



# PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



## September 2024

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"JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE'S COMPUTER CLUB September 2024

Volume 30 Issue 9

**This Month's General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 10, 2024**  
**will start at 3:00 P.M. @**  
**FFG Christ Lutheran Church**



**September 10th Presentation**  
**@ 3:00 P.M.**

Kael Seidl "Senior Geek" will host this month's General Meeting.

With answers to all those questions you should be able to do on your own.

**Karl will talk about "Don't call the Computer Tech" - Thinks You Can Fix Yourself"**

Come away from this meeting with all kind of Tips and Tricks you never knew.

**Monday, September 2, 2024**



COMPUTER TECH SUPPORT? ALRIGHT... I'VE REMOVED ALL OF MY COOKIES... NOW WHAT?

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**Please Note: All Meetings will now be on the second Tuesday of each month. Starting at 3:00 P.M.**

**Location: 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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:

<u>Join In</u>	<u>July - Sept</u>	<u>Oct - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Mar</u>	<u>Apr - June</u>
Single	<b>\$24</b>	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	<b>\$30</b>	\$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.

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## Cool Sites

### Your plant, animal, and wildlife-in-general identifier



Chris Hoffman -**Author of** Windows Intelligence

The excellent application you need is **Seek by iNaturalist**. It's a completely free app that works without an account and doesn't collect any private data.

→ The app is incredibly easy to use: You just have to point your phone's camera at a living creature. Seek will identify what you're looking at.

🕒 You can identify something in about **5 seconds** — no accounts necessary.

To get started, just install Seek for Android from **the Google Play Store** or Seek for iPhone from **Apple's App Store**.

Launch the app and choose whether to give it location permissions. Seek will work best if it knows your location so it has some idea of the critters and crops in your vicinity, but you can choose to tell Seek a location rather than giving it location access — if you prefer.

Then, you just have to tap the green camera button. (Naturally, Seek will need access to your phone's camera!)

Point your phone's camera at whatever you want to identify and try to get a good angle. For basic plant and animal identification, that's it! It's supremely useful.



You can also take photos and see more information about your discoveries. Or, if you'd like to go deeper, you can use the **iNaturalist** app and website — it's **more of an online community**.

**\*\* Visit the PPCUG Website \*\***

**At: [www.PPCUGinc.com](http://www.PPCUGinc.com)**. Read all about our club activities and scheduled monthly meetings, also current and past issues of the Gazette Newsletter. Links also to the Meeting Handouts on past presentations.

Send your comments and suggestions to the PPCUG Webmaster,  
Alan Baker @ [jackal33980@gmail.com](mailto:jackal33980@gmail.com) (931) 239-0877

## Microsoft Word: How to Add a Watermark to a Word Document

Microsoft Word Tips & Tricks



Many Microsoft Word documents are a work in progress requiring multiple reviewers and edits before they are final. What if you want to more clearly indicate whether a file is a draft or confidential? Would it be a neat look to add your company logo as a background image to each page in a Word document? Whether you want to add text or an image, the solution is to insert a watermark in Word.

Adding background text or even an image is easy with the watermark feature in Microsoft Word. Word even includes a gallery of ready-made watermarks, or you can create your own custom watermark. It's also simple to add a background color or picture to your document.

Let's look at the steps to add a watermark to a Word document (or watch the step-by-step video below).

### To insert a watermark in Word:

1. In Microsoft Word, select the **Design** tab.
2. Choose **Watermark** (in the **Page Background** group).
3. Select from a group of common options, including CONFIDENTIAL, DRAFT, URGENT, or pick **Custom Watermark** to add a graphic or your own customized text watermark. Word also includes the option to download additional watermarks from the Microsoft Office website.
4. Next, pick a picture or text watermark and then build your custom watermark from the choices in the dialog box. Your options include formatting text, font, color, and even the direction of the text (diagonal or horizontal).
5. Experiment with the Washout (picture watermark) or Semitransparent (text watermark) options which lighten the watermark to make the text on top easier to read.
6. For text watermarks, a bold or thick sans-serif (no serif) font such as Arial Bold, Calibri, or Verdana is often more readable than a serif font like Times New Roman or Cambria. *Note: Serifs are the flourishes or font "tails" on font characters.*
7. Pick **Apply** to preview your watermark. Choose **OK** to add the watermark to your document.

