## Issue 364 GREAT

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Easy-to-follow guide page 58

11 - 24 February 2015

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### The wonders of Windows 10

agle-eyed readers may have noted my absence from the last issue of Web User, due to illness. Confined to my sick bed, I spent hours glumly (and rather melodramatically) contemplating all the exciting things I've yet to do in life: explore the ruins of Machu Picchu, see the Northern Lights from a Norwegian wood and, of course, try the Start menu in Windows 10.

This issue's cover feature helps me vicariously achieve the last of those ambitions, as we lift the lid on Microsoft's new operating system to reveal what's good about it, what's lacking and what we still need to know. Yes, it's going to be available as a free upgrade, but is that because it's not worth paying for? Find out on page 38.

If you like the idea of trying a different operating system, but don't want to mess up your current one, turn to page 58 for our complete guide to dual-booting your PC to get the best of both worlds. Who needs the aurora borealis anyway?

Robert Irvine robert\_irvine@dennis.co.uk

#webuser



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How to launch several programs at once just by clicking your mouse

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How to set your own low-battery alerts on your laptop

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How to convert and play CCTV footage on your iPad

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**ISSUE 364** 

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COVER

## UNCOVERED

We reveal what's new in Microsoft's hotly anticipated operating system

**p38** 





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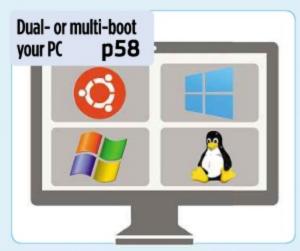
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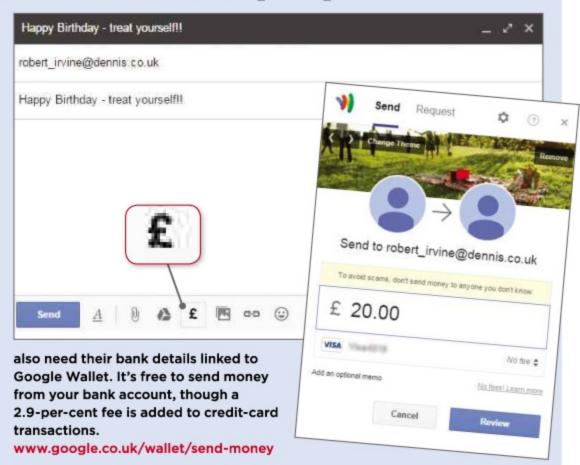
## What's New Online

### Send and receive money by Gmail

oogle is now letting UK users aged 18 and over send money through Gmail, nearly two years after the service launched in the US. It's a fast and safe way to make person-to-person payments, with a limit of up to £5,000 per transaction. It provides you with an alternative to PayPal (although you can't use it on eBay, as explained here bit.ly/ ebaypay364).

First, make sure your bank details are linked to a Google Wallet account - they already will be if you've bought anything from the Google Play store. Next, in Gmail, click Compose to open a New Message box then click the £ sign. In the new box that appears, type the amount, write an optional note and click Review then Attach. This will attach the payment to the email. You can also request money from people in the same way.

The recipient of your payment will



### Use the new browser from Opera's founder

### https://vivaldi.com

The founder of Opera has launched a new browser called Vivaldi (sticking with the classical-music theme). Available now as a technical preview for Windows, Mac and Linux, it has several features that will be familiar to Opera users. including mouse gestures for browsing and an interface similar to the Speed Dial. We'll have a Workshop on Vivaldi in our next issue, out Wednesday 25 February.





### Explore 1.5 billion-pixel Andromeda photo

### bit.ly/andro364

Taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, this 1.5 billion-pixel image is the sharpest ever captured of Andromeda, the nearest galaxy to our own Milky Way - a mere 2.5 million light years away. The quality of the image is so high, says Nasa, that "it's like photographing a beach and resolving individual grains of sand". You can zoom into the image, which stretches across 48,000 light years, taking in 100 million stars (only one-tenth of Andromeda's total!).

Click the link above for download options. If you want to use it as a screensaver, click the small (17KB), medium (55.7KB), large (578.4KB) or extra large (702.8KB) image link. You can also download it as a PDF or JPEG, ideal for printing. Click 'Highest-quality download options' for the best images, which range from 20MB to 348MB.

We highlight 10 of the most amazing and amusing things you can do on the web this fortnight

### Check your spelling in the Google Docs app

#### bit.ly/docs364

The mobile app for Google Docs, the company's equivalent of Microsoft Word, now offers real-time spell-checking, which is extremely useful given how easy it is to make typing errors on phones and tablets. It's one of several new tools in Docs, Sheets and Slides, all explained on the Google Docs Blog.



### Automatically import photos to OneDrive

### bit.ly/drive364

Microsoft has added several new photomanagement features to OneDrive



with the promise that they will make organising your photos a "richer and smarter" experience.

Now, when Windows 7 and 8 users connect a camera, USB stick or hard drive to a PC, their photos will automatically be imported into OneDrive, and saved in a new 'Camera imports' folder. There's also a new Album view, which aims to display your photos as a "beautiful collage" (see screenshot). When you open a photo, it now takes up the whole screen, with more details available in a pop-up menu.

### Use WhatsApp on the web

#### https://web.whatsapp.com

You can now use WhatsApp on the web, mirroring exactly what's on your phone. However, due to "platform limitations", it's not available on iOS, only Android, Windows Phone and BlackBerry. To begin, you need to visit the WhatsApp website in Chrome, then scan the QR code from within WhatsApp with your phone, You'll also need to have the latest version of the app on your phone, which has to stay connected to the internet. For more information read these FAQs: bit.ly/whatsapp364.



### Go whitewater rafting in Street View

Hold on tight - we're going whitewater rafting down Yampa River in northwestern Colorado. Over four days, Google captured a 72-mile stretch of the 250-mile-long river, which eventually joins Green River, the chief tributary of



Colorado River. You'll see some stunning scenery as the river winds through Dinosaur National Monument.

## TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

### @HoloLens

Microsoft's official account for its new headset, which is due to launch later this year

#### @SteveBackshall

Wildlife facts and adventures from the wildlife presenter

### @avast antivirus

Security advice and details of new tools from the best free anti-virus in our latest test (Issue 363)

### @YourFamTreemag

Genealogy tips from Your Family Tree, plus all the latest tools

### @MacDictionary

Thought-provoking tweets "for logophiles by logophiles" (lovers of words) from MacMillan Dictionary

### Use Dropbox on Windows Phone

### bit.ly/drop364

Dropbox has released an app for Windows phones and tablets that has the same features Android and iOS users enjoy. You get 2GB free space when you sign up.

### Open US Air Force UFO files

### www.theblackvault.com

UFO hunters can browse 130,000 declassified files from the US Air Force. There are 10,000 PDFs, each covering a single sighting or investigation.

### Send group messages on Twitter

### bit.ly/twit364

Twitter users can now talk privately with groups of people. Before, you could only send Direct Messages to individual accounts. Click the link above to read more on Twitter's blog, including details of its other new tool - a camera in the app that records 30-second videos.

# Google to change 'vague and confusing' privacy policy

### What happened?

Google will change its privacy policy globally following a investigation by the UK's data watchdog, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Back in 2012, Google combined most of its 70 services under one overarching privacy policy, raising the ire of data watchdogs across Europe for being "too vague" about how Google gathers and uses personal data.

The EU data-protection authorities reviewed whether the policy complied with European laws, with the process ultimately taking more than two years of negotiations. Spain, the Netherlands and France all found that the privacy policy breaks their own local laws, and the ICO followed at the end of January.

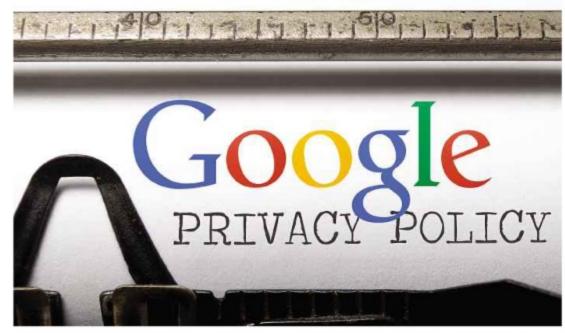
While some nations' watchdogs fined Google, and France even forced it to show a message on its homepage saying it had been fined, the ICO chose not to take punitive action, instead forcing the web giant to rewrite its policy to make it easier for users to find out how their data is used.

Google's first policy changes were rolled out in March and June last year, but the ICO decided they didn't go far enough, demanding more – including a redesign of account settings to make them simpler to understand. Google has agreed to make the changes by 30 June 2015.

The move comes as Facebook changed its own privacy policy, which anyone using the site is assumed to have agreed to simply by logging in. The



The ICO has finally forced Google to make its privacy policy clearer to users



new terms give Facebook the ability to share user data with advertisers, so they can target you with ads based on your Facebook activities when you're visiting other websites. So if your Facebook profile suggests you like travelling, you may see more holiday and hotel ads when browsing the web.

Facebook has stressed that the data is anonymised; it tells advertisers that you like particular subjects, but not your actual name. There's no way to opt out of this setting on the social network.

### How will it affect you?

Google is now obliged to make it easier for you to find its privacy policy; to more clearly describe how your data is used and why it's collected; to alert users who aren't signed in that their data is still being collected; and to redesign its confusing Account Settings page, among other changes. How it affects you personally depends how much you care about the data Google collects about you. It's certainly worth taking a look at the privacy policy now and again after the end of June to see what three years of ICO work has won: it's likely that many people won't notice the changes, but more privacy-sensitive users will.

There's no way to opt out of Facebook's expansion of behavioural advertising, but if you want to keep using the social network without being tracked, you can install an ad blocker such as Adblock Plus (adblockplus.org) or a privacy add-on such as Blur (formerly called Do Not Track Me, www.abine.com).

### What do we think?

Google's vague and confusing privacy policy has been in place since 2012, so we're dismayed that it's taken so long for these changes to be implemented. While it's good news to see the ICO and its European counterparts hold Google to account, if they truly believed these problems were unfair on users, they would have taken firmer action years ago.

We also wonder why Google deliberately dragged its heels over making the changes requested by the watchdogs. We're sure that it didn't take years to combine the 70-odd policies into one in the first place, so it shouldn't take years to make adjustments.

We're pleased to see both the ICO and Google finally putting effort into improving privacy for users, but the process shouldn't have been so convoluted. And with that in mind, it'd be ideal to have the ICO look over Facebook's changes – especially the inability for users to opt-out.

