



PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



August 2026

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

August 2026 Volume 32 Issue 8

This Month's General Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2026
will start at 3:00 P.M. @
FFG Christ Lutheran Church

August 11th Presentation
@ 3:00 P.M.

Microsoft OneDrive

George Sengstock will discuss
OneDrive in today's presentation,

**Is your computer suddenly
really slow?**

**Good chance it is Microsoft
OneDrive causing it.**

**Bring your laptops and let's
remove OneDrive or at least
learn to use it the right way for
you.**



Happy Computing

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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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Vice-President/	Charlie Merrick	(931) 210-8013
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Publicity	George Sengstock	(224) 760-3948
Gazette Editor	Gordon Botting	(931) 456-2184
APCUG Rep	George Sengstock	(224) 760-3948
Equipment Custodian	Bob Willis	(931) 456-6511
Webmaster	Alan Baker	(931) 239-0877

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Still on Windows 10? Microsoft just gave you another free year.

If you're one of the millions still running Windows 10, you just caught a break. Microsoft has quietly extended its free consumer security-update program by a full year, no press release, just a quiet edit to a support page.

Here's the deal. Windows 10's Extended Security Updates (ESU) were set to run out in October 2026. That deadline is now **October 12, 2027**. Your PC keeps getting the monthly security patches that block viruses and exploits for another twelve months, at no cost.

But it's not automatic, and this is the part most people miss. You have to **enroll**. Open Settings, go to Windows Update, and look for the "Enroll now" option for Extended Security Updates.

Getting it free is easy: just sync your Windows settings to a Microsoft account (Windows Backup), and you're in. Prefer not to? You can pay a one-time \$30, or spend 1,000 Microsoft Rewards points instead. If you're in the European Economic Area, it's simply free. One enrollment covers up to 10 PCs on the same Microsoft account.

The big picture: This is a bridge, not a rescue. ESU delivers security patches only. No new features, no bug fixes, no help if something breaks. Microsoft still very much wants you on Windows 11, and this extra year is time to plan that move, not a reason to put it off forever.

If your PC can run Windows 11, that's still the better long-term answer.

So if you've been dreading an October deadline, relax and enroll. Just don't mistake a patched Windows 10 for a protected one.



**** 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



By Carl Anthony



"Privacy nightmare on wheels"

When you buy a new car today, you're not just buying a vehicle. You're signing up for something closer to a subscription surveillance service, except you don't get a discount for participating, and nobody asks for your permission.

The comparison to smart TVs isn't a stretch. Before Walmart completed its acquisition of the company, Vizio's financial reports revealed that the majority of its gross profit came from selling viewer data and advertising, not from selling physical televisions.

New vehicles now operate on a similar model, and most drivers have no idea it's happening. Like TVs, the hardware (i.e., your car) is one thing, but your driving habits might be the actual product.

What your car is collecting

"Privacy nightmare on wheels"

Modern connected vehicles are packed with sensors, cameras, microphones, GPS systems, and onboard computers. Many of these systems are twofold: they keep the vehicle in a safe working condition and serve the driver on a daily commute, but they can also serve the manufacturer and its end goals.

Your car can log where you go, when you leave, how hard you brake, how often you speed, and whether you drive during the day or night. Some systems go further. Cameras monitor facial expressions to detect drowsy or distracted driving, issuing a warning when you look away from the road for too long. Always-on microphones capture audio inside the cabin. When you connect your smartphone, the

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vehicle can pull your contact list, call history, and text messages, linking them back to your account with the manufacturer.

A Mozilla Foundation report, titled **Privacy Not Included*, found that none of the 25 major automakers it assessed met basic standards for data transparency, user control, or security. The researchers found that 84% of those brands share or sell driver data, and 92% give drivers little to no control over what is collected. The data your car generates is not just sitting on a server somewhere. It is being packaged, sold, and used in ways most car buyers never anticipate.

“Many people think of their car as a private space—somewhere to call your doctor, have a personal conversation with your kid on the way to school, cry your eyes out over a break-up, or drive places you might not want the world to know about,” said Jen Caltrider, Program Director of the **Privacy Not Included* report. “But that perception no longer matches reality. All new cars today are privacy nightmares on wheels that collect huge amounts of personal information.”



Where your data goes

Many drivers are simply unaware



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GM previously used its OnStar Smart Driver feature to track driver behavior, including instances of hard braking, late-night driving, and speeding, as often as every three seconds. That data was sold to consumer reporting agencies, which passed it along to insurance companies. Drivers found out only when their premiums went up, or their coverage was denied.

As one consumer stated in an FTC complaint after confronting a GM customer service representative: "When I signed up for this, it was so OnStar could track me. They said nothing about reporting it to a third party. Nothing. [...] You guys are affecting our bottom line. I pay you, now you're making me pay more to my insurance company."

The Federal Trade Commission filed a complaint against GM and OnStar and eventually finalized a settlement order. GM now faces a five-year ban on sharing geolocation and driver-behavior data with consumer reporting agencies, alongside a 20-year consent order requiring explicit permission before collecting or sharing connected-vehicle data. California followed with a separate \$12.75 million civil penalty under its consumer privacy law, the largest ever under the California Consumer Privacy Act.

