

The Digital

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Viking



Twin Cities

PC USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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

July 2026

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General Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

7:00 PM

Microsoft ClipChamp

Create Your Own Video

Via Zoom Only

Some of you may have used Microsoft's MovieMaker in the past to create videos. It was last put to bed in 2012. But in 2021 Microsoft bought ClipChamp and has made it available in Windows 11. It is free for anyone to use the basic version. Subscribers to Office365 have all the premium features available to them at no additional cost. We will take a look at some tutorials that will walk us through adding media and making videos and also recording your video screen and adding voice over to a video using the user-friendly ClipChamp. 

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.



TC/PC is a
Member of

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

The Digital Viking

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Full page (7½ x 9½)	\$100.00
Two-thirds page (7½ x 6)	80.00
Half page (7½ x 4¾)	65.00
One-third page (7½ x 3)	50.00
Quarter page (3½ x 4¾)	40.00
Member Bus. Card (2 x 3½)	10.00

Multiple insertion discounts available.

Contact Sharon Walbran at: SQWalbran@yahoo.com

Deadline for ad placement is the 1st of the month prior to publication. All rates are per issue and for digital or camera-ready ads. Typesetting and other services are extra and must be requested in advance of submission deadlines.

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

TC/PC 2026-2027 Board of Directors

Meets once or twice per year. All members welcome to attend.

Visit www.tcpc.com for meeting details.

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TC/PC Member Benefits

Product previews
and demonstrations

Special Interest Groups
Monthly Newsletter

Discounts on products
and services

Contests and prizes

Business Member Benefits

All of the above PLUS:

FREE ½ page ad on
payment of each renewal

20% discount on all ads
Placed in the *Digital
Viking* Newsletter

Up to 5 newsletters mailed to
your site
(only a nominal cost for each
additional 5 mailed)

Newsletter Staff

Editor Sharon Walbran

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, August 11—Fun with Fonts: The Science of Typography
Presenter: Chris Taylor

VIBE Coding Competition
Hosted by OPCUG—Ottawa PC Users Group
Wed. Oct. 14, 2026 at 7:30 pm

VIBE CODING COMPETITION

This event is contingent upon submission of multiple entries (non-members are welcome to participate).

OPCUG will offer two prizes for submissions using vibe coding in a competition to be held at the club's monthly meeting in October. **Holding the competition will be subject to having multiple entries submitted.** The use of vibe coding will be on the honour system. For those providing entries, there will be two prizes offered: (1) the most useful product, and (2) the best presentation of the development process. Note that the project doesn't have to be successful for this second portion of the competition. Stories of trials and tribulations, and even abysmal failure will be happily accepted. So, get started on your vibe-coding project (see the article "**You Too Can Be A Programmer**" in the [March newsletter](#)). You have lots of time to refine both the code and the associated presentation. **When you are ready, submit your entry to the competition to: SuggestionBox@opcug.ca.**

This meeting will be via Zoom video conference.

Join us at <https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting>. The Zoom link will be live at 7:15 pm. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

If the TinyURL link doesn't work, use:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92495560898?pwd=cDNCcVdZVVRiZ3hQNHJzVDZNVHoxZz09>.

The above link includes the meeting ID and password. However, if you are prompted for the information, use:

Meeting ID: **924 9556 0898**

Password: **opcug**

You Too Can Be A Programmer

By Alan German
Ottawa PC Users Group

Don't know anything about computer programming? Have no desire to learn a programming language? But, if someone else would do all the work, and at no cost to you, would you like to create a custom utility program? Well, maybe you won't find some one to do the programming for you but you can easily convince an AI chatbot to create an application. Welcome to the world of vibe coding!

The term, vibe coding, was coined by Andrej Karpathy, one of the cofounders of OpenAI, in a post on X on February 2, 2025 (<https://x.com/karpathy/status/1886192184808149383>.) His post starts with: "There's a new kind of coding I call 'vibe coding', where you fully give in to the vibes, embrace exponentials, and forget that the code even exists."

He goes on to explain that he just talks to an AI bot and asks it to develop a program to do a specific task. He doesn't look at the resulting code. He simply runs the program as provided by the bot and refines the prompt if the result is not quite what was expected. If an error message is displayed, he copies and pastes it into the prompt and lets the bot analyze the issues and come up with a fix. Using this rinse-and-repeat strategy, the bot modifies the code until the program performs the requested task successfully.

