# Cautions in OS Experimentation

In approaching loading Operating Systems some caution is prudent

There are things you can do to mitigate your risk

Plan your actions to get the outcome you need

This investigation is not complete, it will evolve

As usual, ask questions at any time, all questions are good

# Experimentation is Not Without Risk

Processes discussed involve one way trips, and is not trivial:

- Irreversibly repartitioning your system disk
- Effectively wiping all information on the disk during the install
- Recovery of information easily, is very unlikely

Bricking your computer is a credible possibility

Permanent data loss is also possible

**For preference, experiment on a computer you don't depend on**

If you must use a computer you depend on, then take precautions

- **Disk Image your computer first so you can restore it**
- **Back your data up if stored on the C: drive (Ongoing, don't do that)**

# Tools You Need to Hand

**A Disk Image based Backup/Restore Tool**

- Free tools for Windows are drying up
  - For backup, Macrium Reflect would be my choice
    - Home Annual Plan 1PC for US$49.99
    - One Time Purchase 1PC for $79.99
  - Ashampoo Backup Pro 25 seems OK, look out for specials
    - Works OK, I bought mine of a 2 for 1 special, about US$15
  - AOMEI has free Nagware that looks OK:
    - AOMEI Backupper

**Use the tool to create an image of your system disk before you start**

# Tools You Need to Hand

**Disk Partitioning Tool**

There are some free tools still:

Windows internal tool is badly crippled, but might do sometimes

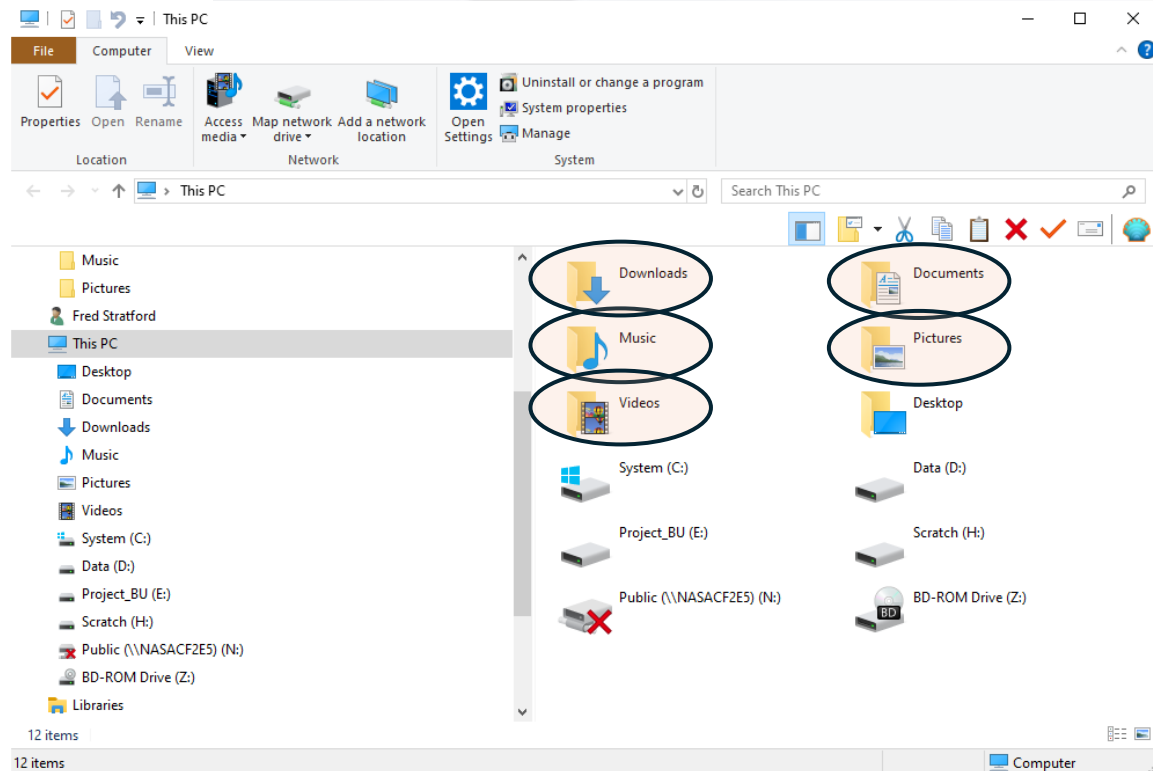GParted runs under Linux or stand-alone (under Linux)

AOMEI Partition Assistant

Free version won't run standalone but will under Windows To Go

**Use it to perform partitioning not supported by the install processes**

# Things to Check Before You Start

## Are there files of importance on your disk 0?



These folders live on your disk 0 unless you have consciously changed them – Who knows that could change them??

Windows programs put files here unless you change that
If you overwrite your disk 0 then these files are gone!

## Make sure you have redundant & secure copies of these files
## Nothing special needed here – A file copy to a USB stick will do
## Make it your habit to maintain redundant copies anyway!

# Some Other Things That Make this Safer

✓ Choose a suitable PC for your task, a dispensable unit. **Ideally not your daily drive**
✓ Use UEFI/GPT rather than BIOS/MBR if you can
  - BIOS/MBR will work but UEFI/GPT is better in every way
✓ Make sure that your Tools are usable and to hand
✓ Have your software licences to hand, on paper as a minimum
  - The really prepared keep these as text files on a USB stick, for convenience
✓ Don't do anything until you can put your hand on your backups and know how to use them
✓ Secure Boot is entirely doable for both Windows and Linux
  - The degree of secure boot you get depends on the hardware capability
  - Secure Boot does provide an additional layer of protection against malware attack
✓ Check if you currently have BitLocker enabled
  - **BitLocker is a complication, turn BitLocker off, as a precaution measure**
✓ For preference use wired Internet, if not have your WiFi details to hand
  - The really prepared keep these as txt files on a USB stick, for convenience
✓ **If you have checked these boxes, you can reasonably safely proceed**

# Questions