For context, however, GM reportedly earned roughly \$20 million from data sales over a four-year period, meaning the fine still falls short of what it made from selling drivers' information in the first place. Furthermore, the FTC settlement carries no financial penalty at the federal level, a stark reminder for some that federal consumer protection in this space still lacks real teeth.

GM is not the only example either. The Texas attorney general sued Allstate and its subsidiary Arity for allegedly collecting and selling the driving data of more than 45 million people without consent.

Meanwhile, Connecticut's attorney general issued dozens of violation notices in 2025 under the state's data privacy law, with connected vehicles and location data listed as a specific enforcement focus. Likewise, Oregon updated its privacy law in September 2025 to cover all automakers operating in the state, regardless of size, closing a loophole that had allowed smaller manufacturers to avoid compliance



Windows 11 File Explorer Tutorial: A Complete Beginner-to-Advanced Guide

· by John Edward



Windows 11 File Explorer Tutorial

If you've recently upgraded to Windows 11 or purchased a new PC, one of the first tools you'll use every day is **File Explorer**. It is the heart of Windows file management, allowing you to browse folders, organize documents, copy files, manage storage, and quickly access your important data.

Although File Explorer may look simple at first glance, Windows 11 introduces several improvements that make file management faster, cleaner, and more productive. From the redesigned interface to tabs, Quick Access, OneDrive integration, and enhanced search capabilities, there are plenty of features worth learning.

In this comprehensive Windows 11 File Explorer tutorial, you'll discover everything you need to know from the basics to advanced tips that can significantly improve your workflow.

What Is Windows 11 File Explorer?

File Explorer is the built-in file management application in Windows. It allows users to:

- Browse files and folders
- Create, rename, move, and delete files
- Copy data between drives
- Access connected USB devices
- Manage cloud files through OneDrive
- Search for documents instantly
- View storage locations

Think of it as the control center for everything stored on your computer.

How to Open File Explorer

There are several ways to launch File Explorer.

Method 1: Keyboard Shortcut

Press:

Windows + E

This is the fastest method and works from almost anywhere.

Method 2: Taskbar

Click the yellow folder icon pinned to the Windows taskbar.

Method 3: Start Menu

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Open Start and type:

File Explorer

Then click the application.

Understanding the File Explorer Interface

When File Explorer opens, you'll notice several sections.

Navigation Pane

Located on the left side, it contains:

- Home
- Desktop
- Documents
- Downloads
- Pictures
- Music
- Videos
- This PC
- Network
- OneDrive

The navigation pane makes it easy to jump between frequently used locations.

Address Bar

The address bar displays your current folder path.

Example:

This PC > Documents > Projects

You can click any folder in the path to return instantly.

Search Box

The search box lets you locate files quickly.

Simply type:

- report
- invoice
- photo

Windows searches the current folder and its subfolders.

Toolbar

Windows 11 replaced the old Ribbon interface with a cleaner toolbar.

Common buttons include:

- New
- Cut
- Copy

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- Paste
- Rename
- Share
- Delete
- Sort
- View

The simplified layout makes File Explorer less cluttered.

Creating New Folders

Organizing files begins with folders.

To create one:

1. Open your desired location.
2. Click **New**.
3. Select **Folder**.
4. Type a folder name.
5. Press Enter.

You can also press:

Ctrl + Shift + N

to instantly create a new folder.

Copying and Moving Files

Copy Files

1. Select the file.
2. Press **Ctrl + C**.
3. Navigate to another folder.
4. Press **Ctrl + V**.

The original file remains in place.

Move Files

Use:

Ctrl + X

Then:

Ctrl + V

This removes the file from its original location.

Renaming Files

To rename:

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- Select the file.
- Press **F2**.
- Enter the new name.
- Press Enter.

Meaningful file names make searching much easier later.

Deleting Files

There are two options.

Normal Delete

Press:

Delete

The file moves to the Recycle Bin.

Permanent Delete

Press:

Shift + Delete

This permanently removes the file without sending it to the Recycle Bin.

Use this option carefully.

Using Tabs in Windows 11 File Explorer

One of the best Windows 11 additions is **tabs**.

Instead of opening multiple File Explorer windows, you can work within one window using multiple tabs.

To open a new tab:

Press:

Ctrl + T

To close a tab:

Press:

Ctrl + W

Tabs help reduce desktop clutter and improve multitasking.

Quick Access and Home

The Home section displays:

- Recently opened files
- Frequently used folders
- Pinned folders

You can pin important folders by right-clicking them and selecting:

Pin to Quick Access

This saves time if you frequently access the same locations.

Changing File Views

Different files are easier to manage with different layouts.

Click **View** to choose:

- Extra Large Icons

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- Large Icons
- Medium Icons
- Small Icons
- List
- Details
- Tiles
- Content

The Details view is excellent for sorting by size, type, or modification date.

