TC/PC Exists to Facilitate and Encourage the Cooperative Exchange of PC Knowledge and Information Across All Levels of Experience

August 2025

General Meeting[4]
Tuesday, August 12, 2025
7:00 PM
Building Custom Windows 11
Installation Media with Rufus
Presenter: Gene Olson

Via Zoom Only

Gene Olson, one of our newer members, will be demonstrating how to build custom Windows 11 installation media on a thumb drive to bypass some Windows 11 requirements, e.g. having TPM 2.0. Gene has used this method to upgrade many older Windows 10 installations to Windows 11. 🖥

Saturday SIG meetings are on vacation for the summer. They will return in September. Mark your calendars!

Note: All TC/PC Meetings and SIG Groups will be virtual until further notice. Visit tcpc.com for info**.**

Tech Topics with Jack Ungerleider via Zoom at 6pm before the General Meeting.

APCUG

24-Hour Information • www.tcpc.com
Application form inside back cover

TC/PC is a Member of

The Digital Viking

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Contact Sharon Walbran at:: SQWalbran@yahoo.com

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Payment must accompany order unless other arrangements are made in advance. Place make checks payable to: **Twin Cities PC User Group**

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Meets once or twice per year. All members welcome to attend.
Visit www.tcpc.com for meeting details.

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Keeping Your Hard Drive Free From OneDrive Clutter: A Guide

By Sharon Walbran [with assistance from AI]
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OneDrive is a powerful tool for cloud storage and syncing, but without proper management, it can quickly consume your valuable hard drive space. This article will guide you through various methods to keep your OneDrive in the cloud, and your local drive free and clear.

Embrace Files On-Demand

Files On-Demand, available for both Windows and macOS, allows you to access all your OneDrive files in File Explorer without downloading them locally. This saves significant space on your hard drive, as only a small placeholder file is stored, representing the full file in the cloud. When you open an online-only file, it downloads to your device, becoming temporarily available, and then reverts to online-only after a period of inactivity (typically 30 days).

Here's how to turn it on (if it's not already, as it's enabled by default on newer versions of OneDrive):
1. Select the **OneDrive cloud icon** in the Windows notification area.
2. Choose **Help & Settings > Settings**.
3. Go to the **Settings** tab.
4. Expand the **Advanced settings**.
5. Toggle **Files On-Demand** to **On**.

Selective Folder Syncing

Don't need all your OneDrive folders on your computer? You can choose exactly which folders to sync locally, minimizing local storage consumption.
1. Open OneDrive settings (right-click the OneDrive cloud icon).
2. Go to the Account tab.
3. Click Choose folders.
4. Uncheck the folders you don't want to sync locally and click OK. Remember, these folders will still be accessible online via the OneDrive website or mobile app.

Manual Space Management with "Free Up Space"

Even with Files On-Demand, you might find certain files or folders have been downloaded locally. You can manually convert them back to online-only:
1. Right-click on the desired file or folder in File Explorer.
2. Select Free up space.
This will move the file to the cloud, making it online-only and freeing up local drive space.

Understanding file statuses

OneDrive utilizes icons in File Explorer to indicate the sync status of your files:
- **Blue Cloud Icon:** Indicates an online-only file, stored in the cloud and not taking up local space. Requires an internet connection to open.
- **Green Checkmark:** Indicates a locally available file, downloaded and accessible offline. These take up local space.
- **Solid Green Circle with White Checkmark:** Indicates a file that is "always available," meaning

it's downloaded and synced to your device, even without an internet connection.

Storage Sense and automated cleanup

Windows' Storage Sense feature can further assist with managing local space. When enabled, it can automatically make infrequently used files online-only after a specified period, according to Microsoft Support.

1. Go to Start > Settings > System > Storage.
2. Turn Storage Sense to On.

Optionally, configure Storage Sense frequency and how proactively it makes files online-only.

Unlinking OneDrive (if necessary)

If you need to completely stop OneDrive from syncing and accessing your local files, you can unlink your PC from OneDrive.

1. Right-click the OneDrive cloud icon in the notification area.
2. Choose Help & Settings > Settings.
3. Go to the Account tab.

Click Unlink this PC.

Important: Unlinking your PC will remove online-only files from your device, says SOFTWAREHUBS.COM. Locally available files will remain. To access your files after unlinking, you'll need to use the OneDrive website or mobile apps.

