andy Hardwick
https://foxclone.org

Windows 10 - Privacy Settings

If you are concerned about your privacy and don't want Microsoft to attain certain types of information on your (such as location data, getting to know you features, and more), then it would do you good to spend some time in the Privacy Settings to figure out what you want and don't want to share with the company. First of all, go to **Settings -> Privacy -> General** and turn off all the toggles if you don't want Windows to track users habit and show you suggestions based on your behavior.
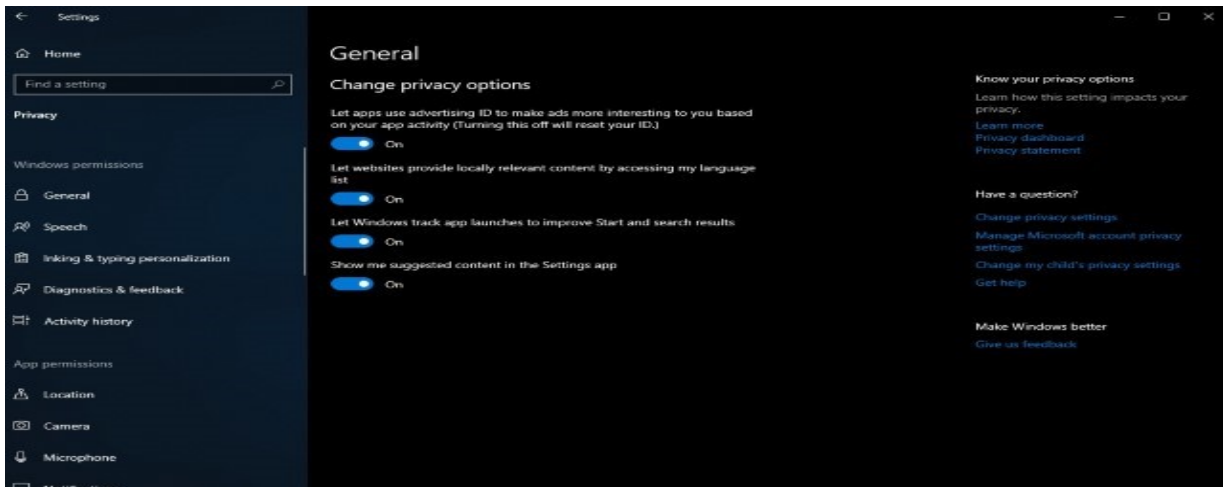
Then go to "**Inking and typing personalization**" and turn it off. This will restrict Windows from tracking your typing and inking history. **Similarly, you can click on other options such as "Diagnostics and Feedback", "Activity History", and more to disable sharing** of your information that you don't want to. To be fair, Windows records your usage to give you a better service, however, if you are not comfortable sharing your information with Microsoft, you should certainly switch these things off.
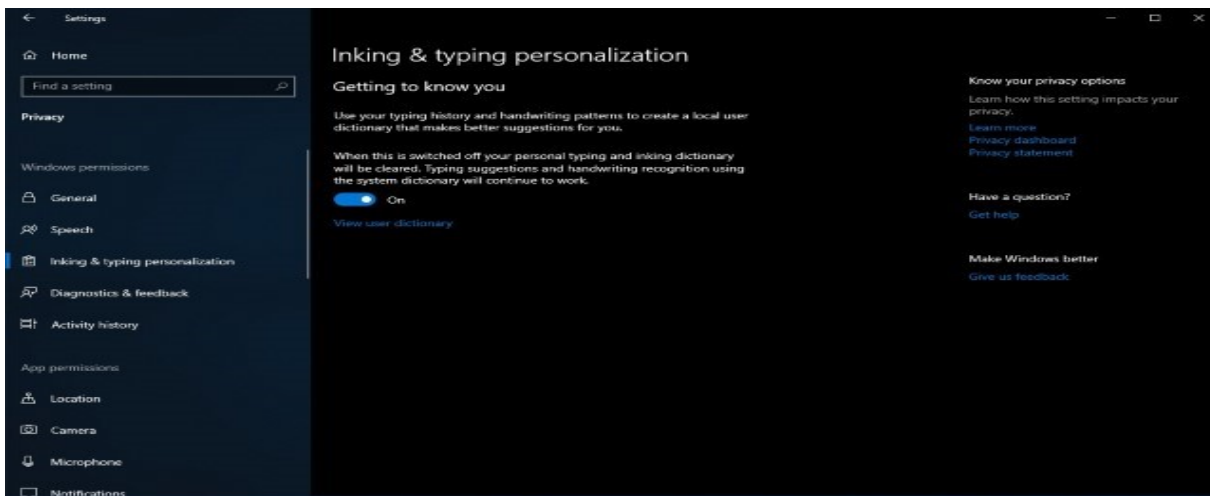
Plateau PC Users Group, Inc.

Application for Membership for 2025

------- New Member   ------ Renewing Member

Return this application with a check for annual dues payable to "PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP"
Return to the club Treasurer during our meeting or mail to
"PPCUG Treasurer. 215 Highland Sq. PMB 11, Crossville TN 38555"

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st. of each fiscal year.

Persons// families joining during the fiscal year have dues payable as follows:

Join In	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June
Single	**$24**	$18	$12	$6
Family	**$30**	$22	$15	$7

Date: _____   Amount Paid: $ _____   by Cash _____ , or Check (# _____)

------------------------   -------------------------   --
Last Name   *First Name*   *Family Member (if family membership)*

Address:

---------------------------------------   --------   ---------------   (_____) _____
City   *State*   *Zip Code*   *Phone Number*

E-Mail address: ---
                                    Please Print

I have belonged to a Computer Club before: Yes _____   No _____

I have used PC's since (year): _____

I have knowledge in the following areas that I would be willing to share with club members:

_____

_____

_____

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 HAPPY LABOR DAY	3	4 **10:00 A.M. PPCUG Board Mtg.**	5	6	7
8	9	10 **3:00 P.M. General Mtg. Presentation. Followed by Q&A Session**	11 SEPTEMBER 11 PATRIOT DAY WE WILL NEVER FORGET	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 WELCOME FALL	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					