MAKING SHORTCUTS TO APPS IN WINDOWS 11 AND WINDOWS 10

by Francis Chao
fchao2@yahoo.com

Web location for this presentation:

http://aztcs.apcug.org

Click on

"Meeting Notes"

SUMMARY

The newer "Windows Apps" do not allow you to right click on them to place a shortcut into the Windows 11, 10, or 8 "Desktop".
To create shortcuts to all "Windows Apps" and all "Desktop Apps", you have to run "shell:appsfolder" in a "Run" command box.

TOPICS

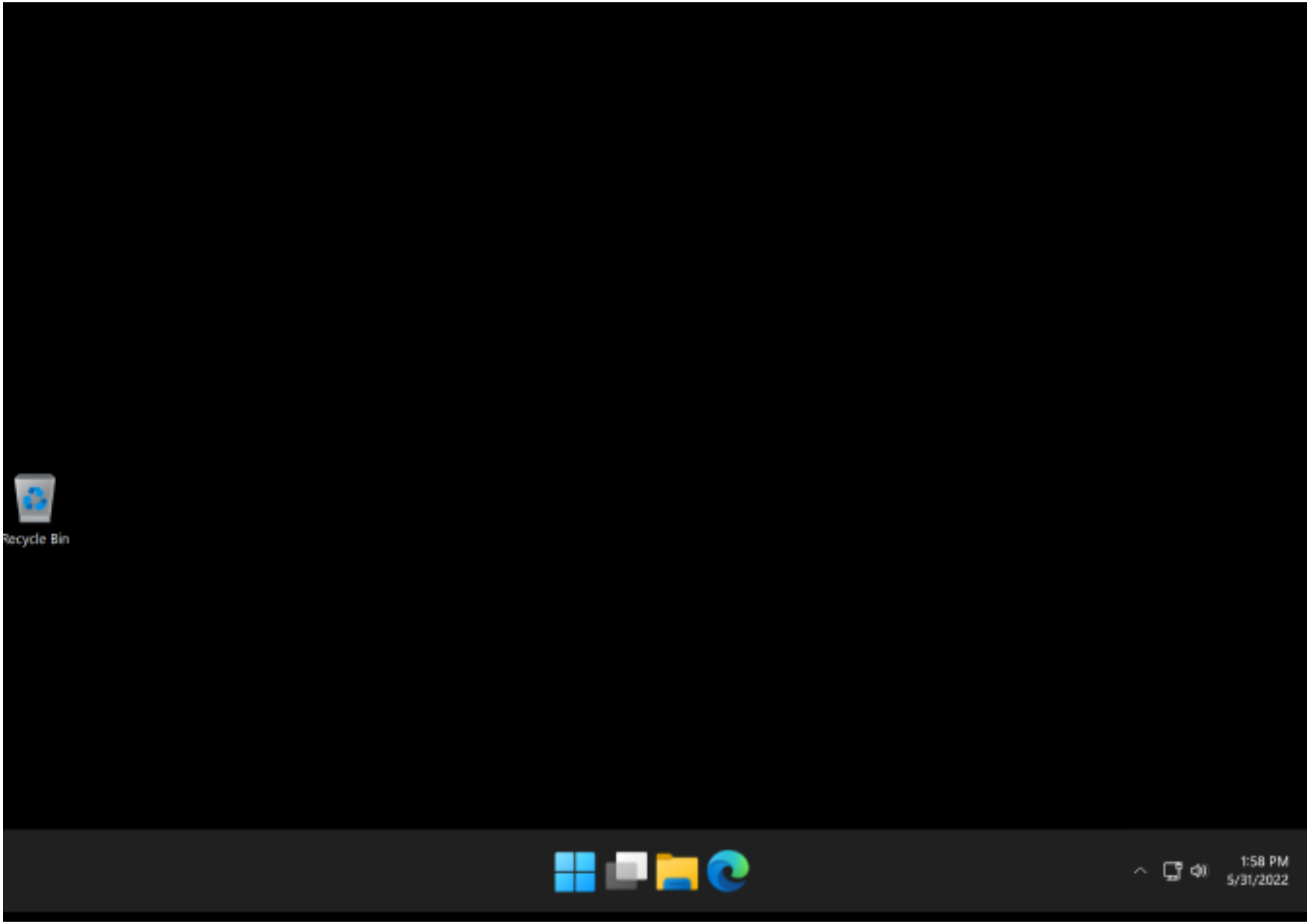
- USE the shell:appsfolder command to make shortcuts to apps

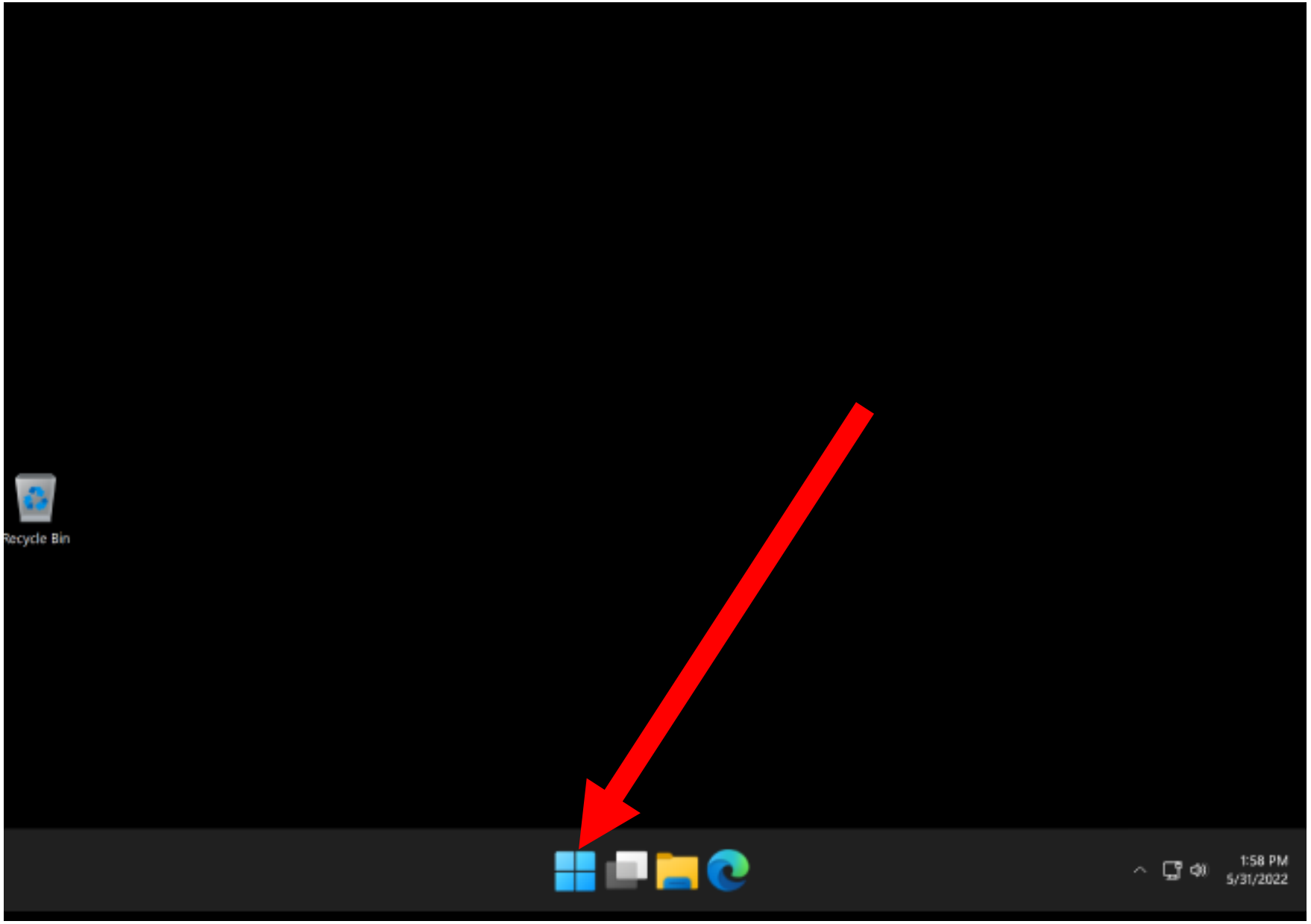
USE THE shell:appsfolder COMMAND INSTEAD..

