



PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



October 2024

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

October 2024

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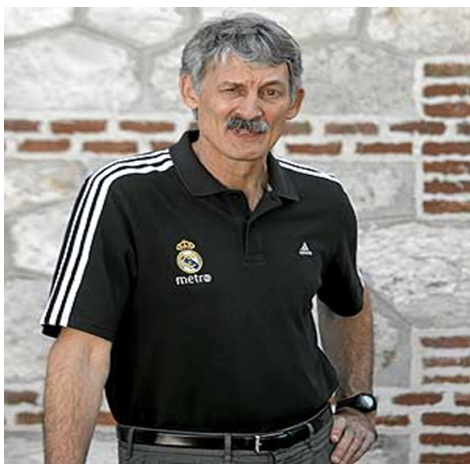
This Month's General Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
will start at 3:00 P.M. @
FFG Christ Lutheran Church

October 8th Presentation
@ 3:00 P.M.

Maintenance Tips

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

He will show and demonstrate his "10 Computer Maintenance Tips" you should do every 6 month's to keep your computer running like new.



Thursday, October 31, 2024

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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 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:

| <u>Join In</u> | <u>July - Sept</u> | <u>Oct - Dec</u> | <u>Jan - Mar</u> | <u>Apr - June</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 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.

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Cool Tips and Sites

Unplug Your Laptop. The Battery Will Thank You.

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society
<https://newsite.ckcs.org/>
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Unplug your laptop. Stop plugging it into the wall. You are killing your battery. That's the Cliff Notes version of an article published by Gizmodo. This also applies to iPads and smartphones. These devices were made to run on batteries.

Here's how Gizmodo explains it. "Do you want to be chained to an outlet for the rest of your life? Of course not. That's why you got a laptop in the first place. Somewhere down the line, many of us got the idea that our laptops should always be plugged in to improve their performance. This is a myth that's slowly killing your laptop. Once your laptop is charged, you need to unplug it, or you might be tethered to the wall forever."

If your tech devices are constantly plugged into the wall, the batteries will die much faster than if you unplug and use battery power. Gizmodo spoke to Kent Griffith, an assistant professor at the University of San Diego in California. Here's his warning: "When your laptop battery is sitting in this worst condition – 100% charge – for weeks or months at a time, that can be pretty damaging to it...So when you take it off and expect it to last for 8 or 10 hours, it might only give you half of what you expect because it degraded a lot during that time."

The article notes that Apple's newest M3 MacBooks sport 18-hour battery lives. But if you keep them plugged in constantly, the battery life in those laptops will be cut in half in only a few short years.