What we think of this fortnight's top tech news stories and rumours, and how they affect you

### Three bids £10.25bn to buy 02

### What happened?

Three's parent

company Hutchinson has bid £10.25 billion to buy larger rival O2, raising concerns that the shrinking number of mobile firms in the UK could drive up prices for consumers. A company comprising O2 and Three would be the largest mobile network in the UK, with 31.5 million customers, overtaking the 28 million on EE, which itself was the result of a merger between T-Mobile and Orange, and is currently the subject of a £12.5bn bid from BT.

From five firms, the UK market has now shrunk to effectively three, and that worries some analysts. "Fewer players in an essential market like telecoms is rarely a good thing for consumers and competition," noted Which? executive director Richard Lloyd. Prices climbed in Austria after Three bought a rival there two years ago.

### How will it affect you?

Because the deal has yet to be approved by industry regulators, the companies haven't revealed how customers will be affected. These are massive companies with complex infrastructures, so it will take some time for customers to notice any changes.

O2 customers should expect to eventually become Three customers. Given that Three currently has some of the best deals. such as unlimited data offers, this may be good news. On the other hand, watchdog Ofcom rates O2 as the best for customer service, with Three trailing several points behind. Hopefully a merger will preserve the best of both companies.

### What do we think?

This is exactly the type of deal that cries out to be investigated by Ofcom. The regulator needs to make sure customers don't suffer as a result of reduced competition. Mobile firms make huge profits as it is, and with smartphones becoming a must-have device for many of us, the three remaining companies shouldn't be allowed to exploit their dominance. However, Sky's announcement (bit.ly/ sky364) that it will launch a mobile-phone service in 2016, running on O2's network, should help to increase competition and keep costs down.

### TalkTalk blocks adult content by default

### What happened?

TalkTalk has turned on its porn-blocking filters by default, forcing customers to say if they want to access adult content online. The ISP's decision, announced in a blog post (bit.ly/talk364), follows a similar move by Sky. Both firms will ask existing and new customers whether they want adult content blocked. Sky will contact customers by email, while TalkTalk will show a pop-up message. Any customers who ignore the messages will have the controls switched on for them.

Following pressure from the government last year, all the major ISPs started offering parental controls. BT and Virgin Media aren't forcing their customers to make a decision. choosing instead to offer the

TalkTalk

this at any time. If you're a BT or Virgin customer, you'll have to turn on the controls yourself.

Despite being popularly known as "porn blockers", the filters block a variety of content, including sites about drugs and self-harm, plus social networks and dating services, depending on the settings. Critics have pointed out that the blocks frequently include sites they shouldn't, such as sex-education charities and community groups in cities and towns that include prohibited words - Scunthorpe, for example.

### What do we think?

Forcing a decision on customers is a waste of their time: anyone who wants these filters can simply switch

> imperfect such controls are, it may not advisable to push them so

them on, and

given how

aggressively. It's easy to circumvent them, and many innocent sites get unfairly blocked. Any parent wanting to protect their children should certainly consider filters, but they should also be aware that they are not perfect and there are other options available, such as parental-control

### How will it affect you?

software

to those

want it.

who

If you're on Sky or TalkTalk, you'll receive a message asking you whether you want parental controls to be applied to your broadband connection. If you don't make a decision, you'll find adult content is automatically blocked. You can go into your profile and change .....*.* 

software.



### BT to offer 500Mbps broadband 'from next year'

### What happened?

BT announced that new ultra-fast broadband technology will let it deliver speeds of up to 500 megabits

500 megabits per second (500Mbps) across the UK within the next 10 years. Two trials of BT's G.fast



technology will run this summer, in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, and Gosforth, Newcastle. If those tests are successful, rollout of the ultra-fast broadband will start as early as 2016. The ISP said initial speeds will start from a few hundred megabits per second, and advance to 500Mbps and beyond as new hardware is developed - with BT eventually offering speeds of 1Gbps (one gigabit per second).

G.fast - pronounced "gee-dot-fast" - is a new networking standard that boosts speeds by rolling out fibre closer to homes and businesses, with copper still running between them and the G.fast fibre box. Because the broadband signal degrades on copper over a distance, cutting the length of the copper is key to providing high-speed broadband.

### How will it affect you?

If you happen to live in a fibre-to-the-



cabinet area - meaning BT has rolled out fibre broadband to your local networking cabinet - this will offer a significant boost in speeds by bringing fibre closer to your home. However, G.fast won't help people living further away from cabinets - such as those who live in rural areas. BT is hoping that tweaking the technology may improve speeds for such customers, but it has admitted not every customer will see faster speeds as a result of G.fast.

### What do we think?

We're pleased that BT is looking for ways to boost speeds without digging up its existing infrastructure – because it will keep broadband prices down – and that it's starting the work now. While 500Mbps may sound unnecessary at the moment, more 4K video, 3D games and virtual reality, and future datahungry technology, will all increase the stress on existing networks. However, we can't help feeling that the ISP should address slow speeds in rural areas first.

## FIRST LOOK

### Hannspree Micro PC

### www.hannspree.eu

Named the "most innovative product" at a preview of next month's CeBIT consumerelectronic show in Hannover, the Hannspree Micro PC (called 'PC on a Stick' by some retailers) is a full-blown Windows 8.1 computer, squeezed into a device not much bigger than the Google Chromecast. It weighs a mere 38g, measuring 110 x 38 x 10mm, and, just like the Chromecast, it plugs directly into an HDMI port on a TV or monitor. Since HDMI doesn't carry any power, you need to plug it into the supplied mains adapter, too, or a spare USB socket in the back of your TV or monitor. But

aside from that, all you need to add is a keyboard and mouse.

HANNSPree

Despite its small size, the Micro PC runs Windows 8.1 very well, thanks to its 1.83GHz quad-core processor and 2GB of RAM. Explorer windows open instantly, web pages load quickly and the Windows 8.1 Start screen scrolls smoothly. Multitasking can slow things down a touch, and you wouldn't want to do much video editing on it, but for browsing and office work it's fine. The

32GB of storage isn't too shabby for such a small device and can be expanded to 64GB using a microSD card.

The main drawback to a computer you can carry in your pocket is that you're still going to need a keyboard and mouse, or touchscreen display, to use it and indeed to set it up in the first place. Also, the Micro PC offers only single-band 802.11n Wi-Fi, which may prove limiting in certain situations.

However, it seems churlish to complain about such a tiny, powerful device, which costs a mere £169 (some stores sell it for £120) yet includes a full operating system and can be used anywhere. If you travel a lot, it's an excellent investment and certainly preferable to lugging a heavy laptop around with you.





### WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

### Will Apple Pay soon be available in the UK?

Apple's NFC-powered digital wallet, Apple Pay, was launched alongside the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus in the US last September, but the rest of the world is still waiting. However, rumours suggest that Apple is in talks with UK banks that could see Apple Pay launch this spring.

Apple Pay lets you purchase items from selected partner stores contactlessly, simply by waving your iPhone

at an NFC reader. You can also use your phone's camera to capture and save your bank and credit card details.

During Apple's recent mega-profits announcement, CEO Tim Cook took time out to boast of Apple Pay's success in the US, where the digital wallet currently accounts for \$2 of every \$3 spent using contactless payments across the three major US card networks: Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Cook described 2015 as "the year of Apple Pay", suggesting that global rollout plans are on the cards for this year.

According to the Telegraph (bit.ly/ telegraph364), Apple's negotiations with UK banks are proving tricky because of wrangling over the terms,



including what data Apple will be able to access. At least one major bank is said to be uncomfortable with the amount of personal and financial information Apple wants to collect about its customers.

However, other sources claim that Apple is holding back Apple Pay in the UK until the Apple Watch -

which can also use the payment system - is launched in April.

### LIKELIHOOD RATING JJJJ 1

Considering that some Android phones have long offered NFC payments, we're not quite sure why Apple is delaying the UK launch of Apple Pay. However, the fact that it will be integrated into the Apple Watch makes it logical for the company to wait until that device is available, so expect to see Apple Pay in shops

### within the next few months.

## WEBOMETER

### WE LIKE...

### YouTube ditches Flash for HTML5

Videos on YouTube will now play in HTML5 format rather than Flash in Chrome, IE 11, Safari 8 and beta versions of Firefox.



YouTube has dropped Adobe's problematic plug-in following improvements to HTML5.

### Google Earth Pro goes

The Pro edition of Google Earth. which previously cost \$399 (£265), is now free to download. It offers advanced tools for measuring 3D buildings, printing high-resolution images and recording HD videos

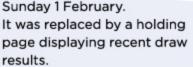


### WE DON'T LIKE...

of virtual flights.

### National Lottery website goes down

Punters were left unable to collect their winnings when the National Lottery website mysteriously went offline for most of the day on Sunday 1 February.



### Tablets may be harmful ro toddlers 🕊

Heavy use of mobile devices at a young age could be detrimental

to "socialemotional development", according to new research, Boston University School of Medicine said tablets impede a toddler's ability to learn self-control.



### What's new on Kickstarter

Our favourite new project on the crowd-funding site

### Acticheck Assure

bit.ly/assure364 | From £100

Promising "peace of mind on your wrist", Acticheck Assure is a smart band that serves as a personal alert system, checking your wellbeing 24 hours a day. It works by monitoring movement and temperature, and creating an alert when it detects unusual activity, which is sent to a home base-station or mobile app. The wearer can also raise their own alert by squeezing the band's buttons. The Assure has a two-year battery life, so you don't need to keep recharging it, and can be set to vibrate, for example, to remind the wearer to take their medication. Funding closes on 26 February.

## Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

### SECURITY ALERT! | What's been bothering us this fortnight

### Blank Office attachments download malware

Bitdefender is warning Microsoft Office users to watch out for Word and Excel files



attached to unsolicited emails. These pretend to be a tax return or a remittance from a bank, and are able to bypass anti-spam filters because the document itself looks blank. However, it actually contains macros - pieces of code - that can bypass your anti-virus software, connect to a remote server and download malware that installs itself automatically on your PC. This may be ransomware or an "industrial espionage tool", so ensure you delete any emails with suspicious attachments immediately. bit.ly/office364

### Essential Flash update

Two new security holes have been discovered and patched in Adobe Flash, making it essential that you keep the Flash software up to date. The most recent flaws were being used on malicious websites to install Trojans onto the PCs of visitors using IE and Firefox. Check for and install the latest version of Flash at bit.lv/checkf364.

bit.ly/flash364

### Run your BMW update

We're used to updating the security on our computers but if you've got a BMWmanufactured car (which includes some Rolls-Royce and Mini models, as well as BMWbranded cars), it might need a security update of its own. The patch is designed to stop an exploit that lets car thieves

doors. It affects cars equipped with ConnectedDrive system and has been sent out automatically. You can check your car got the upgrade by choosing Update Services from its menu.

bit.ly/bmw364

#### Facebook Flash malware

The latest malware threat on Facebook uses a pornographic video that appears to come from one of your friends. Discovered by a researcher at PricewaterhouseCoopers, clicking the video takes you to a download link for an update to Adobe's Flash player, which it suggests you'll need to play the video. In fact, the download is malware designed to take over your PC. The particularly tricky thing about this malware is that not only does it look like it's come from one of your friends, but that a number of your other contacts have watched the video, too.