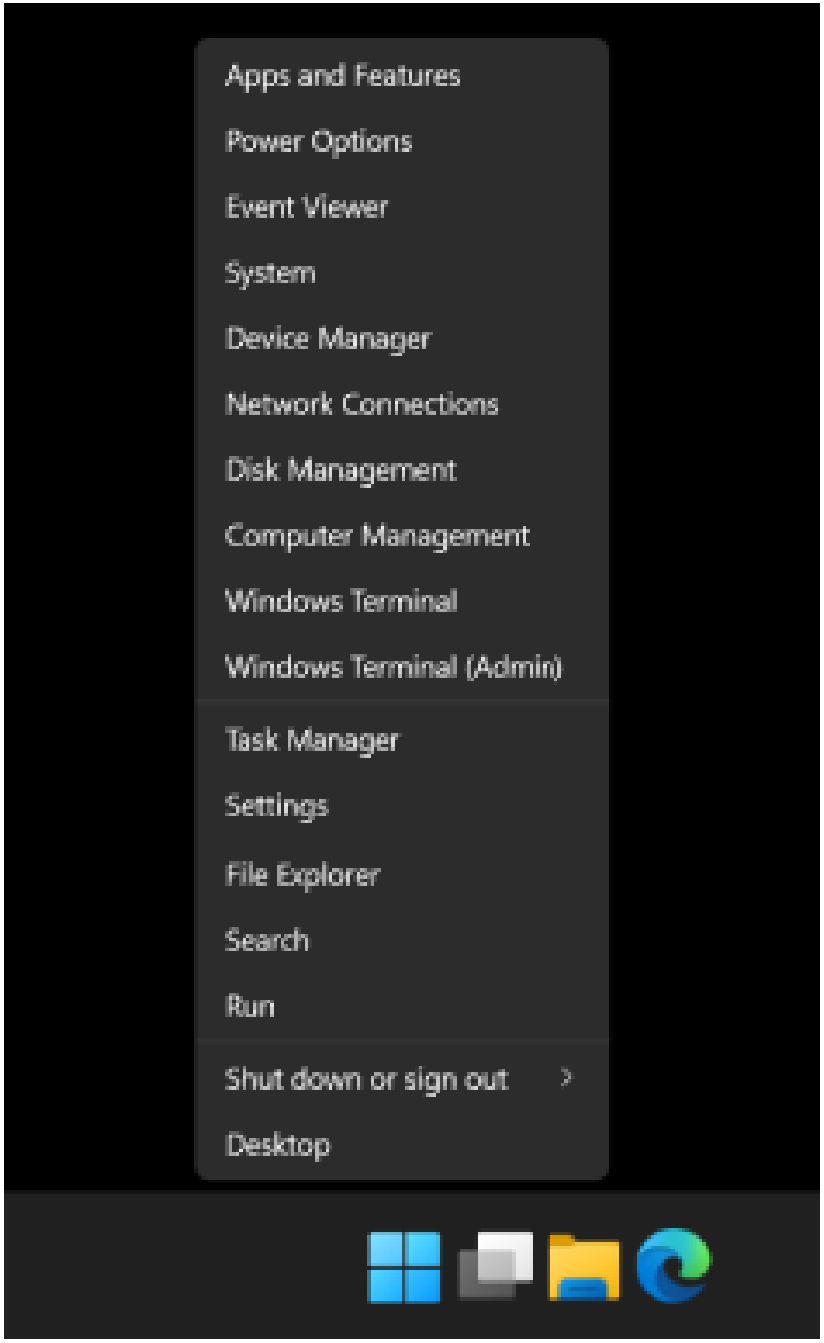
- ..to make shortcuts to all "Windows Apps" and "Desktop Apps" in Windows 11 or Windows 10,
  you can run the
  shell:appsfolder
  command in either a "Search" box or a "Run" box

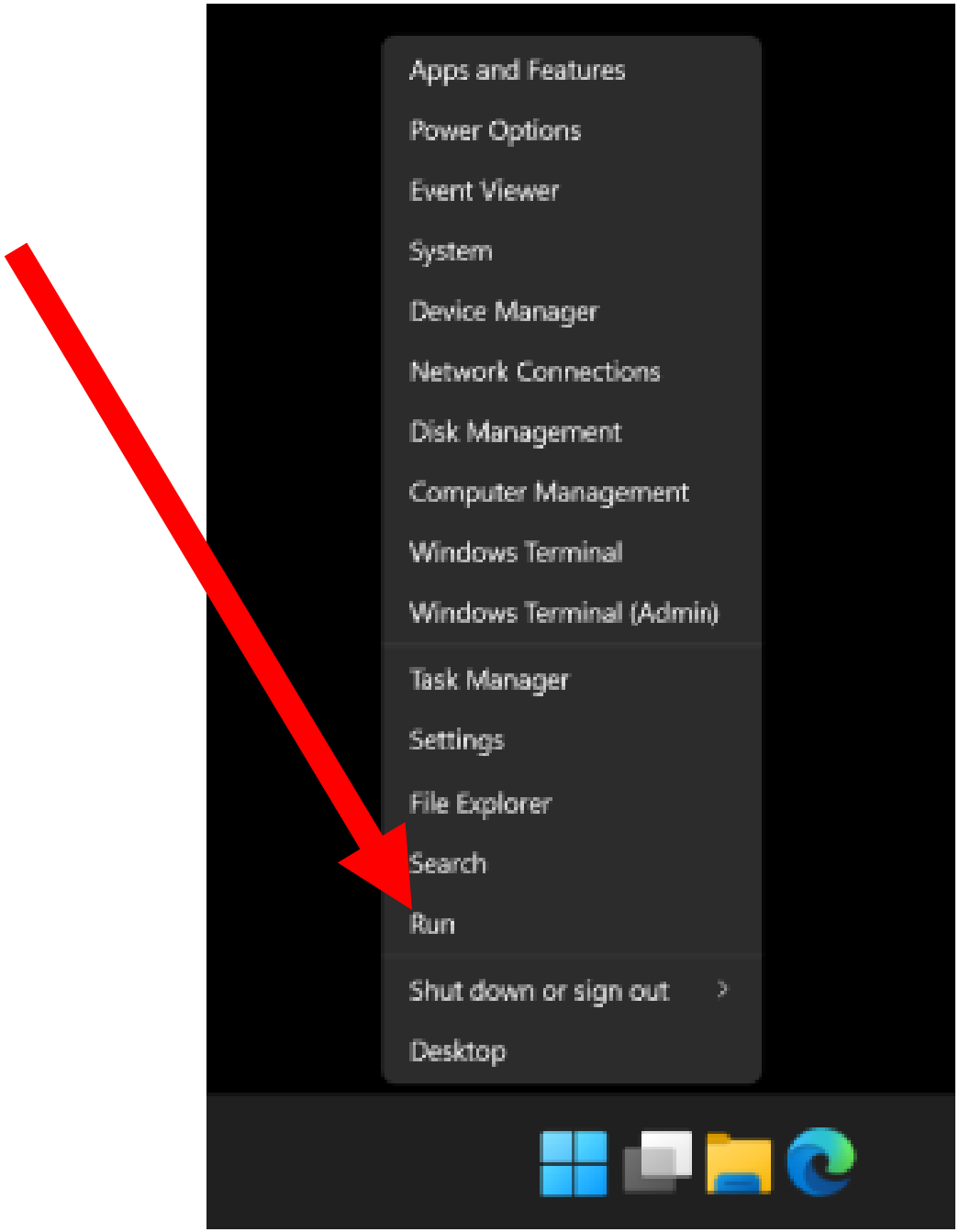
USE THE shell:appsfolder COMMAND INSTEAD.. (continued)

