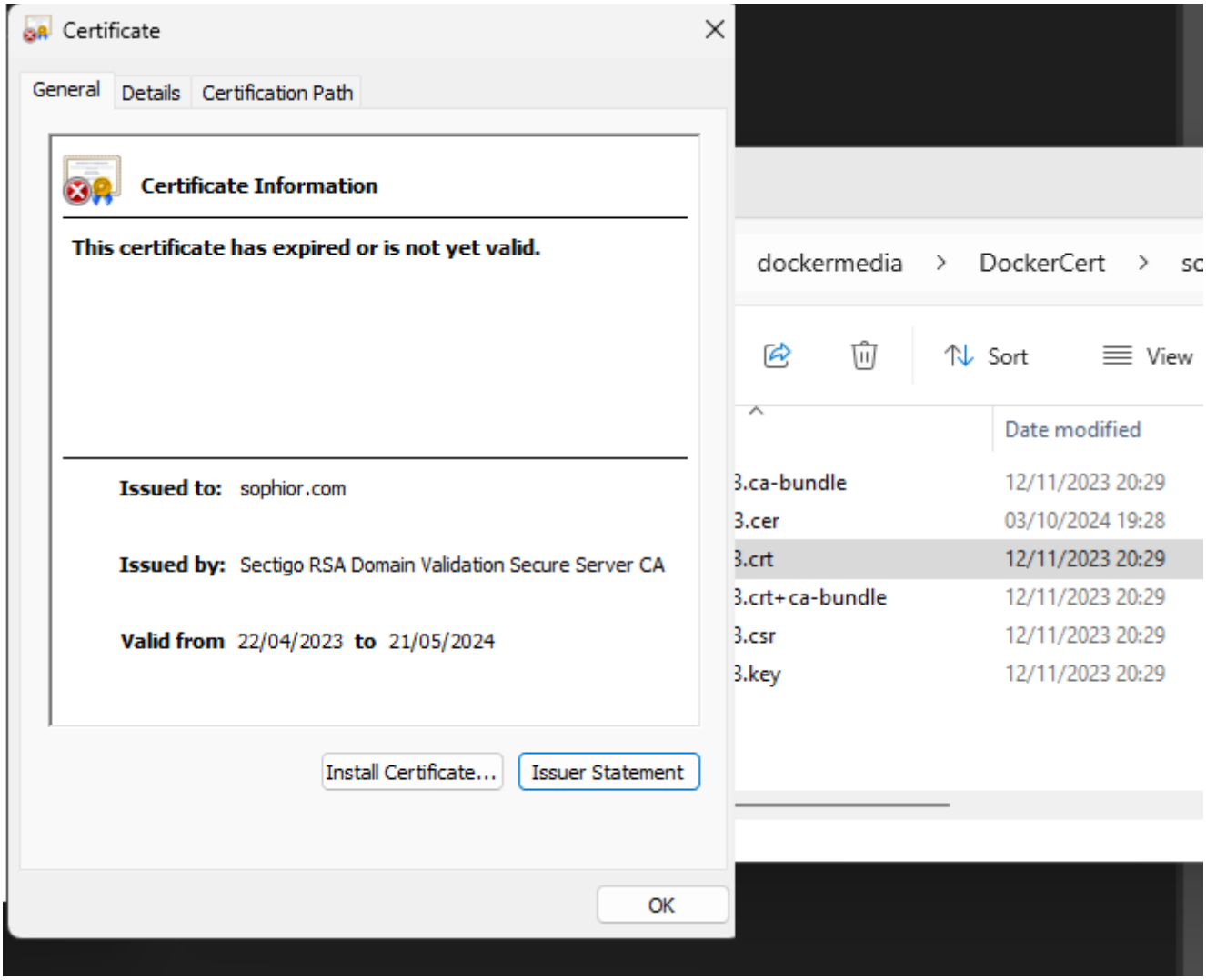
Windows

- Transform .crt to .cer file
- RDP file autologin
- Recover data on catastrophic loss
- Change Remote Desktop port
- Passwordless login
- Make windows like it used to be (Windows 11 start menu etc)
- SMB (fileshare) is slow / capped to 10Mbit
- Turn off web search in start menu