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

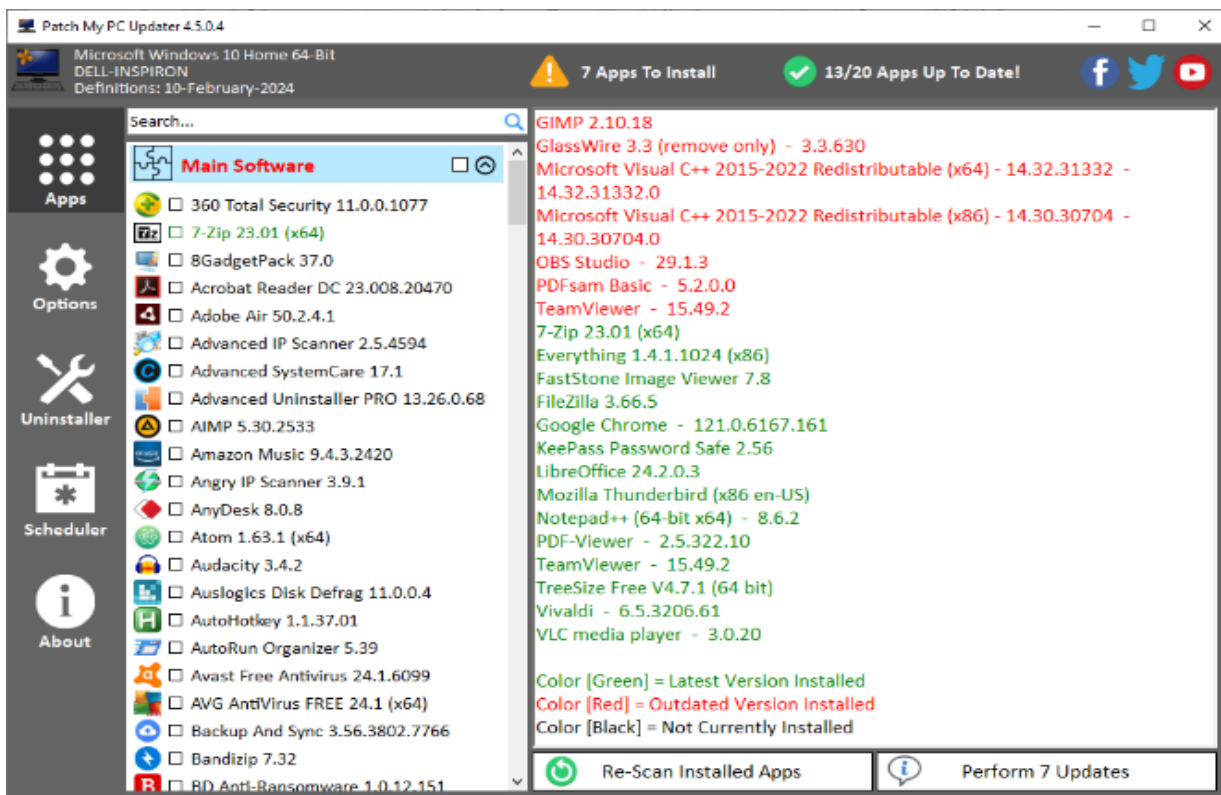
At: www.PPCUGinc.com. Read all about our club activities and scheduled monthly meetings, also current and past issues of the Gazette Newsletter. Links also to the Meeting Handouts on past presentations. Send your comments and suggestions to the PPCUG Webmaster, Alan Baker @ jackal33980@gmail.com (931) 239-0877

Patching My PC with Patch My PC

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

With the demise of both Secunia's Personal Security Inspector (PSI) and Software Update Monitor (SUMo), I have been looking for an alternative vulnerability scanner or at least an update manager to help keep my applications up to date. My preferred option is open-source software or freeware; however, almost all the relevant scanners are commercial products. One program I tried recently is Patch My PC Home Updater, the freeware version of a commercial offering. While the free package is somewhat limited regarding the specific applications that are supported, many of the programs I frequently use are included in the list.

Patch My PC can be downloaded from the developer's website using the file PatchMyPC.exe. It's portable software, and no installation is required. So, it's sufficient to run the executable, which then scans the computer's system drive and reports on the status of the supported applications that it finds.



The user interface is pretty easy to understand. By default, the Apps icon in the left sidebar is enabled, and the list of applications is displayed. The left window lists all the supported applications. If an application is installed, the color of the listing indicates its status. For example, 7-Zip Version 23.01 has been installed, and this is the current release of this utility. The right window displays any issues that have been identified. The applications listed in red are outdated and should be updated, while no action is required for those listed in green, which are currently available.

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Note that PatchMyPC only looks at version numbers and determines if any package has a newer version available. So, it is not a vulnerability scanner. Some of the software updates may well include patches for vulnerabilities, while others may be just feature updates. Nevertheless, bringing all the listed applications up to date will ensure that at least these packages will receive any available vulnerability patches.

Downloading: PDFSam Basic 5.2.2 (80.85 MB)
PDFSam Basic 5.2.2 Downloaded Successfully

Silently install PDFSam Basic 5.2.2
Install Successful for PDFSam Basic 5.2.2

Downloading: PDFSam Basic 5.2.2 (80.85 MB)
PDFSam Basic 5.2.2 Downloaded Successfully

Silently install PDFSam Basic 5.2.2
Install Successful for PDFSam Basic 5.2.2

Downloading: TeamViewer 15.50.5 (69.58 MB)
TeamViewer 15.50.5 Downloaded Successfully

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Install Successful for TeamViewer 15.50.5

Downloading: TeamViewer 15.50.5 (69.58 MB)
TeamViewer 15.50.5 Downloaded Successfully

Silently install TeamViewer 15.50.5
Install Successful for TeamViewer 15.50.5

Patch My PC Update Complete 2/10/2024 5:30:15 PM Patch My PC Update Complete 2/10/2024 5:30:15 PM

You can start updating the listed applications in red by simply pressing the button labeled *Perform 7 Updates*. PatchMyPC then downloads and "silently" installs the updated software. A progress report indicating successful downloads and installations is displayed in the right window.