*I just see stuff,
say stuff, run stuff,
and paste stuff,
and it mostly works*

Andrej Karpathy

So, you don't need to look at the code, you don't need to know anything about programming in general, nor have any knowledge of the specific language being used. You just give the AI bot a prompt indicating what you want the application to do, and follow-up with more instructions as and when necessary. So, using this technique, you can be a computer programmer!

Now, even though you are putting AI, and one of its large-language models, to work, you are probably not going to build a clone of Microsoft Office or Adobe Photoshop and make your fortune. Nor are you likely to develop in-depth programming skills, especially since (in "pure" vibe coding) you don't review the resulting code. Rather, this technique is more suited to developing a small application to complete a specific task with a very limited scope. Nevertheless, the exercise can be fun, and the result can be very useful.

So, how can vibe coding assist us in our day-to-day computer operations? Some examples might be:

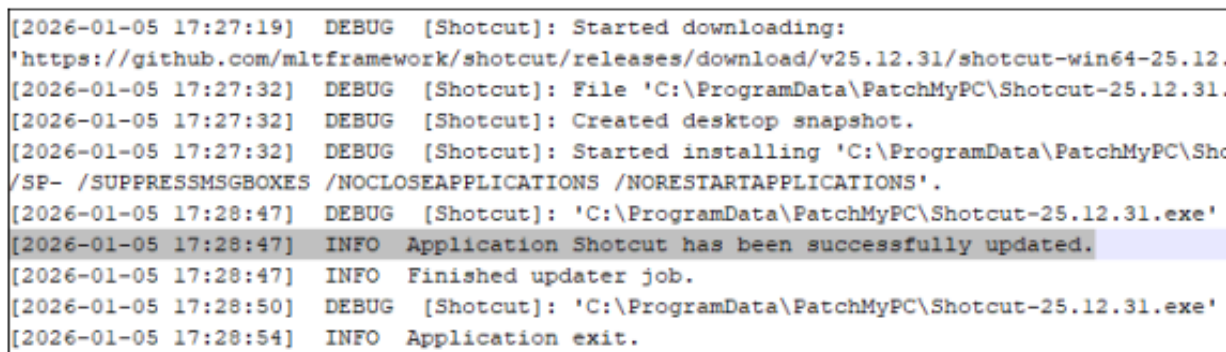
- build a website to showcase your photos
- create a VBA macro to automate a process in Word or Excel,
- generate a batch file or PowerShell script to automate a process in Windows, or
- develop a program in Python, C++, JavaScript, etc. to...

The possibilities are endless. The final product will be what you want the app to do!

As a concrete example, consider generating a macro to process the log file produced when running PatchMyPC in order to extract a list of the installed applications that have been successfully updated. My use for such a macro is to create text documenting the process that I could easily add to the file that I use to keep records all of the maintenance operations on my computer's operating system, installed applications, and data files.

My practice has been to run PatchMyPC only occasionally which usually results in several software packages being updated in a single session. I then use Notepad++, an open-source text editor, to manually extract the list of updates from the PatchMyPC log and paste the results into my maintenance file. This sort of repetitive task is an ideal candidate for automation and, since the process is well defined, it is also very suitable as a vibe-coding project. And, since it's a fairly simple task, almost any AI engine should be able to develop an appropriate macro for Notepad++.

The PatchMyPC log file typically contains many lines of text while only one line per application denotes a successful update.



```
[2026-01-05 17:27:19] DEBUG [Shotcut]: Started downloading:
'https://github.com/mltframework/shotcut/releases/download/v25.12.31/shotcut-win64-25.12.31.exe'
[2026-01-05 17:27:32] DEBUG [Shotcut]: File 'C:\ProgramData\PatchMyPC\Shotcut-25.12.31.exe'
[2026-01-05 17:27:32] DEBUG [Shotcut]: Created desktop snapshot.
[2026-01-05 17:27:32] DEBUG [Shotcut]: Started installing 'C:\ProgramData\PatchMyPC\Shotcut-25.12.31.exe'
/SP- /SUPPRESSMSGBOXES /NOCLOSEAPPLICATIONS /NORESTARTAPPLICATIONS'.
[2026-01-05 17:28:47] DEBUG [Shotcut]: 'C:\ProgramData\PatchMyPC\Shotcut-25.12.31.exe'
[2026-01-05 17:28:47] INFO Application Shotcut has been successfully updated.
[2026-01-05 17:28:47] INFO Finished updater job.
[2026-01-05 17:28:50] DEBUG [Shotcut]: 'C:\ProgramData\PatchMyPC\Shotcut-25.12.31.exe'
[2026-01-05 17:28:54] INFO Application exit.
```

Figure 1. Extract from the file PatchMyPCHomeUpdater.log

Note that, in the highlighted line, the application's name, Shotcut, is preceded by the text string "INFO Application " and is followed by the text string " has been successfully updated". It should be apparent that we can identify the name of each application that is recorded as having been updated by PatchMyPC by simply extracting the sub-string between these leading and trailing-strings.

