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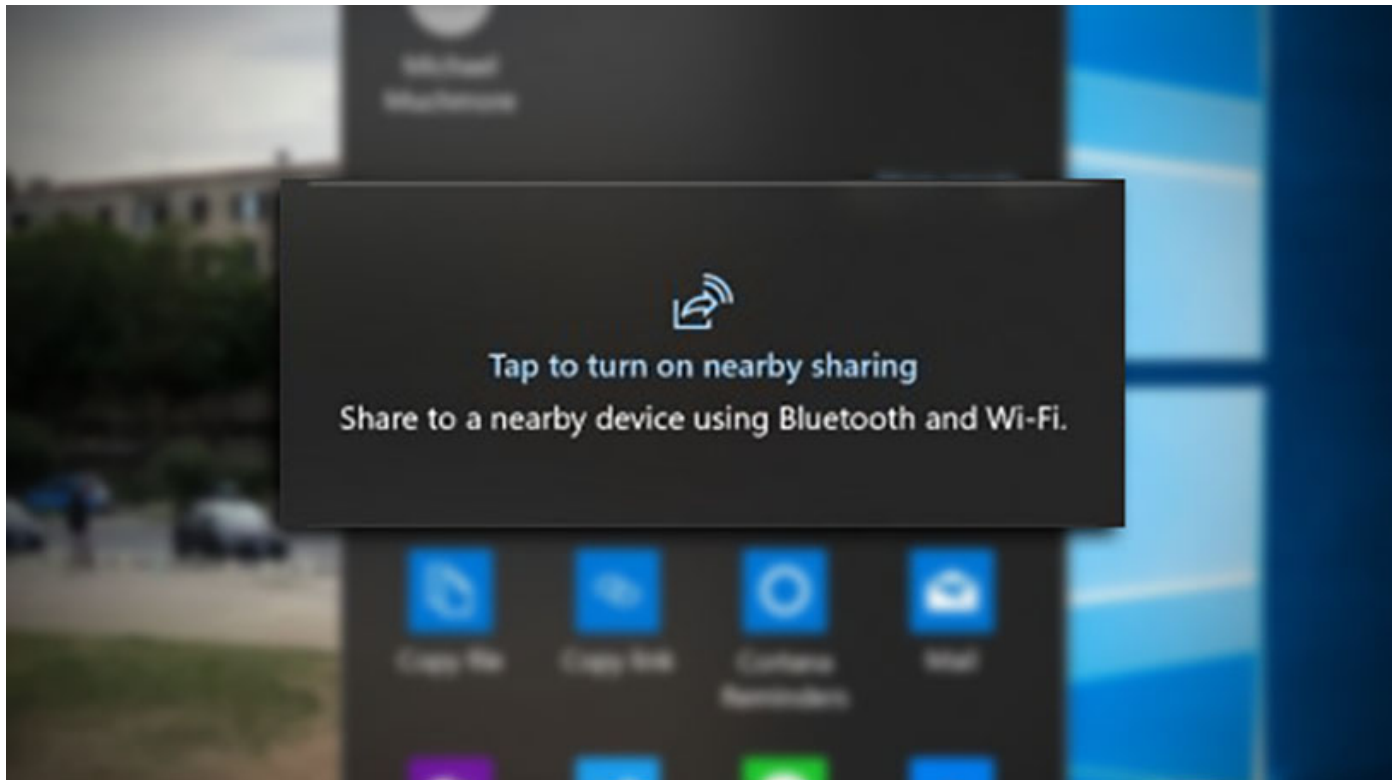
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How to Use Nearby Sharing in Windows 10

Nearby Sharing in the Windows 10 April 2018 update sends files with minimum hassle. No emailing, message attachments, or plugging and unplugging USB drives.

By [Michael Muchmore](#)

May 4, 2018



I've long been a fan of Apple's AirDrop feature, which lets you send a photo, file, or website address to anyone nearby, even if you're not connected to the internet. Now Windows users can enjoy the