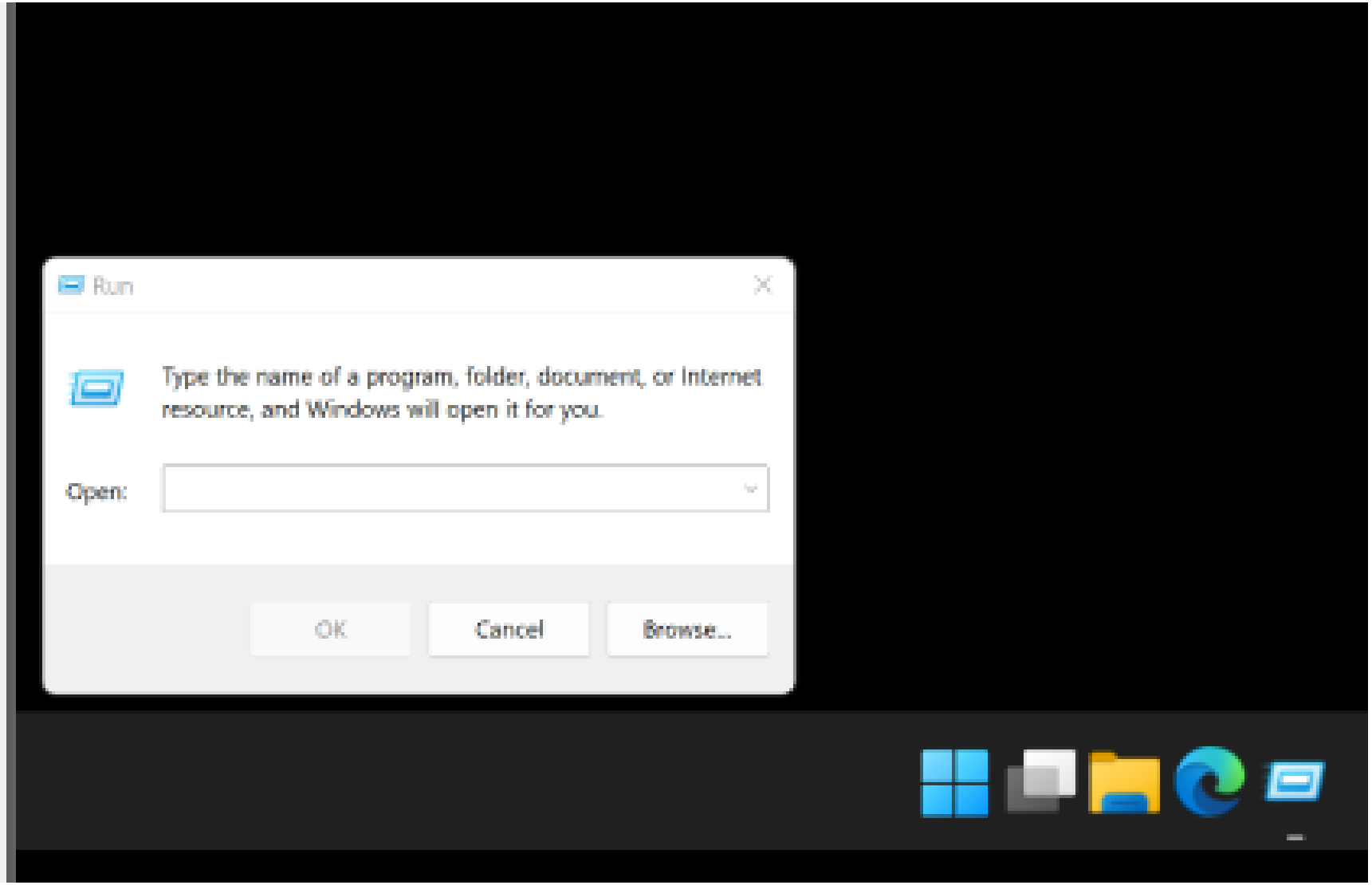
- To get to a "Run" box or a "Search" box in Windows 11 or Windows 10, use the RIGHT mouse button to click on the "Start" menu:

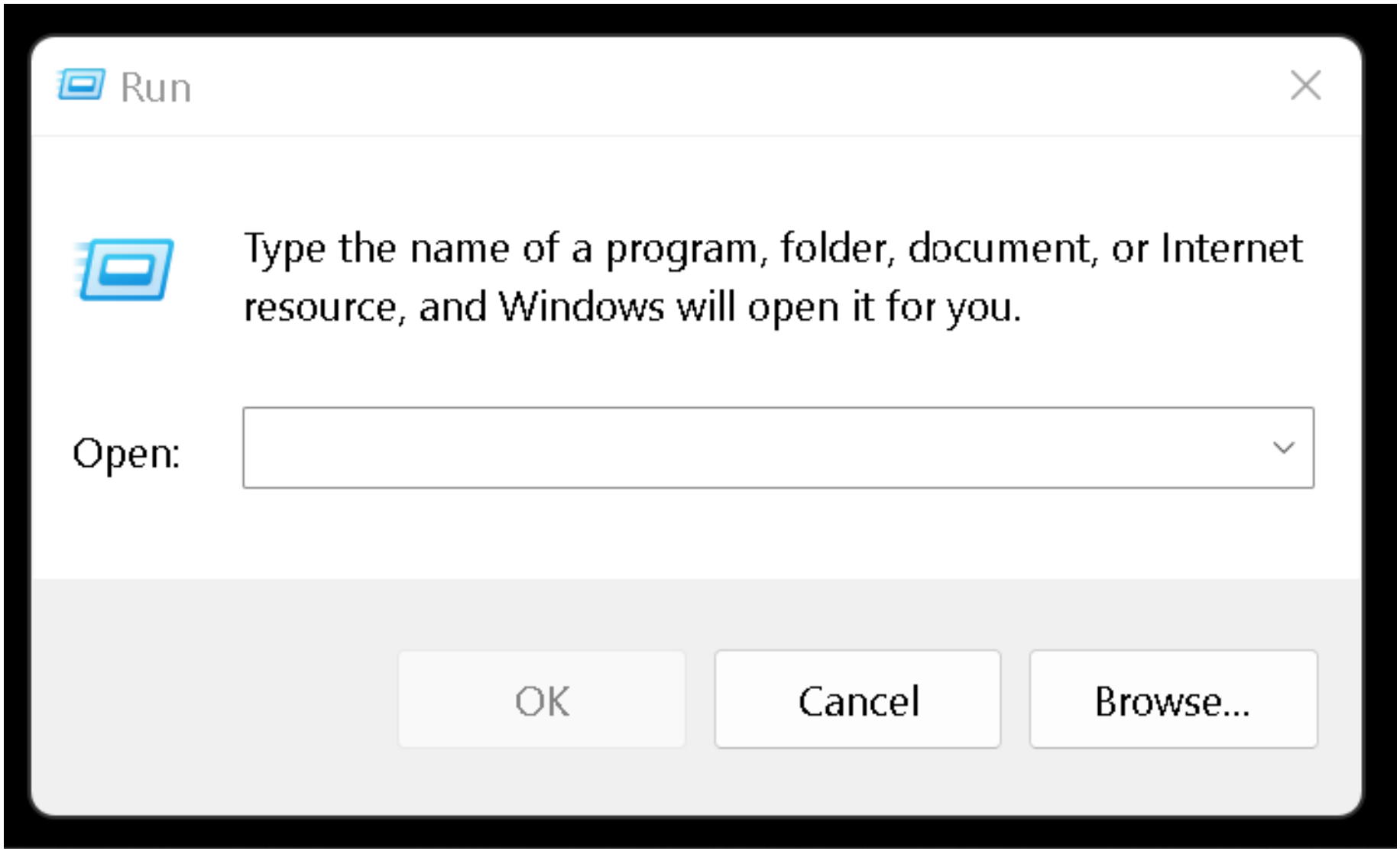

Recycle Bin
1:58 PM
5/31/2022

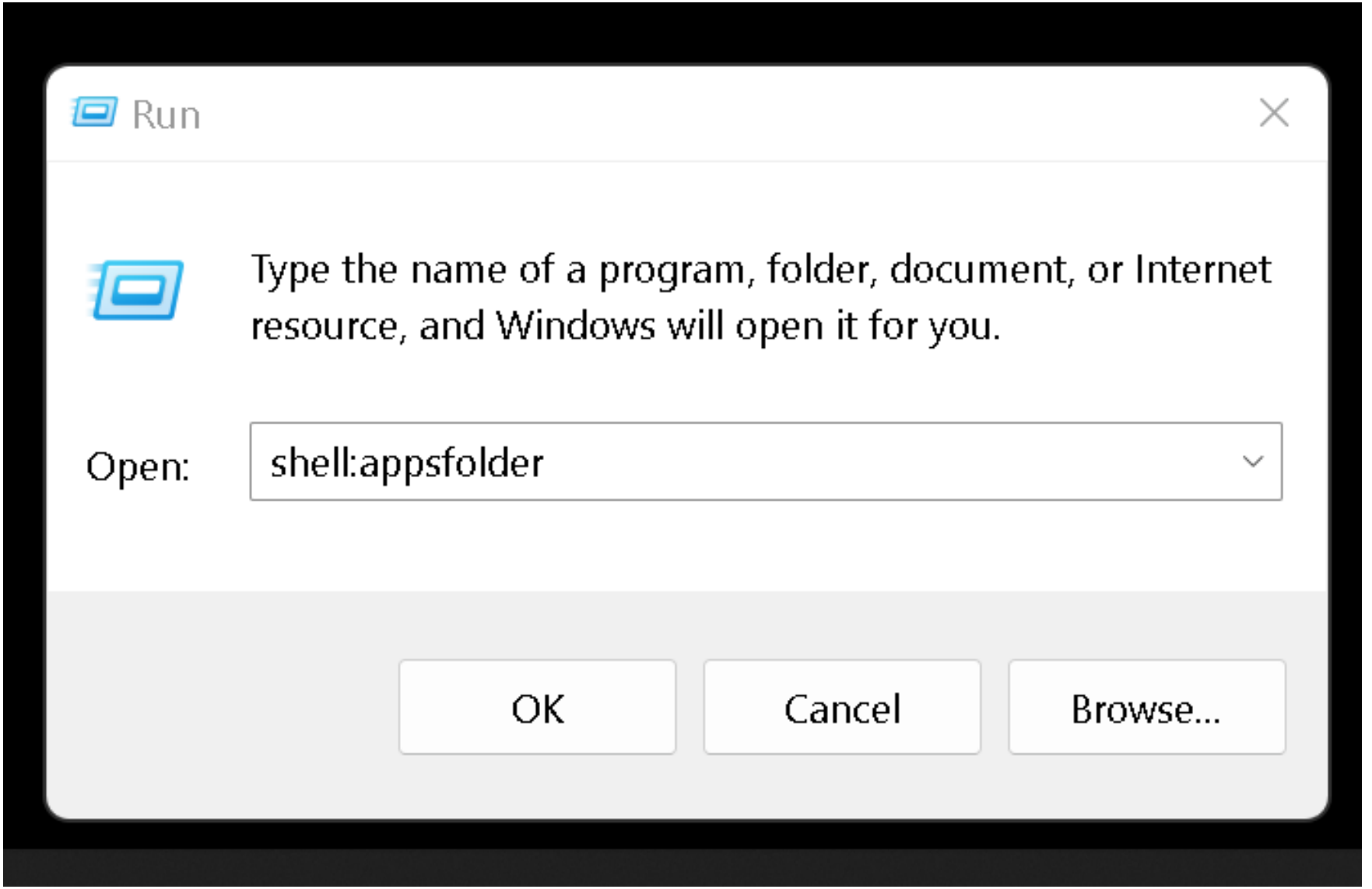

Recycle Bin
1:58 PM
5/31/2022

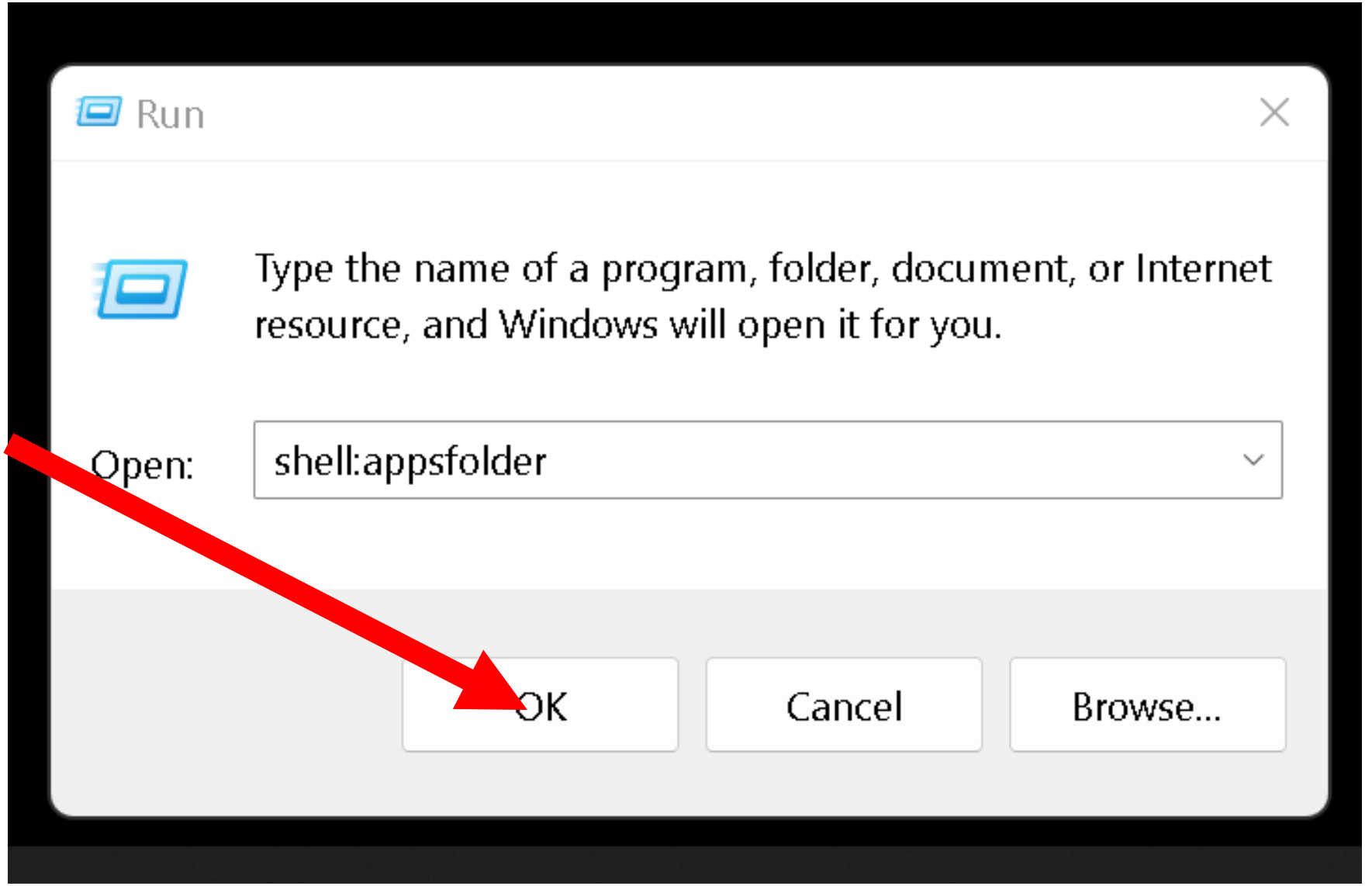

Apps and Features
Power Options
Event Viewer
System
Device Manager
Network Connections
Disk Management
Computer Management
Windows Terminal
Windows Terminal (Admin)
Task Manager
Settings
File Explorer
Search
Run
Shut down or sign out
Desktop

