Volume 42, Number 6

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## **ARTICLE**

## Trading Up To Linux - Part 9 by Alan German

n Part 7 of this series we looked at running Windows programs in Linux using Wine or Play on Linux. The primary example was installing my copy of Office 2010 which has a top-rated *Platinum* ranking in the Wine AppDB listings. In this same database. Office 2016 rates as Gold and so is eminently usable. However, Office 365, which is the current release of Microsoft's office suite, is listed as Garbage which means that it can't be installed and run in Linux. But, what about the web apps? For example, can we run Word 365 as a web-based application in a Linux browser? Let's find out...

One major problem that I have with Microsoft 365 is that it doesn't allow me to open, edit, and save files stored in my preferred folder on my local hard disk, i.e. it does not offer the usual File-Open and File-Save options. Rather, it tries to insist that files should be accessed from Microsoft OneDrive. It is possible to upload a file from a local drive, edit the file in Word 365, and then download the resulting file back to local storage but this is a very cumbersome process.

Using OneDrive in Linux is further complicated by the fact that Microsoft, in its undoubted wisdom. does not offer a Linux client for OneDrive. Nevertheless, the Linux development community has come to the rescue with not one, but two related applications that make using OneDrive in Linux a breeze, or at least a moderate gale!

OneDrive Client for Linux is described by its developer as a free Microsoft OneDrive Client that seamlessly supports OneDrive Personal, OneDrive for Business, OneDrive for Office365, and Share-Point Libraries. It is compatible with all major Linux distributions and offers both one-way and twoway synchronization capabilities. The companion application is OneDriveGUI which, as the name suggests, provides a graphical user interface for the OneDrive client.

The good news is that Linux Mint includes OneDrive Client for Linux in its repositories so the package can be installed directly in the Software Manager. However, check the available version number to make sure that it is supported by the current version of OneDriveGUI. If the version of OneDrive Client for Linux available through Software Manager is too old, it will be necessary to manually install the current client. Instructions to do this are available on abraunegg's website on GitHub.

In a perfect world, the easiest option is to use the Software Manager. Simply search for onedrive and install the package. Check that onedrive has been installed correctly by opening a Terminal window and typing onedrive --version. Currently, this command will return onedrive v2.5.5-1+np1+1.1.

To run onedrive manually and authorize access to Microsoft's

OneDrive server, type *onedrive* in the Terminal window. The response is shown in Figure 1 (see p. 6). Take careful note of the final set of instructions that (a) provide a URL that is to be entered into a web browser, and (b) indicate Enter the response uri [sic] from your browser.

While the instructions are correct. some users (me!) may find their implementation confusing. The highlighted URL calls up the web page for Microsoft's OneDrive Login Service. At this point, it is clear that it is necessary to login and that the user's login credentials (username and password) are to be entered. However, once this has been done, at first glance, the result appears to be a blank page. But what has actually happened is that the URL in the address bar has changed. This is by no means obvious. However, it is important to note that this is the "response URL" that is to be

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Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, June 11th, 2025, 6 PM

**Annual Free Pizza Party & Prizes!** 

**Britannia Park Trolley Station** 

DON'T MISS IT! Register now! (details p. 3)



This will be our last monthly meeting until September, but fear not, weekly Q&A sessions will continue through the summer!

## Coming Up...

Next weekly Q&A: Wednesday, May 28th

10 Sep

Windows 10 End of Life – What Next?

Alan German (OPCUG)

o8 Oct

**VOIP** (TBD)

Jeff Dubois (OPCUG)

## OPCUG Presentations at the OPL:

Tuesday, 27 May, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Armchair travel: beautiful British Columbia (Lynda Buske)

Greenboro Branch

Thursday, 29 May, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm **Organizing your photos** (Lynda Buske)

Beaverbrook Branch

Saturday, 31 May, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm **Quick tips: AI tools** (Chris Taylor) Cumberland Branch

Monday, 02 Jun, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm **Fun with fonts – the art and science of typography** (Chris Taylor)

Video conference

Tuesday, 03 Jun, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Who's the Boss – You or Your Camera? (Chris Taylor) Stittsville Branch

Thursday, 05 Jun, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm **Protecting your PC** (Chris Taylor) Manotick Branch

Visit https://opcug.ca/mec-category/oplpresentations/ for the full list of presentations with links to the OPL.

# Event Date Time and Venue Next Monthly Meeting Wednesday, June 11th 7:30 pm via Zoom video conference: https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting To see all scheduled events, visit https://opcug.ca/#upcoming

Next Q&A Session Wednesday, May 28th Until further notice, Q&A sessions are no longer held after regular monthly meetings. Join us on all other Wednesdays at 7:30 pm for weekly Q&A.