### To remove a watermark in a document in Microsoft Word:

1. Select the **Design** tab.
2. Choose **Watermark** (in the **Page Background** group).
3. Select **Remove Watermark**.

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## Other Page Effects for Word Documents

To add other page effects to a Microsoft Word document, including gradient effects, a solid color background, or even a picture:

1. Select the **Design** tab.
2. Choose **Page Color** (in the **Page Background** group).
3. Pick either **Colors** or **Fill Effects** and select from the available options.

With just a few clicks, you can easily enhance your work in Microsoft Word with watermarks, page backgrounds, and other special effects.

## Cyber Security

By David Kretchmar, Hardware Technician  
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club  
<https://www.scscc.club>  
dkretch (at) gmail.com

Recently, SCSCC Vice President Tom Burt provided members with a link to an interesting article from *Malwarebytes* about cyber security: <https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/news/2023/10/the-3-crucial-security-steps-people-should-do-but-dont>

*Malwarebytes* (2-week free or trial version) is an excellent product that other SCSCC technicians and I frequently use to search for malware and other potential PUPs (potentially unwanted programs) on computers. *Malwarebytes professional* is their paid-for real-time protection sold for \$30 - \$45 per computer per year.

The essential point of the article was that many internet users employ "dismal cybersecurity practices" and are too lax in implementing and using security measures designed to keep them safe and secure. Some experts estimate that one-third of individuals experienced a security breach within the past year. This sounds reasonable based on my personal experience. Still, I also find it comforting that older adults (Baby Boomers) are estimated to be four times less likely to experience a security issue than younger users. I'm unsure if we are more careful than younger users or if we do less online.

While anything that makes people aware of the dangers that stalk all of us online is valuable, I disagree with two of the three primary points raised in the article. *Malwarebytes* provided the article, and since they sell subscriptions to their products to stay in business, it is arguably in their interest to frighten people, who then will be more likely to become customers.

In the following paragraphs, I will discuss the essential three points made in the article that I find misleading, outright untrue, and primarily true (multi-factor authorization).

### 1. "Just 35 percent of people use antivirus software."

I call BS on this. It is rare for me to come across a computer that has no antivirus software running. Microsoft Windows Defender runs by default on Windows computers and does not have to be turned on by the user. This is by far the antivirus software utilized by most individuals, and it has the advantage of having no cost beyond what a user initially pays for a Windows PC.

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In addition to being "free," the Microsoft Windows Defender program code is updated at least monthly. The monthly security update release is scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. The Microsoft Windows Defender virus intelligence database is updated almost daily in case of newly discovered threats, also known as a 0-day or zero-day vulnerabilities. The term zero-day refers to the fact that the vendor has just learned of the flaw – which means they have zero days to address it.

It might be that only 35% of users subscribe to an antivirus software tool other than Microsoft Windows Defender. Certainly, *Malwarebytes* would like you to buy their product, but the article states an untruth when it says that only 35% of computers are protected.

I believe Microsoft Windows Defender provides excellent protection for most users. The modern version of this security package was implemented with Windows 10 in 2015 and is further improved with Windows 11. I have examined hundreds of computers since 2015 and have never had to remove a virus protected by Microsoft Windows Defender. Before 2015, our club's hardware technicians spent as much as half our time at our Tuesday Repair SIG removing viruses from systems, but this work is no longer necessary.

## **2. "Just 15 percent of people use a password manager."**

Again, I call BS on this. It is common for club members who come to the Tuesday Repair SIG when asked for their password to, for instance, their Google account to state, "I don't have a password; I just click on Gmail, and it appears." They are unknowingly and effortlessly using a password manager.

Without a password, you cannot use an application such as Gmail or any other mail program. Many users set up a password for Gmail or any other applications when they initiate use of that service or have this done for them by whomever is helping to set up their device.