My initial thought was to have Microsoft Copilot develop a macro for the Notepad++ text editor; however, it transpired that the macros available in Notepad++ have no capacity to contain a loop with which to process records for multiple applications. Instead, Copilot suggested creating a Python script for this task.

My first step, therefore, was to give Copilot a prompt detailing precisely what I wanted the script to achieve. The starting point is that the log file created by PatchMyPC will have been opened and be the active tab in Notepad++. The Python script will be available within Notepad++ and can be invoked to work on the text in the active tab. The basic requirement is that the script should search through the lines of text, identify any line indicating that a package has been updated, and write the name of this package to a new line in a second tab. A further requirement is that a header line be included in the second tab in the form that I use for related entries in my maintenance log, i.e. "Windows - Ran PatchMyPC to update the following:" The initial prompt is shown in Figure 2.

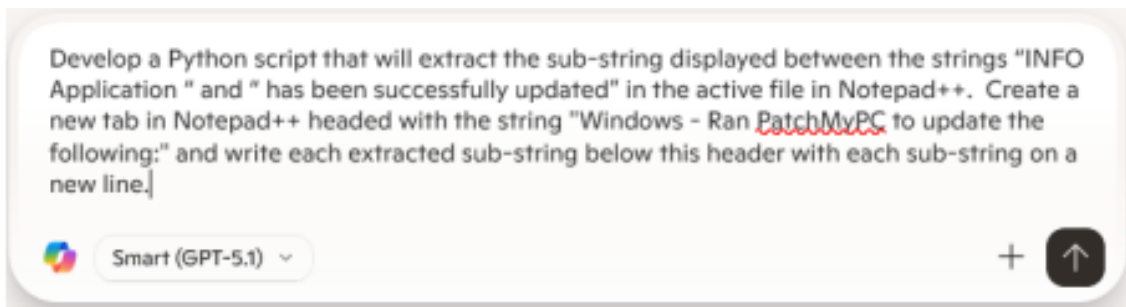


Figure 2. In initial prompt for Microsoft Copilot

Copilot produced a Python script in response to this prompt. However, since we are vibe-coding, we won't look at the code developed. Instead, we need to identify how to load and run the script in Notepad++. The obvious solution to this is to simply ask Copilot this specific question.

Perhaps the simplest answer given is that, if a Python script is already available as a .py file, to store this file in %AppData%\Notepad++\plugins\Config\PythonScript\scripts\ and it will then appear in Notepad++'s Scripts menu.

Opening File Explorer and pasting %AppData%\Notepad++\plugins\Config\PythonScript\scripts\ into the address bar shows that, on my system, this folder is actually located at C:\Users\toaster\AppData\Roaming\Notepad++\plugins\Config\PythonScript\scripts. So, what I need to do is to use the Copy button in Copilot to obtain the text for the script, paste this into Notepad++, and then save the script as a file named ExtractedUpdatesScript.py to the scripts folder.

With the file PatchMyPCHomeUpdater.log open, the script can be run by navigating to Plugins > PythonScript > Scripts > ExtractedUpdatesScript. The result is that a second tab is created with the header line followed by a list of software packages that have been updated by PatchMyPC.

My intention was to be able to copy and paste this text directly into my maintenance log file. However, I realized that I had omitted to ask for spaces to be added in front of each updated software listing which is my usual format for such entries. However, remember that it's easy to give Copilot a follow-up prompt to ask it to modify the script to add three spaces to each relevant line of text. A new script is developed that can then be saved to overwrite the initial script file. The final result is a block of text that can be added to my maintenance log (Figure 3).