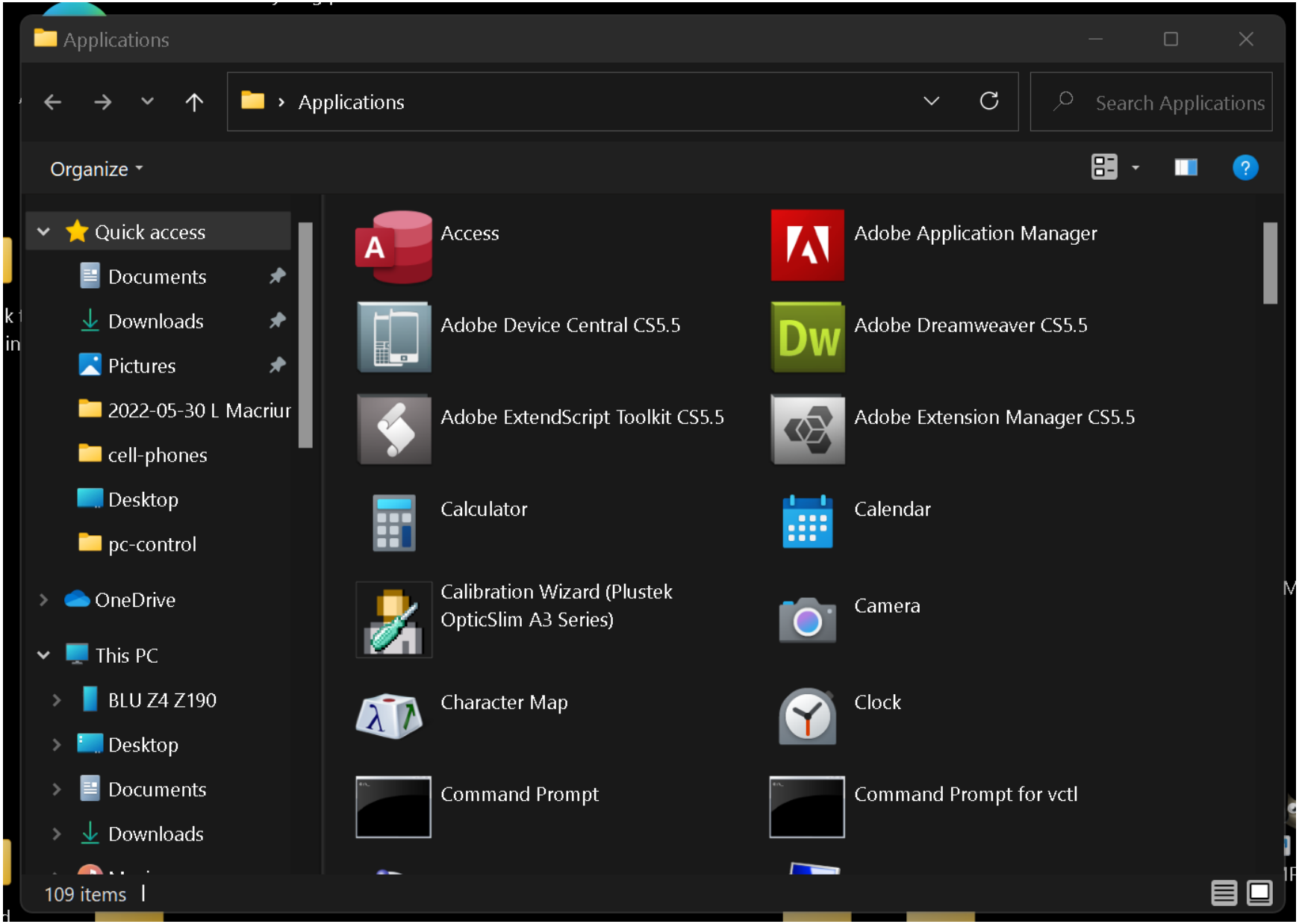

Apps and Features
Power Options
Event Viewer
System
Device Manager
Network Connections
Disk Management
Computer Management
Windows Terminal
Windows Terminal (Admin)
Task Manager
Settings
File Explorer
Search
Run
Shut down or sign out
Desktop

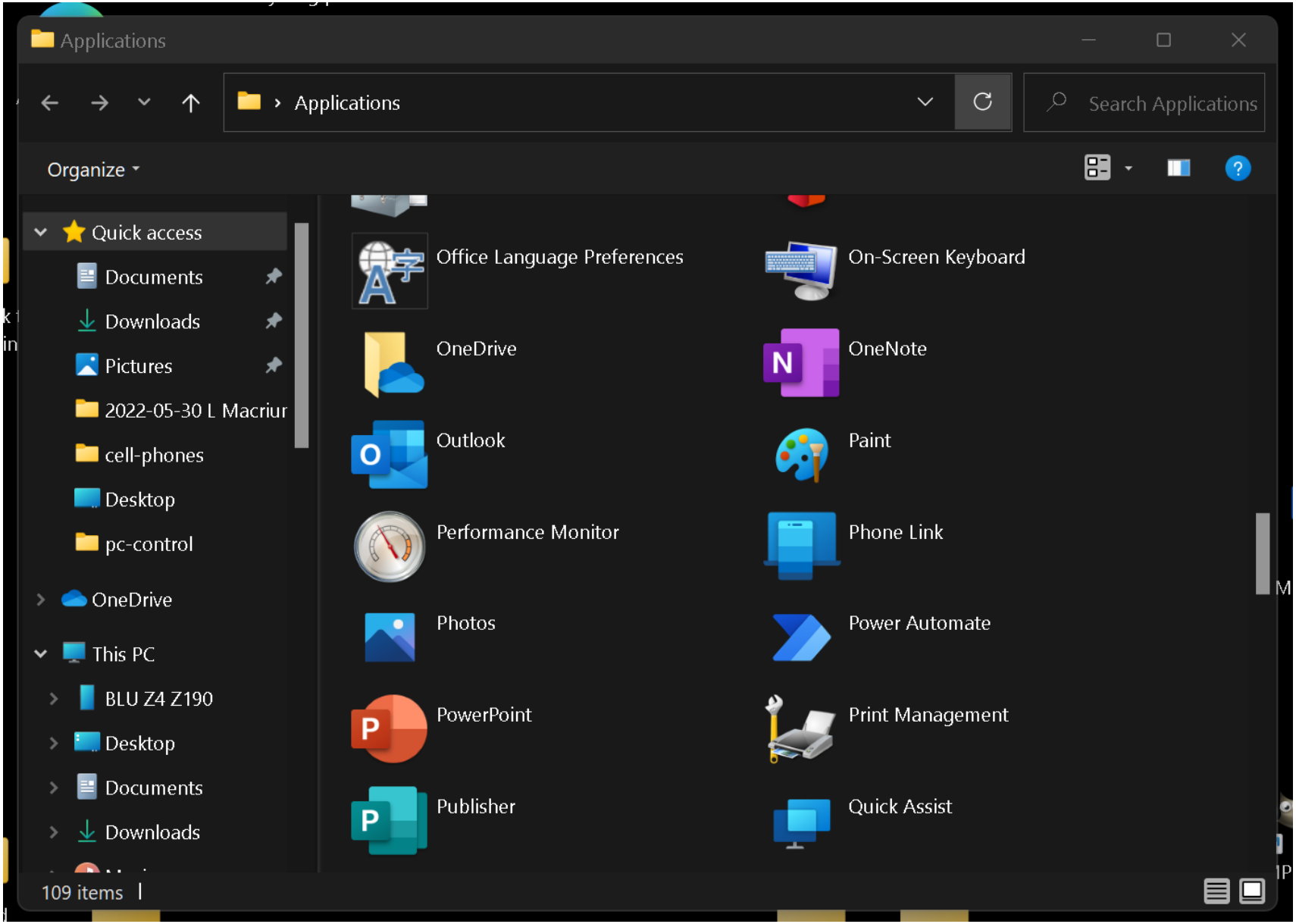

Run
Type the name of a program, folder, document, or Internet resource, and Windows will open it for you.
Open:
OK
Cancel
Browse...

