



# PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



**January 2026**

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“JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE’S COMPUTER CLUB”

January 2026 Volume 32 Issue 1

**This Month’s General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 13, 2026**  
**will start at 3:00 P.M. @**  
**FFG Christ Lutheran Church**

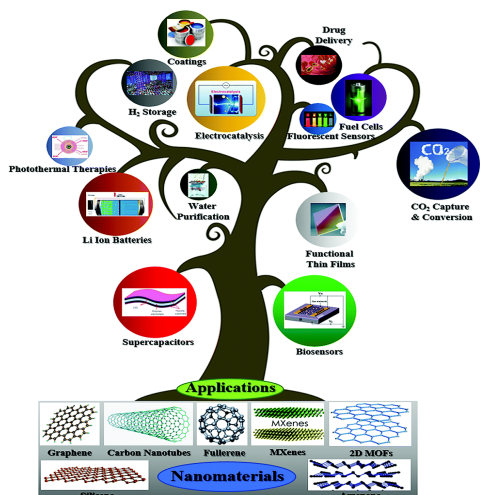
**January 13th Presentation**  
**@ 3:00 P.M.**

**Apps, apps and more apps.**

George Sengstock will be directing this months open forum.

**Apps, apps and more apps.**

What are the most used apps by “mature adults” on our cell phones, tablets and PCs?



***Welcome to 2026***

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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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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	<b>\$24</b>	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	<b>\$30</b>	\$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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fairfieldgladetechnology.com

Contact for pricing

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randy@randythetechprofessor.com

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Free, PPCUG members only please. No Apple products.

Regards,

George Sengstock

PPCUG (Plateau PC User Group)

224 760-3948



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

**At: [www.PPCUGinc.com](http://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](mailto:jackal33980@gmail.com) (931) 239-0877

# Setting Up Ransomware Protection in Windows 11 –

## A Simple and Complete Guide

**By Dellenny**

- by John Edward



Ransomware is one of the most dangerous types of malware people face today. It locks your files and demands payment to release them. Many users think ransomware only affects businesses, but home computers are just as much at risk. Cyber-criminals often spread ransomware through websites, email attachments, or fake downloads. If your computer is not protected, you could lose important photos, documents, and personal information in seconds.

Thankfully, Windows 11 includes powerful ransomware protection features built right into the system. You do not need expensive paid antivirus tools to stay safe—Microsoft provides strong protection that only needs a little setup. In this guide, we explain step-by-step how to turn on ransomware protection in Windows 11, what features are included, and some extra tips to keep your files safe.

### **What is Ransomware?**

Before we set up protection, it helps to understand what ransomware is. Ransomware is a type of malware that:

- Infects your computer
- Locks or encrypts your files
- Shows a message asking for money (a ransom)
- Threatens to delete your files if you do not pay

Even if someone pays, there is no guarantee they will get their files back. That is why prevention is always better than trying to recover after an attack. Windows 11 has a built-in feature called **Ransomware Protection**, located inside **Windows Security**, to protect your important files before something goes wrong.

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## **Built-In Ransomware Protection in Windows 11**

Windows 11 includes several layers of security. The main tool for ransomware defense is:

### **Controlled Folder Access**

This tool stops suspicious apps from changing your protected files. If a strange app tries to access files in protected folders, Windows blocks it immediately and shows a warning. Even if ransomware slips past other security tools, Controlled Folder Access can stop it from locking your files.

## **How to Turn On Ransomware Protection in Windows 11**

Now let's go through the steps to enable it:

### **Step 1 – Open Windows Security**

1. Click the **Start** button
2. Type **Windows Security**
3. Click the app to open it

### **Step 2 – Open Virus & Threat Protection**

Inside Windows Security, click **Virus & threat protection**. This section controls malware defenses and scanning tools.

### **Step 3 – Find Ransomware Protection**

Scroll down the page until you see **Ransomware protection**. Click the link to open it.

### **Step 4 – Enable Controlled Folder Access**

You will now see the main ransomware settings page. Find **Controlled folder access** and turn the toggle **On**. Windows may ask for permission from an administrator—click **Yes** to confirm.

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Once activated, this feature starts protecting your files immediately.

## **Customizing Ransomware Protection Settings**

### **1. Add More Folders to Protect**

Windows automatically protects important system folders, such as:

- Documents
- Pictures
- Videos
- Music

However, you may have files stored in other folders—for example, on the desktop or in a custom project folder. To protect them:

1. Under Controlled Folder Access, click **Protected folders**
2. Click **Add a protected folder**
3. Browse and choose the folder you want to secure

Now ransomware cannot modify files inside that folder without your permission.

### **2. Allow Apps You Trust**

Sometimes Windows may block a safe app that needs access to your folders. For example, video editing or backup apps might need permission. If that happens:

1. Go back to the Controlled Folder Access settings
2. Click **Allow an app through Controlled folder access**
3. Choose the app you trust

This keeps protection active while letting your programs work normally.