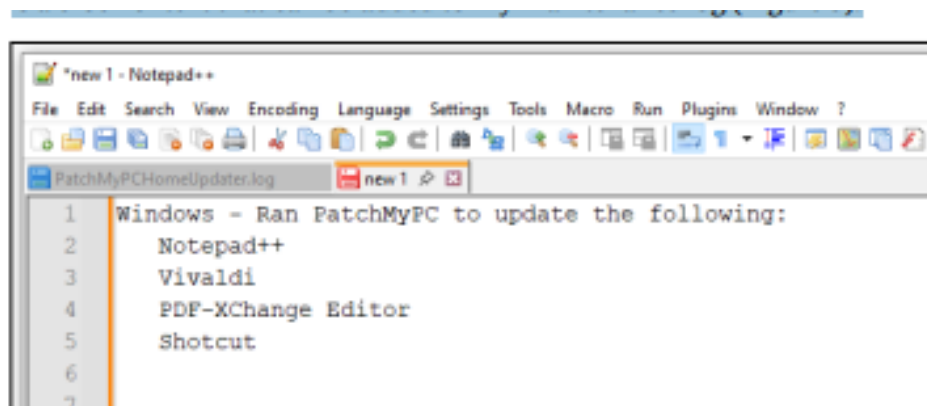


Figure 3. Results of running ExtractedUpdatesScript.py

The requirements for the sample script are relatively simple but its development, exclusively through vibe coding, shows the power of the use of AI technology for such purposes. Clearly, one can actually review the code that has been produced and it's also very easy to ask the AI bot to explain how the code works. Generally, this provides a detailed, line-by-line description which can be extremely useful for anyone who is interested in learning a programming language.

So, give some thought to an application that you could make use of and give vibe coding a try. Most AI engines will develop custom code on request. The process can be interesting and the results can be very useful.

Vibe Coding Competition (non-members are welcome to participate)

OPCUG will offer two prizes for submissions using vibe coding in a competition to be held at the club's monthly meeting in October. **Holding the competition will be subject to having multiple entries submitted.** The use of vibe coding will be on the honour system. For those providing entries, there will be two prizes offered: (1) the most useful product, and (2) the best presentation of the development process. Note that the project doesn't have to be successful for this second portion of the competition. Stories of trials and tribulations, and even abysmal failure will be happily accepted. So, get started on your vibe-coding project. You have lots of time to refine both the code and the associated presentation. When you are ready, submit your entry to the competition to: SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

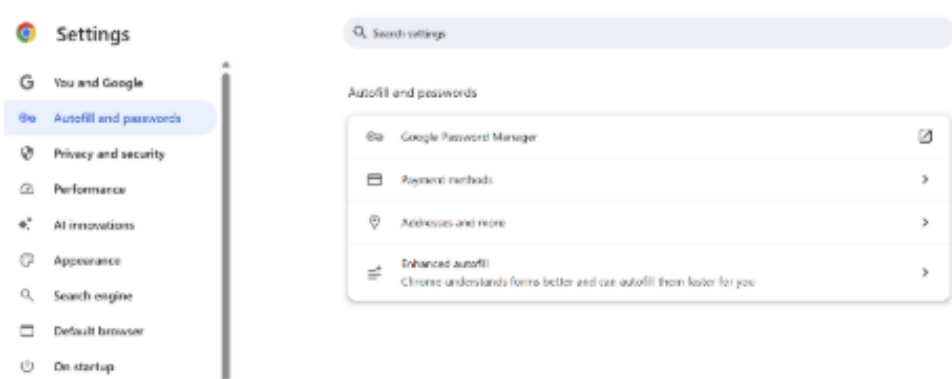


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Use and Fix Autofill

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

Autofill is a valuable tool built into your web browser (i.e. Google Chrome) that streamlines tasks by completing forms automatically. Autofill substantially reduces the time it takes to fill out information on web forms, such as your address, payment details, and other account details, since it fills in this information with a single click. By replacing manual keyboarding, autofill virtually eliminates the chances of typos and data entry errors. Using your saved information, the autofill feature from a browser is more secure than copying and pasting credentials. The system clipboard can be read by other applications on your device, while autofill cannot. Autofill also makes it impossible for keyboard loggers to steal your data.



How it Works

When you complete a form on a website, your browser detects the different fields that need to be filled. Depending on the detected field, and the information you've previously saved, autofill either makes suggestions (if there are multiple data possibilities) or automatically fills in the required data. Data is available to be pre-filled only for domains for which data has been saved. You can then either select the correct information or confirm the auto-filled data to complete the form.

Set up Autofill

As shown in the table below, among the major browsers, only Safari does not enable autofill in its default configuration.

