

# SiliconSneaker2 User Documentation v0.4.2-alpha

---

## Table of Contents

- 1. Program Purpose
    - 1.1. Feature Summary
    - 1.2. History
  - 2. Installation
    - 2.1. Installing on Windows(64 bit)
    - 2.2. Installing on GNU/Linux(64 bit)
  - 3. Making FIT files Available On a PC
    - 3.1. From a watch
    - 3.2. From an online service
  - 4. Locating and Starting the Application
  - 5. Loading the Fit File
  - 6. Usage
    - 6.1. Using the application
    - 6.2. Troubleshooting
    - 6.3. Ending the application
  - 7. Online Support
    - 7.1. Issues
    - 7.2. Enhancements
  - 8. License
-

# 1. Program Purpose

The purpose of this program is to display graphs, a map, and summary information for activities generated by a GPS watch that stores files in the Fit Format.

Most Garmin watches and several other brands support the FIT format (ref: <https://medium.com/decathlondigital/gpx-tcx-fit-how-to-choose-the-best-file-extension-for-sport-activity-transfer-403487337c04>).

## 1.1. Feature Summary

- Trend graphs of pace, cadence, heartrate, altitude, temperature are provided.
- A map indicating position is provided via a GPS generated path.
- Zoom functions for the graphs and map.
- Support for multiple unit systems is provided.
- Individual measurement readings and position can be displayed in the graph and on the map.
- Text report on numerous measurements on a per-lap and per-activity basis.
- The program is GPL licensed and open-source.

## 1.2. History

SiliconSneaker2 is a new iteration of the original SiliconSneaker program rewritten in the Rust programming language. It retains much of the flavor of the original but makes some new design choices.

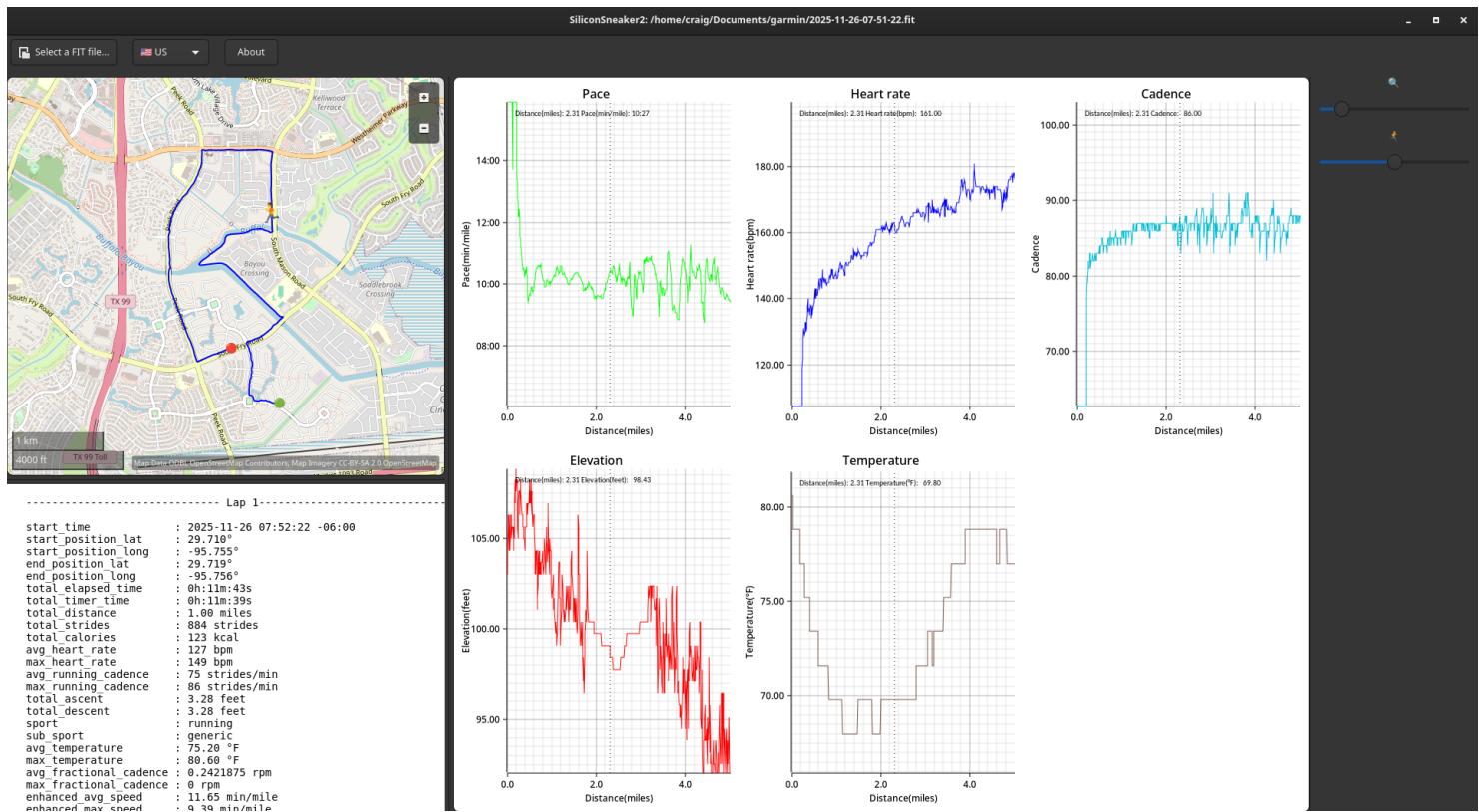


Figure 1. SiliconSneaker2's graphical user interface on Linux

## 2. Installation

Before you can start using SiliconSneaker2, you have to make it available on your computer.

There are a number of prerequisites in order to use this application.

- Builds are available for 64-bit versions of Microsoft Windows (10 and above). Linux must currently be built from source. MacOS/OSX builds are not available or supported.
- A 64-bit Intel-compatible processor.
- Administrator/root privileges are necessary for installation.
- A functioning Internet connection is necessary to view the map portion of the application.
- A USB port to transfer .FIT files to the PC or a means to download from an online service.
- Drivers
  - Windows: Devices that support the USB protocol are often recognized automatically on Windows after it downloads the appropriate drivers.
  - Linux: Most newer kernels contain the GARMIN\_GPS module as a driver. In addition to this, in order to affect transfers, the media transfer protocol (MTP) must be installed. For example on Debian Linux: sudo apt install libmtp-runtime



The latest release builds are available for download here:

<https://github.com/cprevallet/siliconsneaker2/releases>

SiliconSneaker2 is open source software. The actual program code for this software to view and modify is online at Github.

<https://github.com/cprevallet/siliconsneaker2>

### 2.1. Installing on Windows(64 bit)

As of this writing, there is no installation routine (e.g setup.exe on Windows) yet available. Installation is performed simply by downloading the compressed file 'SiliconSneaker2.Windows.x64.v0.4.2-alpha.zip' to a folder with read-write access and extracting it. The "My Documents" or "Downloads" folder under Windows are good choices (but not mandatory - any folder with read-write access will suffice).