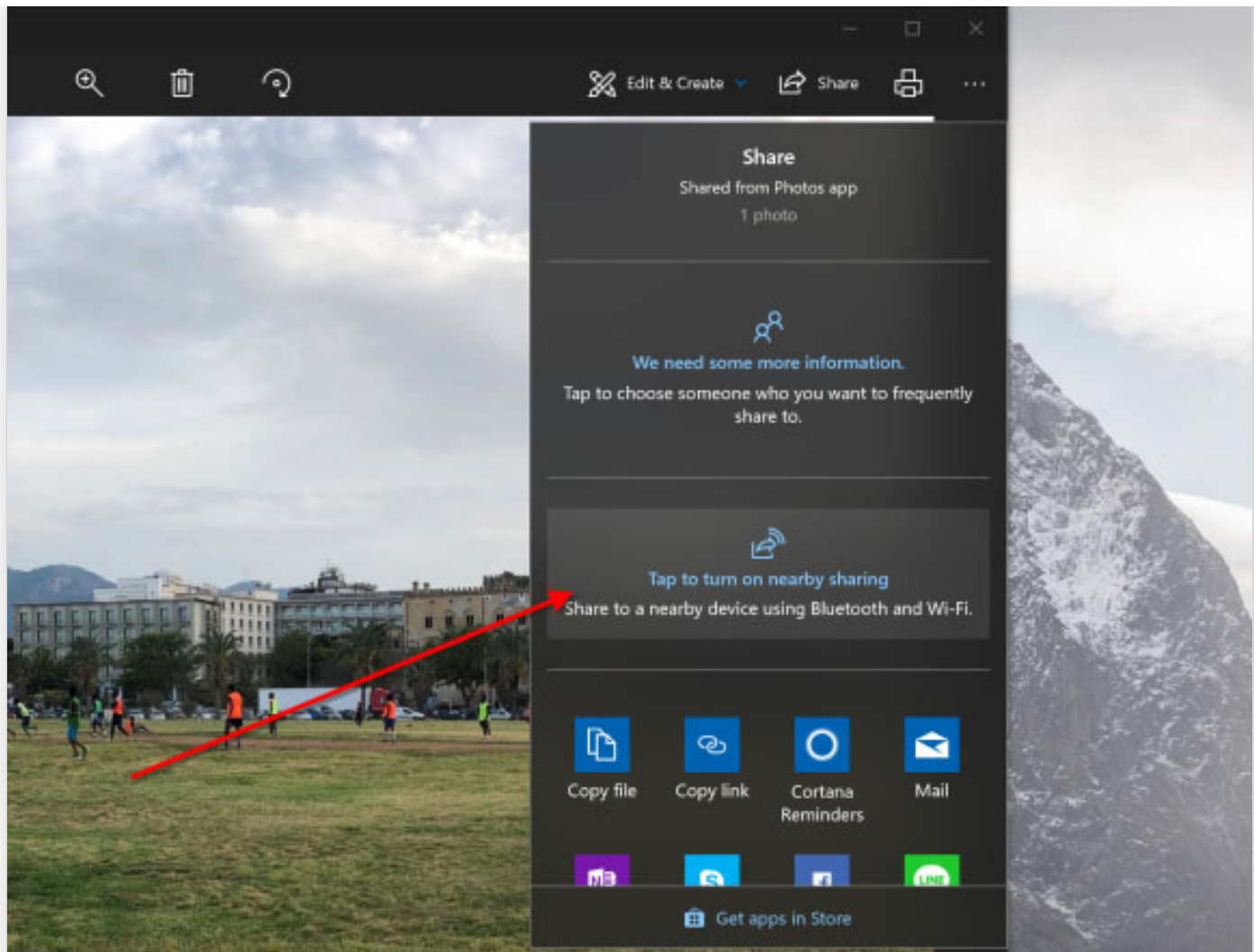
same convenience, with the April 2018 update's Nearby sharing capability.

The feature uses Bluetooth and peer-to-peer Wi-Fi, meaning you don't even need to be connected to a Wi-Fi router, let alone to the internet, to transfer files. As you'll see below, Nearby sharing isn't a separate feature but an option on the share panel, just like Apple.

Setup is easy, so if you have some files you want to share to a nearby PC, do yourself a favor and give Nearby sharing a try. Here's how.