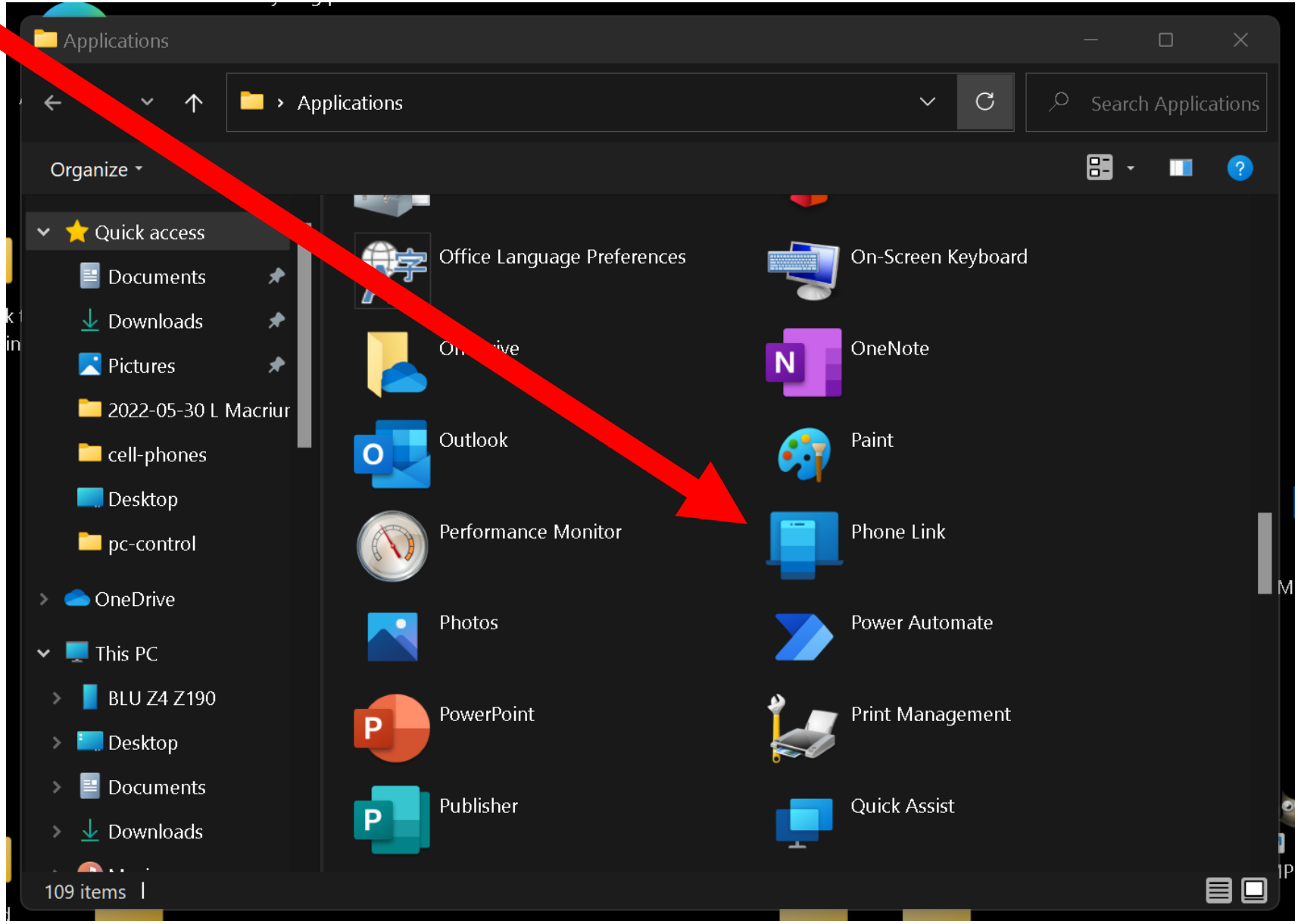

Run
Type the name of a program, folder, document, or Internet resource, and Windows will open it for you.
Open:
OK
Cancel
Browse...

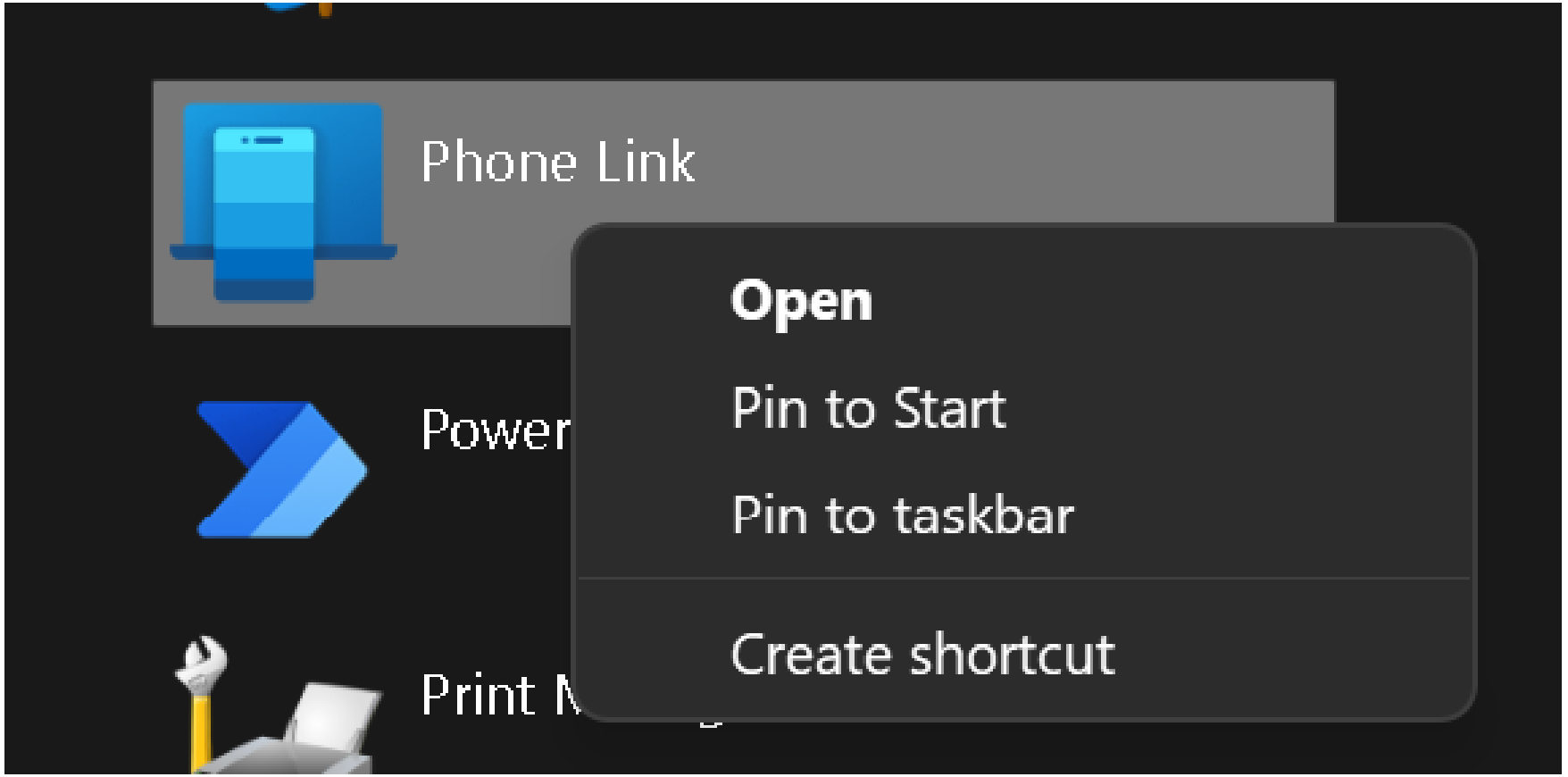

Run
Type the name of a program, folder, document, or Internet resource, and Windows will open it for you.
Open:
shell:appsfolder
OK
Cancel
Browse...