A log file named PatchMyPC.log, stored in the folder where the PatchMyPC program is located, provides more details of the update process.

Interestingly, following the updates to my system, the header row in PatchMyPC indicated *19/20 Apps Up to Date*. The log entry showed the reason as *"Skipping install for GlassWire 3.3.664 based on user input not to close GlassWire.exe."* I imagine this was a result of the "silent" update where I was not prompted to close GlassWire so that the update could proceed.

PatchMyPC has many customization features based on the categories listed as icons down the left sidebar. The Options tab includes customization for downloading software, changing the display, and managing the update process and the log file. The Uninstaller tab allows installed programs to be removed, while the Scheduler tab allows specification of the timing and frequency for running PatchMyPC automatically. It's also worth noting that, under the Apps tab, clicking the checkbox for any application in the list in the left window causes this application to be marked for installation the next time the software is updated.

So, PatchMyPC isn't an actual vulnerability scanner but a handy tool for keeping various installed applications up to date and making this process extremely easy.

Bottom Line

Patch My PC Home Updater
Patch My PC, LLC
<https://patchmypc.com/home-updater>



Does the Control Panel still exist?

By Phil Sorrentino, Secretary & Newsletter Contributor
Sun City Center Computer Club
<https://scccomputerclub.org/>
philsorr (at) yahoo.com

Good question. When Settings appeared in Windows 8 in 2012, it looked like Microsoft may have been laying the groundwork for moving most of the Control Panel features over to Settings. That may be true, but here we are, eleven years later, and the Control Panel still exists. The control panel exists along with the settings in Windows 10 and 11, though the organization of each changes slightly compared to Windows 10 and 11.



So, how did we get here? Just a little history. Our very old friend Control Panel has been part of Microsoft Windows since version 1.0. Each of the early versions introduced new Applets (small software applications). Being much younger, the Settings App was first released with Windows 8. In Windows 8, the “PC Settings” App was designed as a simplified area optimized for touchscreen devices. It included a small portion of Control Panel functionality on a two-panel full-screen interface. Windows 8.1 improved the Settings App by including capabilities previously part of the Control Panel and providing a redesigned organization. It also added a small “Control Panel” link at the bottom of the left panel to allow users to open the Control Panel. Unfortunately, that helpful link did not remain in later generations of Settings. (However, you can always get to the Control Panel by typing “Control” into the search bar in the taskbar.) Settings categories change with each generation released. In the first generation Settings App, the categories were: PC and Devices, Accounts, OneDrive, Search and Apps, Privacy, Network, Time and Language, Ease of Access, Update and Recovery, and finally Activate Windows (which shows up only if Windows isn’t activated).

The second generation of the Settings App was included with all releases of Windows 10, 2016, 2019, and 2022. It included more capabilities that were previously parts of the Control Panel. Windows Update, part of the Control Panel before Windows 10, was now exclusively a part of Settings. This second version brought some changes to the categories. It contained the following: System, Devices, Phone, Network & Internet, Personalization, Apps, Accounts, Time & Language, Gaming, Ease of Access, Search, Cortana, Privacy, Update & Security and finally Mixed Reality (but only if a connected device meets HoloLens requirements).