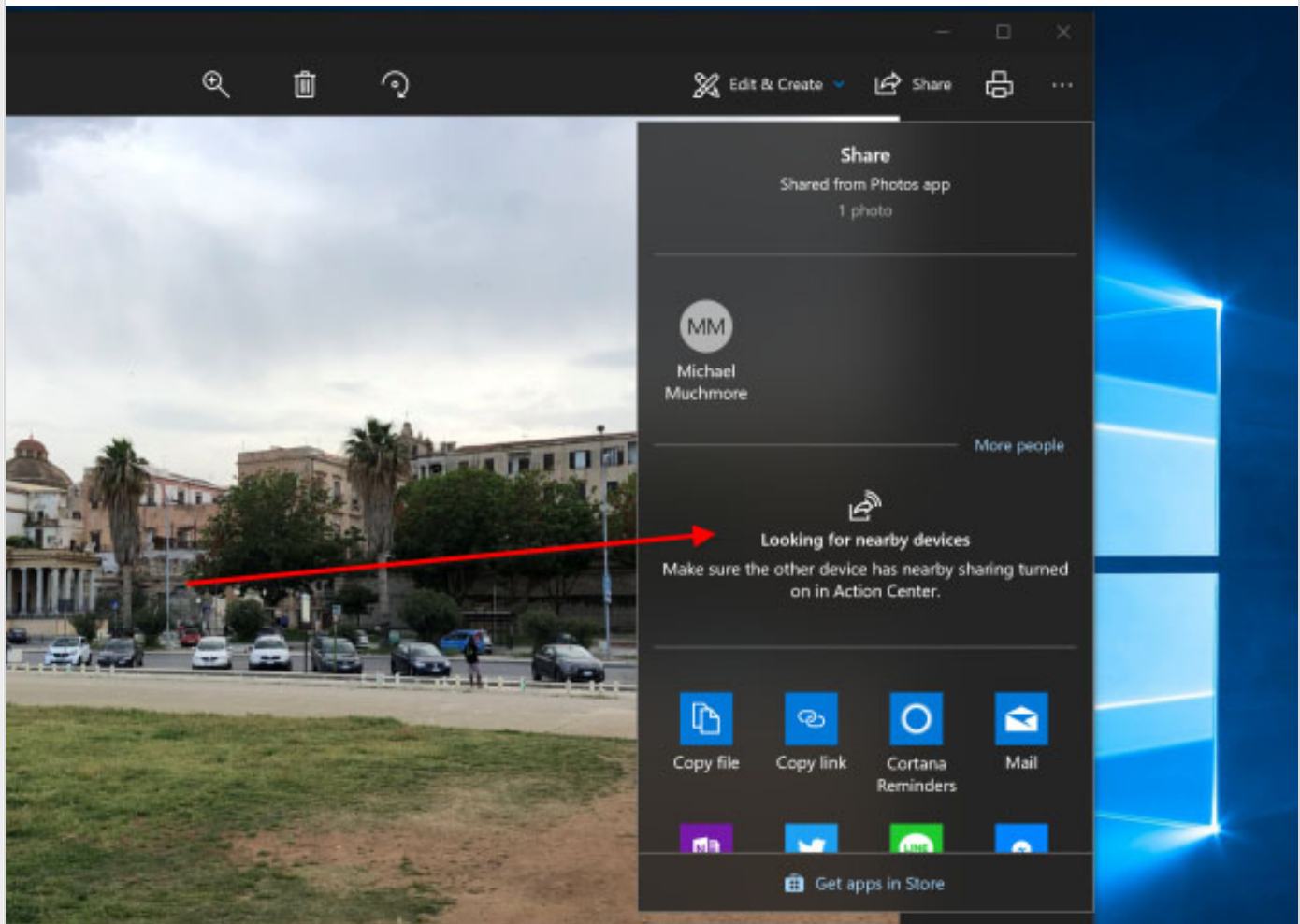
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1. Start the Process