By effectively utilizing these OneDrive features and settings, you can ensure your cloud storage solution doesn't become a hard drive hog, allowing you to enjoy the benefits of cloud accessibility without sacrificing local space.🖥️

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Kretchmar's Korner
Save your Smartphone Photos on OneDrive
By David Kretchmar, Hardware Technician
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
https://www.scscc.club

OneDrive is a cloud storage and file-sharing service provided by default on new computers with Microsoft Windows. It has become an integral part of the Windows 11 Operating System (OS) and will likely be even more important in Windows 12.

OneDrive gives users the power to save, retrieve, and share files from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. Many users, including myself, consider OneDrive a virtual hard drive in the cloud. OneDrive synchronizes with your devices and protects your data from corruption due to a hack, a hard drive crash, or mischief caused by ransomware.

The OneDrive desktop application integrates with the Windows 11 File Explorer, allowing you to manage files in your OneDrive account as if they were on your local drive. You can also access OneDrive through a web browser.

I have been using OneDrive since 2006, when it was named SkyDrive. For many years I had the free account with 15GB of OneDrive storage, consisting of the 5GB free plan that is available to all users, plus a 10GB "loyalty bonus". I developed the need for additional storage from Microsoft 365, so I upgraded to Family, providing 5 users each with 1TB, now costing $129.99 a year (just raised from $99.99). Microsoft 365 Personal, providing one account with 1TB of cloud storage, now costs $99.99 a year. My affection for OneDrive only increased when I found that using OneDrive made upgrading from my old Windows 10 computer to a new Windows 11 computer virtually painless.

OneDrive on your iOS device or Android

If you take and keep many photos and videos using your iPhone or Android, you will likely get a warning that your storage has reached capacity and you need to buy additional cloud space to back up your data. You can use OneDrive to solve this problem.

First make sure the OneDrive app is downloaded and installed on your device. To automatically save iPhone (or any smartphone) or iPad photos to your OneDrive storage, enable the "Camera Upload" feature in the OneDrive app. This setting sets the pictures you take to saved to your OneDrive account as well as your device. You can also adjust settings to include videos.

Wait Until Bedtime
If you have large videos or need to upload lots of images, you may see some marked as "Remaining". Microsoft recommends using Bedtime Backup to upload your photos with OneDrive's dedicated upload mode. You can specify if you want to upload using cellular data (eating up your data plan and battery) or wait until bedtime. Make sure your device is connected to Wi-Fi and charging, then select "Turn on Bedtime Backup". Once uploads are complete, you can "Turn Off Bedtime Backup".

If you try to upload pictures while your device is on battery power, the phone's OS may go to "sleep" during a large camera upload, not completing or making the upload take a long time. Apple iOS won't let OneDrive backup your photos if the battery is less than 20%. Also make sure your device is not in Low Power Mode.

The sync is one way
The camera roll on your device only uploads to OneDrive - it does not sync photos both ways. That means you can delete photos and videos from your device, and the copies of these files residing on OneDrive won't be affected.

One account at a time
You can only upload your photos and videos to one account at a time. Your phone's OneDrive app must be signed into the OneDrive account to which you want to upload photos. Flip the toggle on for the OneDrive account you want to enable Camera Upload.

Keep OneDrive open
To best utilize OneDrive, Apple recommends that you leave the OneDrive app running in the background. Automatic uploading cannot work if the app has been forcibly closed.

Conclusions and Recommendations
OneDrive is a valuable tool for backing up files on your computer, as well as any other device you can connect to the internet. Download and install OneDrive on the device you use to take photos and videos to ensure these files are saved.

With OneDrive installed on your smartphone, you can access any file, picture, video, or document in OneDrive anywhere you can connect to the internet.⌨

Android Folders WHERE ARE THEY AND WHAT ARE THEY CALLED
By Phil Sorrentino
Sarasota Technology Users Group
Thestug.org

Most of us are familiar with the Windows OS and the fact that the OS files are kept in the \Windows folder, which should be off-limits to all users. (On an Apple computer, this is the System folder.) For convenience, there is a set of well-known folders defined by the OS for use by the user (and applications), such as Desktop, Documents, Downloads, Pictures, Music, and Videos. Of course, users can create additional folders using File Explorer or another file manager app. Just as a reminder, a file is the common storage unit in a computer, and all programs and data are "written" into files and "read" from files. A folder holds one or more files and can also contain other folders. (Keep in mind that users can only access anything on the computer via an app.)