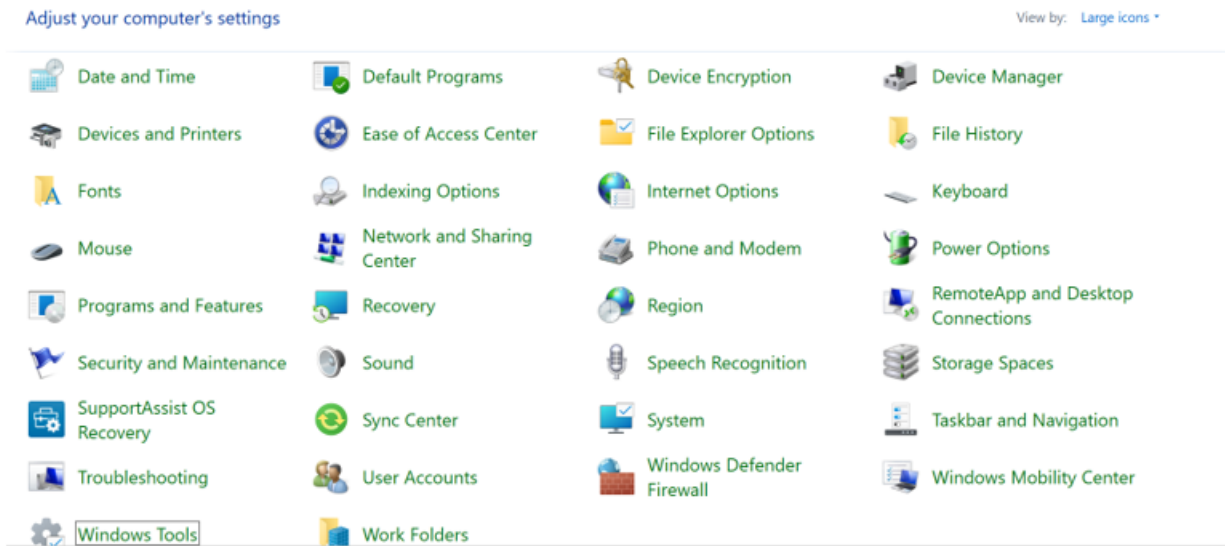
The third generation of the Settings App is found in Windows 11. This version has been significantly redesigned with a new layout and updated icons. (A persistent navigation sidebar has also been added, providing links to various settings capabilities within the App.) The Windows 11 Settings App now contains the following categories: System, Bluetooth & Devices, Network & Internet, Personalization, Apps, Accounts, Time & Language, Gaming, Accessibility, Privacy & Security, and Windows Update.

The control panel is not apparent or easily found on Windows 10 or 11. If you don’t have the Control Panel icon on your desktop, you can use the Search bar on the taskbar to find it. (Though it doesn’t seem obvious or intuitive, in either Windows 10 & 11, if you want to put the Control Panel icon on your desktop, go to Settings-Personalization-Themes, select “Desktop icon settings,” and then check the box next to Control Panel and click Apply.) Control Panel seems to be relegated to the background

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in Windows 10 and 11. Though there are some differences, once you get to the Control Panel in either version, it seems to work just about the same.



Windows 11 Control Panel

“Settings” is much more prominent than Control Panel on Windows 10 and 11. On Windows 10, Settings is immediately available after the Start button is left-clicked. (See the gear icon?) If you right-click the start button, you will also see an entry for “Settings” in the menu. Either method gets you to the same Settings App. On Windows 11, the Settings (gear) icon is probably in the Pinned area of the start menu. If you don’t see it there after you left-click the start button, it might be on a second-level display of the Pinned icons. If there are two dots on the right side of the display of icons, click the smaller one (or the arrow that appears when you hover over the dot). That will reveal another group of “Pinned” icons. If it is there, you are set. If it is not present, click “All apps >” and you will see it in the “All apps” alphabetical list. Right-click Settings and click “Pin to start,” it will be easier to find the next time you need it. You can also click “More” and then “Pin to taskbar” to pin it to the taskbar if you expect to use it often. (You will also notice “App settings” next to a gear icon. This will take you to the “Apps – Installed Apps – Settings” screen, which provides some general control over apps.)

On Windows 11, no matter how you get to the Settings App, the persistent navigation sidebar controls the action. The left panel is the Navigation panel, and the right panel presents the capabilities selected in the navigation panel. Initially, “Settings” starts with “System” in the navigation panel, and the System capabilities are shown in the right panel. Choosing a capability by clicking on a capability in the right panel gets you to the capabilities presented on the next screen. After you reach a capabilities screen, clicking the <- arrow next to “Settings” at the top left corner will get you back to the Settings screen. (This “back arrow” is used throughout the Settings App to get you back to the previous screen.)

So, for now, at least, the Control Panel is still an integral part of Windows 10 and 11, though it seems that without the Search bar, it might not be easy to find. Maybe, as time passes and we get updates, more Control Panel capabilities will be moved into Settings. Control Panel may eventually disappear, but only Microsoft knows what the future holds for Control Panel.

Backup Tools and Procedures

By Tom Burt, Vice President
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It's been a few years since I've written about tools and procedures for backing up your computer. With the growing popularity of smartphones and tablets, the need for backup has expanded to include those devices and traditional Windows, Macintosh, and Linux PCs. I can't stress enough how important it is to make regular backup copies of your data files and of your computer's entire hard drive. The backup landscape has changed somewhat, so it seemed a good time for an update.