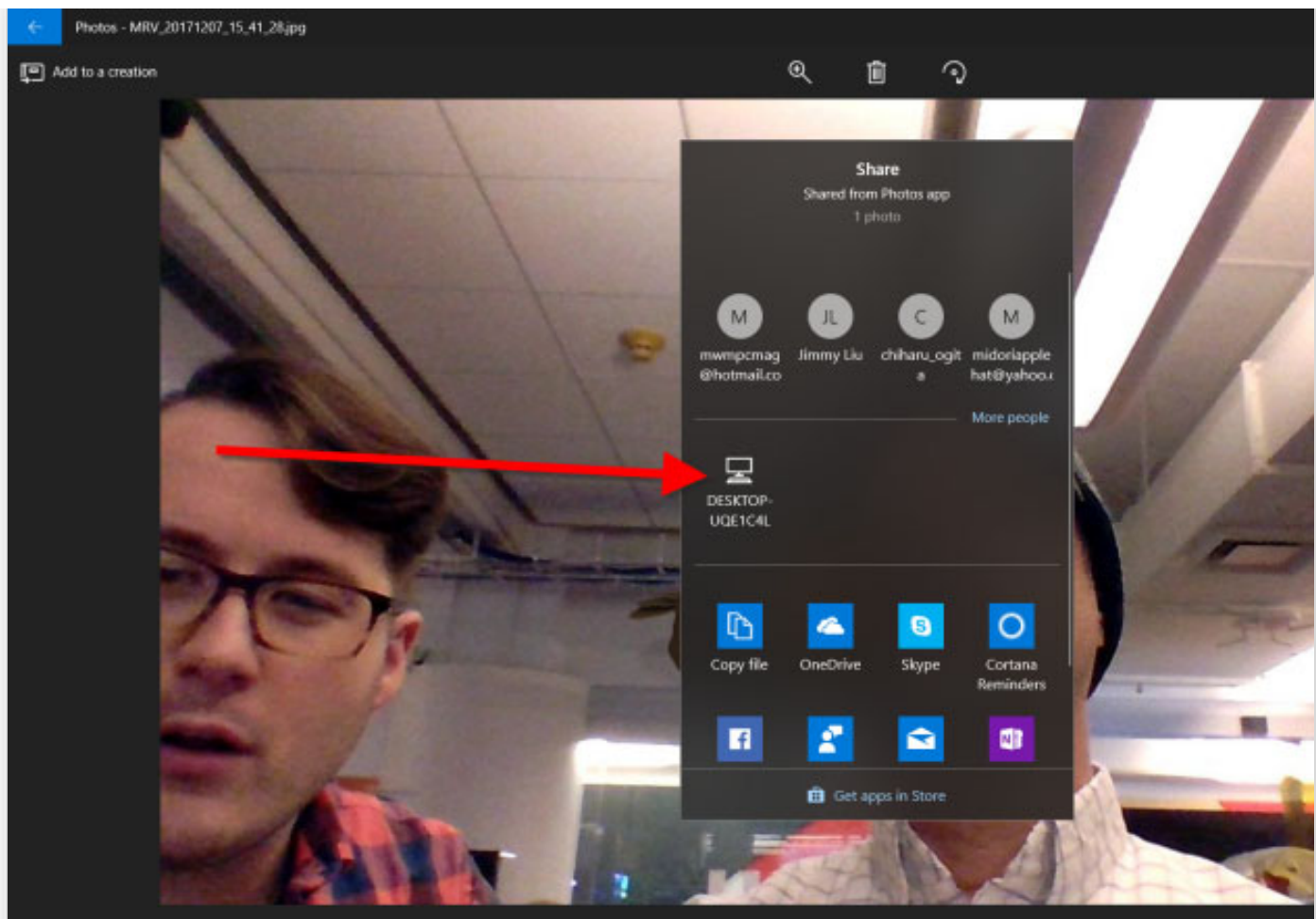
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2. Looking for Nearby Devices



After you've enabled the feature, its spot in the share dialog will say "Looking for nearby devices," along with "Make sure the other device has nearby sharing turned on in Action Center."