To	Enabled autofill	Required user action to fill in data	User action
Google Chrome	Yes	Yes	Interaction with the site (keystroke, mouse click)
Mozilla Firefox	Yes	No	
Safari	No	Yes	Selection from drop-down list
Microsoft Edge	Yes	Yes	Interaction with the site (keystroke, mouse click)

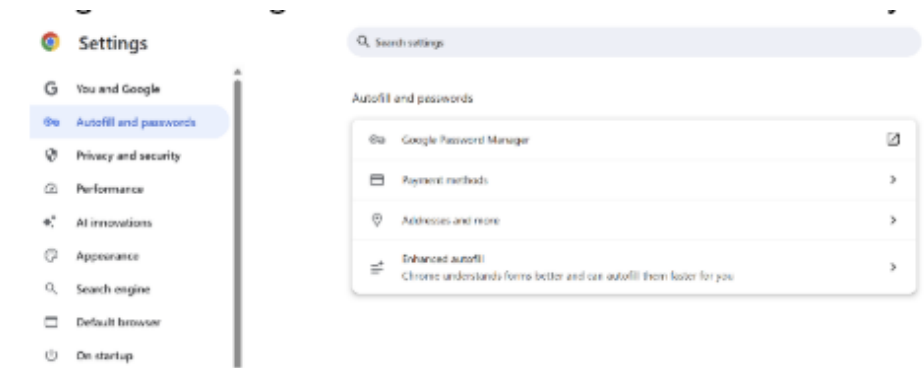
enable autofill in Safari on an Apple iPhone, tap on the Settings app, tap Safari, Apps, Safari, then tap AutoFill. Toggle on Use Contact Info and select your contact card under "My Info," or turn on "Credit Cards" to use saved credit card information for purchases.

Edit Autofill Information

As useful a tool as Autofill is, it can be less than worthless when it “remembers” bad information. I’m going to describe how to edit passwords and autofill information saved in Google Chrome, by far the most used browser, but all major browsers have similar editing procedures.

Example In Google Chrome (Desktop)

Log into Google Chrome. Left mouse click on your profile picture (if you’ve provided one) or your account icon at the top right side of the page, which is often just your initial or initials. Click “Passwords and autofill”. Then choose the category you want to enable or correct autofill for (Passwords, Payment methods, Addresses and more). Turn on the relevant toggle to Save and fill that information.



Security Concerns?

Google states that your data is encrypted when it is transmitted between your device and Google's servers, and when it is stored to protect it from unauthorized access. I have never found that passwords and other data stored with Google have been compromised. Other browsers such as Edge and Firefox have similar data encryption protocols.

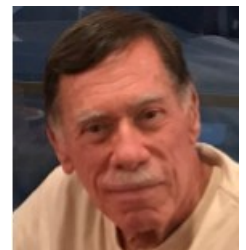
Many Websites Store Your Information

If incorrect information is still being entered after you have corrected data in Google Chrome (or other browser), your information is being stored for that individual website, in browsing data on your device (usually cookies). You will have to enter credentials for the website (logon and password). Then click the input field to open the dropdown list of suggestions. Use the down arrow key to highlight the incorrect entry you want to delete, then Press Shift + Delete (on Windows/Linux) or Shift + Fn + Delete (on Mac) to remove it.

Images are from google chrome



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Quick Tip 81: Quickly select sound output

by Chris Taylor, President

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

chris.taylor (at) opcug.ca

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If you ever need to quickly switch between sound output devices in Windows 11, press Win+Ctrl+V



The Sound output dialogue box will pop-up above the system tray near the clock on the taskbar.



Click the output device you want or use the arrow keys and Enter. 

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

July

August

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 7pm General Mtg ClipChamp 6pm Tech Topics	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 7pm General Mtg Fun with Fonts 6pm Tech Topics	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31			Go to Page 1		



You have just read an issue of The Digital Viking.

Would you like to receive this delivered directly to your email or business each month?

As a member of TC/PC, the Twin Cities Personal Computer Group, one of the benefits 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.)



7/26

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

Full name _____

Company name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Home ☐ Business ☐ Change address: ☐ Perm. ☐ Temp. 'til _____

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 for3

☐ Individual/Family Membership (\$9)

☐ Business Membership (\$100)

If an existing member your # _____

Make checks payable to:

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

Or sign up on our website:

<http://www.tcpc.com>

☐ Check # _____ ☐ Bill me

☐ 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# _____

July 14, 2026

7:00 pm

General Meeting

**Microsoft ClipChamp
Create Your Own Video**

Via Zoom Only



341 County Rd C2 W
Roseville, MN 55113

FIRST CLASS MAIL