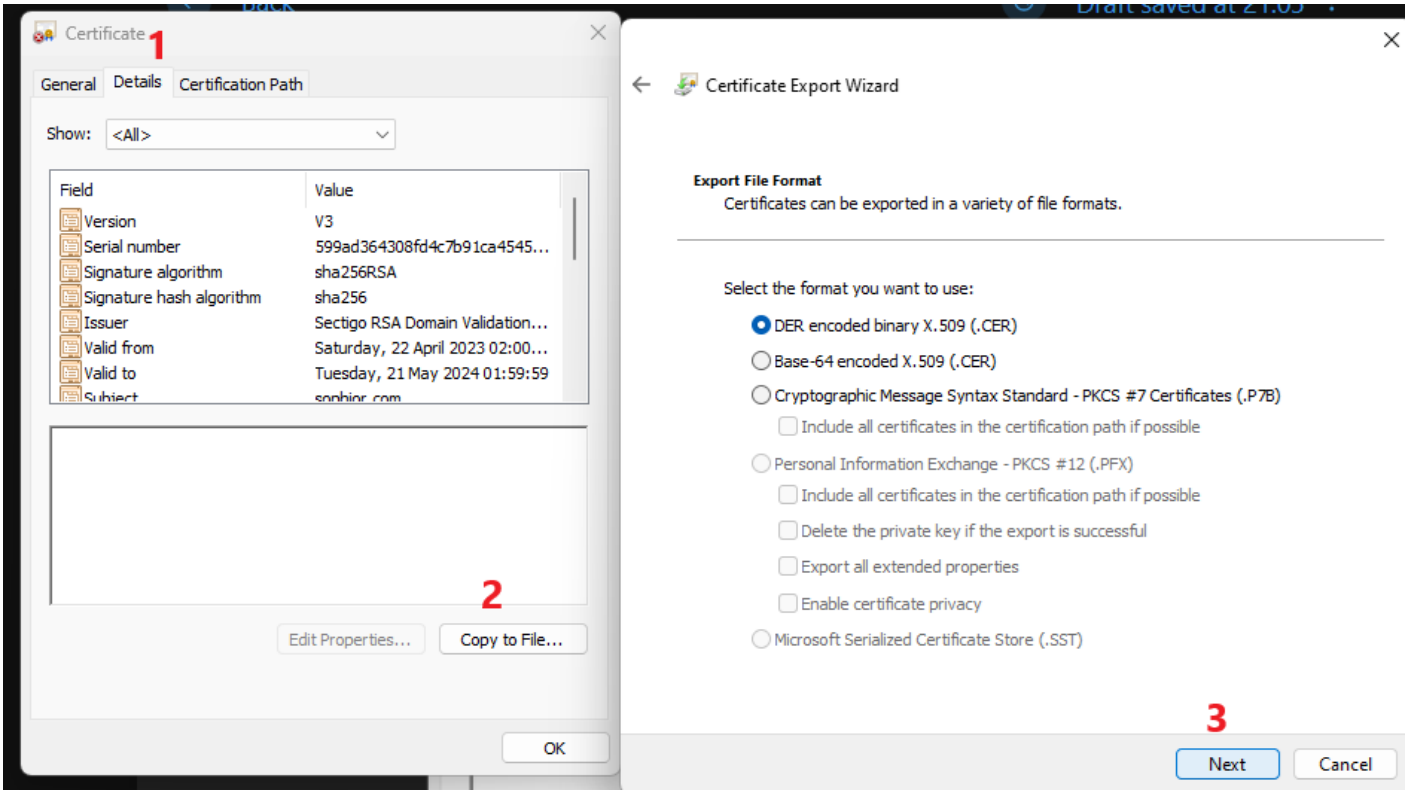
Transform .crt to .cer file

This is a short reminder to go from one to another format in windows.