3. Nearby Desktop Found



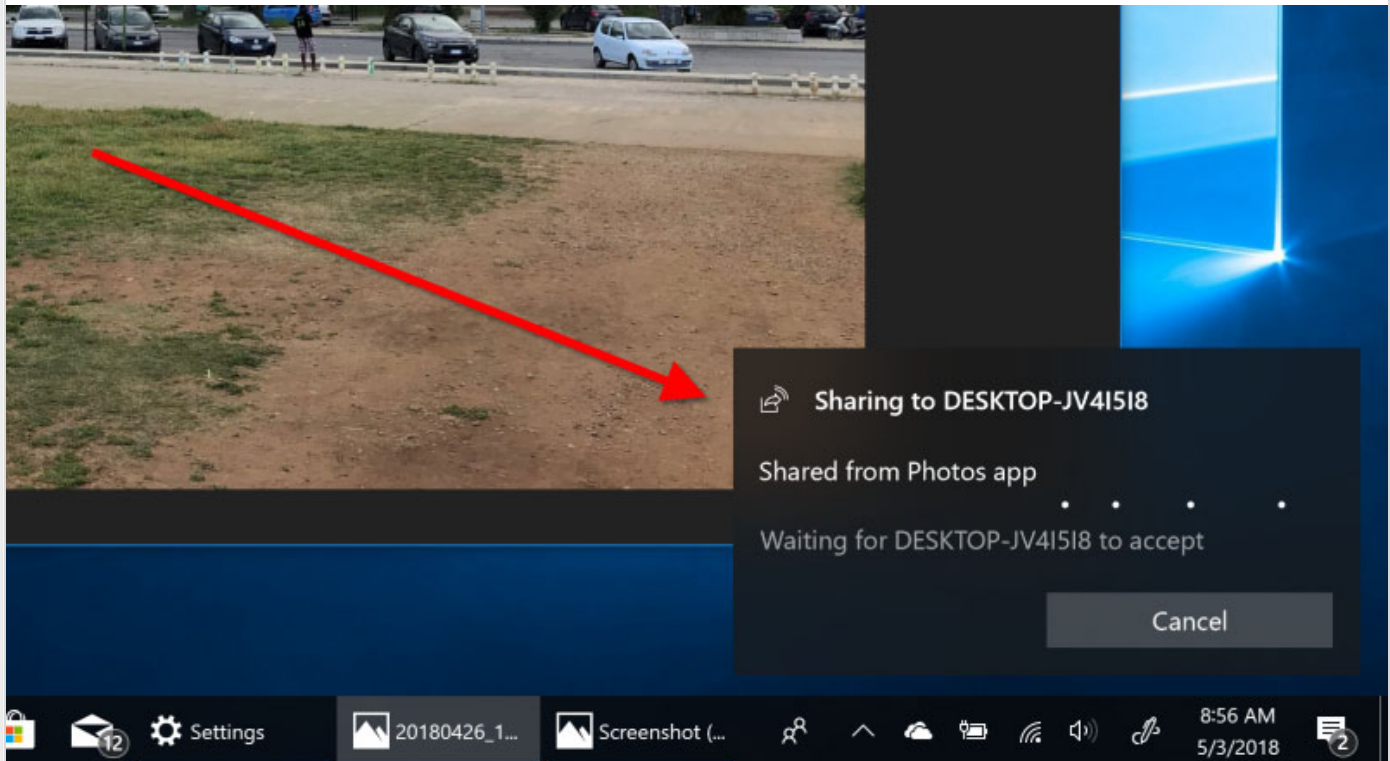
Here you can see that the "Looking for..." message has been replaced with the device name of a nearby PC. When another device with nearby sharing enabled is found, you'll see its computer name in the share dialog. This could be a weird name like "LAPTOP-DG435GF" generated by your computer manufacturer.

You can find your PC's name in Settings > System > About in the Device name section. That