Like Windows, macOS, iOS, Chrome, Linux, and almost all operating systems, Android is composed of numerous files contained in many folders. All the OS files are stored in folders inaccessible to users (thankfully, because if they were accessible, the OS would likely have a mean time between failure of just hours). The Android OS is divided into several areas, such as /boot, /system, /recovery, /data, / cache, /sdcard, and /sd-ext, most of which are not accessible to users. (For example, the /boot area contains the boot image and OS kernel required to start the Android OS—files that certainly should not be accessible to users.)

The only areas accessible to users are:
• /sdcard (also called "internal shared storage"), and
• /sd-ext (external memory), which is only present if the phone has a microSD card slot.

For most phones, internal shared storage is the only area accessible to users and user apps.

MANAGING FILES ON ANDROID
On an Android phone, the Google Files app can be used to access internal shared storage and external storage (if present). Some manufacturers include their own file manager apps in addition to or in place of "Files." Additionally, there are many file management apps available on the Play Store. Simply search for "File Manager", and you'll find numerous free options. (When I last checked, there were over 30 suggestions!) You can try out a few and uninstall the ones that don't meet your needs. Personally, I've found CX File Explorer to be a reliable choice for most tasks.

VIEWING FOLDERS AND FILES
To view folders and their contents, you can:
1. Use the Files app on your phone, or
2. Use a computer for a larger screen and easier navigation.

OPTION 1: VIA USB CABLE
 Connect your phone to a computer using a USB cable (typically the charging cable that came with your phone). After connecting, follow these steps:
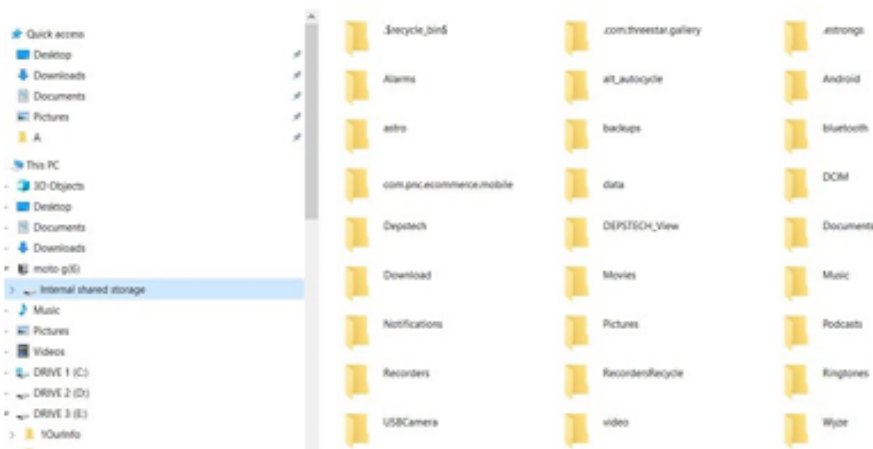1. Check the Notification Bar on your phone.
2. Swipe down and locate the notification that says "Android System charging".
3. Select the File Transfer option.
4. On your computer, open File Explorer, navigate to This PC, and find your phone (e.g., "Motorola g6").

OPTION 2: WIRELESSLY VIA WI-FI
If you prefer not to use a cable, you can use an app like Wi-Fi File Transfer to access files over your local Wi-Fi network. The free Wi-Fi File Transfer app by SmarterDroid works well and may still be available.

EXPLORING ANDROID FOLDERS
Using File Explorer on a Windows PC as an example, here are some folders you can expect to find on an Android phone (e.g., a Motorola g6 running Android 8):

- Documents
- Downloads
- Music
- Pictures
- Videos
- DCIM (Digital Camera IMages)
- Alarms

- Notifications
- Podcasts
- Ringtones

KEY FOLDER DESCRIPTIONS
• Documents: For documents.
• Music: For music files.
• Videos: For video files.
• Downloads: For downloaded files.

- DCIM: Stands for Digital Camera IMages and contains images created by apps like the camera. Within the DCIM folder, there is typically a subfolder called Camera, which stores photos taken with the phone's cameras.
-

Other photos, such as those received via email or text messages and saved screenshots, are stored in the Pictures folder, which exists at the same directory level as DCIM. (Note: On some Android versions, the Screenshots folder may be located within the DCIM folder.)

USING PICTURE VIEWER APPS
Understanding how folders are structured in Android gives insight into how photo apps like Photos or Gallery organize and display images. These apps pull data from specific folders (like DCIM and Pictures) to create a seamless user experience.