## **Turn On Cloud-Based Protection**

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Windows Security also includes cloud-based protection and real-time scanning. These help Microsoft detect new malware threats faster.

To check if they are on:

1. Open **Windows Security**
  2. Click **Virus & threat protection**
  3. Click **Manage settings** under Virus & threat protection settings
- Make sure the following are turned **On**:

- Real-time protection
- Cloud-delivered protection
- Automatic sample submission

Together, these tools make your system much harder for ransomware to attack.

### **Enable OneDrive Backup for Extra Safety**

Even with strong protection, it is possible for malware to sneak through. That is why backups are important. Windows 11 works well with **OneDrive**, a cloud backup service that can automatically save your files online. If something goes wrong, you can restore your folders later.

To set up OneDrive backup:

1. Open **Settings**
2. Go to **Accounts**
3. Select **Windows Backup**
4. If OneDrive is not active, sign in and set up backup

This gives you another layer of security because even if ransomware encrypts your files, you can restore clean versions from the cloud.

### **How to Stay Safe from Ransomware – Extra Tips**

Windows 11 protection is strong, but your habits also matter. Follow these tips:

- **Do not open email attachments from unknown senders**

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- **Avoid unofficial download websites**
- **Keep apps and Windows updated**
- **Use a strong antivirus if available**
- **Do not click suspicious links**
- **Use a strong password or password manager**

Cyber-criminals often trick users into installing ransomware without realizing it. Safe browsing habits can make a huge difference.

### **What If You Get Infected Anyway?**

If ransomware has infected your computer:

1. **Disconnect from the internet immediately**
2. Open **Windows Security** and run a **Full scan**
3. Check backups to see if your files can be restored
4. Do **not** pay the ransom—there is no guarantee

You can contact professional support if necessary, but having protection enabled early keeps you out of most trouble.

Ransomware is a serious threat, but Windows 11 gives users effective protection tools for free. By turning on **Controlled Folder Access**, enabling real-time and cloud security features, and using good backup habits, you greatly reduce the risk of losing important files. The setup only takes a few minutes, but it can save you hours of stress and possibly years of memories stored on your device.

With everything working together—Windows security settings, safe browsing habits, and backup strategies—you can use your computer with confidence knowing your personal files are safe from ransomware attacks.



# Fixing Wi-Fi Connection Problems Easily on Windows 11

## By Dellenny

- by John Edward



Did it happen to you that while watching a movie or trying to join a meeting, or playing game online then you find **Wi-Fi is not working**. Although Windows 11 brings a modern look and better performance but still Wi-Fi issues can happen at any time. The good news is that most problems are easy to fix with a few simple steps.

In this blog will show you easy troubleshooting methods to fix your Wi-Fi connection issues on Windows 11 whether your device isn't detecting Wi-Fi or the connection drops frequently, or you can't get online at all.

## **Common Wi-Fi Problems on Windows 11**

You might experience one or more of the following:

- Wi-Fi not showing in settings
- Wireless adapter missing or disabled
- Connected, but no internet access
- Slow or unstable Wi-Fi
- Wi-Fi keeps disconnecting
- Error connecting to a network
- Can't connect after an update

Each of these issues has different causes—but the solutions below will help fix them in most cases.

## **Quick Basic Fixes You Should Try First**

Before diving into advanced fixes, try these simple steps:

### **Restart Your PC & Router**

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Many network glitches are temporary.

- Turn off your PC
- Unplug your router for 30 seconds
- Plug it back in and wait until all lights stabilize
- Restart your PC

This refreshes the network settings and often solves the problem instantly.

## Toggle Airplane Mode

A quick reset of wireless services:

1. Click **Network icon** in System Tray
2. Turn **Airplane mode ON**
3. Wait 10 seconds, turn it **OFF**

## Check Wi-Fi is Enabled

Go to:

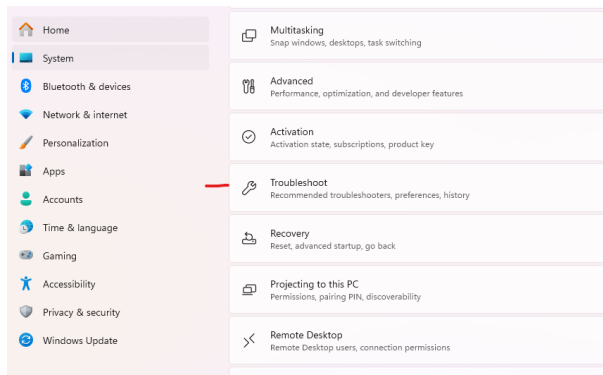
**Settings → Network & Internet → Wi-Fi → Toggle ON**

If the Wi-Fi option is completely missing, it may be a driver issue. Keep reading!

## Step-by-Step Solutions for Wi-Fi Not Working in Windows 11

### Run the Network Troubleshooter

Windows 11 includes a built-in tool that can automatically fix many problems.



1. Open **Settings**
2. Go to **System → Troubleshoot → Other troubleshooters**
3. Click **Run** next to **Network and Internet**

Follow the prompts and apply any fixes suggested.

