

Lab 1 – Reporting

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Course/Section: IS-1003-001

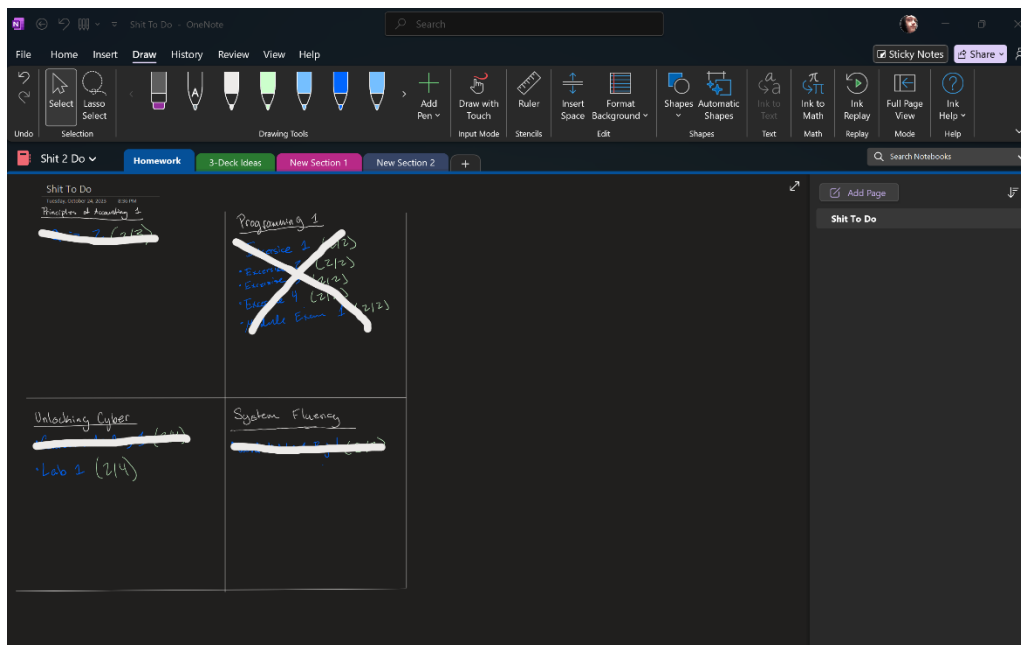
Date: 2/4/2025

INTRODUCTION

A computer is critical and crucial for an individual working in cybersecurity and also just in day-to-day life. This report seeks to explore features such as how to screenshot on my computer, utilize a search engine, compare computer specifications, and verify internet connectivity along with camera operation.

BREAKPOINT 1

First off, my school computer is a Microsoft Surface 7 Pro+ (the one that will be submitting this assignment). I have had this surface for three to four years now. I bought it out of necessity since my original “gaming/school” computer broke due to a dying motherboard while in the middle of exam week – when I was completing my associates degree at Lone Star Montgomery. What specifically drew me to the surface was the touch screen\stylus combo aspect of the surface. It is also my most utilized and my favorite feature of the surface. That is due to the fact that I am personally huge on writing tasks and various other items down or else I will forget it due to my ADHD. It has also been crucial to my college success for the ability to organize my thoughts and put all my due dates in one spot. My favorite app, the one screenshoted below has to be OneNote. I utilize it daily for tracking due dates and managing my day-to-day life.

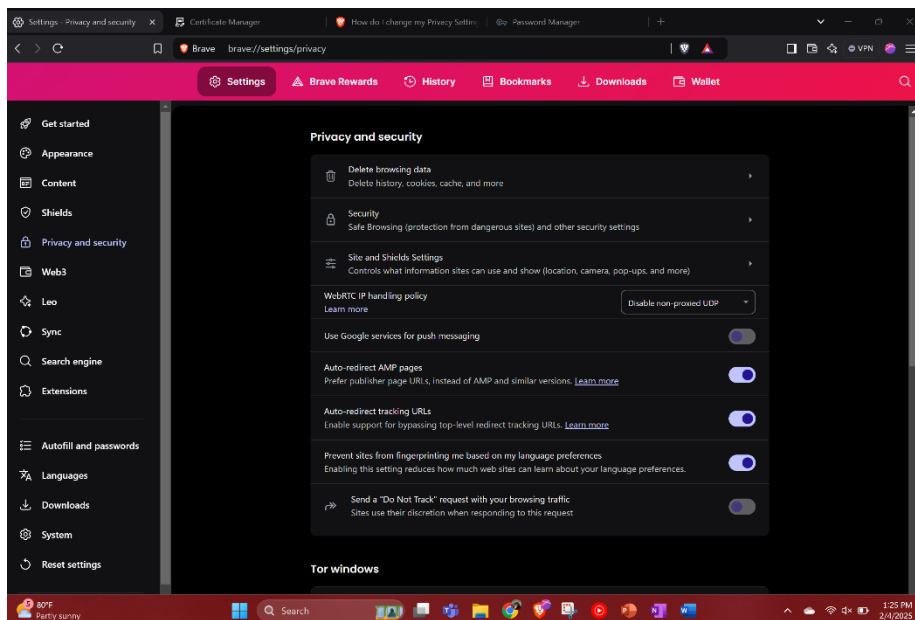


Picture 1: A screenshot of my main notebook in OneNote

Excuse what the notebook is named but that has a long history dating back to when I was getting my associates degree, another story for another time.

BREAKPOINT 2

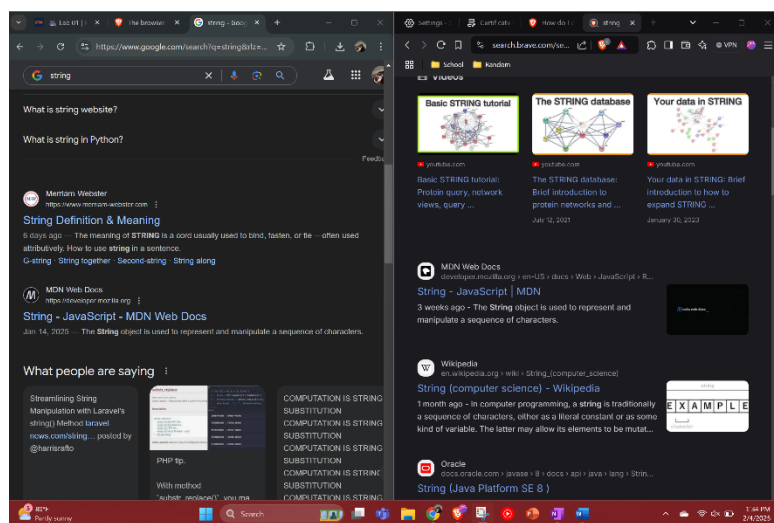
Some of the choices I changed in my settings include but are not limited to WebRTC IP handling policy, Trackers & ads blocking, blocking scripts, blocking all embedded posts from Facebook, X and LinkedIn. All of these changes are more for security as chrome did not have these easily accessible changes and love the ability to limit my data being given to sites and places I visit on the internet. I know me personally; I prefer security over convenience as that's how one gets their data stolen or their data being part of a data breach.



Picture 2: Brave Browser Settings

BREAKPOINT 3

I personally chose the Brave search engine as I have used it in the past but just got lazy and went to Google a few years ago.



Picture 3: String Search Results

Looking at the two different search results. The major things that stand out are the following:

- Drop down section to continue searching the topic looked up (Google)
- Social Media inserts (Google)
- Both yield the same search results in terms of links so for me to be able to say the search results will differ will need more time looking up different topics.

Overall, I think I prefer Brave in terms of looking for direct answers to questions as Brave brings links that are directly related to the search term/phrase but what I like about google is that it allows me to continue researching or going down a “rabbit-hole” if I want to know more about what I looked up. That can be a whole paper about that in of itself, in terms of the “rabbit-hole” design.

BREAKPOINT 4

Item	Value
OS Name	Microsoft Windows 11 Home
Version	10.0.26100 Build 26100
Other OS Description	Not Available
OS Manufacturer	Microsoft Corporation
System Name	WORKAHOLIC
System Manufacturer	Microsoft Corporation
System Model	Surface Pro 7+
System Type	x64-based PC
System SKU	Surface_Pro_7+_1960
Processor	11th Gen Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-1135G7 @ 2.40GHz, 2419 Mhz, 4 Core(s), 8 Lo...
BIOS Version/Date	Microsoft Corporation 30.102.143, 10/16/2024
SMBIOS Version	3.3
Embedded Controller Version	255.255
BIOS Mode	UEFI
BaseBoard Manufacturer	Microsoft Corporation
BaseBoard Product	Surface Pro 7+
BaseBoard Version	Not Available
Platform Role	Slate
Secure Boot State	On
PCR7 Configuration	Elevation Required to View
Windows Directory	C:\WINDOWS
System Directory	C:\WINDOWS\system32
Boot Device	\Device\HarddiskVolume1
Locale	United States
Hardware Abstraction Layer	Version = "10.0.26100.1"
User Name	WORKAHOLIC\paulc
Time Zone	Central Standard Time
Installed Physical Memory (RAM)	8.00 GB
Total Physical Memory	7.85 GB
Available Physical Memory	941 MB
Total Virtual Memory	12.6 GB
Available Virtual Memory	2.53 GB
Page File Space	4.75 GB

Picture 4: My computer specifications

Operating System: Windows 11 Home

Version: 10.0.26100

OS/System Manufacturer: Microsoft

System Name: WORKAHOLIC

System type: x64 Based

Processor: i5-intel

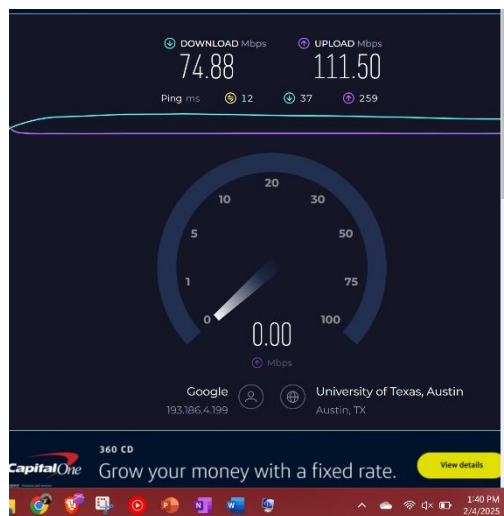
Installed Physical Memory: 8GB

Available Physical Memory: 941MB

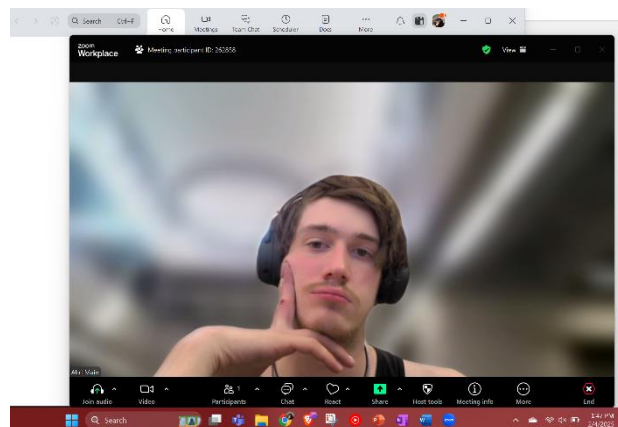
When comparing my surface to the computer requirements, I only meet the OS requirement. For me that is not a problem. That is, as mentioned previously, this is my school computer. Meaning that I have a second computer. This has an i-7 core and 32 GB of memory along with a full terabyte of storage which is way more than the minimum that Alvarez requires. So if I need to do something that requires a beefier computer, I can thankfully just go home and do it there!

BREAKPOINT 5

I think it's something to mention that this internet test was done on the UTSA Wi-Fi. So, these results are not surprising in the slightest. The UTSA Wi-Fi has to be able to handle thousands of students computers and devices. Though on my own personal Wi-Fi I can get about 50mb/s and about 20mb/s upload. Which ain't bad at all considering I only pay \$30/month for it. In terms of zoom, I honestly like the move to work-from-home, but I dislike having my camera on. That's due to the fact that I need to do something while listening to someone talk. It's a part of my ADHD that I have learned to control. This unfortunately causes problems. As I will end up doing something like a game or have music playing in the background. Both of which help me focus but that's a problem I am trying to work out right now.



Picture 5: Internet Speed Test Results



Picture 6: Zoom with Camera on

CONCLUSION

Closing out this lab, I honestly put this off far too long for how easy this assignment was. All of the information I already knew, minus the fact that Brave had a Tor browser. That I something I will most definitely be using more often. To address this mental problem, something I have been proactive about this semester, I have been just forcing myself to complete assignments. This has not only resulted in better grades, similar to what I found when I did this method during my associates degree but also has freed up quite a bit of time to have a life. Funnily enough, I am doing 5 classes and work 40+ hours a week so having school out of the way for the week allows me to find a work(school)/life balance. While I

briefly mentioned it in the respective breakpoint. I enjoyed the amount of control I had with my data with Brave so what will happen going forward is the slow shift to incorporate Brave into my daily searching.

REFERENCES

- [1] "Brave Search," *Brave Search*, 2021. <https://search.brave.com/search?q=string> (accessed Feb. 04, 2025).
- [2] "String - Google Search," *Google.com*, 2024. https://www.google.com/search?q=string&rlz=1C1ONGR_enUS1026US1026&oq=string&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqDggAEEUYJxg7GIAEGloFMg4IABBFGCcYOxiABBiKBTIGCAEQRRhAMhAIAhAAGJECGLEdGIAEGloFMgwIAxAGEMYgAQYigUyDagEEAAYQxiABBiKBTIMCAUQABhDGIAEGloFMgYIBhBFGDwyBggHEEUYPNIBCDEzNjVqMGo3qAIAAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8 (accessed Feb. 04, 2025).
- [3] *Brave.com*, 2025. <https://support.brave.com/hc/en-us/articles/360017989132-How-do-I-change-my-Privacy-Settings#web rtc> (accessed Feb. 04, 2025).
- [4] MyBib Contributors, "MyBib Citation Manager," *MyBib*.
- [5] R. Mitra, "*Lab 1: Reporting*," The University of Texas at San Antonio (2024). Last accessed: Feb. 2, 2025)

COLLABORATION

I worked alone.