Next OPL Presentation (see Upcoming Events) Visit https://opcug.ca/mec-category/opl-presentations/ for the full list of our presentations with links to the OPL.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

## FREE PIZZA PARTY - Don't miss it! Register now!

Wednesday, June 11, **6 PM** (only for members and their guests)
Britannia Park Trolley Station (see event web page for directions)

We are once again approaching the end of an OPCUG season and once again we'll celebrate with pizza, drinks and desserts. This event is free for OPCUG members and their guests.

The event will be on June 11 at **6 PM**. It will be at the **Britannia Park Trolley Station** which is sheltered in case of rain and has free parking in an adjacent lot. Unfortunately, for those who like beer or wine with their pizza, **alcohol is not permitted** in the park. Pop and water will be provided.

To help with planning, we're asking you to **register by email** at **pizzaparty@opcug.ca**. Tell us if you are bringing guests and how many, your pizza preference (e.g. combo, special, vegetarian, gluten free, etc.), and if you need a ride or can offer a ride.

We look forward to seeing you and your guests!

OPCUG members in attendance **(and their guests!)** can win one of three flexible keyboards or three power saver times chargers:

## 🍕 Pizza, Prizes, Portable Keyboards and Timed Chargers! 🍕

Hey **Ottawa PC Users Group**—get ready to type in style (and maybe with a slice in hand)! We're giving away **three ultra-durable**, **roll-up keyboards** at the party!

- **✓ 109 kevs**—because who wants a keyboard missing the important ones?
- ✓ **USB-A connection**—plug it in and start clacking!
- **Water & dust resistant**−because spills happen, especially around pizza.
- ✓ **Rolls up**—take it anywhere... even on those top-secret hacker missions.
- type in the rain, the shower, or during your next kitchen disaster!
- Perfect for tablets, laptops, and computers—or as a conversation starter with your tech-savvy friends.





#### Win one and become the proud owner of the most flexible keyboard in town (literally)!

Or you could win one of three **power saver timed chargers**! Stop abusing your Li-ion batteries! Prevent overcharging and battery stress.



#### Now The Technical Specs (For You Nerdy Types)

- 4W Power Saver Timed Charger
- 1 always-on outlet + 3 timed outlets
- . 120 VAC / 10A rating
- Auto-shutoff after 180 minutes
- . Compact design: 7.2 x 4.2 x 2.7 inches
- . Weight: Less than a slice of pizza! (0.7 lbs) 🔊



## **PRODUCT REVIEW**

## Renaming Multiple Files by Alan German

enaming one file in Windows is simple; just click on the file in File Explorer to highlight the name which can then be typed over or edited as desired. But, what if there are 12 files (or 1200), with names like 20241019\_103224.jpg, that need to be renamed in a logical sequence? Sure, you could edit them one-by-one but a much more efficient method is to use a purpose-built utility program that can apply a naming template to all the slides automatically. Enter Advanced Renamer, a single-minded program from software developer Kim Jensen, that makes renaming multiple files a breeze.

When downloaded and installed, running the program displays a main screen that initially may seem a little daunting. However, the first topic in the online user guide is *Getting Started* and this provides simple, clear instructions, together with an annotated screenshot, of the four-step process to batch rename a group of files.

Firstly, the files to be renamed can be selected by clicking on the *Green plus* sign/File menu item under  $Batch\ Mode$ . This loads a standard file-browse window where multiple files can be selected for processing.

Next, selecting *New name* from the *Add batch method* area on the lower-left side of the window provides a text box where a template for the new file name can be developed. Text can be typed into this box and supplemented by any of a number of pre-defined entries. For example, one commonly-used construct is to add the entry *Inc Nr> - Incrementing number* in order to include sequence numbers in the file names.

In the example shown in Figure 1, the initial file name, 20241019\_103224.jpg, has been renamed to Mer-Bleue-01.jpg and this format has been automatically applied to the remaining files that have been selected for renaming.

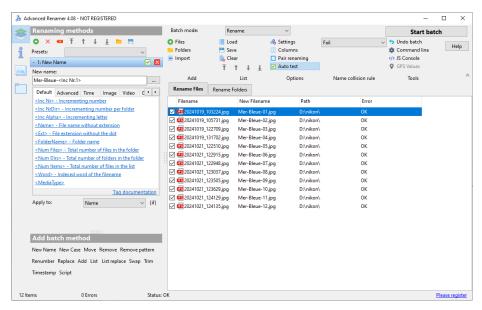


Figure 1. Files renamed using Advanced Renamer

The third, very useful, step is to review the set of new file names that are now displayed in the main program window. The template can be adjusted should the previewed results not be precisely those desired.