1. Locate your crt file
2. double click it, it should open the details of the certificate



3. Go to details, and "Copy to File..." a dialog will prompt which format to generate and where to store it


Certificate
1
General
Details
Certification Path
Show:
<All>
Field
Value
Version
V3
Serial number
599ad364308fd4c7b91ca4545...
Signature algorithm
sha256RSA
Signature hash algorithm
sha256
Issuer
Sectigo RSA Domain Validation...
Valid from
Saturday, 22 April 2023 02:00...
Valid to
Tuesday, 21 May 2024 01:59:59
2
Edit Properties...
Copy to File...
OK
Certificate Export Wizard
Export File Format
Certificates can be exported in a variety of file formats.
Select the format you want to use:
DER encoded binary X.509 (.CER)
Base-64 encoded X.509 (.CER)
Cryptographic Message Syntax Standard - PKCS #7 Certificates (.P7B)
Include all certificates in the certification path if possible
Personal Information Exchange - PKCS #12 (.PFX)
Include all certificates in the certification path if possible
Delete the private key if the export is successful
Export all extended properties
Enable certificate privacy
Microsoft Serialized Certificate Store (.SST)
3
Next
Cancel

RDP file autologin

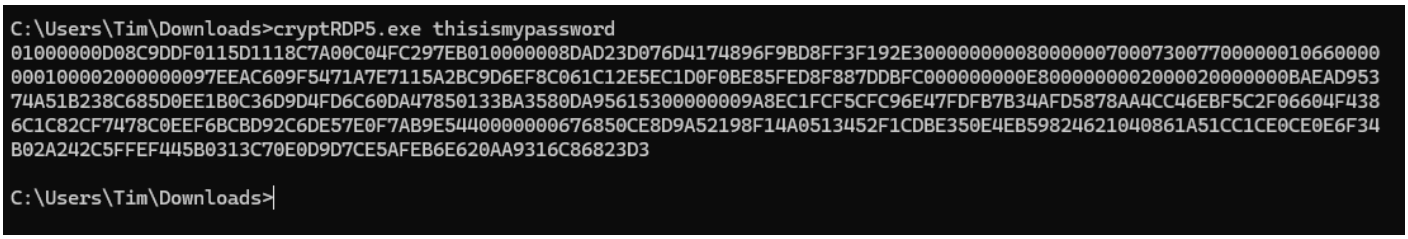
For our macincloud accounts, it was cumbersome to always manually login without copy-paste ability into the session.

You will need to edit the .rdp file and generate a passsword hash with a program from the internet.

- Either use POwershell:

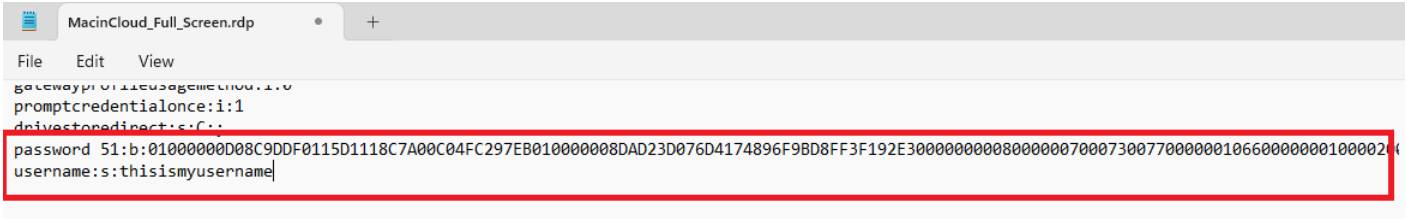
  ```
  ("MySuperSecretPassword!" | ConvertTo-SecureString -AsPlainText -Force) | ConvertFrom-SecureString;
  ```

- Or Get CryptRDP5
  - Get the program cryptRDP5.exe
  - In the location, open a command prompt to generate your password hash



3. Open the RDP file with notepad and add two lines

```
password 51:b:yourhash
username:s:yourpasword
```



4. Save the file and click it - you now should've bypassed the login

Recover data on catastrophic loss

For some reason, something went wrong and corrupted my complete USB-controller.

Booting into the BIOS or USB recovery disk, however, the keyboard and mouse worked fine.

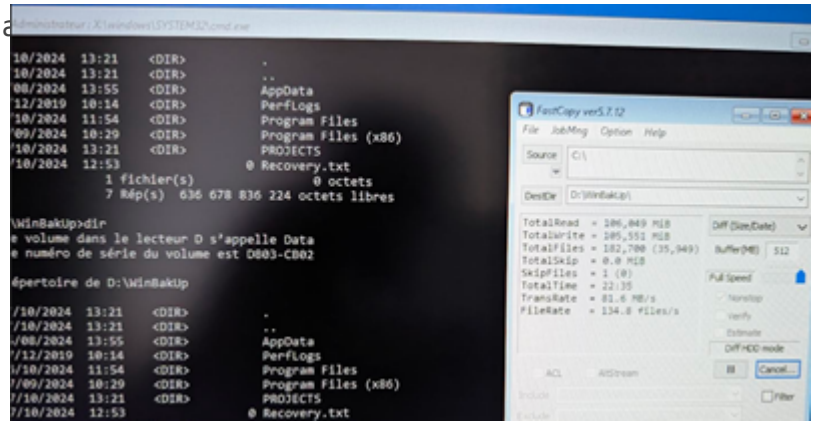
Booting into the recovery USB drive (see Create installation media) I've tried using dism (to install and reinstall drivers) and forcing safe-mode. Which all gave the same result: no control over the desktop. Other creative ways, but this didn't result in success.