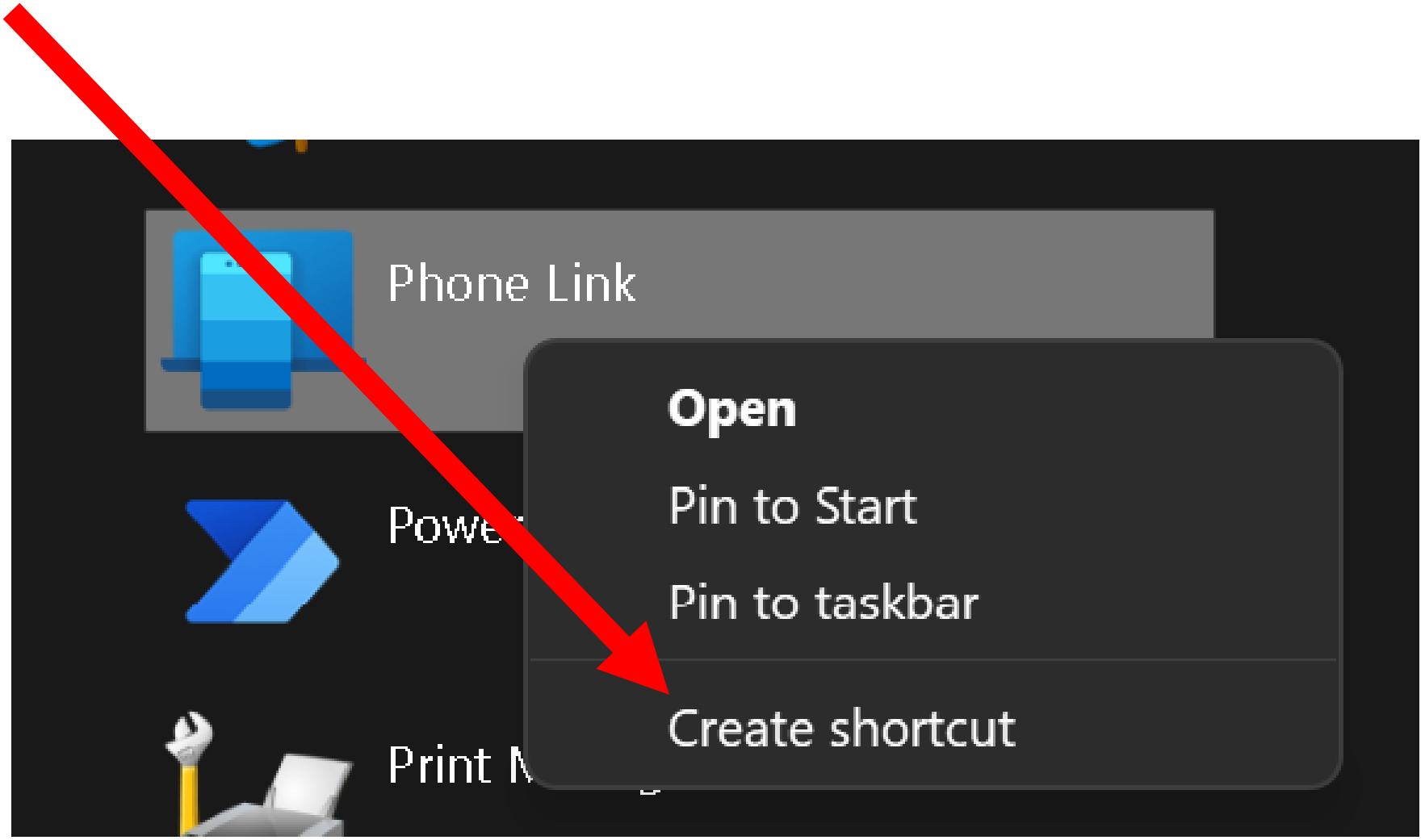

Run
Type the name of a program, folder, document, or Internet resource, and Windows will open it for you.
Open:
shell:appsfolder
OK
Cancel
Browse...

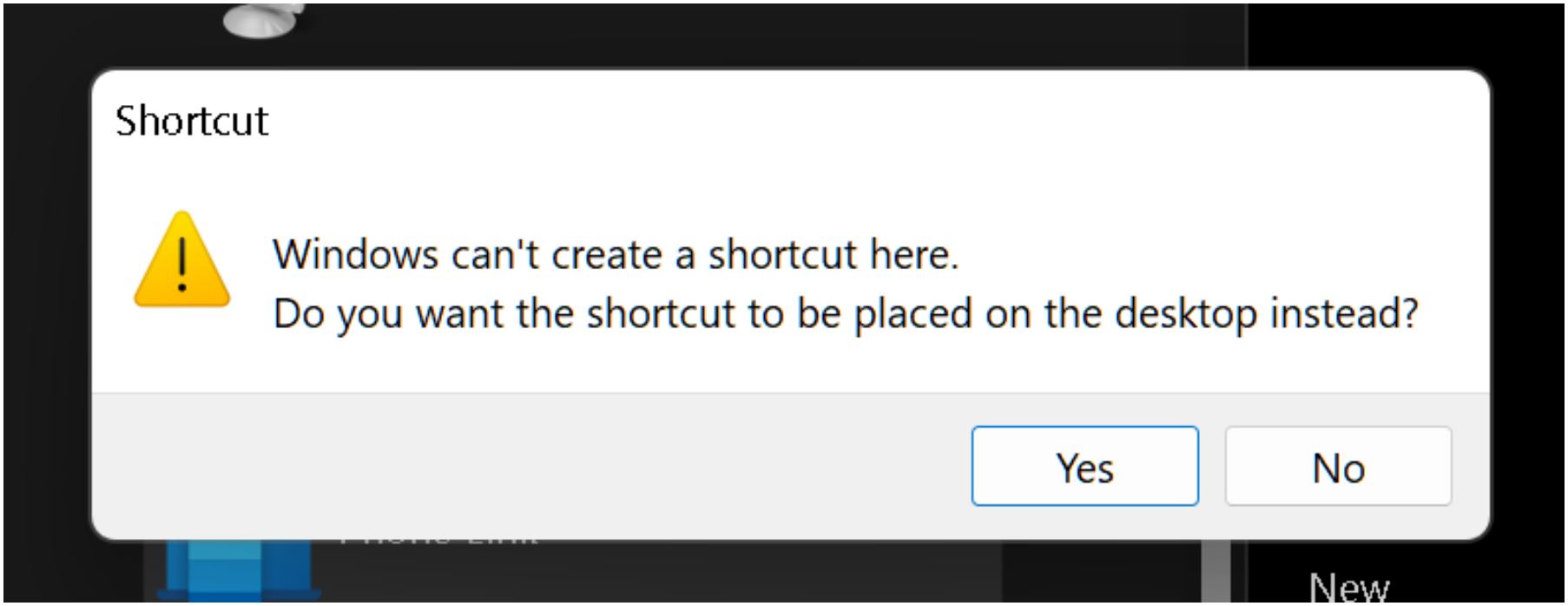

Applications
Applications
Search Applications
Organize
Quick access
Documents
Downloads
Pictures
2022-05-30 L Macriur
cell-phones
Desktop
pc-control
OneDrive
This PC
BLU Z4 Z190
Desktop
Documents
Downloads
Access
Adobe Application Manager
Adobe Device Central CS5.5
Adobe Dreamweaver CS5.5
Adobe ExtendScript Toolkit CS5.5
Adobe Extension Manager CS5.5
Calculator
Calendar
Calibration Wizard (Plustek OpticSlim A3 Series)
Camera
Character Map
Clock
Command Prompt
Command Prompt for vctl
109 items