What is Backing Up?

Backing up means accurately copying some or all of the data and software stored on your computer's storage drive. The copy is commonly stored on some type of external storage device that is not generally connected to your computer. The external device may be a USB hard drive or flash drive, a removable rack-mount hard drive, a folder or partition on another computer on your in-house network, or a server elsewhere on the Internet such as Dropbox, MS OneDrive, or Google Drive. A personal backup solution may include some or all of the above.

Why Back Up?

The reason to make backups is that (putting it politely) **BAD STUFF HAPPENS!** Computer equipment is highly reliable and may run for years without failing, but sooner or later, storage devices fail. More commonly, accidents (drops and spills, turning off the PC's power, power failures and power surges, and so forth) happen, causing a storage device or other device component to fail. A vast array of malicious software waits for any opportunity to attack, damage, or lock up saved data. There's also a fundamental human error – accidentally deleting a file or a folder.

Without a safe backup copy, data saved on your computer may be irretrievably lost. For example, consider digital photos, videos, music, and financial / tax records. Also, if you had to start over with a new, blank hard drive, it would be relatively easy to reinstall Windows, Linux, or MacOS, but what about all the other programs, settings, and all your data?

Full Disk Backup – Cloning and Imaging

A **clone** of a hard drive is a complete copy to another hard drive. All information needed to boot and run the computer and all the programs, settings, and data are written on the backup hard drive. A clone fills up all the backup hard drive; only ONE clone can be written to the backup drive. To **restore** after the computer's internal hard drive has failed or been corrupted, one can either clone from the backup drive to the computer's (possibly new) internal drive or remove the failed drive and install the backup drive in its place. Cloning back should be the first choice on a laptop or all-in-one computer, provided the internal drive hasn't failed. Removing and replacing a laptop's internal drive is a challenging task.

An **Image** of a hard drive is a complete copy written to a single compressed file on another storage device. The compressed image file doesn't typically use as much space as the original data; only the actual space is backed up. Keeping several image files on a single external storage device is usually possible. As with a clone, the image file contains all the information needed to boot and run the PC, along with all the programs and data. However, the image file is not itself bootable.

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A bootable recovery disk (CD or DVD) or flash drive is required to restore either a clone or an image file. All the primary backup tools include a tool to create bootable recovery media.

Popular Full Disk Backup Tools for Desktop Computers

There are several well-known software tools for backing up the hard drives of desktop PCs and Macs.

Acronis Cyber Protect Home (2023)

- <https://www.acronis.com/en-us/> or <https://ugr7.com/>
- Integrated suite of backup, anti-virus, and ransomware protection.
- Excellent for backing up entire hard drives or partitions.
- Makes both "clones" and "images."
- Can "mount" a backup image as a logical drive.
- Can make bootable "Rescue Media" for both backup and restore.
- It can also back up individual files and folders.
- Single PC essential subscription lists at \$50 / year, family pack of 3 about \$80 / year
There are premium offerings, including cloud storage.
User Group Relations (Gene Barlow) prices are 50% lower. <https://ugr7.com/>

CASPER by Future Systems Software

- <https://www.fssdev.com/products/casper/>
- Makes "images".
- Features bootable images.
- The single system price is about \$60; a family pack of 5 for \$80.
- Has a 30-day free trial.

Macrium Reflect 8 Home

- <https://www.macrium.com/products/home>
- The free version has been discontinued but continues to work on Windows 10 and 11.; you can subscribe to the "Home" edition for an annual fee of \$49.99 or buy a one-year license for \$70 (no support after the first year). They offer a 30-day free trial.
- Can back up entire hard drive or partitions.
- Makes both "clones" or "images."
- Can "mount" a backup image as a logical drive.
- Can make bootable "Rescue Media" for both backup and restore.

EaseUS ToDo Backup FREE

- <https://www.easeus.com/backup-software/tb-free.html>
- See feature comparison,
- Makes "images". You can "boot" from an image.
- You can upgrade to a fuller-featured "Home" edition for \$39.99 annually, one year free upgrade, or a "Lifetime Upgrades" edition for \$79.95.