Many users forget they have the required password because their browser's built-in password manager enters it automatically and seamlessly. Google, Edge, Firefox, and Safari all have integrated password managers with features like autofill and a password generator. They can also store credit cards and other personal information, which makes your online life more manageable. Smartphone operating systems on the Apple iPhone, Samsung Galaxy, etc. also store user credentials.

A password generator will create a unique password, such as "8X!4tZ7pas@vFyY" which is impossible to guess and memorize. A password manager best utilizes this bizarre string of characters. I have seen people write down and manually enter a generated password, but obviously, it is tedious and often takes multiple tries.

### **Are passwords saved by browsers secure?**

Google states, "Google Password Manager and the passwords it generates are considered safe compared to similar password managers. Google uses military-grade encryption to protect your usernames, passwords, and payment information."

Microsoft states, "Microsoft Edge stores passwords encrypted on disk. They're encrypted using AES, and the encryption key is saved in an operating system (OS) storage area."

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Firefox states, "Firefox Desktop uses simple cryptography to obscure your passwords. Mozilla cannot see passwords, but Firefox Desktop decrypts the password locally so that it can enter them into form fields."

In other words, the "free" password managers built into browsers and operating systems use security schemes that are like paid password managers. Naturally, marketers of these paid-for third-party services, such as Nordpass, Norton, OneLogin, and LastPass, claim built-in password managers are vulnerable.

Unfortunately, third-party password managers have been hacked, severely compromising user information. OneLogin was hacked in 2017, and LastPass was hacked in 2022. In March 2023, LastPass stated that the breach resulted in unauthorized and unknown users gaining full access to customers' vault data, including personal information like usernames and passwords.

Yet third-party password managers urge users to buy their product rather than depend on the security built into browsers and operating systems. But any account or device can be hacked.

Unless you write down your passwords using a pencil and paper, you must trust someone and use a password manager. I would rather trust a massive entity like Google, Microsoft, or Apple over a relatively tiny software provider. Even more prominent entities, such as Norton, have been subject to internal dishonesty and theft of client data.

### 3. Use multi-factor authentication (MFA)

This is NOT BS. Multi-factor authentication (MFA) requires users to provide at least two of three categories of authentication to access an account.

- **Knowledge:** a password or PIN code,
- **Possessions factor:** a secondary device (i.e., Smartphone) or account you have, in addition to a knowledge factor.
- **Biometrics:** any part of the human body that can be offered for verification, such as fingerprints or facial recognition.

I only have one account, Interactive Brokers, that *requires* MFA. When I want to access my account, a notification is sent to my iPhone, which opens the Interactive Brokers application on my phone and identifies me using facial recognition. Thus, all three factors of MFA are utilized, which is about as good a set of authentications as you will find today.

#### Disadvantages of MFA

The second factor, the secondary device or account, is much stronger when a separate device is utilized. Many MFA schemes send a code to an email account, which is useless when that happens to be the account you are attempting to access. Using only an email account for secondary authentication rather than a discrete device, such as your Smartphone, provides weaker security.

MFA can lock you out of your account when your discreet device (phone) is unavailable, runs out of juice, or lacks an internet or cellular connection.

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## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Microsoft Windows Defender runs by default on Windows computers and does not have to be turned on by the user. Microsoft Windows Defender provides excellent antivirus protection.

The password managers provided by browsers and operating systems are reasonably secure. I believe they are similar in security compared to password managers offered by third-party vendors, maybe better. These credentials operate seamlessly with the operating system or browser, making for a much smoother internet experience.

Multi-factor authentication is the way to go if you want absolute internet security. Using the three categories of authentication, knowledge, possession, and biometrics provides some of the best security available today.



## **Printing your photos**

By Lynda Buske  
Published in Ottawa PC News (Month Year)  
Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada  
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Despite our digital world, it is really nice sometimes to print a photo that you can stick on your fridge, display on your wall, or even frame and give as a gift. The main thing to remember is that the print size for a digital image may be limited.

All digital cameras and cell phones have sufficient megapixels to provide the resolution for a 4x6 or 5x7 photo enlargement. Many would have enough for much larger prints (e.g., 8x10 or 11x14). However, cropping in post-production will reduce your image dimensions.