Nearby Desktop Found

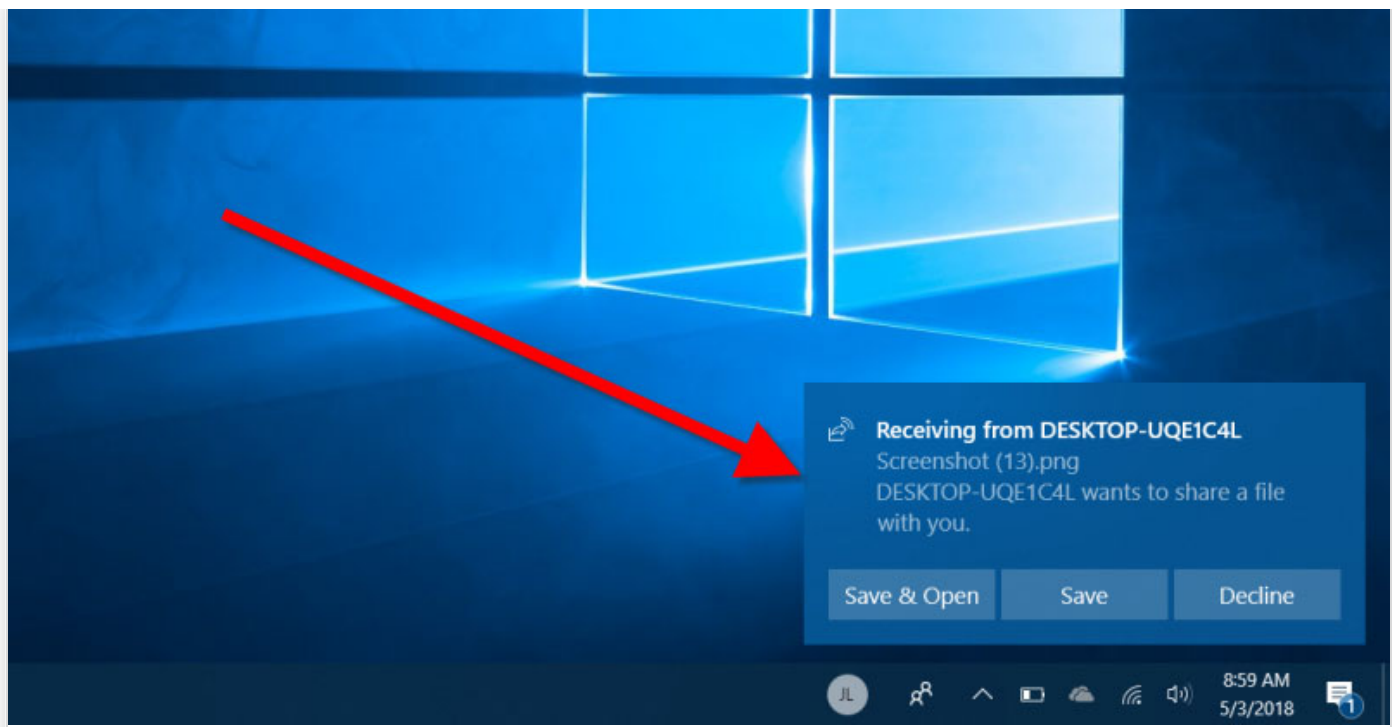


4. Sending Nearby



When you send something, you'll see this notification in the lower-right corner of the screen. Send by accident? You can cancel the operation if you do so before the recipient accepts the share.

5. Receiving PC



The receiving PC sees this notification in the lower-right corner of the screen. It can either Decline, Save, or Save and Open the shared file. Note that if you share OneDrive-stored

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6. Shared Settings

For the true Nearby Sharing mavens out there, you can tinker with settings for the feature, in the Settings > System > Shared experiences page. Here, you can decide whether you want to receive items only from your own devices or from anyone nearby. For me, the feature only worked best when I allowed everyone to share; not really a problem since you have to approve what's sent. Finally, you can choose which folder files land in when you accept them.

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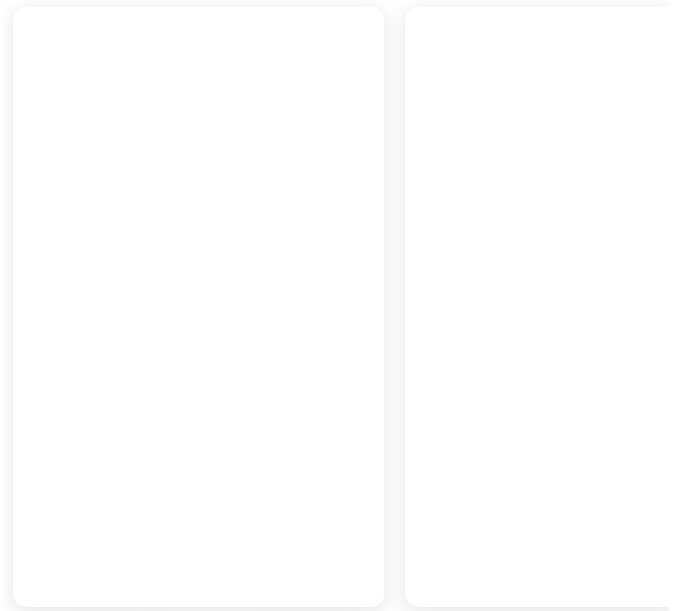
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About Michael Muchmore

Lead Software Analyst



PC hardware is nice, but it's not much use without innovative software. I've been reviewing software for PCMag since 2008, and I still get a kick out of seeing what's new in video and photo editing software, and how operating systems change over time. I was privileged to byline the cover story of the last print issue of *PC Magazine*, the Windows 7 review, and I've witnessed every Microsoft win and misstep up to the latest Windows 11.

Prior to my current role, I covered software and apps for ExtremeTech, and before that I headed up PCMag's enterprise software team, but I'm happy to be back in the more accessible realm of consumer software. I've attended trade shows of Microsoft, Google, and Apple and written about all of them and their products.

I'm an avid bird photographer and traveler—I've been to 40 countries, many with great birds! Because I'm also a classical fan and former performer, I've reviewed streaming services that emphasize classical music.

Read Michael's full bio

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