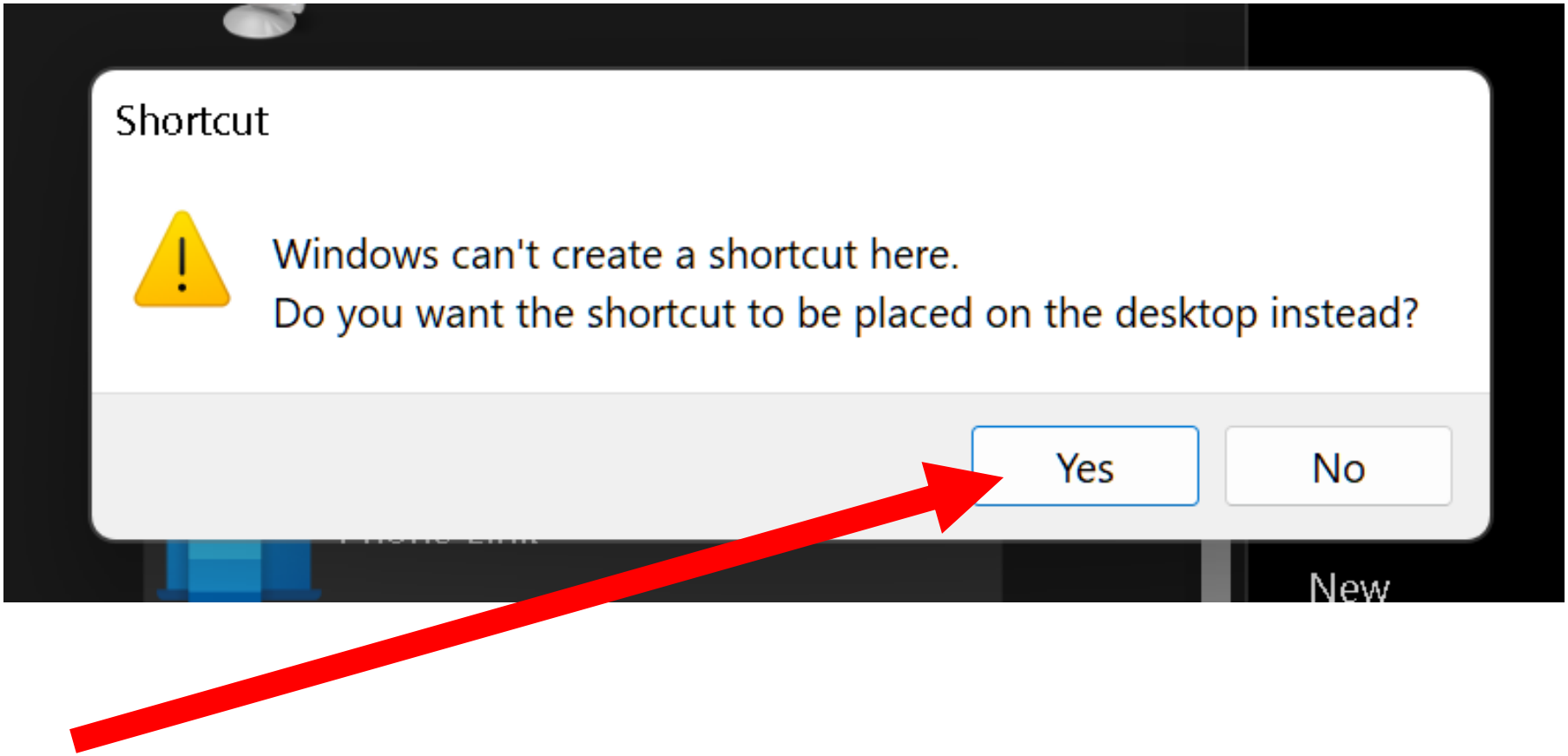

Applications
Applications
Search Applications
Organize
Quick access
Documents
Downloads
Pictures
2022-05-30 L Macriur
cell-phones
Desktop
pc-control
OneDrive
This PC
BLU Z4 Z190
Desktop
Documents
Downloads
Office Language Preferences
On-Screen Keyboard
OneDrive
OneNote
Outlook
Paint
Performance Monitor
Phone Link
Photos
Power Automate
PowerPoint
Print Management
Publisher
Quick Assist
109 items


Applications
Applications
Search Applications
Organize
Quick access
Documents
Downloads
Pictures
2022-05-30 L Macriur
cell-phones
Desktop
pc-control
OneDrive
This PC
BLU Z4 Z190
Desktop
Documents
Downloads
Office Language Preferences
On-Screen Keyboard
OneNote
Outlook
Paint
Performance Monitor
Phone Link
Photos
Power Automate
PowerPoint
Print Management
Publisher
Quick Assist
109 items


Phone Link
Power
Print
Open
Pin to Start
Pin to taskbar
Create shortcut


Phone Link
Open
Pin to Start
Pin to taskbar
Create shortcut


Shortcut
Windows can't create a shortcut here.
Do you want the shortcut to be placed on the desktop instead?
Yes
No
New


Shortcut
Windows can't create a shortcut here.
Do you want the shortcut to be placed on the desktop instead?
Yes
No
New

Phone Link -
Shortcut

MAKING SHORTCUTS IN THE PINNED SECTION OF THE START MENU

For Windows 11

Locate the app, file, or folder you want to add to the **Start Menu**.

Right-click on the item and select **Pin to Start** from the context menu.

Open the **Start Menu** to confirm the shortcut appears in the **Pinned** section.

For Windows 10

Press **Windows + R** to open the **Run** dialog box.

MAKING SHORTCUTS IN THE PINNED SECTION OF THE START MENU (continued)

For Windows 10

Press **Windows + R** to open the **Run** dialog box.

Type shell:Start Menu and press **Enter** to open the Start Menu folder for your user account.

Navigate to the **Programs** subfolder within the opened directory.

Drag and drop the app's .exe file or its shortcut into the **Programs** folder.

Open the **Start Menu** and check the **All apps** list to confirm the shortcut is added.

MAKING SHORTCUTS IN THE ALL SECTION OF THE START MENU

To add a shortcut to the "All apps" section of the Start menu (not the pinned section) in Windows 11, follow these steps:

Press Win + R, type shell:Common Start Menu, and press Enter. This opens the Start Menu folder for all users: C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu

MAKING SHORTCUTS IN THE ALL SECTION OF THE START MENU (continued)

If you want it only for your user account, use shell:Start Menu instead: C:\Users\<YourUsername>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu

Inside that folder, open the Programs subfolder.

Move or create a shortcut to your app in this Programs folder.

You can drag the shortcut from the desktop,

MAKING SHORTCUTS IN THE ALL SECTION OF THE START MENU (continued)

If you want it only for your user account, use shell:Start Menu instead: C:\Users\<YourUsername>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu

Inside that folder, open the Programs subfolder.

Move or create a shortcut to your app in this Programs folder.

You can drag the shortcut from the desktop,

MAKING SHORTCUTS IN THE ALL SECTION OF THE START MENU (continued)

Or right-click → New → Shortcut and point or link to the .exe file.

Open the Start menu → Click on All apps, and your app should now be listed alphabetically.

That's it! This ensures the app appears in the All apps list, not just in the pinned section.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- https://www.techrepublic.com/article/how-to-use-the-shell-command-to-view-all-your-applications-in-file-explorer/