The best starting point is determining what a good quality home or commercial printer will provide. In most instances, the gold standard is 300 dpi (dots per inch), which you can equate to 300 pixels. That means if you want to print an 8x10, the long side of your image would ideally be at least 3000 pixels (10x300). For 16x20, you would probably like the long side to have around 6000 pixels.

The table below provides a rough guideline for the maximum print size of good quality that you can expect based on the number of megapixels your camera has.

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Camera resolution	File size at high resolution (pixels)	Max print size at 330 dpi
2 megapixels	1200 x 1600	4 x 5
3 megapixels	1536 x 2048	5 x 7
	2448 x 3264	8x 10
8 megapixels	2592 x 3888	8 x 14
	2800 x 4000	8 x 14
10 megapixels	3264 x 4920	11 x 14
	3744 x 5616	12 x 18
12 megapixels	4000 x 6000	16 x 20
16 megapixels		
21 megapixels		
24 megapixels		

If you have a 24MP camera, your images will probably be 6000x4000 pixels. This means you can do a lot of cropping before going under the 3000-pixel threshold. If you shoot with a 12 MP camera and then crop your images significantly, you may not be able to print an 8x10. However, if your cropped image dimension is still around 1200x1600, based on the chart above, you could print a 4x6. Some older cell phones have only 5 or 6 megapixels, so be careful when deciding what size to print. Unfortunately, many family pictures we want to treasure are taken at social events with cell phones, so get close to minimize the need to crop. Unless you are sure your cell phone has an optical zoom on the camera, don't "zoom" with the finger spread as that is just cropping and hence losing resolution. Even if cell phones tout 20MP or 100MPs, almost all only output 12MP due to pixel binning [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pixel\\_binning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pixel_binning)].

The easiest way to see your image's dimensions in the Windows environment is to go to *File Explorer* and right-click on the photo. Then click on *Properties*, select the detail tab, and find the dimensions below.

One final consideration when making prints is the viewing distance. If you print a 4x6, there is a good chance it will be held in your hand or an album and, hence, very close to your discerning eye. If, on the other hand, you make an 11x14 print for your wall, it may never be viewed at less than a few feet, and therefore the resolution does not have to be as good.

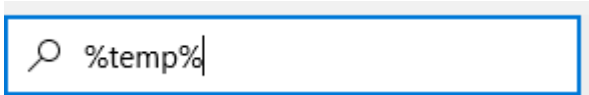
You may have to experiment as to which image dimensions produce an adequate enlargement for your viewing needs and which printing service provides the quality you want. I recommend printing one 8x10 as a test before committing to a company. When submitting digital photos online, many services will warn you if the resolution is not adequate for the print size you requested.

I have found the quality of prints at Shutterfly and Photobook Canada to be very good, but there are significant delivery fees. On the other hand, Staples has the quality but no delivery fees if you pick it up at the store. However, it takes five business days. If you want a quick turnaround of 4x6 prints, a place like Walmart is probably all you need.

## Temp Files Cleanout

George Sengstock  
Plateau PC Users Group (PPCUG)  
August 2024

I have recently discovered that the standard drive cleanup routine is not deleting all TEMP files. This is a relatively new problem as the disk cleanup always got these before (no thanks Microsoft). To view the temporary files, type “%temp%” into the search/command box then hit ENTER.



then press **ENTER**

%temp% is an operating system variable which Windows recognizes as a place to store temporary files. This used to be C:\Windows\Temp but now appears of been reassigned deep into the C:\Users\ area. i.e. in this example C:\Users\Tamra Sengstock\AppData\Local\Temp.