The system didn't have an active RDP host - so literally we were unable to get back into it. Luckely it has a 2-drive setup (one fast "windows" drive and a large "storage" drive).

Recover data

If you have another PC (to create your USB drive), install portableapps on it and install the application FastCopy on it in a subdirectory.
(you can boot into the recovery console, unplug the USB drive, install portable apps and then plug it in again and "dir" to the application folder)

Then use the console to navigate to the path - in my case only the 64-bit version of the applications worked, and I had to "cd" into the path in order to launch it by typing the name. You then should get the application jumping open and you can copy over your files. USB is working, so you could a



This should allow you to copy over your files.

Reinstallation of windows

When you reinstall windows onto an existing installation, there will be a windows.old folder. According to the documentation it allows to "revert back", but I would rely on it.

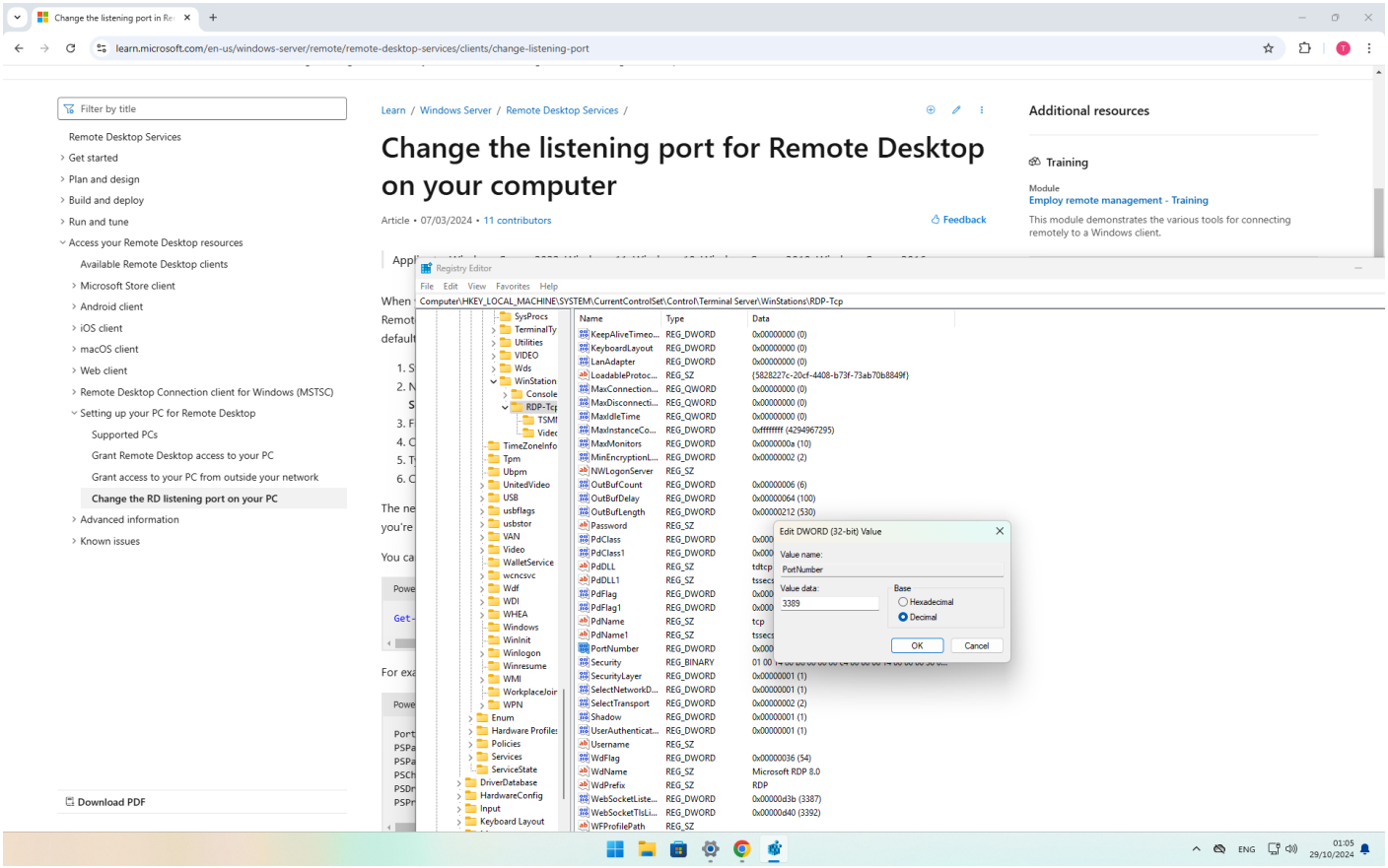
What about the USB failure

Mouse and keyboard worked fine, until Windows 10 fetched updates and it gave up again. So we've installed Windows 11 and configured VPN and remote desktop access to avoid this situation.

Change Remote Desktop port

Regedit

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server\WinStations\RDP-Tcp
```

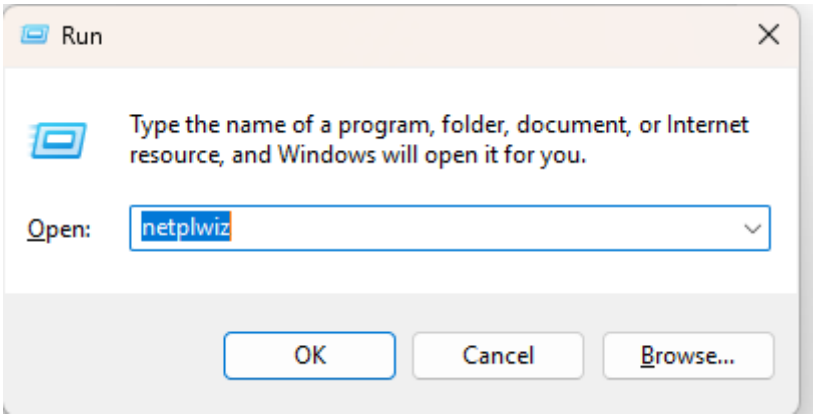


Passwordless login

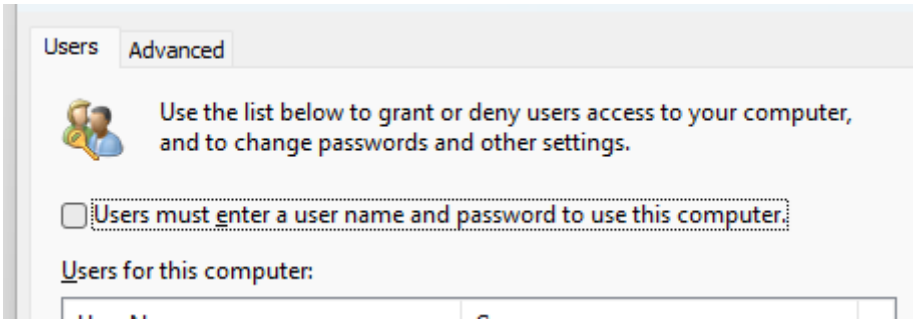
Set DevicePasswordLessBuildVersion to 0