### Reinstall or Update Wi-Fi Adapter Driver

Driver issues are a common cause of missing or unstable Wi-Fi.

1. Press **Windows + X**

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2. Click **Device Manager**
  3. Expand **Network adapters**
  4. Right-click your Wi-Fi adapter  
Choose **Update driver** → *Search automatically*  
If still not working → choose **Uninstall device**
  5. Restart your PC
- Windows will reinstall the correct driver automatically.

### **Reset Network Settings**

This restores everything to default and helps fix deep connectivity errors.

Go to:

**Settings** → **Network & Internet** → **Advanced network settings** → **Network reset** → **Reset now**

Your PC will restart. You will need to reconnect to Wi-Fi afterward.

### **Forget and Reconnect to the Wi-Fi Network**

Sometimes stored passwords or configuration cause conflicts.

1. **Settings** → **Network & Internet** → **Wi-Fi** → **Manage known networks**
2. Select the network → **Forget**
3. Reconnect by entering the password again

### **Turn Off VPN or Proxy (If Enabled)**

VPNs and proxies can block Wi-Fi internet access.

- Disable any **VPN software**
- Go to **Settings** → **Network & Internet** → **Proxy**  
and turn off **Automatically detect settings** if needed

### **Disable Power-Saving Features for Wi-Fi Adapter**

Windows may turn off Wi-Fi to save power, especially on laptops.

1. **Device Manager** → **Network adapters**
2. Right-click Wi-Fi adapter → **Properties**
3. Go to **Power Management** tab
4. Uncheck:  
*Allow the computer to turn off this device to save power*

### **Reset TCP/IP and DNS (Command Fix)**

If you're connected but no internet access:

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1. Open **Command Prompt as Administrator**
2. Run these commands one by one:

netsh winsock reset

netsh int ip reset

ipconfig /flushdns

ipconfig /release

ipconfig /renew

Restart once done.

### **Wi-Fi Still Slow? Try These Tips**

If your Wi-Fi works but is slow or keeps dropping:

- Move closer to the router
- Reduce connected devices on the same network
- Switch between **2.4 GHz** and **5 GHz** bands
- Restart your router more often
- Update router firmware (check brand website)

### **Advanced Fix: Check Windows Update**

Buggy Windows updates occasionally break Wi-Fi. Install latest patches:

**Settings** → **Windows Update** → **Check for updates**

If the problem started **after** an update, consider uninstalling it temporarily.

### **When to Contact Your Internet Provider**

After trying all solutions, if another device also cannot get stable Wi-Fi, the issue might not be your PC. Contact your ISP if:

- You see constant outages
- Router lights show connection failure
- Speed is much lower than your plan
- All devices lose connection randomly

Your provider may reset your service or replace faulty equipment.

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Fixing Wi-Fi problems on Windows 11 doesn't have to be stressful. With the right steps like updating drivers, restarting the router, or resetting network settings you can quickly restore fast, stable internet access.

Technology isn't perfect but knowing how to troubleshoot Wi-Fi issues yourself saves time and frustration. Keep this guide handy for the next time your connection drops!

## Renaming Multiple Files

By Alan German

Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada (<https://opcug.ca>)  
[alan.german@opcug.ca](mailto:alan.german@opcug.ca)

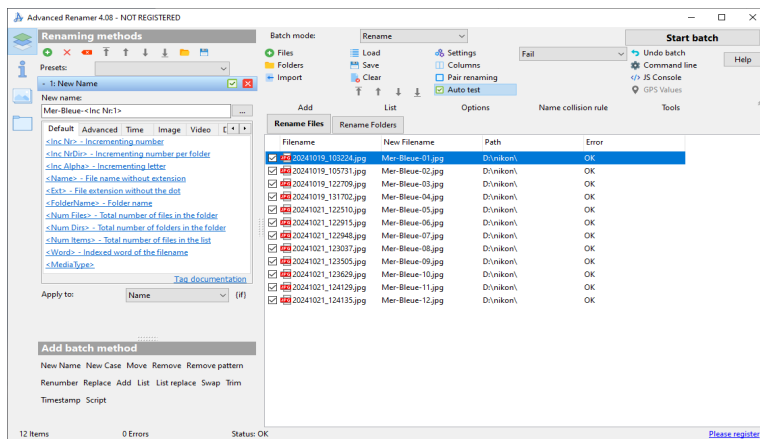
Renaming one file in Windows is simple; just click on the file in File Explorer to highlight the name which can then be typed over or edited as desired. But, what if there are 12 files (or 1200), with names like 20241019\_103224.jpg, that need to be renamed in a logical sequence? Sure, you could edit 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.



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### 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

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





Revised January 2026

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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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	<b>\$24</b>	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	<b>\$30</b>	\$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:

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# February 2026



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
1	2	3	4 10:00 A.M. PPCUG Board Mtg	5	6	7
8	9	10 3:00 A.M. General Mtg. Presentation. Followed by Q&A Session	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28