Finally, the *Start batch* control button is pressed to initiate the renaming process.

As its name suggests, Advanced Renamer has many more complex features, including the ability to change the case of text, use date and time information, conduct partial naming using search patterns, use music file tags and digital image metadata, and copying or moving files and folders. These advanced options provide a range of exceptionally flexible file and folder renaming constructs.

The program is available for Windows (64-bit only) and Mac computers. The User Guide is very comprehensive with clear descriptions of the available features together with a number of useful examples. And, while the program's interface may initially seem somewhat complex, it is actually very easy to perform a simple batch file renaming process for a specific group of files which is the most likely requirement for the majority of users.

#### **Bottom Line**

Advanced Renamer (Freeware)
Version 4.08
Kim Jensen
https://www.advancedrenamer.com



(read all OPCUG reviews here)

## **APCUG**

## Default Apps: Where and What are they?

By Phil Sorrentino, Secretary & Newsletter Contributor Sun City Center Computer Club https://scccomputerclub.org/

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" 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.



**Linux** (Continued from page 1)

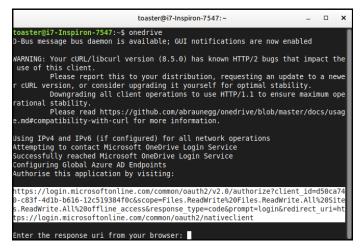


Figure 1. Running the onedrive client manually

cut and pasted from the browser's address bar into the Terminal window \*. With the pasted URL having been accepted, the Terminal window now indicates that *The application has been successfully authorised*.

\* Take special note of how to cut and paste the response URL as we will need to repeat the process to configure OneDriveGUI

Rather than running onedrive manually from the Terminal, we will use OneDriveGUI to provide a graphical user interface to the actual client. We can download OneDriveGUI as an AppImage, a special type of file that packages the application and any necessary dependencies into a single executable file. At the time of writing, the current version is OneDriveGUI-1.1.1-x86\_64.AppImage.

With this file having been obtained and stored in the *Downloads* folder, we can right-click on the file, navigate to *Properties*, and set the execute permission (*Properties* > *Permissions* > *Execute*) by checking the box labelled *Allow executing file as a program*. Now, simply double-clicking on the AppImage file launches OneDriveGUI.

When OneDriveGUI is first run, a dialogue box indicates that the use of Microsoft's OneDrive Login Service is once again required to provide access to OneDrive's server. The process of logging in, obtaining and using the response URL is exactly the same as described above — complete with the "blank" page, and the required response URL in the address bar!

The initial synchronization process can now be started manually by clicking on the white triangle in the window's header. This provides a startup wizard that first checks the installed version of OneDrive Client for Linux and then offers to add a OneDrive profile. Check the box

labelled *Create new OneDrive profile*. In the next dialogue box (Figure 2) specify the name of the new profile (e.g. OneDriveMint) and browse for the folder that is to be used for synchronizing files between the local hard drive (e.g. /media/DataDisk/OneDriveFiles) and Microsoft's OneDrive server. Now, click on *Create new profile*.



Figure 2. Configuring OneDriveGUI

One additional change to the configuration may be useful. Click on the person icon in the centre of the bottom edge of the OneDriveGUI window (Figure 3) to load the OneDriveGUI – Profiles window. On the Sync Options tab, check the box labelled Bypass data preservation. This prevents the application creating backups of files that are synchronized between the local hard drive and OneDrive's server. This is an optional setting and my preference is to maintain a "clean" folder of synchronized files without any additional backups.

Normally, when OneDriveGUI is started, the application scans the two folders and automatically synchronizes the files present in both. By default, this is a two-way process, with new and modified files being copied between the folders, and files that have been deleted in one folder being removed from the other folder. This behaviour can be customized through an extensive set of options in the profile. If OneDriveGUI is left running, the application continues to monitor the folder pair and will copy or delete files according to the established profile.



**Linux** (Continued from previous page)

Microsoft 365 doesn't make it easy to use local files in apps such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and is even less accommodating for those of us who use Linux. The availability of *OneDrive Client for Linux* and *OneDriveGUI* goes a long way to making the process of using the web-based apps from Microsoft's office suite more efficient and hence much more useful to Linux users.