I tried using EaseUS ToDo Backup to back up my C: drive to a USB 3 external 7200 RPM hard drive. It required 52 min to back up 300 GB of data. The resultant image size was 184.5 GB. A substantial number of MP4 files on the C: drive had already been compressed.

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Windows 11 Backup (Windows 7) FREE (built-in to Windows 10 and 11)

- This backup tool is reached via:
Control Panel > All Control Panel Items > Backup and Restore (Windows 7)
- You can use it to back up key library folders or "Create a system image." Once there, you can add additional drives or partitions to the basic C: drive partition set.
- I set it up and let it run to make an image of my C: drive (300 GB of data). It ran for 92 minutes. The final image file size was 300 GB; there was NO compression.

Macrium Reflect Free Edition has been my favorite of the above offerings. It's fast, easy to use, and does everything I need for whole disk backup. And the price was right! However, I'm presently evaluating free and paid alternatives. Here's a link to a good article listing some free backup software tools:

<https://www.techradar.com/best/best-free-backup-software>. I'm disenchanted with the built-in Windows 7 backup. It's too slow, and the images aren't compressed. I'm also disenchanted that Acronis and Macrium will use an annual subscription model. EaseUS ToDo Backup Free edition looks promising as a replacement for the Macrium Reflect 8 Free edition.

File Backup Tools

Full disk backups are great, but users don't typically run them daily because they take time, and the backup drive has to be retrieved and connected to the computer. This creates a risk that data files that change may not be accurately reflected in the backup. Consider your saved email and contacts, financial and accounting files, and other documents and spreadsheets you may be working on.

Windows File History or MacOS Time Machine

One approach is to use an automated file backup tool that scans a designated set of folders at some specified time interval (say every hour). It makes a copy of any new or changed files to a backup storage device such as a flash drive, external hard drive, or a shared folder on another computer. I use File History, checking once an hour, to supplement full disk backups for specific key file folders.

Windows File Explorer or MacOS File Manager / Finder

For simple one-shot backups, you can still use the built-in file manager programs to select a set of files and copy them to an external flash drive, hard drive, or network-shared folder.

Cloud Backup Tools

There are many free and paid cloud backup services. Most of these include an automatic sync tool that copies files from your computer to your private space on the cloud server. Here are some of the free ones:

Google Cloud (Google Drive) - FREE

- <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/my-drive>
- Requires a Google / Gmail account
- 15-17 GB of free cloud storage
- **Install Google Backup and Sync** app (Windows)
- Use Settings to specify a set of folders to be monitored and backed up to the Google Cloud whenever a change is detected (very similar to Windows File History)

Microsoft OneDrive - FREE

- <https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/>

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- Requires a Microsoft Account
- 5 GB free (more if you've had a Microsoft ID for a long time). If you're subscribed to Microsoft 365 (the Office suite), you get 1 TB per license user, up to 6 TB in total.
- Syncs from a OneDrive folder on your PC or device to your OneDrive cloud storage.

Apple iCloud – FREE

- www.apple.com/icloud
- Requires an Apple ID (Account)
- 5 GB free, can add more space for a fee
- Built into all Apple devices, can install an App for Windows
- Syncs across all your devices

What About My Smart Phone or Tablet?

Many computer users now rely on a mobile device as their primary computer for communication, news, and entertainment, taking photos and video clips, and recording sound. What are the options for backing up mobile devices?

Android Phones and Tablets

If you have a Google account and have configured your device to link to it, you get quite a lot of automatic backup of files to your Google Drive cloud space. You will want to be connected to a WiFi router when this happens, or your Android device may use up a lot of your monthly data allotment.

You can also connect your Android device via a USB cable to your desktop computer and use the Windows File Manager or MacOS Finder to copy files from the mobile device to a folder on the desktop computer. You can also copy files from the desktop computer to the Android mobile device.

To fully back up all your Android device's data, you can purchase and install third-party backup Apps. Try a web search for **Android Full Backup** to see what's available.

Apple Phones and Tablets

If you have an Apple ID, all your devices, including iPhone, iPad, Mac, and Apple Watch, already have built-in iCloud support and will back up data files to your iCloud private storage space on Apple's servers. If you have several Apple devices, a concern is using up your free 5GB allocation; you may have to buy extra space to cover backups from all your devices.