.....

bit.ly/malvid364

### Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

clone the electronic keys that unlock car

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: Mark James, security specialist at ESET

(www.eset.co.uk)





How safe is it to connect my iPad to a public

Robert Harwood, via email



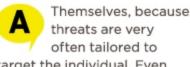
conduct any type of financial transaction and, where possible, try to validate the Wi-Fi you're using with the vendor supplying it. If it's a café, ask a staff member for the correct name. Generally, choosing a Wi-Fi that requires a password should be safer than one without.



What's the biggest risk PC users face in

2015?

Mark Freeman, via email



target the individual. Even the safest or most intelligent

user is susceptible to a personal attack. We are seeing more and more targeted attacks designed to fool the end user into giving away their most private personal and financial details. Multi-layer protection and common sense are your best protection and remember, if something sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

I'm prepared to pay for security software, but what's the minimum level of protection I should have? Can I use just anti-virus software?

Samuel Caines, via email

The only effective solution is multilayer protection.

Just using anti-virus will help, but won't offer the best protection. Good anti-virus, firewall and anti-spam software, as well as keeping your PC fully updated, will all help to keep you safe. Security does not need to be complicated as many good anti-virus products offer the whole bundle to protect your safety. Scanning regularly and following a set of guidelines in email etiquette will go a long way (one of the most common types of attack is

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### Site of the Fortnight

IDEAS

NEW

### **BBC Taster**

### www.bbc.co.uk/taster

Taster is the BBC's new home for experimentation, where the corporation can try out ideas ranging from Twitter tools to virtual backstage passes, and allow users to rate them. There's plenty to look at, from a poet's guided video tour of a Turner exhibition to a social media-themed comedy show and a Twitter-based "weather bot" that answers queries. Some of the ideas are simply pitching new TV shows, but it's an interesting peek behind the scenes at what the BBC has planned next, as well as a barometer of what the creative teams are up to - from what we can tell, they're really into Twitter!

Our rating







A group of estate agents has set up its own property-search site to rival the two dominant house-hunting services, Rightmove and Zoopla. Any property listed with OnTheMarket.com can't be included on the others, which isn't really in the best interests of home owners who want to reach as many prospective buyers as possible. Whether OnTheMarket.com will win the battle for exclusive listings remains to be seen, but it does offer a slick, modern way to find a new home. You can search for sales or lettings via a list, map or picture-heavy grid, either by area or estate agent. It's certainly worth a visit if you're ready to up sticks and move.

Our rating





**TRAVEL** 

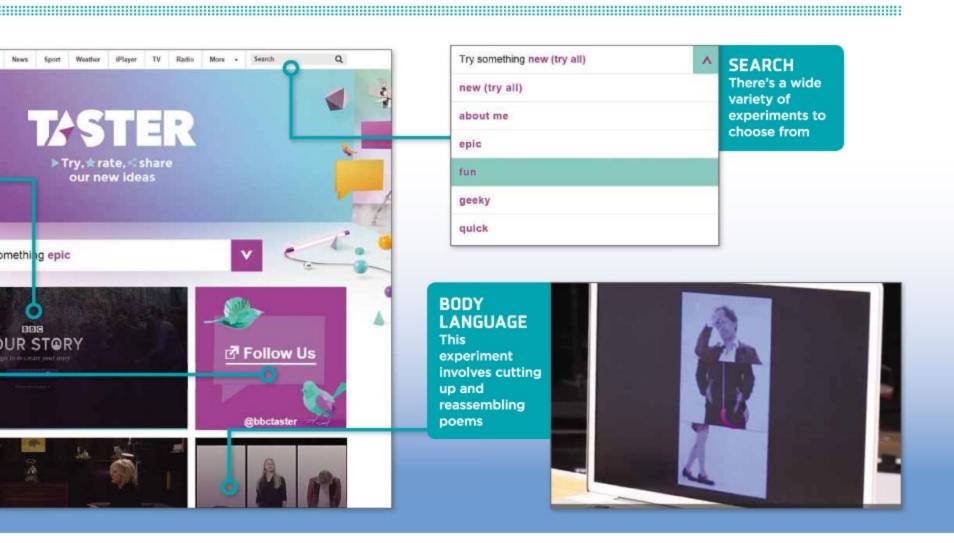
### Deli

### deli.global

On your way to Amsterdam, Paris or Copenhagen, but not sure what to do once you're there? Deli is a quirky travel site that suggests activities based on your answers to a quick quiz. Depending on what type of shoes you wear, your favourite drink and other seemingly random information, you get tourist destinations, bars and other entertainment ideas, as well as a list of forthcoming events. The selection of cities is very small, and some aren't yet available, but bookmark the site and check back next time you're planning a trip to a European capital.



### We review this fortnight's best new and relaunched websites and rate them for content, design and features





**JOB SEARCH** 

### Craft

### craft.co

Unemployment may be falling, but it can still be tough to get a job. Craft can help by finding you positions to apply for and providing information about different companies. You can search for a specific firm, or click a category such as fashion, finance or education to see a list of leading companies. Click a logo to find out what a company does, how many employees it has and its key financial statistics - as well as any jobs on offer. So far, it's mostly centered on San Francisco and London, but many of the companies are huge and have a large reach, so it's worth a look for any job hunter.







TRAVEL

### Visit California

### www.visitcalifornia.com

This site's only task is to promote the Golden State, which it does beautifully: scroll the pages of gorgeous photos and you'll be fighting the urge to hop on the next plane to California. The site includes travel ideas for cities, activities and scenic drives, complete with maps, directions and jaw-dropping photography. There's also info on what to see and do, from whale watching to celeb spotting. The sections on the national parks are particularly handy: we've all heard of Death Valley, but this highlights some lesser-known spots that are just as stunning.

Our rating





**ENTERTAINMENT** 

### Shaun the Sheep

### shaunthesheep.com

Fans of Wallace and Gromit's pal Shaun the Sheep can rejoice at the news that a film is set for release in March, along with a fun new website full of games and contests to help you pass the time until then. There's a selection of games to download to a Kindle, Android or Apple device, such as Sheep Stack and Shear Speed, as well as a collection to play directly in your browser. The games suit children of various ages, though younger kids may may need help to figure out how to play. The site also features colouring sheets to print, a drawing contest and the film's trailer.





### Best New Websites







### ENVIRONMENT

### The Source

### source.macmillan.org.uk

Launched by charity Macmillan Cancer acceptable but often helpful. The site lets vital assistance to people who really need it.

Support, The Source suggests ways you can help and support family members and friends with the disease. The advice on what to say - and what not to say - to someone recently diagnosed with the disease stresses that humour is not only you easily share any particularly useful tips you find via email and social media. and you can click tags such as 'practical support' and 'fun tips' if you're looking for help in a specific area. This is an excellent, smartly designed site providing

### **UK Sport**

### www.uksport.gov.uk

Fans of British sport will be pleased to know that the Government-backed UK Sport website has been revamped, complete with a countdown to the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The photo-heavy site features interviews with athletes as well as news updates on events and details of where to buy tickets, plus information about the training and assistance UK Sport provides for athletes and coaches. If you're interested in any of the sports that make up the Olympic games, bookmark the site to enjoy the weekly update blog posts, which will keep you up to date during the countdown to Rio.

### Check My Flood Risk

### www.checkmyfloodrisk.co.uk

If you live near a river or the sea, you may be worried about flooding, especially considering the damage caused in recent years. This website lets you check how much of a risk there is on your street, showing in blue on the map where the waters might reach but also warning you of the statistical risks - such as a flood once every 30 years. There's a useful map with active flood alerts and, if you register with the site (for free), you can monitor your own neighbourhood and get updates if an alert is filed. The only disappointment is that Check My Flood Risk only covers England, not Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Our rating











\*\*\*

HISTORY

### Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

### auschwitz.org/en/

To mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the website for the museum and memorial has been redesigned to include explanations of what you can visit, the history of the site and the horrifying acts that happened there. There are special reports and videos highlighting the liberation of the camp, featuring interactive exhibits and photography, and an online store selling books, DVDs and posters. If you've never visited Auschwitz, this site provides an overview of what you can expect to see, from the exhibits to the remains of the buildings.

Our rating



This Ikea-sponsored site features DIY projects submitted by users as well as posts about how to warm up a room or organise a small space. The latter tend to be shopping lists for Ikea products, but will also point to clever ideas found on Etsy and other retailers. There are tips on the best way to paint a wall, how to clean silver and making a magnetic spice rack, plus simple tricks for fluffier towels. If you want to share ideas, you should sign up and see your tips, tricks and projects alongside ideas from Snug writers and content taken from the internet. It's written in a light, irreverent tone and it's easy to share what you find on social networks such as Pinterest.



### **ALSO NEW**

#### STYLE

### Elizabeth Arden

#### www.elizabetharden.co.uk

Classic beauty brand Elizabeth Arden has relaunched its website, improving its ordering process and now offering next-day delivery. The site features Elizabeth Arden's full range of makeup, skincare products and fragrances, offering everything from a single lipstick to full collections for £330. Don't miss the Offers page for the latest discounts.

#### TRANSPORT

### Fix My Journey

### www.fixmyjourney.co.uk

Fix My Journey encourages Hampshire residents to use sustainable transportation and to promote it to others, earning points for prizes when they do either. You'll have to connect a Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn account to use it and, because the site isn't fully public yet, you'll need to request an invite; ours took only a few hours to arrive.

#### **TRAVEL**

### **Orbital Travel**

#### www.orbitaltravel.co.uk

Looking for a cruise through Croatia, France or Egypt? Orbital Travel has refreshed its website so it's easier to use on phones and tablets, which is handy if you're dreaming of a trip down the Danube or the Nile while waiting for a bus in the rain. The site now features larger photos and YouTube videos to give you a taste of the tours on offer.