With this knowledge, navigating and managing files on your Android phone becomes much easier!🖥️

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FYI-July 2025
By Dan Delong
Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter
http://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/

Zoox Robotaxi
Soon to appear on the streets of Las Vegas (later, San Francisco, Austin, and Miami) will be Amazon's foray into public transportation. I assume payment will depend on a smart phone app/ wallet. These self driving vehicles will transport patrons within a limited city core area, at speeds up to 45mph. Zoox has more to say about the present and future of this business in a 'journal'.
https://zoox.com/

Windowa 10 Extended Security Updates (ESU)
 Coming in July\August, to all Windows 10 users (who have not installed Windows 11) Microsoft offers a $30USD solution, along with sync. backups to the cloud and 1000 points. This fee will keep Windows 10 safe from malware for another year. **https://overclock3d.net/news/software/ microsoft-offers-extended-windows-10-security-updates-but-theres-a-catch/**

Kodak Ultra Mini Portable Projector
Digital projectors, with enough power to throw a 50 or 60 inch display from 14 feet away, are getting quite small. This one also has a battery and speaker (or, you can plug in external powered speakers). Get all this for the current price of $233.09CAD [$169.47USD]. The source for its video content can be via USB or HDMI, from a game console, a smart phone, a computer, or a micro SD. **https://www.bestbuy.ca/en-ca/product/kodak-ultra-mini-portable-projector-75-lumenshd-led-dlp-rechargeable-projector-100-display-built-in-speaker-hdmi-usb-and-micro-sd-white/12485962**

Gemini by Google Reads Out Texts, and more
This Gizmodo article follows a trail of evidence showing that Google's Gemini will continue to gather user data, including personal messages, in order to enhance AI driven personal assistants (agentic AI). It can't be turned off! If Google did not poke into personal messages, voice recordings, location followings, it would be unable to train your smart personal assistant (or agentic AI, as they call it). For some early users , who also own a large library of photos, Google uses AI to classify images as to content. This enables a new service called, "Ask Photos". The, requesting Gemini for a type of photo, like "all with pets" or "best photos for my phone background", will bring up all images suitable to that query (from your personal photos only).
https://gizmodo.com/google-to-gemini-users-were-going-to-look-at-your-texts-whether-you-like-it-or-not-2000620141

AI Will Turn Us (and the U.S.) Into Morons
Results from search engines (the OLD WAY) may still be better than results from AI (the NEW WAY) as shown by this article.
 https://gizmodo.com/multiple-studies-now-suggest-that-ai-will-make-us-morons-2000620811

Meetings start at 7:00 PM (9:00 AM on Saturday) unless otherwise noted. *Virtual Meetings during Covid pandemic..

August

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1-	11	12 7pm General Mtg Custojm Windows 11 Installation 6pm Tech Topics	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 7pm General Mtg TBD 6pm Tech Topics	10	11	12	13 Linux on Saturday SIG 9:00-Noon
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 MS Office SIG (includes Access) 9:00-Noon
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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Twin Cities
PC USER GROUP

You have just read an issue of The Digital Viking.

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is reading this monthly publication at www.tcpc.com..

As a member of TC/PC, you may attend any or all of the monthly Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and be eligible for
software drawings. The small membership fee also includes
access to real-live people with answers via our helplines, discounts, and various other perks.

Does membership in this group sound like a good way to increase your computer knowledge?

It's easy to do! Simply fill in the form below and mail it to the address shown.
(If you use the form in this issue, you will receive an extra month for joining now.)

8/25

Here's the info for my TC/PC Membership:

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Company name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

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Home phone_____ Work phone_____

Online address(es) _____

Where did you hear about TC/PC? _____

❍ I DO NOT want any of my information disclosed.
❍ I DO NOT want to receive any mailings

I'm signing up for:
❍ Individual/Family Membership ($9)
❍ Business Membership ($100)
If an existing member your # _____

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Twin Cities PC User Group
341 County Rd C2 W
Roseville, MN 55113

Or sign up on our website:

http://www.tcpc.com

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❍ New member ❍ Renewal ❍ Prior member
I'm interested in:
❍ Training classes ❍ Volunteering
❍ Special Interest Groups: New User, Access,
etc.
List here:

Administrative Use Only Rec'd_____ Chk#_____

August 12, 2025

7:00 pm
General Meeting

**Building Custom Windows 11
Installation Media with Rufus**

Presenter: Gene Olson

Via Zoom Only

Twin Cities PC USER GROUP

**341 County Rd C2 W
Roseville, MN 55113**

FIRST CLASS MAIL