You can connect your iPhone or iPad to your PC or Mac via a USB cable and then use Apple's iTunes program to synchronize various file types between your mobile device and your desktop computer. This isn't quite as general as what Android offers, but it takes care of many file types. iTunes also provides an easy way to fully back up all the data on your Apple mobile device into a file on your desktop computer.

Having the iCloud backup enabled on your mobile device is a good idea. This takes care of frequently changing files. Use the iTunes full backup occasionally to ensure ALL your devices' files are backed up.

With these backups in place, if your phone or tablet is damaged, goes up in flames, or gets lost, you can replace the phone or tablet with relative ease, restore all your saved data files, and be back in business.

Default Apps: Where and What are they?

By Phil Sorrentino, Secretary & Newsletter Contributor
Sun City Center Computer Club
<https://sccccomputerclub.org/>
philsorr (at) yahoo.com

Default Apps is a choice in the Apps section of Settings. To get there, click the Start button, then click "Settings," then "Apps," and finally, "Default apps." This is where you can choose what Apps will be used for certain types of files. Windows 10 and Windows 11 both have this feature, but the screens look a bit different. It looks like Windows 10 scratches the surface of this feature, and Windows 11 expands on it. But as an example, let's first look at the more straightforward Windows 10 screens. Let's look at one of these choices, probably familiar to most computer users, "photo viewer" (the fourth item on my list). Below the choice "photo viewer" is the icon and the name of an App. In my case, it is "Photo Gallery." By default, this App will be used when the user attempts to open a photo file type, like a .jpg file.



Microsoft Photos Gallery Icon

Just a bit of background. Many file types (extensions - the letters in the file name after the period) have been defined, and many are commonly used daily. FileInfo.com maintains a searchable database that contains over 10,000 file extensions. They are used for documents, databases, graphic images, disk images, presentation software, email, virtual environments, file encoding, and other purposes.

Many of these file types are defined and used by specific software and are not often encountered by the average computer user. However, we usually use a few categories of file types in our daily computing lives so frequently that operating systems have identified some categories and provided specific folders for their use, such as documents, pictures, videos, and music. In this same order, you can think of these categories as Text-based, Image, Video, and Audio files. So, now that some basic categories have been defined, we can see what file types might fit into these categories. Some common file types like .docx, .xlsx, .pdf, .html, .odt, .pptx, .zip, and .txt are document file types. .jpg, .jpeg, .jpe, .png, .tiff, .gif, .heic, and .raw are image file types. .mp4, .wmv, .avi, .mov, .flv, and .mkv are video file types. And finally, mp3, .ogg, .wma, .wav, .aac, and .flac are music file types. (If this doesn't make sense, you may not see the file type extension part of your file names. Windows defaults not to show extensions. To change this, in File Explorer, click "View" and then check the "file name extensions" checkbox.) Additionally, there are categories for file types for specific uses like email, maps, and web browsers, which Windows puts into categories for convenience. For example, .msg, .pst, .edb, .ost, and .eml are email file types. .shp, .shx, .kml, .kmz, and .gpx are map-oriented file types. .html, .xps, .css, .asp, and .php are web browser-oriented file types.

So Windows provides control over the Application (or App) that will be called upon to open and/or process a file. When you attempt to open a file by double-clicking it, the "Default" App associated with the double-clicked file type will be used. For example, if you try to open a Photo document (.jpg file type, for example), the Default App (in my situation) Microsoft Photos Gallery will be used. There may be other Apps on your computer that can also do the job. If you want to see what Apps could do the job and maybe even change the Default App, click the current Default App, in my case, the "Photo Gallery"

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Icon, and you will see a list of the other Apps on your computer that can be used. When I clicked the "Photo Gallery" Icon, I was presented with a "Choose an App" list that included "Photos," "Faststone Image Viewer," "Microsoft Office Picture Manager," "Movie Maker," "Paint," "Paint 3D" "Photoshop Elements 13 Editor", "Snip & Sketch," and "Look for an app in the Microsoft store." (Microsoft is always anxious to provide or even sell solutions.) This list indicates the apps that could be set as the default apps for photo files. The list on your computer may be shorter or longer depending on the Apps you have installed on your computer. To change the Default App to an App in the list, click the Name of the App and the Default will be changed. Notice that below the Default Apps choice is an option to "Choose default apps by file type." Clicking this allows you to set default Apps for every file type on your computer. My computer's list of file types is quite long, totaling around 500, going from .386 to .zpl. Changing these entries is probably unnecessary, at least not for the average computer user. However, if you have specific and maybe expensive software you want to use for certain file types, this would be the place to make that choice.