```
Computer\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\PasswordLess\Device
```

run netplwiz



and uncheck

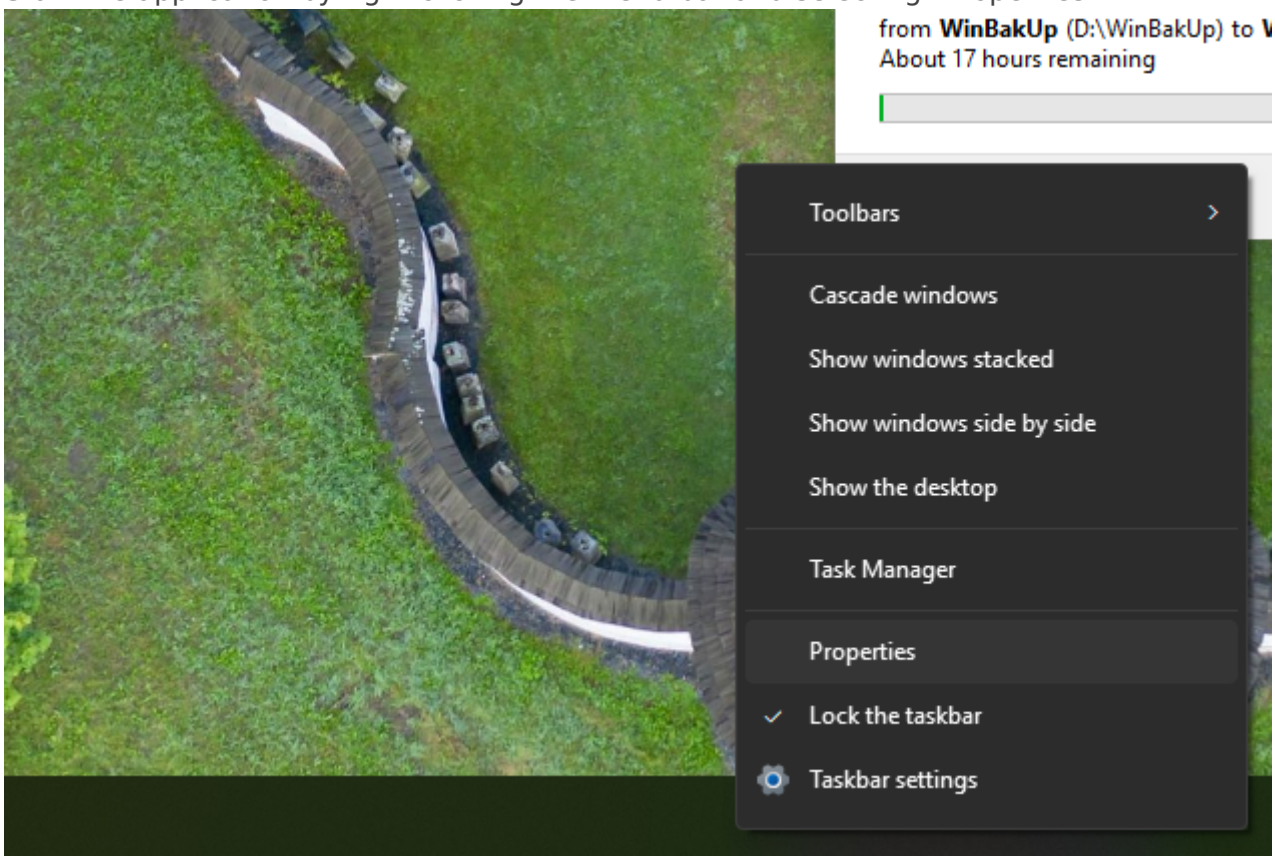


Make windows like it used to be (Windows 11 start menu etc)

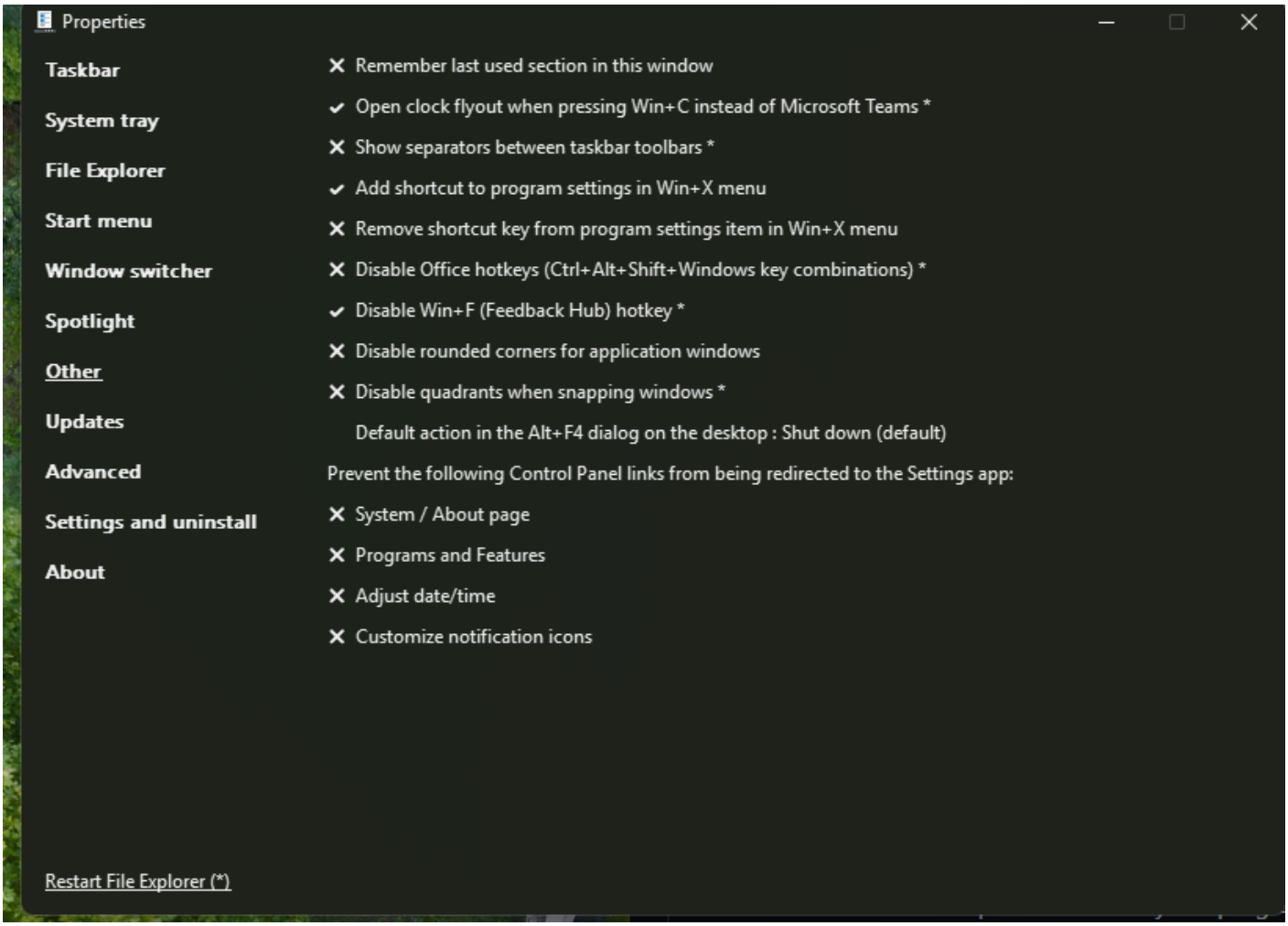
Windows 11 feels nice, but the start-menu and context menu integrations always get in the way.

The following app allows to completely set the behaviors to your hand and remove the annoying "features"

1. Install ExplorerPatcher from here https://github.com/valinet/ExplorerPatcher
2. Install as administrator
3. Start the application by right-clicking the menu bar and selecting "Properties"



4. Configure as you like


Properties
Taskbar
System tray
File Explorer
Start menu
Window switcher
Spotlight
Other
Updates
Advanced
Settings and uninstall
About
Remember last used section in this window
Open clock flyout when pressing Win+C instead of Microsoft Teams *
Show separators between taskbar toolbars *
Add shortcut to program settings in Win+X menu
Remove shortcut key from program settings item in Win+X menu
Disable Office hotkeys (Ctrl+Alt+Shift+Windows key combinations) *
Disable Win+F (Feedback Hub) hotkey *
Disable rounded corners for application windows
Disable quadrants when snapping windows *
Default action in the Alt+F4 dialog on the desktop : Shut down (default)
Prevent the following Control Panel links from being redirected to the Settings app:
System / About page
Programs and Features
Adjust date/time
Customize notification icons
Restart File Explorer (*)

SMB (fileshare) is slow / capped to 10Mbit

Open powershell as administrator:

```
Set-SmbClientConfiguration -EnableBandwidthThrottling 0 -EnableLargeMtu 1
```

Read more:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\LanmanWorkstation\Parameters
```

EnableSecuritySignature → should be 0

RequireSecuritySignature → should be 0

Turn off web search in start menu

regedit

```
Computer\HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Search
```

Create DWORD:

- BingSearchEnabled=0
- CortanaConsent=0