### TECH

### Chinese Smartphones

### www.chinesesmartphones.co.uk

China produces lots of excellent, low-cost smartphones, but it's hard to know what to buy if you don't know your Xiaomi from your Huawei. This site provides extensive information about the latest smartphones, with news, reviews and how-to guides for handsets you may never have heard of. There's also a forum, although it's currently empty.



### WEBSITE SECRETS

BuzzFeed

### Turn BuzzFeed into SlothFeed

If you're tired of reading vacuous articles on BuzzFeed (www .buzzfeed.com/uk) about Eighties toys and disgusting food, a secret trick will turn all

the text on the site into the word "sloths" and all the images into photos of the cute but lazy mammal. To sloth-ify

BuzzFeed, you simply need to enter our old friend the Konami code: press Up, Up,

nothing but sloths for as far as you can scroll down.

Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, B, A. You'll now see

Refresh the page to return to normal BuzzFeed.





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## **Build a Better Site**

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

### Top Tips of the Fortnight

### Learn more about Analytics

It's important to know which pages on your site are getting the most traffic, so you can learn what visitors what from it. Google Analytics (www.google.com/ analytics) is free, powerful and all that most webmasters will ever need, but it can seem unfathomably complex.



Thankfully, Google has launched a series of courses, which you can work through at your own pace, to help you get more out of its fantastic service. Go to analyticsacademy.withgoogle.com to explore the courses on offer.

### Fiddling with website code

Sometimes you want to test changes to your website before making them live, so you can see how a change to your CSS (cascading style sheets) will affect the look of your page, or what might happen if you drop in a few lines of JavaScript. JSFiddle (jsfiddle.net) lets you do this in a safe environment. The website lets you enter HTML, CSS and JavaScript code into separate windows, to see how they interact in the Result window. You don't have to use all the windows - it's great even if you just want to test some HTML or CSS changes.

### Deal of the Fortnight

Get 50 per cent off a Compila (www .compila.com) website by using the code save50wu. This reduces prices to just 79p per month on its Starter package.

### Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: Michele Neylon, Blacknight Solutions, (www.blacknight.com)



If I own a .com and .co.uk domain, can I stop people registering versions in .cn, etc? Adrian Bonnington, via email

If you register your .com and .co.uk domain name, you cannot automatically protect your brand in other domain-name extensions. If you're really serious, then you should consider getting a registered trademark. You can get more information via the Intellectual Property Office (bit.ly/intel364). Intellectual property rights can be a complex issue, so I'd

Another option is to register your domain across the more commonly used domain extensions (.net, .org, .biz and .eu). However, this is expensive, so you may need to focus on the markets you intend to operate in.

recommend you talk to a good solicitor.



MINI WORKSHOP | Create a simple website for free Website X5 Free: bit.ly/webfree364 | 🕒 20 mins | XP, Vista, 7, 8+

Coding in HTML or installing WordPress are a bit over the top if you want a basic site. Instead you could use the free version of Incomedia's WebSite X5. If you want more tools, full versions start from £14.99 (Home edition).



On the main screen, click the green Start button. Give your website a name 🚺 or choose an ongoing project from the list below. then click Next. 2 The next form lets you enter a bit more information, including a web address. You can now pick a template: the free version only has one (Default Template).



You can't alter the Template Structure or the Drop Down Menu in the free version, but you can change the Text Style, 1 Main Menu 2 and the Tooltip style. El The next page lets you use different images in the header and footer. In Map Creation, click a page to select it, then click again to rename it.



Under Page Creation, drag elements from the right 11 to a section of the page on the left. 2 Highlight it and click Edit 1 to input text or select an image. Click Next 4 to complete each page. Advanced Settings aren't available in the free version but you can upload your site directly to your webspace or save it to your hard drive.

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We test and compare the latest products

## **Best new tablets**

There are some great new tablets around but which one should you choose? **Andy Shaw** tested 14 and picks out his top five

everal brilliant new tablets were launched at the end of last year, including impressive new devices from Google, Apple and Tesco. Now that the dust has settled, we've had the chance to put all of these tablets through our extensive tests, so we can fully compare them and decide which one is the best.

We looked at 14 tablets, but have picked out our favourite five to review in detail. You can see the scores we gave the other nine on page 22.

### **HOW WE TESTED**

We test tablet performance using a variety of benchmarks that work on iOS, Android and Windows 8.1, including SunSpider (bit .ly/sunspi364) and 3DMark Ice Storm (bit.ly/3dmark364). We run a battery-life test and we also measure how good the screen is, comparing the brightness (measured in candles per square metre, or cd/m²), contrast and the number of Microsoft's RGB standard colours it can display.

### Google Nexus 9 | £319 | play.google.com

FEATURES ★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★☆ EASE OF USE ★★★★★ VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★☆

The Nexus 9 is a bit cheaper than the equivalent version of the latest iPad (the Air 2, reviewed above right). The 16GB model is £319, but for £399 you get 32GB – which only gets you 16GB on the Air 2. However, it's not the bargain the Nexus 7 was.

The Nexus 9 doesn't quite meet the iPad's design quality but it's well-built. The back is plastic rather than aluminium, but doesn't bend under pressure. At

8mm thick, it's just under 2mm thicker than the iPad Air 2, which is a 30 per cent increase. However, it only weighs 425g, which is 12g lighter than the iPad.

The Nexus has ditched Android's usual wide-screen format to copy the iPad's 4:3 ratio. This is much better for browsing the web, but not so good for watching movies because black bars appear above and below the main image. The screen's colour range is better than the iPad Air 2's, providing 93.8 per cent of sRGB colours in our tests. It's also bright, measuring 466.4cd/m², so it's easy to read even on a bright day. Its darkest black is impressive, getting down to 0.38cd/m², which gives the tablet an excellent contrast ratio of 1,224:1.

22:09

Static Hicker than

The Nexus 9 managed a time of 908.8 milliseconds (ms) in our SunSpider JavaScript benchmark (bit.ly/sunspi358), which is a respectable but unspectacular score, and much slower than the iPad Air 2. We didn't experience any noticeable slowdown when browsing, though. It was fast in our games tests, beating all but the Nvidia Shield tablet (reviewed right) in this Group Test, with an Ice Storm Unlimited benchmark score of 25,621.

The battery lasted an excellent 15 hours and 57 minutes in our test, and the camera and speakers were both fine. If you want a tablet that's been built to run Android 5.0 (Lollipop), the Nexus 9 is the obvious choice.

VERDICT ★★★★

The Nexus 9 is our favourite Android tablet. The design and build quality aren't quite up to the standard of the iPad Air 2 but it's a smidgen cheaper, so we can forgive the odd bit of corner-cutting. The screen hasn't been

compromised, however, and the battery life is also impressive, perhaps helped by the extra 2mm thickness. It's not without its niggles, but if you're looking for a powerful Android tablet, we'd definitely recommend it.

WebUs

BRONZE AWARD

### Apple iPad Air 2 | £399

store.apple.com/uk

EATURES ★★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★ VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★☆☆

There's no denying that Apple's design and build are top quality: the iPad Air 2 is just 6.1mm thick and its distinctive aluminium back feels robust. You can get it in higher capacities for a surprisingly reasonable price (64GB for what it used to cost to upgrade it to 32GB), but its starting price of £399 makes its cheapest model more expensive than Google's tablet.

The Air 2's screen is gorgeous, but the Nexus 9 rivals it. And while the iPad trounced the Nexus in our browser test (295.8ms in the

SunSpider test), it wasn't as fast in the 3D Mark Ice Storm graphics test. The iPad's thinner case also sacrifices some battery capacity, falling more than three hours short of the Nexus in our tests, with a life of 12 hours and 31 minutes.

### VERDICT

With its superior build and design, and super-fast performance, the iPad Air 2 is a superlative tablet. However, the Nexus 9 is a bit cheaper and surpasses the iPad in key areas such as games performance and battery life.

### Tesco Hudi2 | £129

www.tesco.com/direct

FEATURES ★★★★☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★★☆ EASE OF USE ★★★★★ VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★

The Hudl2 is similar in size to the Nexus 9 but, at £129, it's much, much cheaper. It's remarkably slim (9mm) and light (404g), and a lot better than its budget price might have you think. Its 8.3in

screen has a resolution of

1,920 x 1,200 pixels, with a

100

widescreen ratio that's great for watching films and TV. It has 16GB of memory installed, which can be boosted to 48GB via its MicroSD card slot.

The tablet completed the SunSpider test in 804ms, which is much slower than the Nexus and iPad. It also scored 7.686 in the Ice Storm Extreme test, so it can cope with most of the apps and games that run on faster devices, although the experience may not be as slick. It works well for everyday browsing and simple tasks such as emailing, although battery life was short at only 6 hours and 52 minutes.

### VERDICT

You can't expect a cheap tablet to be as good as one that costs more than twice its price, and the Hudl2 can't match Google and Apple's award winners. However, for a budget model it's a great tablet.

### Nvidia Shield Tablet | £240

www.ebuyer.com

FEATURES ★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★☆ VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★☆

The iPad Air 2 and the Nexus 9 look particularly impressive because they've got the best screens. The Nvidia Shield's isn't as good, displaying only 79.2 per cent of the sRGB colours and offering a low contrast ratio of 823:1. However, it's



brilliant for games. It scored 27,000 in the Ice Storm 3D test, which is easily the best here, and if you've got the right kind of Nvidia PC graphics card, you can use the tablet as a secondary PC screen and cast your PC games on to it. Nvidia is also planning a subscription-based game-streaming service, designed specifically for this device.

It's a bit of a niche tablet, and despite its cheaper price, it can't topple the Nexus or the iPad for general use, But its extra game-related tools and features make it a must-have for serious gamers.

### VERDICT

\*\*\*\*

The screen on this gaming tablet is disappointing, but it's more than made up for by its performance, which was better in our tests than any of the other tablets reviewed here.

### Sony Xperia Z3 Tablet Compact | £329

www.shop.sony.co.uk

FEATURES ★★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★☆ VALUE FOR MONEY ★★☆☆

The 8in Z3 Compact is slim (6.4mm) and light (270g), making it comfortable to hold in one hand. It's also robust enough to take anywhere and its dustproof casing can survive in water to a depth of 1.5m.

The screen can display up to 98.2 per cent of sRGB colours, which is a fantastic performance, though its contrast ratio is a little disappointing at 875:1. It's good for gaming, though, with an Ice Storm Extreme rating of 18,077, and it wirelessly connects to a PlayStation 4 so you can stream games to it and free up the TV.