Windows 11 "Default Apps" is similar but a little different. When you select Default Apps (under Settings-Apps) instead of a list of a few categories, like "mail," "maps," or "photo viewer," there is a list of all of the Apps on your computer. If you select an app, you will see a list of all the file types associated with the App chosen. At this point, you can change the "Default App" used for the selected file type. This is similar to the "Choose default apps by file type" in Windows 10. As such, in either version of the OS, there is an attempt to give the user complete control over what App is used by default when attempting to open a specific file type.

Celebrating 29 years of Windows 95 — How Microsoft's operating system evolved since the iconic Start menu was introduced

By Ben Wilson

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Windows 95 introduced the iconic Start menu to the revolutionary taskbar, and Microsoft's OS influence is still felt 29 years later.



There's always time for a relaxing game of Solitaire. (Image credit: Ben Wilson | Windows Central)

On August 24, 1995, Microsoft officially released Windows 95, its revolutionary operating system previously codenamed 'Chicago', to the public. I still remember when my parents upgraded the family PC from Windows 3.1 with a slew of floppy disks and the help of a tech-savvy friend, who helped sell them on the luxuries of a new, friendly user interface that would replace the archaic likes of the now-extinct 'Program Manager' app.

Twenty-nine years later, the impact of Windows 95 is still apparent in modern computing (and even popular culture as Finland embraced Windows95man,) with remnants of its old-school tools and apps still running quietly in the background of Windows 11.

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In particular, I still rely on the 'more sound settings' panel to wrestle my microphone levels back to their proper numbers after Google Meet automatically adjusts them against my will. Prettier menus offer the same controls, but these retro 'Win32' apps still **just work**, thanks to Windows 95's foundations.

I could ramble about the iconic startup sound or how our costly printer never worked with Microsoft's 'Plug-and-Play' promises. However, one feature stands out more prominently than any other, and its legacy is a mainstay feature in Windows 11 with much less subtlety, even if Windows 8 previously tried to wrangle it into something entirely unrecognizable — the legendary and utterly iconic Start menu.

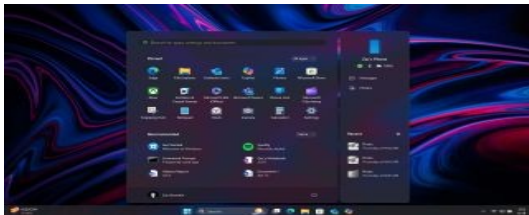
Everything changed with the Start menu



The classic Start menu would expand across your desktop until you found your favorite program. (Image credit: Ben Wilson | Windows Central)

It seems like a given that a modern operating system should have some form of a taskbar and Start menu unless you're a die-hard fan of the Terminal, like my Linux-obsessed colleague Richard Devine, who is ever-eager to boil the most complex tasks down to the command line without needing to touch a mouse. Still, for your average user, the Start menu was a self-explanatory hub for all your programs and settings on Windows 95.

This pop-up menu was always snappy and responsive, at least if your processor wasn't bogged down with multiple programs running on a single core. It gathered all of [Microsoft's stock applications \(RIP Wordpad\)](#) and even listed any newly installed apps alongside them, divided into subcategories intended to keep things tidy. It wasn't uncommon to see a gigantic wall of tiled menus on some PCs as software libraries grew and larger hard drives (up to an unthinkable 32GB!) became more affordable, but a bit of housekeeping could clean it up.



The latest Start menu design in Windows 11 24H2 is much bigger and aligned in the center by default. (Image credit: Zac Bowden | Windows Central)

The Start menu experience is inherently the same on the latest build of Windows 11, version 24H2. It's an all-in-one solution for your apps, settings, and shortcuts, and even a return to responsive widgets, vaguely reminiscent of the live tiles featured on Windows 8's contentious Start menu replacement, is in the works. It's become a much more simplified version of its former self, reduced to a compact Windows logo now that its use is broadly understood and no longer needs explanation.



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.

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

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|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3  | 4 | 5  | 6 10:00 A.M. PPCUG Board Mtg. | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11  | 12 3:00 P.M. General Mtg. Presentation. Followed by Q&A Session | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |