

Bits of Bytes

Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, Colorado Springs, CO

Volume XLI

March 2021

Issue 3



The Prez Sez

by John Pearce,
President,
P*PCompAS

I enjoyed watching the videos from this year's Consumer Electronics Show at the February meeting. It was interesting to see the one location of the Microsoft cloud shown by Brad Smith, Microsoft's President. I hope the video eliminated some of the mystique surrounding the cloud. In its basic form, the cloud is just a bunch of geographically dispersed server farms.

The March meeting arranged by Cary Quinn, our VP and Program Chairperson, is a presentation on cloud storage by Judy Taylour of APCUG. Be sure to make notes of questions you would like to ask Judy. ☺



Meeting Minutes

by Greg Lenihan,
P*PCompAS Secretary

President John Pearce opened the 6 February 2021 membership meeting at 9 am via Zoom. The minutes from January were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice-President Cary Quinn said we will show some CES videos today. We will have another remote for next month, and he will work on a schedule for the rest of the year.

Secretary/Newsletter Editor Greg Lenihan announced the next

Next P*PCompAS meeting: Saturday, 6 March 2021

Judy Taylour from the APCUG is back with a presentation titled "The Cloud is Here—Don't Get Left Behind."

newsletter deadline as 20 February.

Treasurer Chuck Harris reported we have \$2230.39 in savings and \$1021.29 in checking. APCUG dues were paid by John Pearce and were reimbursed. Money was moved from savings to checking to write checks.

Membership Chair Ann Titus was not present.

Librarian Paul Godfrey had nothing to report.

APCUG Rep Joe Nuvolini said he filed the club tax return on 1 February and sent copies to the president and treasurer. Joe has a club folder that he doesn't have room for at his new residence. John Pearce volunteered to take it. Judy Taylour has been sending announcements about the APCUG and John Pearce has been forwarding them to the membership.

Board of Directors Chair Paul Godfrey said he may call a meeting of the board next month via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS

An audit of the treasury account has not been performed yet. Toni Logan and Cary Quinn were waiting on information from Chuck Harris.

NEW BUSINESS

John Pearce recommended we give a gift to the church of \$150 because we were only there a few times last year. A motion was presented and approved. Our treasurer will write a check and mail it with attention to Natalie Yungner, Director of Operations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next social breakfast Zoom meeting for the digerati will be Saturday, 20 February, at 9 am via Zoom.

Our next membership meeting is on 6 March.

AROUND THE ROOM

Joe Nuvolini says there is an IRS Form 1444 that requires you to state how much you received in the two stimulus packages. Joe was wondering where to dispose of his movie camera batteries and it was mentioned that Lowes had recycle bins near their exits. The county takes them also at North Carefree and Akers.

Jeff Towne mentioned that he had a slight reaction (panting violently with mild fever) after his second Covid vaccine.

Toni Logan asked if anyone knew why her printer loses wi-fi. It does work with a cable. Cary just

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P*PCompAS

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Ann Titus
Harvey McMinn
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Zoom screenshot of the 6 February 2021 membership meeting



Zoom screenshot of the digerati attending the 20 February breakfast meeting.



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What Does “Run As Administrator” Mean in Windows 10

by Ben J Edwards and Chris Hoffman, reprinted with permission from [HowToGeek.com](https://www.howtogeek.com)

Original article at: <https://www.howtogeek.com/709060/what-does-run-as-administrator-mean-in-windows-10/>

If you use Windows 10, you’ve no doubt seen the phrase “Run as administrator” at some point. But what does it mean? Here’s why it’s important, how it works, and when to use it.

Administrators Have Full System Access

There are two types of accounts in Windows: Standard user accounts and Administrator user accounts. Administrator accounts can configure system settings and access normally restricted parts of the operating system. (There’s also a [hidden account named “Administrator,”](#) but any account can be an administrator.)

The purpose of an administrator role is to allow changes to certain aspects of your operating system that might otherwise become damaged by accident (or through malicious action) by a normal user account.