The battery life is brilliant, lasting 16 hours and 51 minutes in our test. It hasn't been upgraded to Android 5.0 yet, but Sony has promised that this will happen soon.

### VERDICT

 $\star\star\star\star$ 

The Sony Xperia Z3 is compact and light, has a great screen and makes no compromise on performance. It's expensive for its size, but has some great extra features such as the ability to connect to a PlayStation, and a waterproof casing.

### **Group Test Tablets**



### OUR VERDICT WebUser GOLD It's a close call between the Nexus 9, which wins our Gold AWARD Award, and the Silver Awardwinning iPad Air 2. If you've already bought into either Google or Apple's app stores, you may already have decided to stick with what you know. But if you're free to choose between them, our preference for the Nexus 9 lies largely in the fact that it's slightly better value for money. For once, however, Apple's iPad isn't vastly more expensive, especially if you factor in the better design and

The Hudl2 wins our Bronze Award. It costs less than half the price of the other award-winners and is surprisingly good quality for what you get. There are a few problems, such as its short battery life, but if you can overlook the limitations, it's extremely good value for money.

Amazon Kindle Fire	
HDX 8.9 (2014)	
£309	***
Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 10	
£250	***
Toshiba Encore 2 WT10-A-102	
Encore 2 W110-A-102 £222	***
Amazon	
Fire HD 6	***
Asus	~~~
Transformer Pad TF103C	
£200	***
Gigaset QV830	
£70	***
Linx	
7 £80	***
Archos	- AAA
80 Helium 4G	
£200	****
Samsung Galaxy Tab Lite	
E89	***

memory boost to 64GB.

build-quality, and opt for a great-value



Web User and its sister titles test over 2,500 products every year

### **HARDWARE**

### **TABLET**

### **Google Nexus 9**

£319 from play.google.com Date tested: February 2015



The Nexus 9 is our favourite Android tablet. It has a fantastic screen, even better than the iPad Air 2's, and superb battery life, lasting over 15 hours in our tests. It's cheaper than the latest iPad and comes in 16GB and 32GB capacities.

#### **KEY SPECS**

8.9in screen = 2.048 x 1.536 pixels resolution = Dual-core 2.3GHz 64-bit Nvidia Tegra K1 Denver processor ■ 16/32GB storage = 4G option costs £60 extra (32GB models only) = Android  $5.0 = 228 \times 154 \times 8 \text{mm} = 425 \text{g}$ 

### **WINDOWS 8.1 LAPTOP**

### Asus Transformer Book Flip TP300LA

£449.95 from www.johnlewis.com Date tested: January 2015

This touchscreen laptop folds over into a chunky tablet. It's well built, did well in our performance tests and has a fantastic battery life.



### **KEY SPECS**

Dual-core 1.9GHz Intel Core i3-4030U processor = 4GB of memory = 13.3in touchscreen = 1,366 x 768 pixels resolution ■ 500GB hard drive ■ 802.11ac Wi-Fi ■ 326 x 232 x 22mm ■ 1.75kg = One-year collect-and-return warranty

### **WIRELESS ROUTER**

### D-Link DIR-868L

£65.97 from www.dabs.com Date tested: December 2014



If you're willing to switch your wireless devices to the 5GHz network, the D-Link DIR-868L offers fast and reliable performance at a great price.

### **KEY SPECS**

Dual-band 2.4GHz and 5GHz = 802.11b/g/n = 1,300Mbps theoretical maximum speed = Six internal antennas =  $4 \times 10/100/1000$ Mbps Ethernet ports = WPA and WPA2 encryption = 1 x USB 3 port = 217 x 123 x 102mm = One-year return-to-base warranty

### DESKTOP PC

### Chillblast Fusion Obelisk

£699.98 from www.chillblast.com Date tested: November 2014



This great all-round desktop PC achieved a good overall performance in both our Windows and gaming tests. It runs quietly, has a good-quality monitor and is packed with great components, including a fast SSD and a generous hard drive.

### **KEY SPECS**

Quad-core 4.2GHz Intel Core i5-4690K processor (overclocked)  $\equiv$  8GB of memory  $\equiv$  5 x USB3, 5 x USB2 ports Gigabit Ethernet = 120GB SSD = 1TB hard drive = 1,920 x 1,080 pixels resolution = Windows 8.1 = 465 x 430 x 192mm

### KEYBOARD

### Cherry MX-Board 3.0

£55 from www.kikatek.com Date tested: November 2014



The Cherry MX-Board 3.0 is a hard-wearing mechanical keyboard that's a pleasure to type on. It doesn't have lots of features, but it's ideal if you're looking for a standard, good-quality keyboard.

### KEY SPECS

104 keys = 1 X USB port = 1.8m detachable cable = 2 non-slip surfaces = 2 rubber caps for adjustable feet = 44.6 x 15.8 x 2.8cm = 0.83kg = Win-Key lock

### **BUDGET LAPTOP**

### Asus X200MA

£175.55 from www.amazon.co.uk Date tested: October 2014



This is a compact, portable laptop at a great price that will manage the latest version of Windows and provide more than four hours of battery life.

#### KEY SPECS

2.16GHz Intel Celeron N2830 dual-core processor ■ 500GB hard drive = 2GB memory = 11.6in (non-touch) screen = 1,366 x 768 pixels resolution = 1 x USB 3 port, 2 x USB 2 ports = 1 x 10/100 Ethernet, 802.11n dual-band Wi-Fi = 302 x 200 x 26mm = 1.2kg = One-year return-to-base warranty

### 🔙 Web User's Best Buys

### **NAS DRIVE**

### Asustor AS-202TE

£199.66 from

www.scan.co.uk

Date tested: September 2014

This NAS drive put in an excellent performance in our tests, transferring files over our network faster than any of the other devices we tested. It has an impressive range of tools, including an HDMI output for streaming to TV.



#### **KEY SPECS**

EXT4 file system = SATA3 hard drive =  $2 \times 3.5$ in bays =  $1 \times 10/100/1,000$  Ethernet =  $2 \times USB 2$  ports,  $2 \times USB 3$ ports =  $1 \times HDMI (1.4a) = 1 \times 3.5$ mm mini-jack =  $230 \times 164 \times 108$ mm = 1.87kg = Two-year return-to-base warranty

### **HD MONITOR**

### BenQ EW2740L

£194 from www.ebuyer.com Date tested: July 2014

The BenQ EW2740L is an excellent-value 27in monitor with good image quality. It supports MHL, so you can connect a compatible mobile device to it, and has two HDMI ports and one VGA port.



### **KEY SPECS**

27in widescreen = 1,920 x 1,080 pixels resolution = 2W stereo speakers = MHL support = 2 x HDMI and 1 x VGA ports = 320 x 115 x 95mm = One-year return-to-base warranty

### **BUDGET SMARTPHONE**

### Motorola Moto G

£99.99 (PAYG) from www.argos.co.uk Date tested: April 2014

The excellent Moto G has set a new standard in affordable smartphones.

A 4G model is now available, as well as an updated version with a 5in screen and a microSD card slot to expand its storage.

The phone's beautiful screen and good performance make it fantastic value for money.

### **KEY SPECS**

1.2GHz quad-core processor = 8GB storage = 1,280 x 720 pixels resolution = 4.5in screen = 1GB memory = Android 4.4 (KitKat) = 5-megapixel and 1.3-megapixel cameras = 3G/GPS/Bluetooth/802.11n Wi-Fi = 130 x 66 x 12mm = 143g

### **WOHD MONITOR**

### AOC q2770Pqu

£367.96 from www.dabs.com

Date tested: August 2014

The AOC q2770Pqu has an exceptional, highquality screen and is very reasonably priced. Its settings are preconfigured, so you don't need to tweak

them to improve the display, and it has all the ports you'll ever need.

### **KEY SPECS**

27in widescreen = 2,560 x 1,440 pixels resolution = Portrait mode = Adjustable stand = 2 x 2W speakers = DisplayPort, DVI, HDMI, VGA, 2 x USB 3.0 and 2 x USB 2.0 ports = 642 x  $428 \times 245 \text{mm} = 8 \text{kg} = 3 \text{-years return-to-base warranty}$ 

### **CHROMEBOOK**

Acer C720P Chromebook

£244.81 from www.ilgs.net Date tested: June 2014

This fantastic Chromebook provides excellent overall performance,

respectable battery life and a good collection of ports. It's got a smart touchscreen, comfy keyboard and touchpad, and starts up in no time at all.

### **KEY SPECS**

1.4GHz Intel Celeron 2955U processor = 16GB storage = 2GB memory = 11.6in screen = 1,366 x 768 pixels resolution = 7.5 hours battery life = USB 3, USB 2 and HDMI ports = 288 x 204 x 20mm = 1.35kg

### **BASE UNIT PC**

### Chillblast Fusion Quasar

£600 from www.chillblast.com

Date tested: March 2014

The Chillblast Fusion Quasar is a great all-round PC offering superb performance and plenty of room for expansion. It's expensive compared to other base unit PCs, but comes with a five-year

warranty and a high-performing SSHD hard drive.

#### **KEY SPECS**

3.4GHz Intel Core i5-4670K processor = 8GB DDR3 memory = Gigabyte GA-Z87-HD3 motherboard = 1TB hybrid HD/SSD hard drive = Windows 8.1 64-bit = Five-year return-to-base warranty = 465 x 430 x 192mm



### SOFTWARE & SERVICES

### INTERNET SECURITY

### Kaspersky Internet Security 2015

£39.99 from www.kaspersky.co.uk Date tested: January 2015

Kaspersky Internet Security's performance was near-perfect throughout Dennis Security Labs' tests last year, with only one unwanted program slipping through. It also knows when software is safe, so it won't stop you installing the programs you want.

**KEY FEATURES** 

Anti-virus and firewall tools ■ Protects online shopping and banking | Identity and privacy tools | Dangerous-website alerts = Advanced parental control = Licences for one, three, and five PCs; for one or two years, or pay monthly = Multi-Device version for Mac and Android protection

### PHOTO EDITING

### Adobe Photoshop Elements 13

£81.08 from www.adobe.com/uk

Date tested: December 2014

With its tidy interface and pop-out trays, Adobe Photoshop Elements provides



everything an amateur photographer needs and makes it easy to quickly find the right editing tools.

### **KEY FEATURES**

Compatible with Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8+ (32- and 64-bit)

- Bundled photo organiser Content-aware edits
- Guided edits People-beautifier tools RAW support

### VIDEO EDITING

### Adobe Premiere Elements 13

£81.08 from www.adobe.com/uk Date tested: December 2014

Premiere Elements 13's superb interface makes its many features neat but accessible. You won't find better videoediting software for the price.