Sorting Files

Click **Sort** to organize files by:

- Name
- Date Modified
- Type
- Size

This feature is particularly useful for folders containing hundreds of files.

Searching for Files

File Explorer search has become much faster.

Search by:

- File name
- Extension (.pdf, .jpg)
- Date
- File type
- Keywords

Examples:

- budget.xlsx
- *.pdf
- vacation
- invoice

Using specific search terms helps you find files more quickly.

Managing ZIP Files

Windows 11 includes built-in ZIP support.

To compress files:

1. Select files.

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2. Right-click.

3. Choose **Compress to ZIP File**.

To extract:

Right-click the ZIP file and select:

Extract All.

No third-party software is required for basic ZIP management.

OneDrive Integration

Windows 11 integrates seamlessly with OneDrive.

Benefits include:

- Automatic cloud backup
- Sync across devices
- Save storage space
- Restore deleted files
- Access files anywhere

Files display different cloud status icons to indicate whether they are stored locally, online-only, or synced.

Viewing Hidden Files

Sometimes important system files remain hidden.

To reveal them:

View → Show → Hidden Items

This option is helpful when troubleshooting Windows issues.

Avoid modifying hidden system files unless you know exactly what you're doing.

Accessing File Properties

Right-click any file and choose **Properties**.

You'll see:

- File size
- Creation date
- Modified date
- Location
- Security permissions
- Attributes

Properties provide useful information before editing or sharing files.

Useful Keyboard Shortcuts

Learning shortcuts can dramatically improve productivity.

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Shortcut	Function
Windows + E	Open File Explorer
Ctrl + C	Copy
Ctrl + X	Cut
Ctrl + V	Paste
Ctrl + Z	Undo
Ctrl + A	Select All
Ctrl + T	New Tab
Ctrl + W	Close Tab
F2	Rename
Delete	Move to Recycle Bin
Shift + Delete	Permanent Delete
Alt + Enter	Properties

Tips for Better File Organization

Good organization saves time and reduces frustration.

Consider these practices:

- Create folders by project or category.
- Use descriptive file names.
- Archive old files regularly.
- Remove duplicate files.
- Back up important documents.
- Store work files separately from personal files.
- Use cloud storage for critical data.

A little organization today can prevent hours of searching later.

Common File Explorer Problems and Fixes

File Explorer Not Responding

Restart File Explorer using Task Manager or reboot your PC.

Search Not Finding Files

Allow Windows Search to finish indexing your files and verify the search location.

Missing Files

Check the Recycle Bin, search the entire drive, or look in your OneDrive folder if synchronization is enabled.

Slow Performance

Clear File Explorer history, free up disk space, and keep Windows updated for the best experience.

Why Learning File Explorer Matters

Many people use only the basic features of File Explorer, but mastering it can make everyday computing much more efficient. Whether you're managing personal photos, school assignments, business documents, or large media collections, knowing how to navigate, search, organize, and secure your files will save time and reduce frustration.

Windows 11's modern interface, support for tabs, improved search, and cloud integration make File Explorer more powerful than ever. By incorporating keyboard shortcuts and smart organization habits into your daily routine, you can work faster and keep your digital life well organized.

File Explorer is much more than a simple folder browser—it's an essential productivity tool for every Windows 11 user. Once you're comfortable with its features, managing files becomes easier, quicker, and more intuitive. Start by learning the basics such as navigation, creating folders, and copying files, then gradually explore advanced features like tabs, Quick Access, ZIP compression, and OneDrive synchronization. With consistent use, you'll discover that File Explorer can significantly improve your overall Windows experience

File Explorer is finally getting faster (and it's not a trick)

Windows 11's File Explorer has been slower than Windows 10's for years, and Microsoft's earlier "fix" was just preloading it in the background to hide the lag. This time it's the real thing.

The main culprit was the **Home tab**, the cluttered landing page full of recent files and folders. Microsoft rebuilt it so it no longer drags the whole app down. You should see quicker launches and snappier navigation, no background trickery involved.

A handful of long-standing annoyances got fixed alongside it: the address bar shows suggestions faster and more reliably, File Explorer no longer freezes when mounting a disk image, and the maddening bug that hijacked your text selection while renaming a file is gone. You can even navigate using double backslashes and quotation marks in the address bar now.

It's rolling out gradually in the June optional update (KB5095093) and gets baked into the July update for everyone. If yours still feels sluggish, it's just not your turn yet.





Plateau PC Users Group, Inc.

Application for Membership for 2026-2027

----- 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. 221 Tomlon Road, Crossville TN 38555"

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st. of each fiscal year.

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

<u>Join In</u>	<u>July - Sept</u>	<u>Oct - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Mar</u>	<u>Apr - June</u>
Single	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	\$30	\$22	\$15	\$7

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

Last Name *First Name* *Family Member (if family membership)*

Address:

City *State* *Zip Code* (*Phone Number*)

E-Mail address: -----
Please Print

I have belonged to a Computer Club before: Yes _____ No _____

I have used PC's since (year): _____

I have knowledge in the following areas that I would be willing to share with club members:



September 2026



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