A Short Rant…
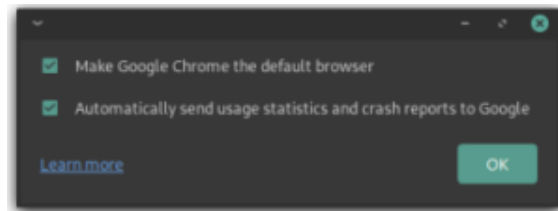
I am not sure who I am ranting about. I am not sure who made this decision. Allow me to show you:

Look carefully. You'll see it.

I was playing with Manjaro (their Cinnamon edition is delightful) and was playing around with AUR software. After all, I wanted to install Google Chrome. Say what you will, but I actually like their browser. It suits my needs best and, trust me, I've tried all the other browsers.

It's not the packager's fault. It's probably not Manjaro's fault. It's almost certainly Google's fault.

Don't see it yet? Well, look at the choices. See, I'd like Google Chrome to be a good browser. By that, I mean that I'm willing to send them crash reports. I don't want to send them my usage statistics, even though I'm sure they're truly anonymized and I really don't have anything to hide. I just don't need them knowing that much information.

I get it Google, you're an information company. But, for the love of all that's holy, let us pick. Because I didn't want to send usage stats, I am not able to send you crash reports by the proper channels. Manjaro will get crash reports when something crashes. That's not going to make it upstream to Google. Google isn't going to be trawling through Manjaro's crash reports looking for data. They're going to expect it on their channels.

Why can't I pick one or the other, Google? You're not making more people send you usage statistics, you're making fewer people send you crash statistics! There's a bit more fidelity and more choices at chrome://settings/syncSetup but not that much. In there, you can can at least choose to send less data to them.

I know, bitching about data collection with a data collection company is kinda silly — but there is data that I'd happily give them. There is data I'd let them have in exchange for making a decent browser. I'm willing to make that trade, but they need to let me pick a more granular selection than they currently allow.