If you own your own PC and it isn’t managed by your workplace, you’re probably using an administrator account. (You can check your administrator status by heading to Settings > Accounts > Your Info. You’ll see “Administrator” below your name here if you’re an administrator. If you have other accounts set up on your Windows 10 PC, you can head to Settings > Accounts > Family & other users to see if they’re administrators.)

But even if you are using an administrator account on Windows, not every application needs full administrator permissions. In fact, that’s bad for security—your web

browser shouldn’t have full access to your entire operating system. [User Account Control \(UAC\)](#) limits the permissions that applications have, even when you launch them from an administrator account.

When you use “Run as Administrator,” UAC gets out of the way, and the application is run with full administrator access to everything on your system.

So when you run an app as an administrator, it means you are giving the app special permissions to access restricted parts of your Windows 10 system that would otherwise be off-limits. This brings potential dangers, but it is also sometimes necessary for certain programs to work correctly.

(If you’d like to read more about the technical aspects of how the administrator account works, [this Stack Overflow thread](#) is very helpful.)

RELATED: [Enable the \(Hidden\) Administrator Account on Windows 7, 8, or 10](#)

When Should I Run Apps as an Administrator?

If an app isn’t working as you would expect it to, you might want to run it as an administrator and see if that clears up the problem. This is particularly the case with utility programs that may require deep access to perform diagnostics on your file system, configure storage devices, or change the settings of certain devices installed in your system.

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Meeting Minutes (Cont. from page 1)

replaced a printer with the same problem. He thinks the printer is assigned an IP address and it loses it. Nuvo said he constantly had to turn his printer off and on. It was recommended she try reinstalling the printer.

Chuck Harris wants to get rid of some computer equipment and wondered where to take it. Warren Hill recommended Blue Star Recycling. Cary provided a link to

them and also to www.human-i-t.org/donate-technology. Chuck also has an iPhone 10 that occasionally goes black. No one knew how to fix it. Chuck also said that member Pat Krieger was out of the hospital after breaking her femur.

David George has Starkey hearing aids connected by Bluetooth to the TV, but they don’t work with Amazon Prime. No one was able to answer why.

Jim Miller would like to see a program on Acronis Survival Kit.

PRESENTATION

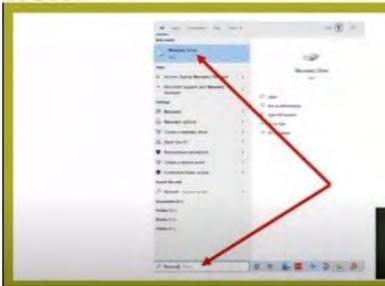
The theme this month was CES 2021. Cary Quinn played a keynote speech by Microsoft President Brad Smith. This was followed by a video titled **Best of CES 2021: CNET’s Top Picks**, shown by Joe Nuvolini. Cary Quinn followed this by the video **Best Laptops of CES 2021** with Dan Ackerman and Jason Hiner. 😊

How to Create a Recovery Drive for Windows 10

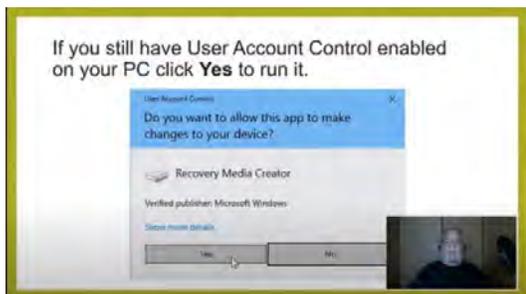
By Ann Titus, P*PCompAS, based on instructions from Hewie Poplock on "Tech For Seniors"

1. You will need a **16 GB** or larger flash drive. Plug it into your computer.

2. Type "recovery drive": into the search field on the taskbar of your computer and hit **Enter**.



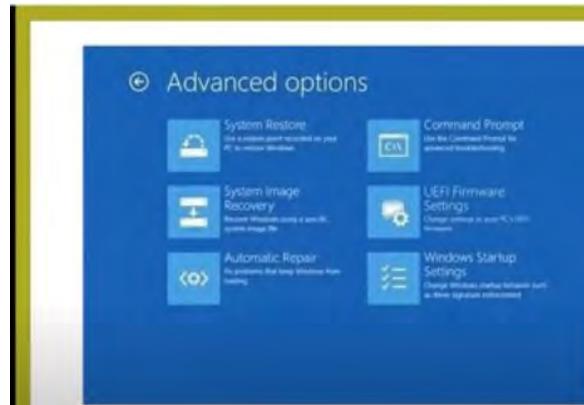
3. If you have User Account Control enabled on your PC click **Yes** to run it. This will launch the **Recovery Drive wizard** that allows you to create a Windows 10 recovery drive. Make sure "Backup system files to the recovery drive" is checked and click **Next**. The Recovery Drive tool will scan your PC for available USB drives. Select the flash drive that you want to use and click **Next**.



4. On the next screen, click **Create** to start the process of creating your recovery drive; it should just take a few minutes to complete. Keep in mind that this is deleting all of the data on the drive. Your recovery drive will start to be created. You'll see a progress bar while it is being created. You will get a message that the recovery drive is ready.

5. Click the **Finish** button and remove the USB drive. Make sure to keep the drive in a safe place and labeled so you can use it in the future if needed.

NOTE: If you're unable to boot into Windows 10 for any reason, you can boot from the recovery drive. You will get a menu of **Advanced options** to help troubleshoot the problem of your system and get it up and running. It includes System Restore, System Image Recovery, Automatic Repair, Command Prompt, UEFI Firmware Settings, and Windows Startup Settings.



Here's how to turn **User Account Control (UAC)** on or off in Windows 10:

1. Type **UAC** in the search field on your taskbar. (If the search field isn't visible, right-click the **Start** button and choose **Search**.)
2. Click **Change User Account Control settings** in the search results.
3. Then do one of the following:
 - To turn UAC *off*, drag the slider down to **Never notify** and click **OK**.
 - To turn UAC *on*, drag the slider up to the desired level of security and click **OK**. You may be prompted to confirm your selection or enter an administrator password.
4. Reboot your computer for the change to take effect. 😊

Why is My Computer Crashing Randomly?

The Most Common Cause and Plan of Attack

By Leo A. Notenboom, <https://newsletter.askleo.com>; published under the Creative Commons License



My PC is not quite a year old yet but it recently started to crash, even while just running Word. Antivirus (both) check everything in order. What could possibly be the matter here?

By “crash”, we mean things like random blue screens, black screens, reboots, freezing up, or shutting down, all without warning.

I find one cause to be the most common by far.

The most common cause of random crashes is an overheating computer caused by blocked airflow or a failing fan. Pay attention to how hard your computer is working at the time of a crash — high usage implies a heat problem. Other causes include hardware failure, including RAM or disks, and less commonly, malware.

Heat is the enemy

The *most common* cause of random crashes is an overheating computer.

The most common cause of an overheating computer is blocked airflow.

The most common cause of blocked airflow is an accumulation of dust and debris.

Fans in your computer blow air through its components to cool them down. Your computer’s [CPU](#), [hard disk](#), and other components all generate heat — sometimes a lot of it. If the components become too hot, they can fail and cause a crash.

Particularly in laptops, it’s easy to accidentally block the air vents allowing air to flow through the device. I recommend not putting a laptop on your lap — use a table or “laptop desk” to ensure proper airflow.

Desktop computers are more vulnerable to dust and pet hair, which can clog the vents.

It’s worth unplugging your computer and looking inside. Carefully clean it if you find a lot of dust and dirt.

After blocked air vents and dirt, the next most common cause of an overheating computer is a failed fan. Fans have become complex over the years. In an effort to reduce the noise, computer fans often operate at variable speeds, running quietly at a slow speed when things are relatively cool, and speeding up to move more air as the computer heats up.

Heat and your CPU

The temperature inside your computer can change depending on what you’re doing.

The harder the computer’s CPU works, the more heat it generates. That’s why variable speed fans make sense — if your computer is idling, you probably don’t need the fans running at full speed. On the other hand, if the CPU is working hard, the fans speed up to cool things back down as the internal temperature rises.

Listen to or watch your computer’s fans as you use your computer. If they never turn on, there’s almost certainly a problem with the fan or its control circuitry.

Your computer *should* be designed to handle the maximum heat its CPU can generate. Even if your [CPU is at 100% usage](#), the fans should keep up. A machine crashing randomly the longer it is used or the harder its CPU is put to work is a warning that there’s an overheating problem.

Check for overheating first.

After that, it gets more difficult.

Other causes

[Malware](#) is no longer a common cause of random crashes. These days, [malware](#) is more interested in keeping your machine running so it can do its malicious work. Certainly look for malware, but don’t be surprised if you find none.

Failure is always an option. Hardware can fail. We think of hardware failure as being instant, total, and catastrophic, but various components can have intermittent, delayed, or random types of failure.

Next to the fan, failing [RAM](#) is the most common hardware-related cause of random

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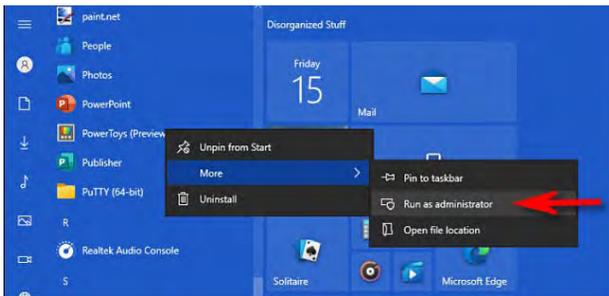
*Run As Administrator (Continued from page 3)***Which Apps Can Run as an Administrator?**

Only apps programmed for the legacy Win32 and Win64 APIs can be run as an administrator. Traditionally, that means apps created for Windows 7 and earlier, but many modern Windows apps are still maintained that way. [UWP \(Universal Windows Platform\) apps](#)—like those downloaded from the Microsoft Store—cannot be run as an administrator.

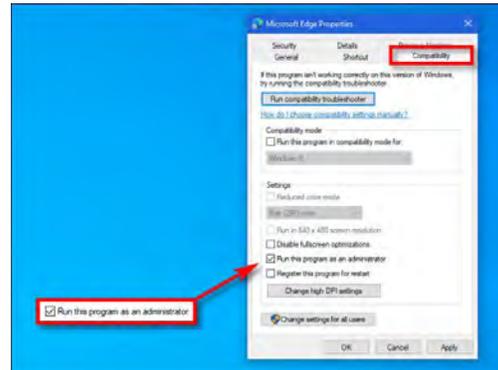
RELATED: [Why \(Most\) Desktop Apps Aren't Available in the Windows Store](#)

How Do I Run Apps as an Administrator?

If you'd like to run a Windows 10 app as an administrator, open the Start menu and locate the app on the list. Right-click the app's icon, then select "More" from the menu that appears. In the "More" menu, select "Run as administrator."



Also, if you'd like to always run an app as an administrator, create a shortcut to the app on your desktop or taskbar, or in File Explorer. Right-click the shortcut and select "Properties." In the Properties window that appears, click the "Compatibility" tab, then [put a checkmark beside "Run this program as an administrator."](#)



After that, close the Properties window. Now every time you run the app from that shortcut, you'll always be running it with administrator privileges.

You can also [run a program as an administrator from the "Run" box](#) (accessed by pressing Windows+R) if you press Ctrl+Shift+Enter when executing the app. Good luck!

RELATED: [Run a Command as Administrator from the Run Box in Windows 7, 8, or 10](#) 😊

Computer Crashing (Cont. from page 5)

crashes. Programs don't always get loaded into the exact same place in [memory](#), which means you might sometimes access bad RAM, causing a crash immediately or afterwards.

Software is what people think of first, but the vast majority of software errors will not cause your computer to completely crash. More commonly, a program may crash or terminate unexpectedly, but Windows itself will keep running.

The exception is device drivers. A [bug](#) or other unexpected error in a [driver](#) could cause it to fail and crash the entire system. If you've recently added hardware involving new or additional drivers, or if a recent update included drivers, then

it belongs on your list of suspects.

The hard disk (either [HDD](#) or [SSD](#)) deserves special mention. A disk with bad or damaged information affecting any of the software — including Windows itself, drivers, or your applications — might cause a crash. You'll usually get warning signs, such as significant disk slowdowns, or even "bad [sector](#)" or "[CRC](#)" errors before the crash.

A plan of attack

Here's a plan of attack for a computer crashing randomly:

- Make sure it has unrestricted airflow.
- Make sure it's free of dirt and dust, and that the fans are working properly.

Run a CPU temperature monitoring tool. [Speccy](#) is a free tool that displays this and more.

Run a memory diagnostic, such as [Memtest86](#).

Run a hard disk diagnostic as provided by your disk manufacturer, or run [CHKDSK /R](#).

Make sure the operating system and device drivers are as [up-to-date](#) as possible.

Make sure your security software is running and up-to-date.

And as always, if the crashing started after a recent change, consider reverting to a system [backup](#) taken prior to the change to see if perhaps it was the reason. 😊

How Important is the Power Supply (PSU) When Building a PC?

by Ian Paul, reprinted with permission from [HowToGeek.com](https://www.howtogeek.com)

Original article at: <https://www.howtogeek.com/706624/how-important-is-the-power-supply-psu-when-building-a-pc/>



The power supply (PSU) is a critical part of any PC. It powers all the components in your PC, and a bad or faulty one can bring everything down. Here's what to look for in a power supply while putting together a PC.

A PSU Is a Critical Piece of PC Infrastructure

When we turn on a light, open a faucet, or walk down a nicely paved street, we don't often think about the wondrous infrastructure making all that possible. But if somebody hadn't taken the time to think about it, things wouldn't be so wondrous.

It's the same when building a PC. We get obsessed with how many cores a [CPU](#) has or the number of compute units in a [GPU](#). But rarely do we think twice about the power supply unit (PSU), which provides power to everything else in your PC.

You don't need to think about your power supply too much, of course. But, if you don't consider the PSU at all, there's a good chance you'll be thinking about it a lot once it starts causing problems.

If your computer doesn't get enough power or the PSU malfunctions, there are a number of issues that could appear. Your system may not boot, the entire system might become unstable—or it might simply shut down when the demand for energy exceeds capacity. There's also a chance that more expensive components may get damaged from the instability.

The good news is you don't have to get too far into the details to pick a good power supply. There are many tools online that will help you figure out the right kind of power supply for your build.

Watts

As cores are to a CPU, so wattage is to a PSU. It's the major feature people look at as it tells you

how much power a PSU can push out. A good rule of thumb is to shoot for about 25% or more of headroom from what the expected output for your PC is. So if your maximum expected output is 400 watts, then a 500W or 550W PSU would run it easily and provide some future-proofing should you ever upgrade your PC with a component requiring more power.

So, how do you figure out your expected output? You can use a site like [PC Part Picker](#), which will show you expected watt requirements based on your components. There are also many power supply calculators online, such as those from [Newegg](#) and [Extreme Outer Vision](#), with the latter being a popular choice. Don't be surprised if each calculator comes up with a different recommendation as these are just estimates. Newegg's tends to be a little on the high end, for example.

One last thing before we leave this topic is that you may come across people talking about the importance of rails in a PSU; however, this is not as important as it once was. If you want a quick breakdown on the subject, check out [this Techquickie video](#).

Ratings



When you look at PSUs you'll see that they have [80 Plus ratings](#) named after different metals including Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum,

Continued on page 8

Power Supply (Continued from page 7)

and Titanium. There's also a plain 80 Plus rating with no metal name attached to it.

These are efficiency and reliability ratings. 80 Plus means the power supply is 80% efficient or higher at loads (the power demands on the PSU) of 20%, 50%, and 100% at 115 volts and 230 volts. The efficiency requirements change, depending on the capacity and voltage, and the more valuable the metal name in the rating the more efficient the PSU has to be.

For example, at 50% load and 115V an 80 Plus Bronze PSU is supposed to hit at least 85% efficiency, while a Titanium PSU at that load and voltage should be 94% efficient.

Part of the reason these efficiency ratings were developed is that, as with most things electric, PSUs are not 100% efficient. In fact, they lose some energy in the form of heat. That doesn't mean, however, that a 400W PSU can't supply that much power because the wattage on the box tells you a PSU's maximum throughput.

You can find a list of [80 Plus certifications online](#), but the important thing to note is that the higher up the "value" ladder you go for each metal, the more efficient the PSU is supposed to be.

In general, you want a power supply that's as efficient as you can reasonably afford at the wattage you need.

Other Important Features in a PSU



Whether you're building your own PC or just replacing the PSU on an old machine, there are a few more important considerations. First is the issue of a modular, semi-modular, or non-modular PSU.

A modular PSU comes with no cords attached to it at all and is usually referred to as "fully modular" at online stores. With a fully modular PSU, it's up to the PC builder to connect the cords they need. A semi-

modular supply, on the other hand, has a number of cables that are non-detachable. These are usually the essentials, such as the 24-pin power cable, the power connector for the CPU, and others. Anything else you need can be added just like with a modular supply. When you're shopping around, semi-modular PSUs can be called "modular" or just "semi-modular." Finally, there are also non-modular supplies with all cables permanently attached to the power supply.

The biggest advantage of a fully modular PSU is that you control how many cables are lurking in the back of your PC. Even with a semi-modular unit, you can end up with excess cables that aren't connected to anything and take up space in the back of the case.

Non-modular PSUs tend to be a little bit cheaper than the other two, but you'll have to deal with stashing a ton of cables in the back of your case, which can be a real pain. If you can spend the extra money, it's well worth it to go for at least a semi-modular PSU for a cleaner build.

We'd also suggest sticking to a PSU from a well-known company. There are tons of power supplies out there from numerous companies most of which you've never heard of. That could set you up for a blown PSU sooner than you anticipated not to mention potential damage to other parts of your system.

Stick with companies like [Corsair](#), [EVGA](#), [Cooler Master](#), [Thermaltake](#), and other well-known ones to be reasonably certain you're getting a good quality PSU. That's by no means a guarantee, but it's a safer bet than a random PSU from an unknown company.

Finally, we'd suggest paying close attention to the warranty. While we often don't think about warranties for other items, it's a crucial part of a PSU. There are many PSUs out there that come with 5- or 10-year warranties meaning you can be more certain these units will last for multiple PC builds. And if they don't, you can always file a warranty claim.

You don't need to get obsessed with a PC's power supply, but take a few important issues into consideration and you can rest easy with a solid choice. 😊

How to Hum to Search for a Song Using Google

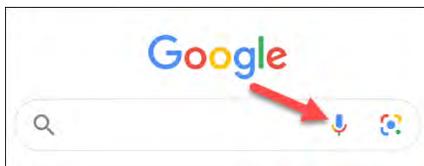
by Joe Fedewa, reprinted with permission from HowToGeek.com

Original article at: <https://www.howtogeek.com/696191/how-to-hum-to-search-for-a-song-using-google/>

There's nothing quite as annoying as having a song stuck in your head and not being able to identify it. Thankfully, if you can hum the song out loud, Google Search can help you figure out what tune is stuck in your head.

The Hum to Search feature is available in the Google mobile app and works with humming, whistling, or anything else you can do to mimic a tune. The results aren't always accurate, but it's a good place to start if an earworm is driving you crazy.

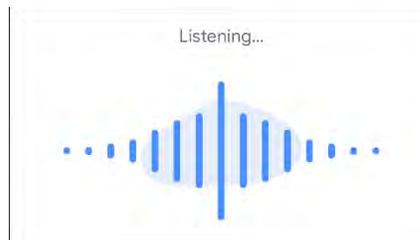
First, open the Google app on your [iPhone](#), [iPad](#), or [Android](#) device and tap the "Microphone" icon in the search bar. On Android devices, you can also tap the "Microphone" icon from the Google Search widget found on your home screen.



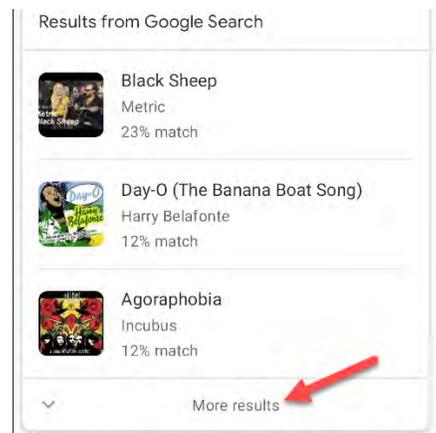
When the listening screen appears, you'll see a "Search A Song" button. Tap it.



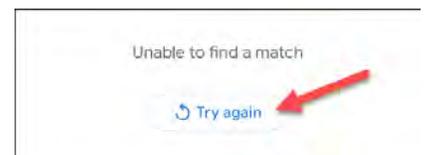
Start humming or whistling the song you're trying to identify. This tool can also identify real music that's playing.



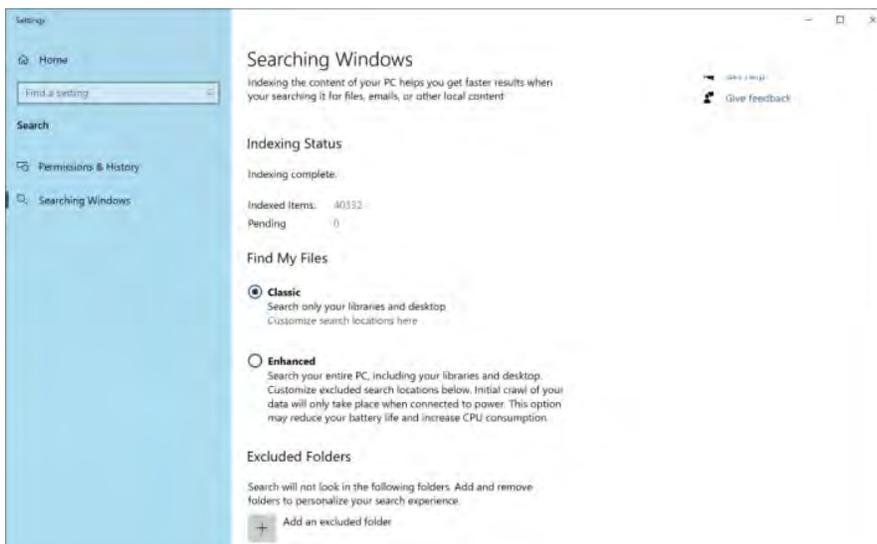
If Google can find similar matches, the results will appear labeled with match percentages. Tap "More Results" if your song isn't in the top results.



If Google can't identify the song, you'll see a screen that says "Unable To Find Match." You can tap "Try Again" to give it another go.



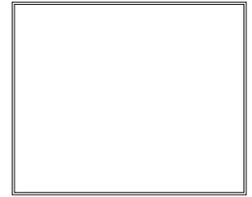
In our testing, the feature is hit or miss. Hum to Search does a good job with popular songs and distinct melodies. Songs that don't have easy to hum tunes are harder to identify. 😊



Tip: Enhanced Search

If searches are taking too long in Windows, you can narrow things down a bit thanks to the May 2020 Update. Under **Settings > Search > Searching Windows** set search to Classic, which only applies to Libraries and Desktop, or choose Enhanced indexing to search the whole computer. A new algorithm also helps Windows adjust when it's working, using less resources while gaming or when disk usage is over 80 percent. 😊

P*PCompAS Newsletter
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Coming Events:

Next Membership Meeting: 6 March @ 9 am, via Zoom

Next Breakfast Meeting: 20 March @ 9 am, via Zoom

Newsletter Deadline: 20 March

Check out our Web page at: <http://ppcompas.apcug.org>