#### **Bottom Line**

OneDrive Client for Linux (Open Source) Version 2.5.5 abraunegg, Melbourne, Australia https://github.com/abraunegg/onedrive

OneDriveGUI Version 1.1.1 Boris Pozdena https://github.com/bpozdena/OneDriveGUI

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#### Quick Tip 74: Screen magnifier

by Chris Taylor

*Magnifier* is a tool built into Windows that allows you to zoom in to any part of the screen. It is a great way to examine things more closely.

To activate *Magnifier*, press the Windows key and the plus key.





The screen will zoom in, centering on the current position of the mouse pointer. To zoom in further, press the Windows and plus keys again. Zoom out by pressing the Windows key and the minus key.





While zoomed in, you can view a different area of your screen by moving the mouse pointer to an edge of the screen. You can continue interacting with your programs, such as typing in a document. The view will automatically remain centered around the text insertion cursor as you type.

You can adjust the initial zoom and zoom increment by pressing Win+i to load *Settings* and drilling down to *Accessibility* > *Magnifier*.

To cancel Magnifier, press the Windows key and the Esc key.

## **APCUG**

#### Can Two Files Have the Same Name?

By Jim Cerny, 1st Vice President Sarasota Technology Users Group https://thestug.org/

It was the usual family gathering. And, as usual, Uncle Backup and Aunt Fowlder were arguing. They both use Windows computers, and both save files into folders. Uncle Backup said, "NO, of course not; you cannot have two files with the same name; Windows won't allow it!"

"Oh, don't be silly," said Aunt Fowlder. Of course, you can. I do it myself whenever I copy a file—it copies it with the same name!"

Well, dear reader, who's right? This is a great trick question to bring up over beverages whenever you are in a tech discussion with friends.

The answer? Well, the answer is they are <u>both</u> right! Well, sort of. Fortunately, their argument was overheard by the good doctor, Doc Ewewmint.

"May I help you?" interrupted the good doctor, "Yes, you CAN have two files with the same name if they are in different folders! Let me explain. If you copy a file to a different folder, it can have the same name. But now you must remember carefully which folder you put it in. If you change one of the files but not the other, even if they have the same name, they will now be different."

"Oh, that could cause trouble," said Aunt Fowlder, "so when I copy my files to back them up on a different device, I name the folder "Backup" and the date or something. That way, I know they are not the ones I actively use and change daily. I am thankful that Windows keeps track of the date of each file."

It happens that Aunt Fowlder's husband also overheard the discussion. "Well," he said, "that's all true, of course, but you can have two files that appear to have the same name in the same folder — but they would be of different file types! You could have a word processing document file created in Word, for example, and another with the same name created by Word Pad. They would have different file types -- ".docx" (or ".doc" for Word) or ".rtf" (for WordPad) -- but other than that, they could have the same name."

"That's because the file type is part of the name!" said Aunt Fowlder. "My husband is so right about that."

"Yes," said the good doctor, "and the computer keeps all this straight. The computer recognizes the folder path to get to the file you want because you can have the same file name (even with the same file type or extension) in different folders. You could say that the "path" of the folders to get to the file is also part of the file name. Thus, you can never have two files with the same name!"

Well, I'm glad we all settled that and agreed! Now, should I use "Save" or "Save as"?



## OTTAWA PC

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July and August. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members.

Member participation is encouraged. If you would like to contribute an article to Ottawa PC News, please submit it to the newsletter editor (contact info below).

To receive the monthly newsletter by email, send an email to: opcug-newsletter+subscribe@googlegroups.com (leave subject and body fields blank) You do **not** need to create a Gmail or Google Groups account.

To subscribe to other OPCUG Google Groups member services, go to: https://opcug.ca/google-groups-how-to/

#### **Group Meetings**

OPCUG meets on the second Wednesday in the month, except July and August, at the Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. Parking is free at the church. OCTranspo bus #90 stops nearby. Details at https://opcug.ca/venue/.

NOTE: Until further notice, all our events are via video conference. Details at https://opcug.ca/venue/.

**OPCUG Membership Fees:** \$20 per year

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## **Q&A IS ON-LINE!** Weekly!

Since the pandemic, the OPCUG has been holding weekly O&A sessions in Zoom video-conferences.

Join us every Wednesday (except on regular monthly meeting nights) at 7:30 pm to discuss computer issues. Questions (and answers) on any computer-related issue are welcome. Or, do you have a favourite computer program or topic that you would like to share with the group? Send your questions, answers, or the details of what you would like to share to:

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

Everyone is welcome to attend Q&A sessions and to ask questions about their specific computer-related problems. Join us at: https://tinyurl.com/opcugmeeting (if you use the Zoom client, the meeting ID is 924 9556 **0898** and the password is opcug).