Name	Date modified	Type
{0A6943C9-1881-4F5B-98D3-2C1AE63C2...}	3/9/2023 3:57 PM	File folder
{3FEEA5F3-E8B0-4DF7-9A4B-350028E461...}	3/9/2023 4:05 PM	File folder
{8FEA3BF9-86CD-46C5-9CE8-B8321DCD2...}	3/13/2023 3:37 PM	File folder
{A7FAAB3B-39EC-4F9F-A64E-92A02B38A...}	10/14/2023 10:40 AM	File folder
{FFFA71AF-20DA-473E-851C-B1F2E19D1...}	10/14/2023 10:31 AM	File folder
0A1EB153-63B2-47A7-BB6F-1DE955082BF2	6/21/2023 11:56 AM	File folder
0CD3D1FE-24DA-423F-95FE-28A407858132	11/28/2022 12:37 PM	File folder
0F72FB63-72A3-4CA3-B042-97EAD71FFF03	4/24/2024 12:22 PM	File folder
1B52ECC7-E229-41C2-B733-3419E5A3540B	12/17/2023 2:49 PM	File folder
1E014D0C-46A7-4E96-8AEA-531BC9474418	7/17/2024 6:17 PM	File folder
1EFE3545-7590-4BC2-8067-BC03601DE57B	5/1/2023 12:18 PM	File folder
2A5ADDCA-3C41-4F26-A4D8-8A840E1C1...	2/10/2023 9:15 AM	File folder
2BF904C7-41C2-4C69-A8B6-BAF8D95D90...	7/1/2023 8:55 AM	File folder
2C63FC42-0CEF-40FA-A2BA-ED683EF41F5E	3/10/2024 12:38 PM	File folder
2C29519D-F4DE-48CE-AD84-2C10684296...	10/17/2023 10:51 AM	File folder
2D0E075F-1DE7-4CFF-BDA5-25A5A87FDE...	3/8/2023 1:05 PM	File folder
2DFCE91D-C1FB-41DB-BAE5-311D5C281...	6/29/2024 12:49 PM	File folder
3A718E15-F38E-41C4-8AED-80A7837888FC	9/8/2023 12:52 PM	File folder
3AFD184B-2BD0-4609-9831-E15EC9E12F4F	12/28/2022 3:44 PM	File folder

In this temp folder you will see lots of cryptically named folders and a few files. These are all files that should have been deleted automatically by the offending application which appears to be in most cases Windows itself.

Go ahead and delete all these files. Afterward, you will perform the standard cleanup procedure and you will be good to go.

### \*\*\*\*\* **Advanced** \*\*\*\*\*

There cases where simply deleting these files via file explorer will not finish. Ex: 1) There are so many files that it will take years to complete or 2) The drive is so full that the recycle operation fails (yes this is a thing).

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The nuclear option uses a DOS command to dispatch the offending files quickly:



then press **CTRL+SHIFT+ENTER**

This opens a DOS command window in Administrative mode.

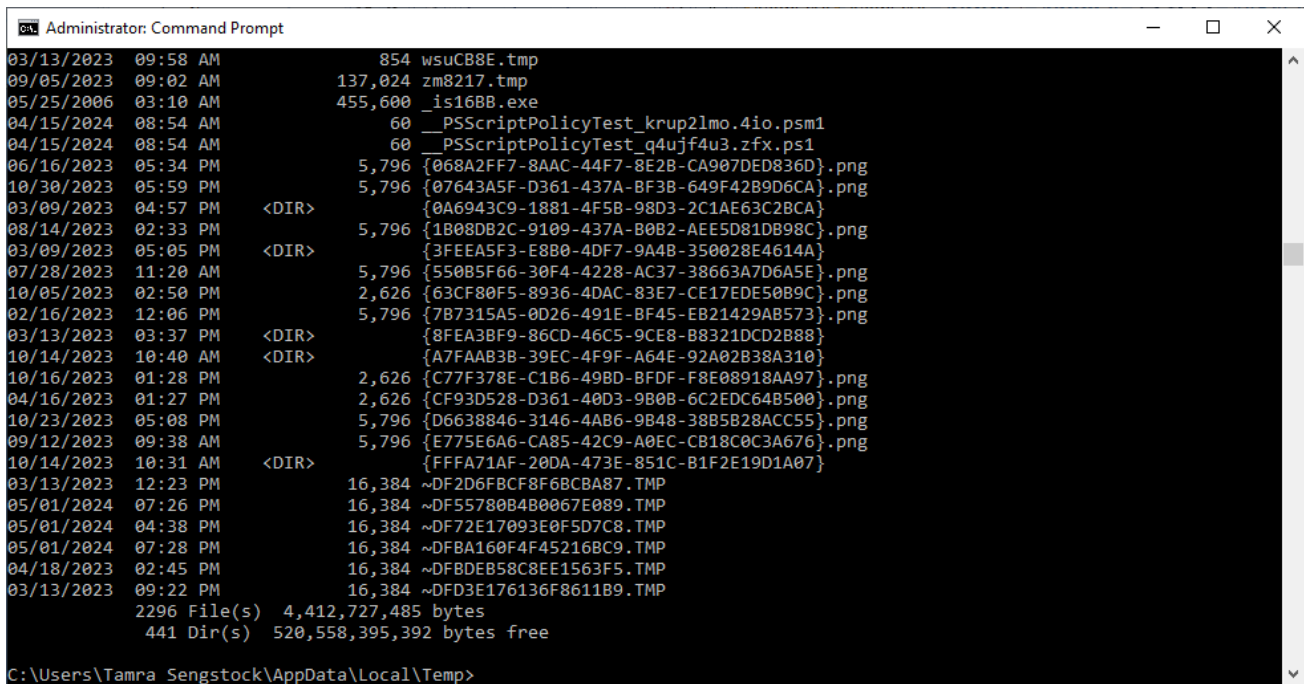
In the command window enter the following two commands:

**CD %temp%**

Make sure the same path as above is displayed

**DIR**

This will show a big list of files as shown here:



Make sure you are in the Temp directory then enter the following command (you do not want to delete the wrong files):

**Del \*.\* /s/q**

Now you will have tons of free space!



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

President's Corner

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

[www.uchug.org](http://www.uchug.org)

president (at) 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.

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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-

*(Continued on page 14)*

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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?

### **Pack your bags!**

By Lynda Buske

Published in Ottawa PC News (June 2023)

Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada (<https://opcug.ca>)

Editor: [briggellord\(at\)opcug.ca](mailto:briggellord(at)opcug.ca)

As you already know, one of my interests is travel photography, and we are entering the season when many of us travel far (or near) to experience and photograph new locations. A stay at an area B&B or a friend's cottage can provide ample opportunity to enjoy a different life from your normal routine. Perhaps you have time to notice nature's beauty when the pace is slower and your schedule is not so packed. Maybe you also have the chance to view familiar things from a different perspective. Finding beauty that others walk by is a comment I often hear with respect to my photos.

I have often written about travel photography, so here are some links to past articles you may find useful.

*Tips for travel photography.* Review my five tips for better travel photos.

<https://opcug.ca/Photography/TipsForTravelPhotography.pdf>

*Rainy day photos.* Don't spend vacation days inside when rainy days offer enticing photographic opportunities.

<https://opcug.ca/Photography/RainyDayPhotos.pdf>

*Shooting near water.* Canadians have abundant opportunities to visit lakes and seashores, so review these tips before heading to the beach!

<https://opcug.ca/Photography/ShootingNearWater.pdf>

*Don't miss the road shots!* Don't miss photo opportunities from the passenger seat or on a bus.

<https://opcug.ca/Photography/RoadShots.pdf>

*What to do with all those travel photos?* How to organize your pics once you are home. Please note that the article refers to Shutterfly.com. As of March 2023, setting up a personalized site for sharing on Shutterfly is no longer an option. I would suggest trying a site like Flickr, where you can post 1000 free photos and provide links to friends.

<https://opcug.ca/Photography/WhatToDoWithAllThoseTavelPhotos.pdf>

Happy travels!





**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 1<sup>st</sup>. of each fiscal year.**

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

<u>Join In</u>	<u>July - Sept</u>	<u>Oct - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Mar</u>	<u>Apr - June</u>
Single	<b>\$24</b>	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	<b>\$30</b>	\$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:

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# October 2024



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
		1	2 <b>10:00 A.M.</b> PPCUG Board Mtg	3	4	5
6	7	8 <b>3:00 P.M.</b> General Mtg. Presentation. Followed by Q&A Session	9	10	11	12
13	14 	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 		