Once the file is extracted (unzipped), installation is complete.

### 2.2. Installing on GNU/Linux(64 bit)

As of this writing, there are no compiled binaries available. See below for an example of compiling the program from source on Debian Linux.

A desktop application menu link will be created (under Accessories) to start SiliconSneaker2.

```
$ sudo apt install git cargo rustc
$ git clone https://github.com/cprevallet/siliconsneaker2
Cloning into 'siliconsneaker2'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 1017, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (1017/1017), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (408/408), done.
remote: Total 1017 (delta 428), reused 985 (delta 396), pack-reused 0 (from 0)
Receiving objects: 100% (1017/1017), 932.34 KiB | 2.92 MiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (428/428), done.
$ cd siliconsneaker2/
$ cargo build --release
    Compiling serde_core v1.0.228
    Compiling pkg-config v0.3.32
    Compiling winnow v0.7.13
    Compiling target-lexicon v0.13.3
<snip>
    Finished `release` profile [optimized] target(s) in 0.19s
$ sudo cp src/icons/siliconsneaker2.svg /usr/share/icons/hicolor/scalable/apps
$ sudo update-icon_caches
$ cp siliconsneaker2.desktop /usr/share/applications/
$ ./target/release/siliconsneaker2
<gui loads>
```

### 3. Making FIT files Available On a PC

Now that the program has been installed, SiliconSneaker2 needs information on your activity in the form of a Fit files generated from your sports watch. In general, Fit files may be made available in one of two ways - directly from a device or downloaded through an online service.

#### 3.1. From a watch

- Devices using a USB cable to download files is the modern, preferred configuration.
  - Connect your watch to the USB cable and ensure the cable is plugged into your computer and wait for your computer to recognize the device. Files may be loaded directly from the watch in this configuration.
  - On Windows the drivers will be located automatically but may take some time. The Fit files should be accessible at "Devices and drives".

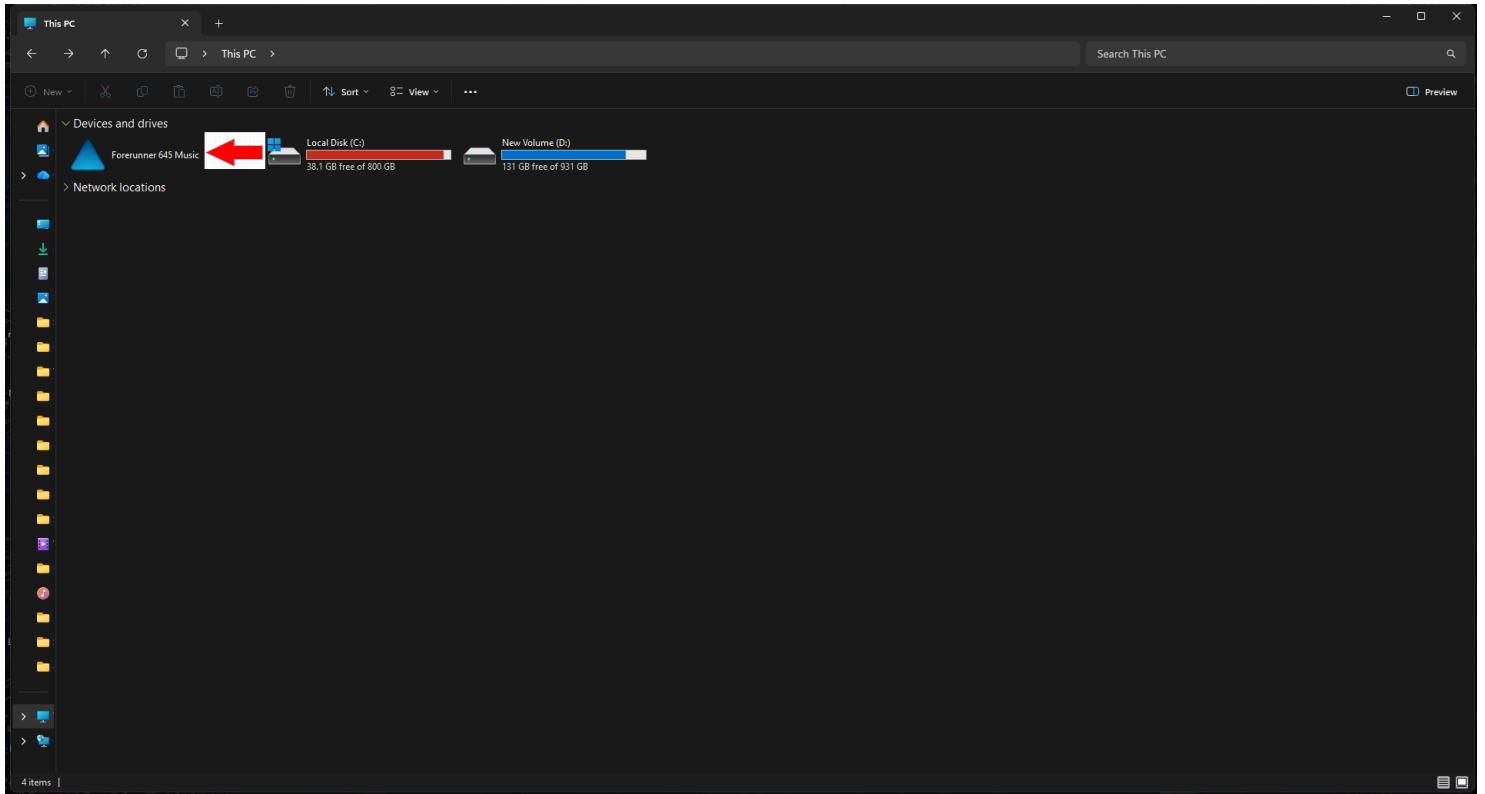


Figure 2. A connected watch in the Windows file manager.

- On Linux the Fit files should be accessible at /mnt/Primary/Garmin/Activity or similar. Under the Gnome desktop environment the file path might be: /run/user/1000/gvfs/mtp:host=091e\_4b48\_0000c7a5291e/Primary/Garmin/Activity as seen in the following picture.

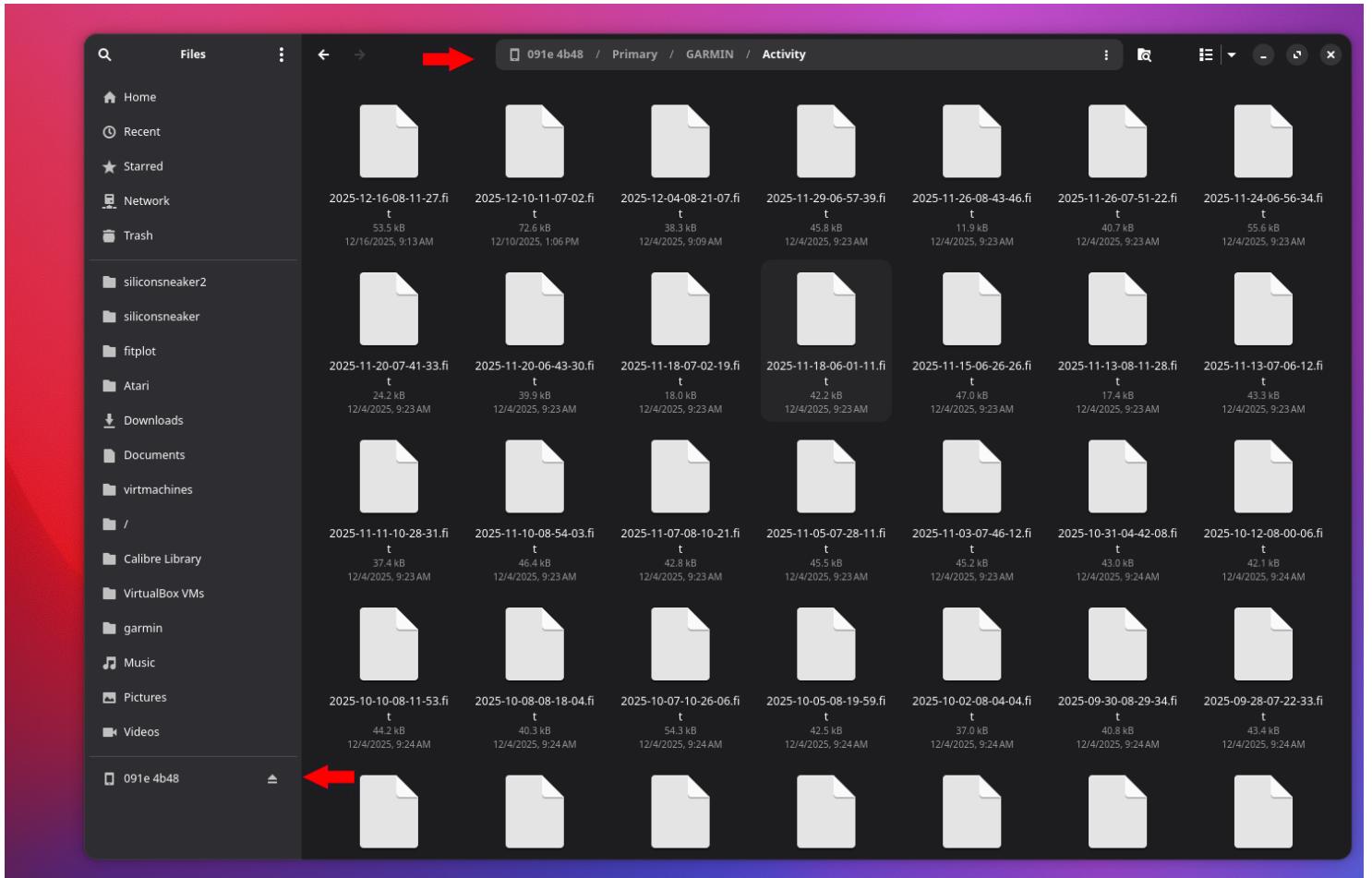


Figure 3. A connected watch in the Nautilus file manager on Gnome(Linux).

- Devices supporting this method (media transfer protocol over USB): Forerunner/Edge 10, 110, 210, 220, 620, 500, 510, 705, 800, 810, 1000, and 920XT. Newer Garmin devices support the USB option which tends to be less problematic than older Ant Agent transfers.
  - Devices using Ant Agent to download files: Forerunner 50, 60, 70, 310XT, 405, 405CX, 410, 610, 910, 910XT, and Garmin Swim
  - Devices using a docking cradle to download files: Forerunner/Edge 205 and 305

Instructions for moving a Fit file available to the PC from the device vary according to the manufacturer and model of the individual watch. Any description of the methods to connect given here will be, by necessity, incomplete. Additional information gladly accepted.

### 3.2. From an online service

#### 3.2.1. Strava

- Strava can export FIT files if they were originally FIT files. Go to the detail page for an activity. See figure.

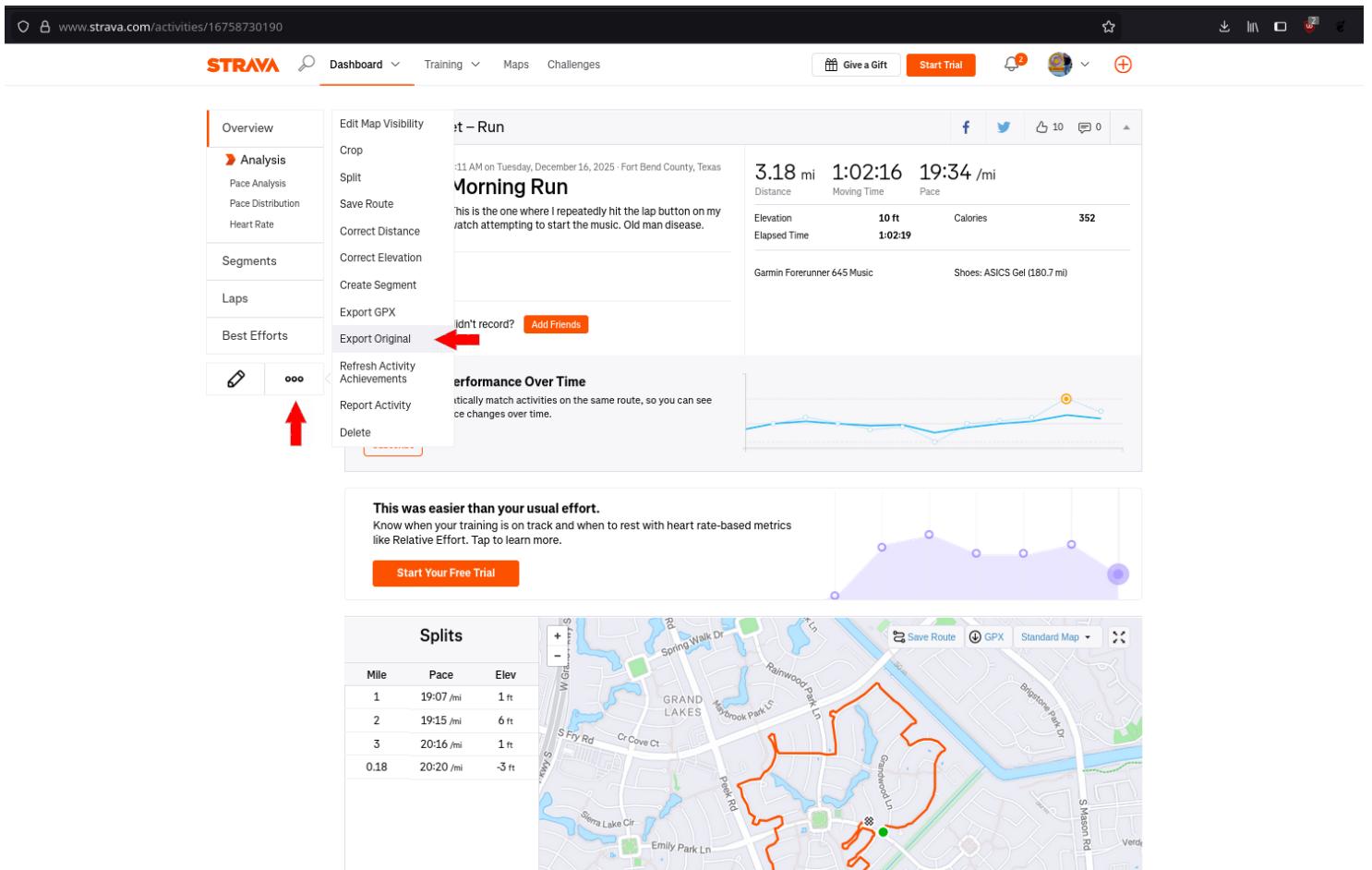


Figure 4. Exporting a Fit file from Strava.

### 3.2.2. Garmin Connect

- Garmin Connect can export FIT files if they were originally FIT files. Go to the detail page for an activity. See figure.

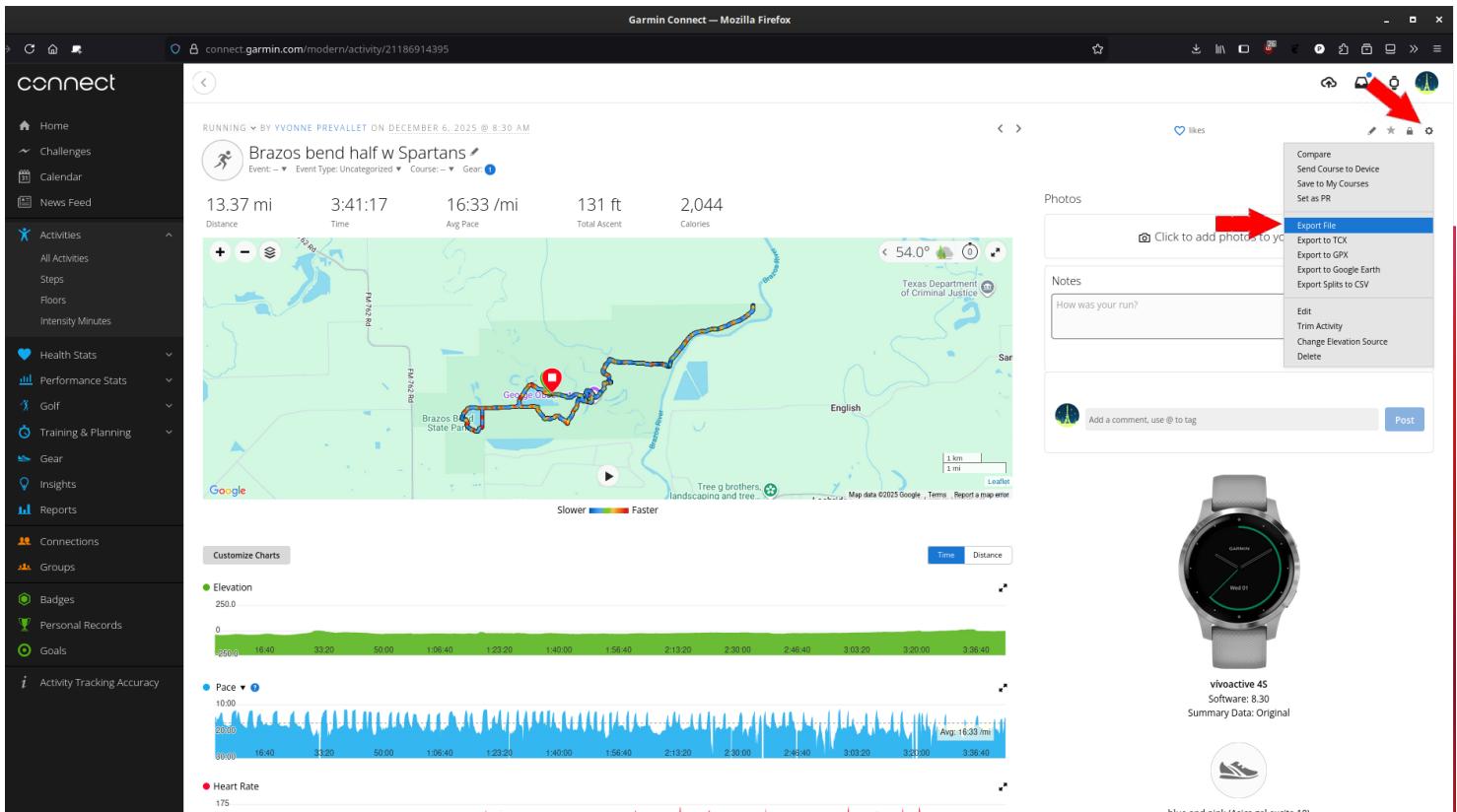


Figure 5. Exporting a Fit file from Garmin Connect..

## 4. Locating and Starting the Application

On Linux, there should be a menu item to start the application after installation.

On Windows there will be no menu item or icon (yet, until I build a setup program). To start the program, you must drill down to the file siliconesneaker2.exe. It will be located within the directory you chose in the installation step under the bin folder. Double click on the .exe to start but read the tip below first.

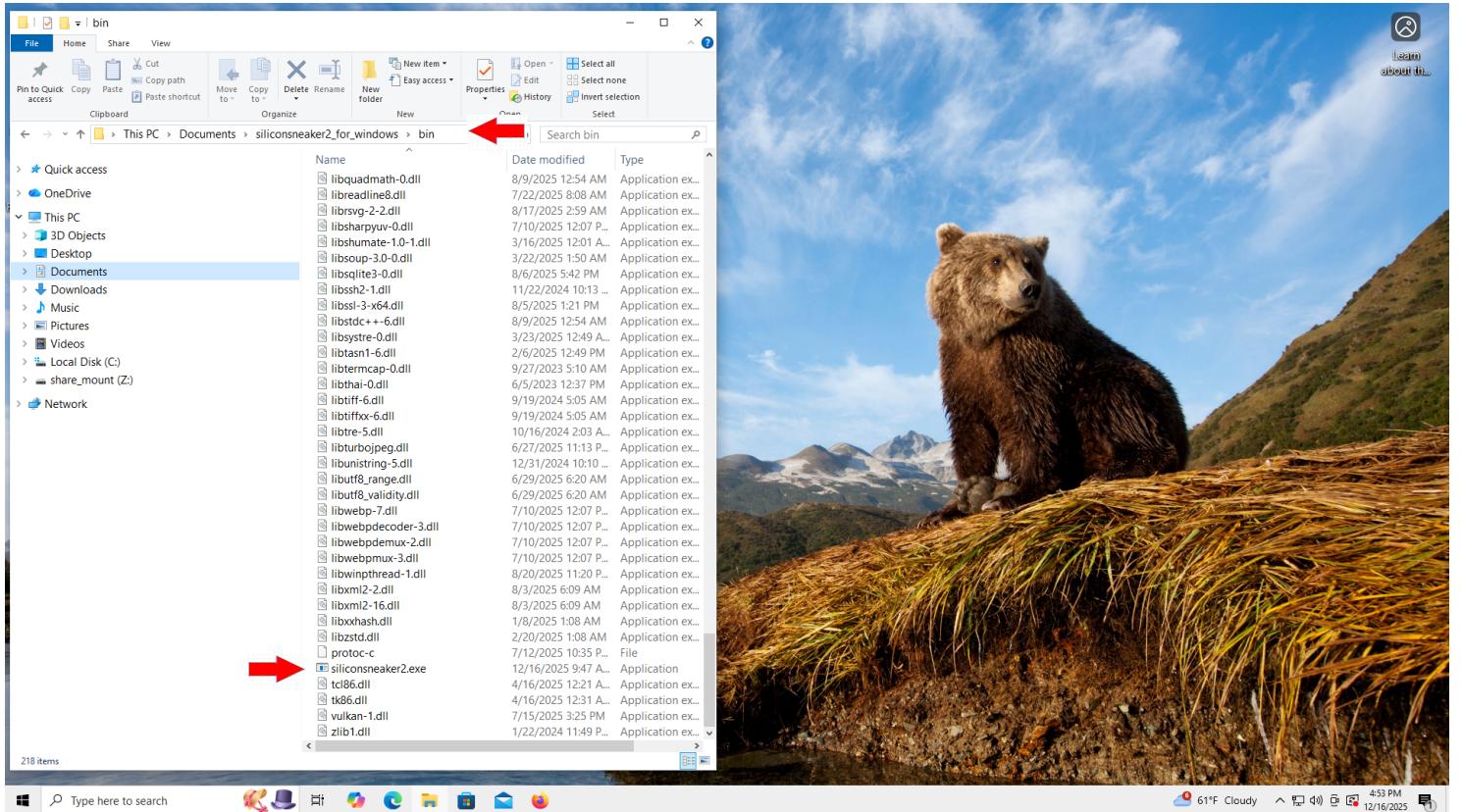


Figure 6. Locate the file under the bin folder. This bear wishes he owned a sports watch.

SiliconSneaker2 is currently only offered as an unsigned binary (a signing certificate costs money which is a problem for a small hobby project). As a result, when running the program under Windows, Windows Defender will issue a warning about an unrecognized app. If you have downloaded this from Github, it should be safe to ignore this warning. Click "More Info" and "Run" to start SiliconSneaker2.



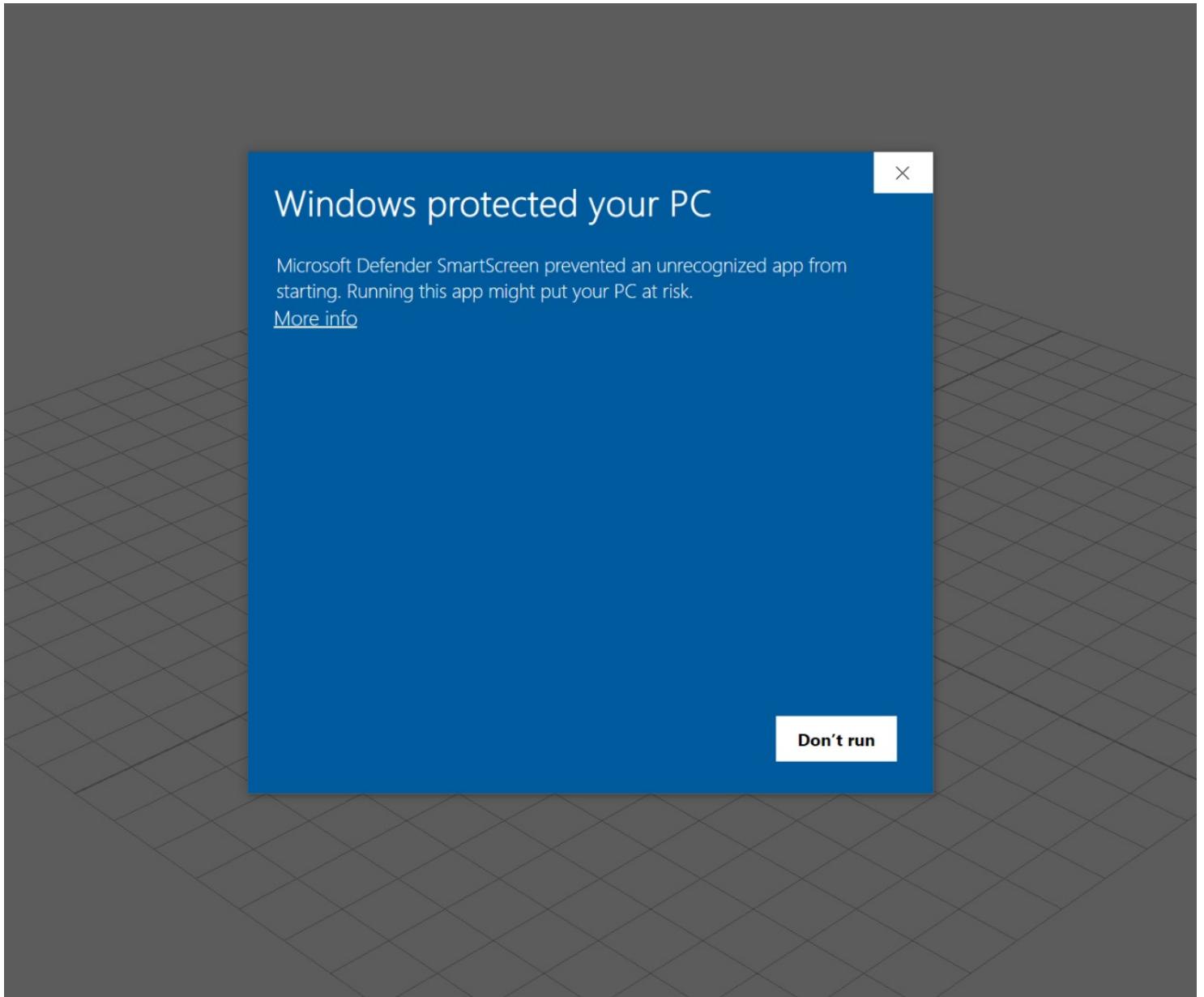


Figure 7. Windows Defender warning about an unrecognized application.

## 5. Loading the Fit File

Now that the files are available to the PC by whatever means. It's time to load them into SiliconSneaker2. It's also a good time to select your preferred unit system. It can be changed anytime before or after a file has been loaded. Side note: SiliconSneaker2 has only read access to the FIT file and cannot change it.

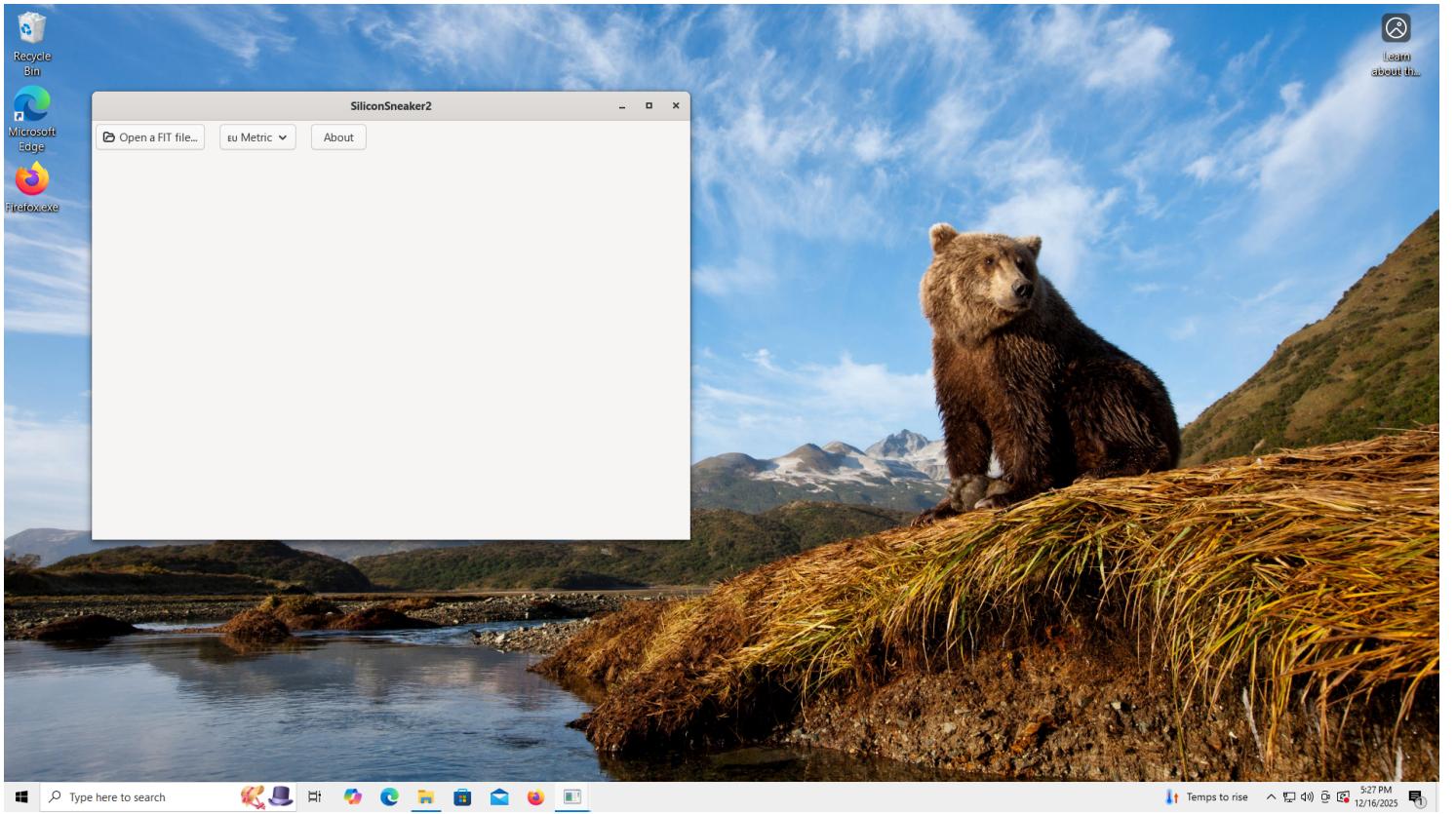


Figure 8. Initial program screen. Click on the Open button to load a Fit file.

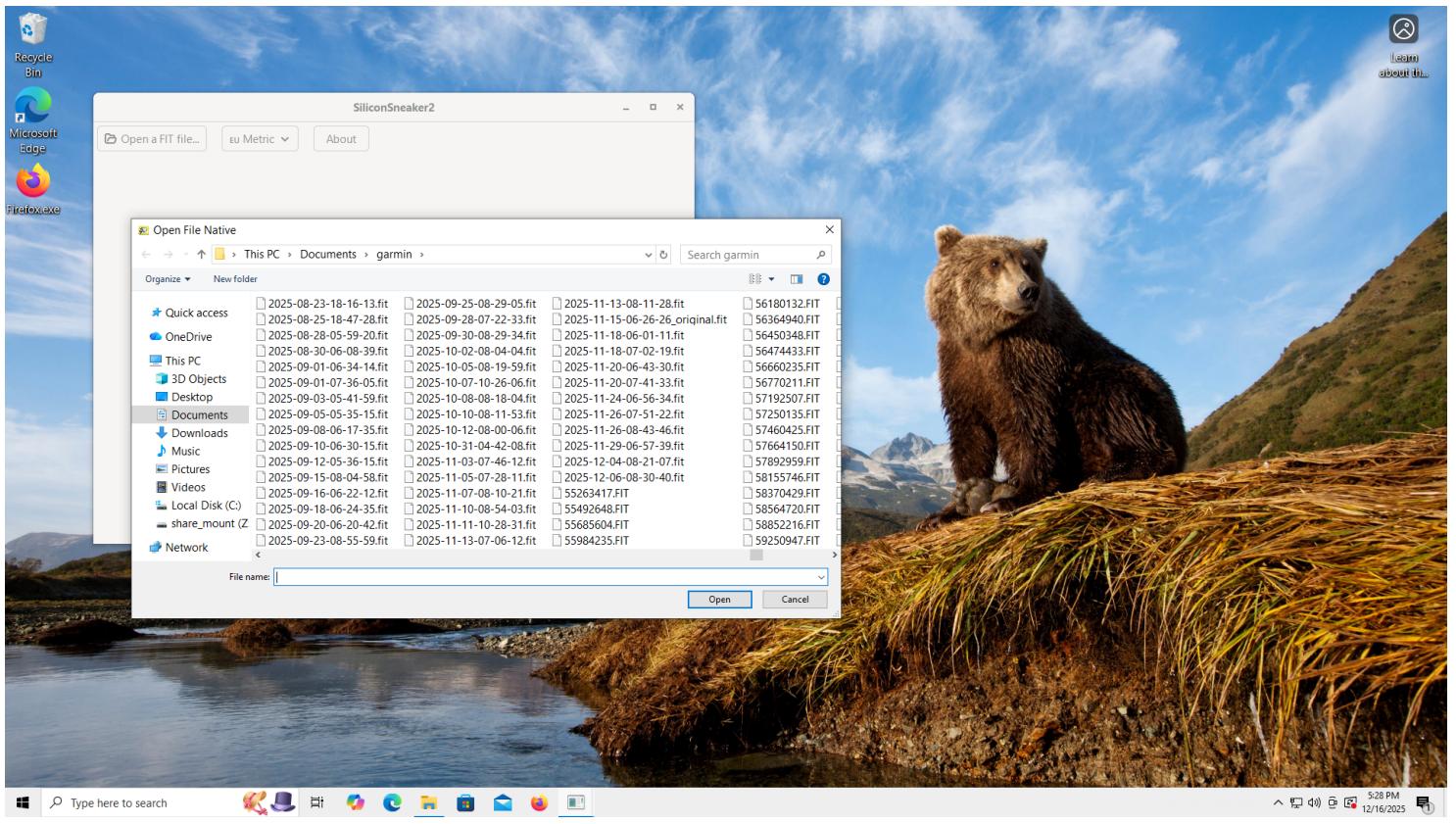
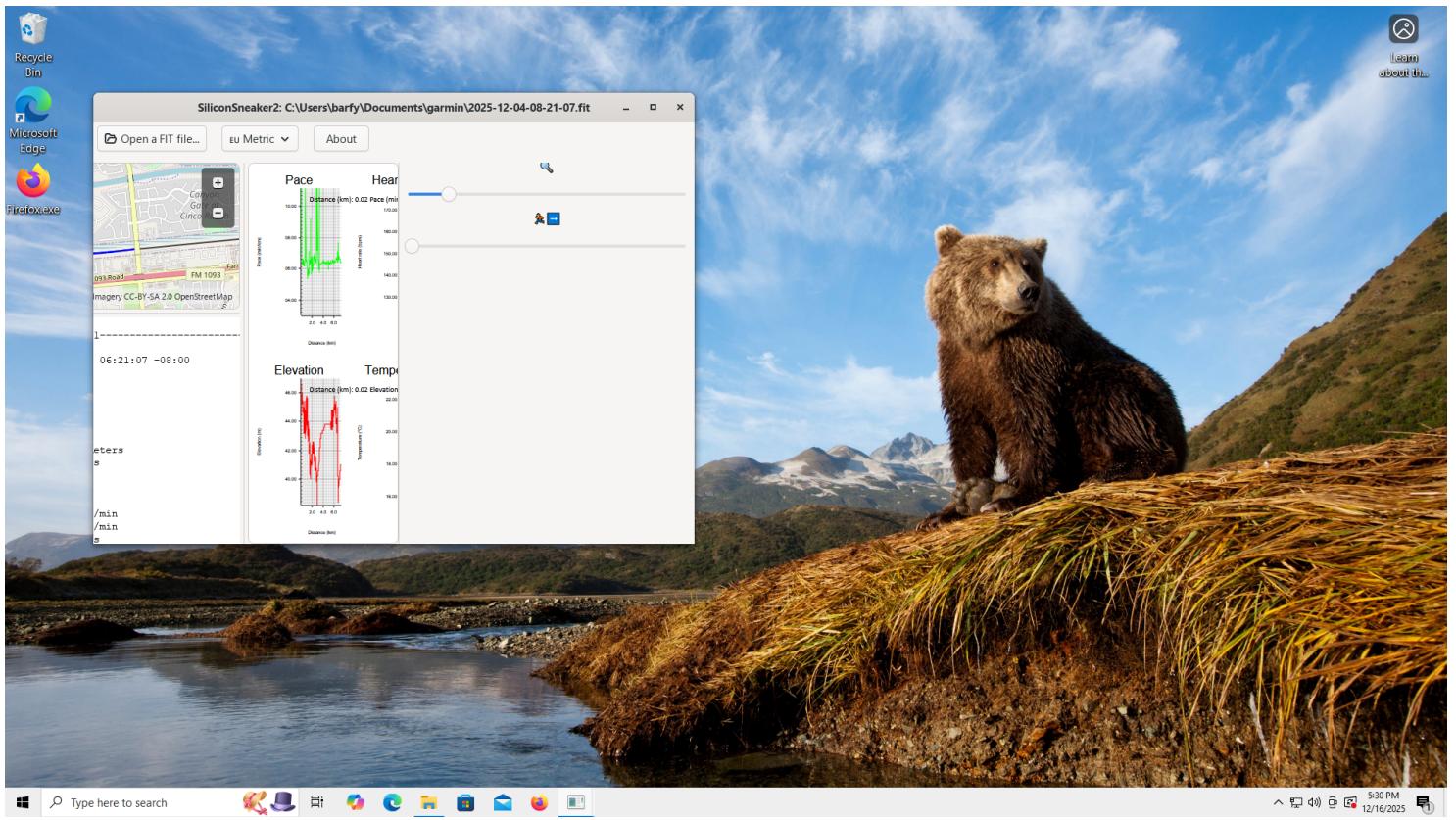


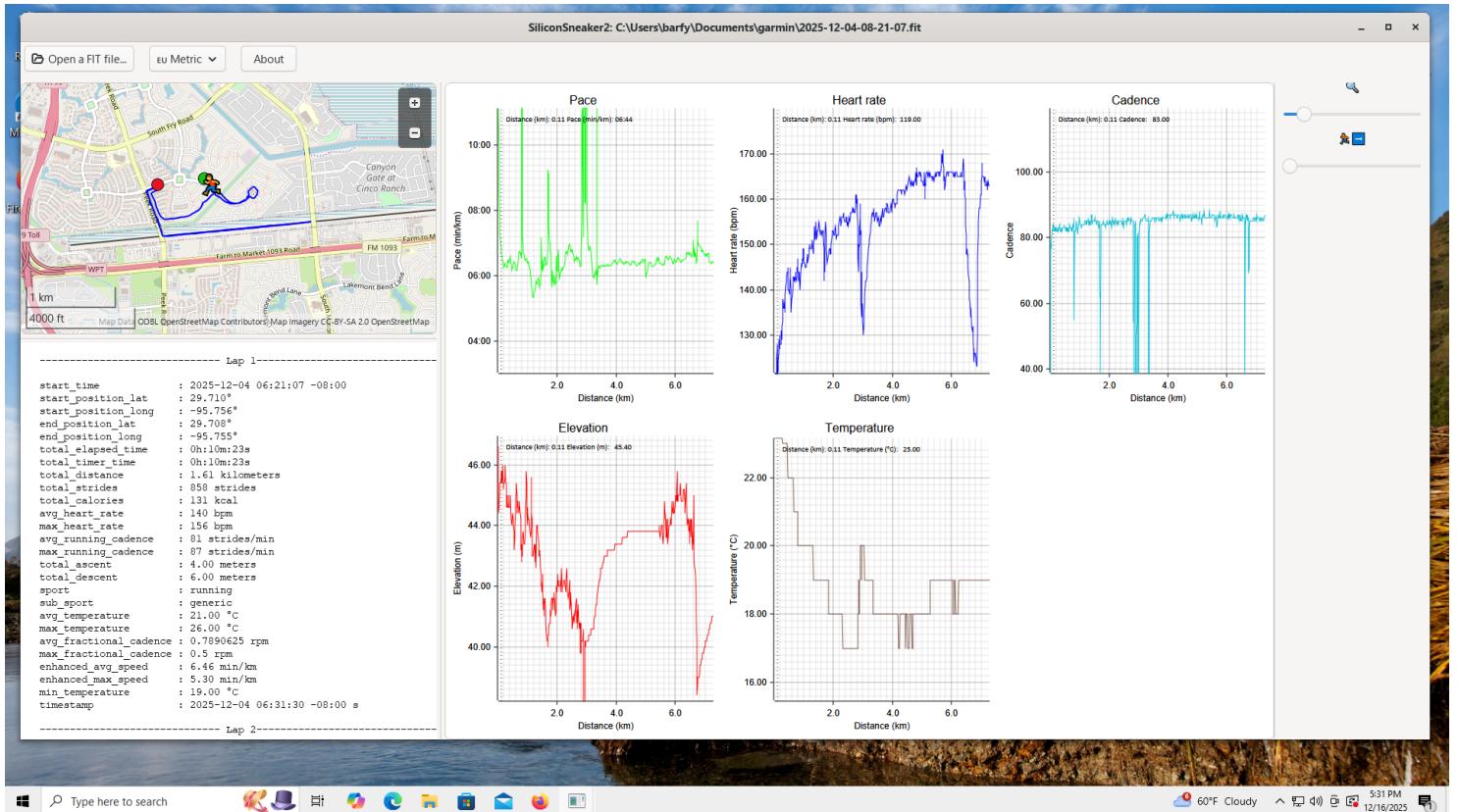
Figure 9. Selecting a Fit file to load.



After the file loads, don't worry if the program window looks messy (compacted) on the first run. Simply resize the window so that it looks good on your monitor. SiliconSneaker2 will retain your layout preferences on the next run. It's also a good time to select your preferred unit system. The preferred unit system will also be retained on subsequent program runs.



*Figure 10. Don't panic! Resize the window and carry on.*



*Figure 11. O.K. that's better. We're up and running. Goodbye Mr. Bear.*

At this point, explore the interface. Enjoy.

## 6. Usage

### 6.1. Using the application



Hovering your mouse for about a half second over various parts of the interface will display useful tooltips describing the function of the interface widgets. Let them guide your way!



You may not want to see all of the information at the same time. The three individual "panes" of the windows may be resized so that any portion of the interface is hidden from view. For example if you are just interested in the map function. It may be resized to fill the entire window (including the controls on the left). Simply drag a hidden window pane's edge to restore the view within it. Similarly the Summary and Graph panes may be hidden or displayed as preferred. The program will remember these choices.



The number of graphs displayed is dependent on the data from watch sensors. Currently supported sensors include position, heart rate, barometric altimeter, and temperature. "Missing" graphs are usually an indication that the watch doesn't have a particular required sensor to supply the data.



The slider controls may be moved either via the mouse or keyboard. The arrow keys and page up and page down keys control the movement from the keyboard.



Use the top slider to zoom the graphs' y-axis.



Use the bottom slider to advance through a run. Note the indications on the map and graphs.



Toggling between US and Metric unit systems will redisplay the graphs and summary information in the newly selected unit system.



If your fitness activity is dated to one of several holidays, the runner marker on the map will change to something indicate the holiday.

### 6.2. Troubleshooting



On first use, SiliconSneaker2, creates a file cache to hold map "tiles" (provided by OpenStreetMap) in order to display the map. Initial retrieval of the tiles can take several seconds even on a fast (1GB) internet connection. Repeated activities in the same location will use the cached tiles for faster performance. Please be patient initially. Due to this design, it may be possible to use SiliconSneaker2 without an internet connection for subsequent activities in the same location.



It may occasionally be necessary to force the map to redraw. Zooming in or out is often enough to make this happen. Alternatively, resize the map pane.



For some watches under Windows 10 it may be necessary to install Garmin Express in order that the watch be recognized as a USB devices. Details here: (<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/troubleshoot/windows-client/backup-and-storage/garmin-usb-devices-not-working>)

### 6.3. Ending the application

There is no dedicated exit button. Simply close the window (Alt-F4 or Window Control).

## 7. Online Support

### 7.1. Issues

The tracking system at Github will be used to report problems and suggest enhancements. As SiliconSneaker2 runs under a variety of versions, operating systems, identifying the operating environment is a key to understanding and resolving problems. Please use the About button and note the version + build-time. Report this and the operating system when submitting your issue.

- <https://github.com/cprevallet/siliconsneaker2/issues>

### 7.2. Enhancements

The above tracking system will also be used to identify potential enhancements and improvements. If you have an idea for improvements, actual source code speaks louder than words. Let's collaborate! Create a fork of the SiliconSneaker2 source code, update it with your changes and issue a pull request at:

- <https://github.com/cprevallet/siliconsneaker2>

## 8. License

This software is governed by the following software license:

Copyright 2025 Craig S. Prevallet

```
* Permission is granted to copy, use, and distribute for any commercial
* or noncommercial purpose in accordance with the requirements of
* version 2.0 of the GNU General Public license.
*
* This package is distributed in the hope that it will be useful,
* but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of
* MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the
* GNU General Public License for more details.
*
* You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License
* along with this package; if not, write to the Free Software
* Foundation, Inc., 51 Franklin St, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1301 USA
*
* On Debian systems, the complete text of the GNU General
* Public License can be found in '/usr/share/common-licenses/GPL-2'.
```

Portions of the software embedded in this software are governed by the following software licenses:

plotters, fitparser

The MIT License (MIT)

Copyright (c) plotters Fabio A. Correa, Hao Hou, Aaron Erhardt  
Copyright (c) fitparser stadelmanma

Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy  
of this software and associated documentation files (the "Software"), to deal  
in the Software without restriction, including without limitation the rights  
to use, copy, modify, merge, publish, distribute, sublicense, and/or sell  
copies of the Software, and to permit persons to whom the Software is  
furnished to do so, subject to the following conditions:

The above copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in  
all copies or substantial portions of the Software.

THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR  
IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY,  
FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE  
AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM, DAMAGES OR OTHER  
LIABILITY, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM,  
OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE OR THE USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN  
THE SOFTWARE.

gtk4, libshumate

GNU LESSER GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE Version 2.1  
<https://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/lgpl-2.1.txt>

Copyright (c) libshumate The Gnome Foundation

All code in any directories or subdirectories that end with \*.html or \\*.css is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International 4.0 License, which full text can be found here: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>.

Last updated 2025-12-17 13:02:23 -0600