### **KEY FEATURES**

Automatic editing = Export to multiple video formats Image stabiliser = DVD and Blu-ray disc-burning = Unlimited timelines = Stop-motion capture



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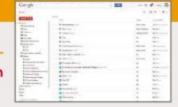
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### ONLINE STORAGE

### **Google Drive**

From free from drive.google.com Date tested: August 2014



Google Drive is easy to use and has lots of free storage. The Windows software integrates with Explorer, so saving and syncing files is like keeping them in any other PC folder.

### **KEY FEATURES**

15GB free storage ■ Web-based office software ■ Works with Windows XP, Vista, 7 and 8+ ■ Chrome browser add-on Android and iOS apps = 100GB extra storage for £1.19 per month; 1TB for £5.97 per month; 10TB for £59.51 per month

### ONLINE SITE BUILDER

### Weebly

From free from www.weebly.com Date tested: May 2014



Weebly's drag-and-drop interface makes it extremely easy to use. Its templates are a little restrictive, but there are still plenty of options to choose from and the results look great. It also has free Android and iOS apps.

### **KEY FEATURES**

115 templates = Unlimited storage = SEO tools = Meta tags = Password protection = E-commerce tools = Ad-free Starter edition = Android and iOS apps = RSS = Site stats

## Best Free Software

#### ANTI-MALWARE TOOL

### IObit Malware Fighter 3 Free

#### bit.ly/malware364

Min requirements: Windows 7/8+/10

File size: 26.3MB

IObit Malware Fighter Free keeps your PC safe from a wide range of threats and offers a choice of scans: Smart, Full and Custom. The Smart option quickly scans the most important areas of your system, while Full scans all your hard drives, which takes a while longer. With a Custom scan, you can target critical areas of your system, memory processes and specific folders and drives.

The latest version of Malware Fighter comes with a new Browser Protect feature that offers real-time protection for your browser's home and search pages, and prevents malware from tampering with your DNS (Domain Name System) settings. Its Surfing Protection blocks known bad sites, while the Plug-in/Toolbar Cleaner removes malicious add-ons.

The Security Guard module, also new in this release, protects your system in real time, and has separate guards for Network, Files, Startup, Cookies and Browser. There's also a Security Reinforce option that locks your system



to keep it safe from hackers, and a History tab that lets you view the number of objects scanned and threats found to date.

Other features include an Action Centre, which provides a list of other programs you can download from IObit, and Cloud Security, which lets you upload suspicious files for checking in the cloud.

The scanning engine has been overhauled in this latest release, which makes it better at detecting and removing more threats (the database contains over a million items), and



there's a new Silent mode that stops the software bombarding you with alerts.

Finally, the program has been made compatible with the latest Windows 10 Technical Preview.

### ·

### MINI WORKSHOP | Keep your PC secure using Malware Fighter 3 Free



Launch your choice of scan from Malware Fighter 3's home screen. You can watch the progress of the scan and pause or stop it at any time. The software can be set to automatically repair any found problems, and it can shut down your PC once the scan has completed.



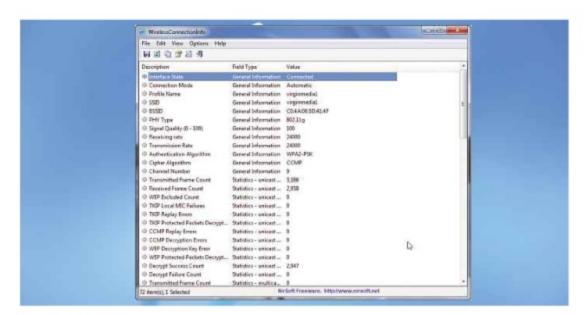
Browser Protect offers four tools for safeguarding your browser.

Homepage Protection 1 stops malware changing the start page, while DNS Protect 2 secures your DNS look-up (which tells the browser where to find web pages). Surfing Protection 5 blocks online threats, and Plug-in/Toolbar Cleaner 4 removes bad add-ons.



If you want to know whether a file on your PC is safe before you run or open it, right-click it and select 'Scan with IObit Malware Fighter' from the menu. You can also upload the file, for analysing in the cloud. Click the Cloud button 11 then click 'Analyze a file' 2 to select and upload the suspicious item. 5

### This fortnight's top new software downloads to help you make the most of your PC, and they're all FREE



#### SYSTEM TOOL

### WirelessConnectionInfo

#### www.nirsoft.net

Min requirements: Windows Vista/7/8+ File size: 51.3MB

Whether you want to troubleshoot problems with your wireless network or find out more about the hotspot you're connected to, this tiny portable program from NirSoft can help. The report lists 90 things about the active wireless connection, including its network SSID, PHY Type (802.11n, for example), signal quality, receiving and transmission rates, security algorithm and channel. A lot of the information is updated in real time, so you can keep an eye on what's happening.

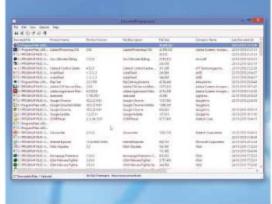


### **ANTI-MALWARE TOOL** VirusTotal Scanner 4

### www.securityxploded.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+ File size: 1.8MB

If you want to be sure that a file isn't malware, upload it to VirusTotal (www .virustotal.com) where it will be checked by more than 40 different anti-virus engines including AVG, F-Secure and Symantec AntiVirus. Files can take a while to upload, so instead VirusTotal Scanner generates and checks a digital fingerprint of the file (a hash) for a near-instant verdict. The new version makes the software easier to uninstall.



### SYSTEM TOOL

### ExecutedProgramsList

### www.nirsoft.net

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+ File size: 51.1KB

This tiny tool lists all the programs and batch files that have been run on your PC, so you can use it to check for malware or see what software other family members are using. The list displays the EXE file name, product name, product version, file description, file size, publisher name and (in a lot of cases) when it was last used. The program can be run from a USB flash drive if you don't want to install it.

### **New Windows 8 Apps**

### Puzzle Pets

#### bit.ly/puzzlepets364

Min requirements: Windows 8+

File size: 113MB

This is a puzzle game in which the aim is to match up to six pets and create more than 10 colourful combos. There are various boosters available.



### Music Mode

#### bit.ly/musicmode364

Min requirements: Windows 8+

File size: 1.91MB

This music player offers a choice of auto-pilot modes to keep your songs playing, along with crossfade support. It can also retrieve missing song information from online databases.



#### Strung Along

### bit.ly/strungalong364

Min requirements: Windows 8+

File size: 12.7MB

In this game, you control a wooden string puppet by using the 'a' and 'd' keys to move its legs. Avoid obstacles by walking, jumping and grabbing onto things. An endless mode helps you practise.



### DISK DEFRAGMENTER

### Anvi Ultimate Defrag Free

#### www.anvisoft.com

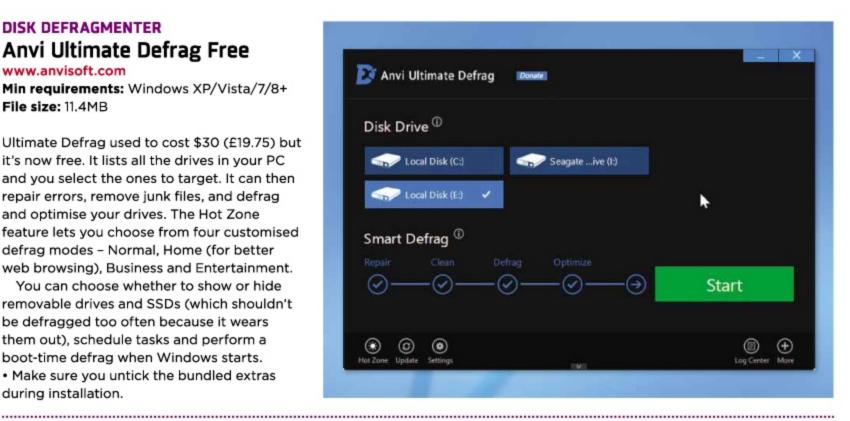
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+

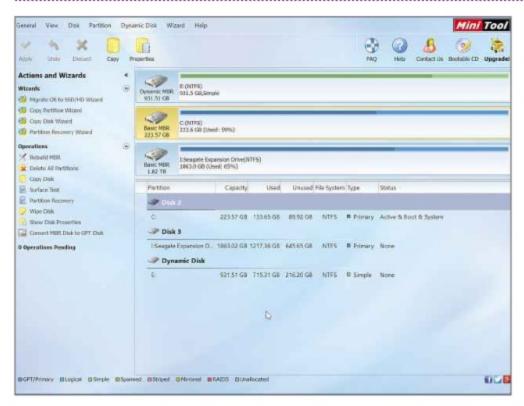
File size: 11.4MB

Ultimate Defrag used to cost \$30 (£19.75) but it's now free. It lists all the drives in your PC and you select the ones to target. It can then repair errors, remove junk files, and defrag and optimise your drives. The Hot Zone feature lets you choose from four customised defrag modes - Normal, Home (for better web browsing), Business and Entertainment.

You can choose whether to show or hide removable drives and SSDs (which shouldn't be defragged too often because it wears them out), schedule tasks and perform a boot-time defrag when Windows starts.

 Make sure you untick the bundled extras during installation.





### **DISK-PARTITION TOOL**

### MiniTool Partition Wizard Free 9

bit.ly/partitionwiz364

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+

File size: 30.5MB

Windows has its own partition tool for dividing up your hard drive, but there are better thirdparty programs available. Partition Wizard Free from MiniTool is one of our favourite options. It lets you easily create, delete, wipe, copy, resize and move partitions. You can also clone drives, convert disk types and file systems, recover partitions and master boot records.

The latest version of the program can migrate an operating system to a new hard drive or SSD in a single step, without you having to clone the entire drive, and adds support for Storage Spaces under Windows 8+. The interface has been improved and partition-merging has been enhanced, too.

#### **DISC-AUTHORING SOFTWARE**

### CyberLink Power2Go Essential

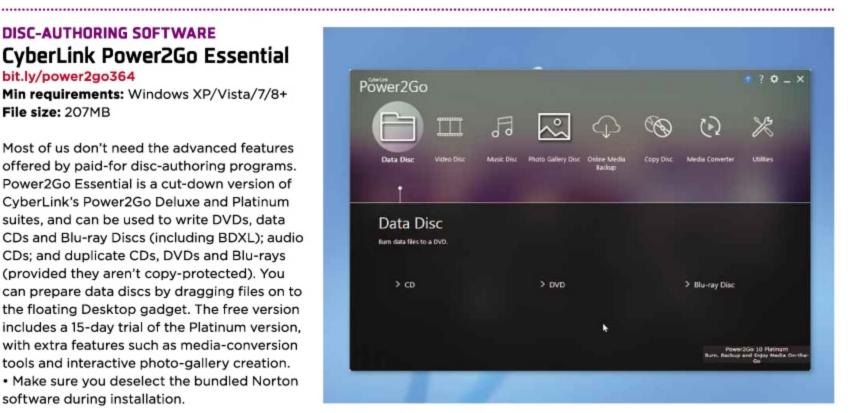
bit.ly/power2go364

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+

File size: 207MB

Most of us don't need the advanced features offered by paid-for disc-authoring programs. Power2Go Essential is a cut-down version of CyberLink's Power2Go Deluxe and Platinum suites, and can be used to write DVDs, data CDs and Blu-ray Discs (including BDXL); audio CDs; and duplicate CDs, DVDs and Blu-rays (provided they aren't copy-protected). You can prepare data discs by dragging files on to the floating Desktop gadget. The free version includes a 15-day trial of the Platinum version, with extra features such as media-conversion tools and interactive photo-gallery creation.

· Make sure you deselect the bundled Norton software during installation.





#### **GAME**

### A Postcard from Afthonia

bit.ly/afthonia364

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+ File size: 76.4MB

You have been tasked to seek the wisdom of the Oracle in this whimsical point-and-click adventure game set on the Isle of the Sun. As you converse with philosophical trees and scuba-diving giraffes, your current location is displayed as a static graphic on the left, with windows on the right offering different available actions. It's surprisingly engrossing.

### Don't install...

### Locked Files Wizard

bit.ly/locked364

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7

File size: 1MB

Locked files can be a pain. but it certainly shouldn't cost \$15 (£9.85) to unlock them, especially if there's no guarantee it will work. Locked Files Wizard is not only pricey, but it's also very (five years) out of date, so we'd strongly recommend you avoid disappointment by using one of the many newer free tools for the job instead.



### ...Install this instead

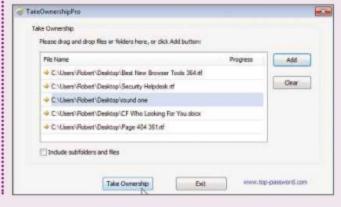
### TakeOwnerShip Pro

bit.ly/take364

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8/10

File size: 561KB

It's very annoying when you try to open, move or delete a file or folder on your PC and are told that "access is denied" or the file is being used by another person or program. This tiny free tool provides an easy solution by granting you full permissions to the file so you can do whatever you want with it. Simply drag and drop the locked file or folder to the main interface, or click Add to find it manually, then click the Take Ownership button to unlock the file. You can take ownership of multiple files at once, and launch the tool by right-clicking a file in Explorer.





### UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs



#### **FILE WIPER**

### Hardwipe 5.0.5

www.hardwipe.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+

File size: 13.4MB

Hardwipe can securely erase drives, files and free space, to stop data being recovered. The new version adds a command-line option, a portable edition, and makes it free to hard-wipe a physical device (this was previously only available in the paid-for version).



#### SYSTEM FIXER

### WinUtilities Free 11.33

hi.ylcomputing.com

Min requirements: Windows

XP/Vista/7/8+ File size: 6.1MB

WinUtilities is a comprehensive tool for cleaning your PC and boosting performance. This new version updates the Process Security database, adds support for more languages and introduces performance improvements and bug fixes to make the program more efficient.



#### **ASTRONOMY SOFTWARE**

### Stellarium 0.13.2

stellarium.org

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+, Mac OS X or

File size: 130MB

Stellarium is an open-source Desktop planetarium that lets you explore the heavens from a set viewpoint on Earth (or beyond). This new build fixes more than 70 bugs and adds new features, such as visualisation of 'zodiacal light' (sunlight reflected off interplanetary dust).



#### **FOLDER HIDER**

### Wise Folder Hider 3.13

www.wisecleaner.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+

File size: 231KB

Use this tool to keep a file, folder or USB drive private. The newest edition optimises support for USB storage devices; improves takeover of files hidden using older versions; and updates translations. This means that no-one will be able to access your private data.

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### **CHROME**

### Turn YouTube into a music player with Streamus

Open in tab

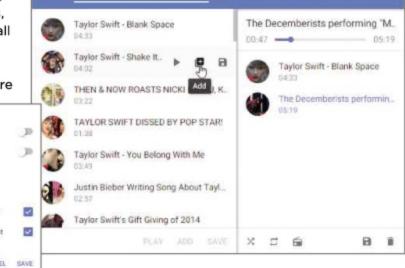
Open to search

YouTube is great for listening to new music and old classics, but the updated Chrome extension Streamus (bit.ly/streamus364) lets you search for and play songs, and build playlists of tracks, without having to visit the site in a tab or watch videos – and all without adverts, too. Effectively, the extension turns YouTube into a brilliant free music-streaming service.

Click the Streamus toolbar button and a panel appears where you can search for a track or artist. Click the Play icon under a song to hear it. Add to cue it up

icon under a song to hear it, Add to cue it up next or Save to add it to a playlist. Click the Options (three dots) button to open the Settings menu and change the 'Song quality' to Highest.

Google is testing its own paid-for YouTube music player called YouTube Music Key, which currently costs \$7.99 (£5.32) per month in the US. Streamus offers a very similar set of features for absolutely nothing.



### Get Adobe Lightroom tools for free

If you're a keen digital photographer, you may have considered buying photo-enhancement software and been shocked by how expensive it can be. Polarr (bit.ly/polarr364) provides many of the powerful features associated with these programs for free via your browser. With dozens of built-in filters and support for RAW files, Polarr lets you fine-tune colour, contrast and exposure, and add vignettes. There are several other tools to tweak your images, Install Polarr to make it available from your Chrome apps tray. The app launches in its own window and lets you import existing images from your computer. The tools in the righthand palettes can then be used to make adjustments.



### Cut the clutter on Amazon

Shopping online is convenient and fast, but some retail sites, including Amazon, are guilty of trying to push as much stuff at you as they can on their homepage. If you're fed up with the hard sell, then try an extension called Clearcut (bit.ly/clearcut364). All it does is simplify Amazon's storefront, cutting out all the Kindle adverts and 'recommended for you' lists to reduce the homepage to a single search box, with access to your account details, shopping basket and wish list. Currently, the extension only works for Amazon.com, but the developer has received a number of requests to add international versions of the site to the extension, so hopefully these will also be supported soon.



### Automatically fill in Gmail contact info

Adding details to your Gmail contacts is a chore, but a handy extension called FullContact for Gmail (bit.ly/fullcontact364) can help fill in the blanks automatically. It scours social networks - including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn - for additional information about your contacts, and displays them in a pane in your inbox. You can sync everything with your Google contacts, view recent tweets



and more. You'll need to sign in with your Google account and connect your Twitter and Facebook accounts. We found that FullContact often works better with business contacts than personal ones.

### Get a replacement for 'Chrome to Mobile'

The popular 'Chrome to Mobile' extension, which lets you send web pages between PCs and Android and iOS devices, is being discontinued this month. Thankfully, you can get the same features elsewhere. The best solution is to use Chrome's built-in Tab Sync tool.



On all your devices, open Chrome's settings and put a tick by

'Open Tabs'. To access tabs from other devices, click the menu button and select 'Recent tabs'.



This fortnight's most useful tips and add-ons to help you get the most from Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer and more



### **FIREFOX**

### Make money from your online

You may be uncomfortable that data about your online activities is shared with big businesses, but an entire industry has evolved around gathering this type of information. 'Powr of You' (www.powrofyou .com) adds a refreshingly honest spin by making the whole process transparent and sharing the profits. It collects interesting information about your online habits and graphically represents



these insights on its dashboard page. If you give your consent, the company then anonymises your data, bundles it with information from other members and sells it to its business partners. Any revenue earned is then shared among members. To join, simply install the new extension from bit.ly/powr364, then click the toolbar button and create an account. It's also available for Chrome.

### Grab colours from the web with Pick That Color

The colour picker in image-editing software is a handy tool that lets you



sample a colour from an existing image to use somewhere else. Pick That Color (bit.ly/ pick364)

lets you do the same thing with web pages. Once it's installed, you can click the colour-wheel icon on the toolbar to turn your mouse pointer into a colour picker. Click a colour to copy its HEX code to your clipboard, then use the code in your image-editing program to recreate the exact same colour.

### Get a toolbar for iCloud notifications

Instead of constantly checking your iCloud account, you should install iCloud Notifier (bit.ly/icloud364), which adds an icon to your toolbar. As long as



you're signed into your iCloud account on one of your tabs, it will

check for new messages and show a notification badge displaying the number of unread mails. You can customise iCloud Notifier's settings on Firefox's Add-ons page to change how frequently it checks iCloud and enable a sound when new mail arrives.

### Get website information in one click

The obvious way to get information about a website you're browsing is to paste the site's URL into an internet research site and view any publicly



available information. Alternatively, you could install Site Scout (bit .lv/scout364)

and get reports about any site from four of the biggest website information sources on the net (Builtwith.com, intodns.com, Netcraft and NWTools.com) in one click.



### OTHER BROWSERS



### Share your web pages between browsers

There are plenty of bookmarking tools out there, but few can operate on as many platforms as Qubbie (bit.ly/qubbie364), which lets you save and organise

sites, as well as share them between different devices and browsers. If.

say, you use



Opera on your laptop and Chrome on your tablet, you could install Qubbie on all your browsers and devices, set yourself up with an account and sign in. Next time you find a website you want to bookmark, click the Qubbie button on the toolbar, add a tag if you want, then click Save and it will be instantly accessible from your other browsers.

### Keep track of ideas, links and more

Evernote is an excellent note-taking tool, but not everyone needs the extended range of features it offers. If you just want to jot down a quick idea without any of the fuss, install SaveIdeaNow (bit.ly/ saveidea364). Whenever you have a bright idea or want to make a note to remind you of

something, just click the liahtbulb icon to make a window pop up where you can write



everything down. You can add tags, such as 'music', 'work' or whatever you fancy to help you find relevant notes later, then click Save. To browse previous notes, click the Ideas button. SaveldeaNow is simple, quick and works offline, too.



UPDATED

### App of the Fortnight

#### **NEWS**

### **BBC News**

#### bit.ly/bbcnews364

Min requirements: Android (varies with device), iOS 7

Size: Varies with device

The BBC has redesigned its News app to bring you "more content, greater personalisation and improved



performance". This is quickly apparent when you launch the app, which loads the Top Stories page by default. Here, major headlines are shown alongside popular video content. Scrolling down the page, you'll see a section with content from BBC correspondents as well as Features & Analysis and More Top Stories.

A couple of left swipes shows the 'Most Read' and 'Most Watched' lists, or you can swipe right to see a live feed of the BBC News channel. The standout new feature, however,

is the My News section, which lets you create your own personal news feed. By tapping the Add Topics button, you can follow not only broad news categories such as Health, Education, Politics and Business, but also specific ongoing stories such as the Ebola crisis. Syrian civil war and 2015 General Election. Once you've added them, you can quickly access them from the app's sidebar, where there's also a Local

News section that automatically updates according to your location. Easy to use, customisable and very fast, BBC News is the best news app we've ever seen.





### Our rating

### PRODUCTIVITY

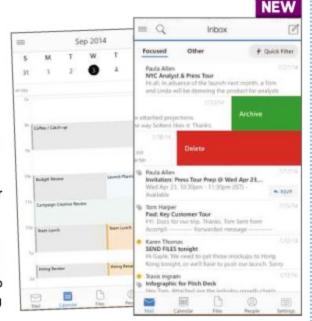
### Microsoft Outlook

bit.ly/outlook364

Min requirements: Android

4.0, iOS 8 **Size:** 9.3MB

Like its Desktop counterpart, the mobile version of Microsoft Outlook brings together your email, calendar and contacts in one place. Perhaps the app's most significant feature, though, is one that moves all your most important correspondence to the top of your inbox, placing less relevant emails in your



'Other' folder. This keeps your inbox clear of clutter and if you want to deal with emails later, you can even schedule them to reappear at another time. Sending large attachments from the app is also quick and easy, and thanks to its OneDrive and Dropbox support you can send files that you haven't downloaded to your device. We also like the built-in calendar, which lets you schedule meetings and stops you from wasting time switching between apps.



### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

#### Camu

bit.ly/camucamera364

Min requirements: Android 4.0, iOS 8

Size: 12MB

Camu is a simple photography app that lets you preview your subject through a range of filters before you shoot. Unlike Instagram,



you can use a 4:3 aspect ratio as well as square format and there are also options to capture photo collages that combine two, three or four images. Once you've taken your shot, you can change the filter or rotate, zoom and blur the image. There's even an option to overlay text on to your photograph. Unfortunately, some of the filters can only be unlocked if you buy a filter pack (which costs £1.53) and we would like the option to create collages from images in

Our rating

your camera roll.



### This fortnight's top free and paid-for apps for Android, iOS and Windows phones and tablets, and smart TVs

#### NEWS

### Timeline bit.ly/timeline364

Min requirements: iOS 7.1

Size: 20MB

Timeline helps you to understand today's news by placing each story in



context. Beneath every article, the app shows a chronological list of related stories that can be simplified into headlines by tapping the Timeline button. For example, for a piece about the impact of Spotify on recording artists, headlines include '45s and the singles era', 'Cassettes walk in' and 'Rise of the CD'. Each story is no more than a couple of paragraphs in length, but the app's unique approach quickly gives you a well-rounded understanding of the subject. Timeline is

**TRAVEL** 

### Field Trip

bit.ly/field364

Size: 4.1MB

Min requirements: Android 2.3, iOS 7

When you're visiting a city, it's easy to follow a guidebook



and take in the main sights, but sometimes it's good to get off the beaten track and explore your surroundings. This updated app from Google places a map on your current location showing places of interest, each linked to an information card below. The information comes from interesting, quirky sources, which point out fun things to do and places to eat, rather than dry Wikipedia articles. It even brings up timely events such as nearby concerts. Field Trip works best in larger cities, however, because there's more

Our rating



Our rating

going on and more places

of interest to explore.



NEW

### ROUND UP | Quick bites

### MAPS

### Citymapper

citymapper.com

Min requirements: Android 2.3,

Size: 6.4MB



When we recommended Citymapper in Issue 363 (bit.ly/ webuser363), the only UK city it covered was London. The app has since been updated

and now works in Manchester, letting you plan journeys and see live travel information across the city. The latest version also introduces Yelp's business listings to the app's search

feature, making it easier to get to wherever you need to go.



### **PRODUCTIVITY**

from any device by

only available on iOS, but you can view its content

visiting m.timeline.com.

### Quality Time bit.ly/quality364

Min requirements:

Android 4.0 Size: 4.1MB

Quality Time helps you to cut down your phone and tablet usage by showing you how much time you spend using different apps. You'll need to set up an account (or log in with Facebook) before you can use the app, but then it immediately starts collecting data about how



many times you've used an app, how long you've used it for and how many times you've unlocked your device. You can use swipe gestures to browse your daily and weekly usage charts and by tapping an app's name you'll see more detailed statistics or set usage alerts to warn you when you're using it too much. There's even a handy 'Take a Break' feature that locks you out of your phone for a set amount of time and makes you wait 30 seconds if you decide to override it.



### MUSIC

### Amazon Music with Prime Music

......

bit.ly/

amazon364

Min requirements: Android (Varies with device).

iOS 6 Size: Varies with device



Amazon Music lets you download or stream music from your Amazon Music library or play tracks stored on your mobile device. It has been updated to include a special new section for Amazon Prime members, who can browse or stream Amazon Prime songs and playlists and even store them offline. The app's search and filters have also been improved to make it easier to find what you're looking for.





#### **EDUCATION**

### GradeBack

bit.ly/gradeback364

Min requirements: Android 4.0,

iOS 7 Size: 5.5MB

GradeBack flips the education system on its head by letting you grade your university tutors and lecturers. After you've signed up through Facebook, the app asks you to confirm the university you attend before suggesting professors to rate anonymously (skip by



swiping them to one side). You can score teachers from Poor to Excellent on attributes such as their willingness to listen to and help students, and you can also give feedback on the course they teach. Because it's very new, some

UK universities aren't currently well represented, but we can see the app becoming a invaluable resource for prospective students struggling to decide which modules to pick.



Our rating



#### **ACCESSIBILITY**

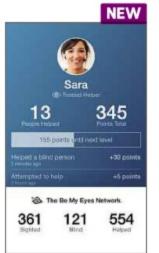
### Be My Eyes

bit.ly/bemyeyes364

Min requirements: iOS 7

Size: 44.4MB

This brilliant, innovative app assists visually impaired individuals by connecting them to sighted people via live video chat. Whether you need help navigating your surroundings or reading the expiry date on your milk, Be My Eyes lets you show someone else the problem using your device's



camera. They can then offer you assistance based on what they see. Naturally, the app relies on a network of volunteers to respond to requests from blind or partially sighted people, but if you decide to sign up there's no pressure to be on call at all times

because the app simply finds the next available

sighted user if you're busy.

Our rating



## 

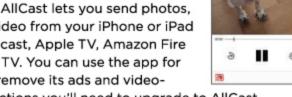
### **APPS WORTH PAYING FOR**

#### **STREAMING**

#### AllCast

### bit.ly/allcast364

Min requirements: iOS 8 Size: 17.9MB Price: Free (with in-app purchases) New to iOS, AllCast lets you send photos, music and video from your iPhone or iPad to a Chromecast, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV or smart TV. You can use the app for free, but to remove its ads and video-



length restrictions you'll need to upgrade to AllCast Premium at a cost of £3.99. Also available on Android.

CALENDAR Shifts

bit.ly/shifts364

clip-on guitar tuner.

Min requirements: iOS 8 Size: 16.6MB Price: £1.49

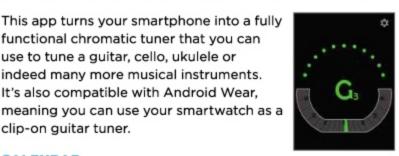
Shifts lets you create your own work shifts and add them to your iOS calendar with a single tap. Using the app's widget, you can then view your upcoming schedule from your lock screen or any other app.

functional chromatic tuner that you can

indeed many more musical instruments.

It's also compatible with Android Wear,

use to tune a guitar, cello, ukulele or





#### **FILES**

#### Fliktu

### bit.ly/fliktu364

Min requirements: Android 4.1

Size: 941k Price: 64p

Fliktu improves Android's Share Menu by displaying the apps most relevant to the type of content you're sharing. You can also use it to share a link more quickly by tapping it and then shaking or flicking your device to choose the app you want to use.



### MUSIC

### atHandTuner

bit.ly/athand364

Min requirements: Android 4.0.3

Size: 6.7MB Price: 96p



### Alfred Remote bit.ly/alfred364

Min requirements: iOS 7.1 Size: 1.6MB Price: £3.99

It's not cheap, but Alfred Remote is a handy tool for controlling your Mac using your iOS device. You'll need to make sure both devices are on the same network and install the free Alfred 2 software on your Mac before you can use the app's features.



AllCast

atHandTuner



Alfred Remote



Fliktu



### **Best New TV Apps**

#### **FOOD**

#### Domino's Pizza Tracker

www.samsung.com/uk/tvapps

Min requirements: Samsung Smart TV

(2014 or 2015) Size: N/A

If you're lounging on the sofa, craving a pizza, but are too lazy to pick up the phone or switch on your laptop, Domino's Pizza can help. Not only can you now order your dinner via the Domino's app for Samsung Smart TVs, but you can also track it via your telly, seeing when the pizza is put in the oven and hits the road for delivery. Either watch the process on the full screen of your TV, or shrink it to the bottom so you can watch something else while still tracking your pizza. Note that Domino's Pizza Tracker is only available for Samsung Smart TVs that were released in 2014 or 2015. You can download the app from the Lifestyle category of the Samsung TV App Store - because buying a pizza without getting off the couch is certainly a lifestyle choice.



#### TV & FILM

#### Netflix on YouView

www.youview.com

Min requirements: YouView box and

Netflix subscription

Size: N/A



TalkTalk's YouView set-top boxes now have access to the ever-expanding choice of TV shows and films on Netflix. BT and Humax's YouView boxes got this at the end of last year, but TalkTalk subscribers have had to wait until now. You'll still need a monthly subscription to access Netflix: prices start from £5.99 a month for a single user standard definition; £7.79 for high-definition on two screens at once; and £8.99 for ultra-HD and up to four screens at once. The first month is free.

To get Netflix on your YouView set-top box, go to the On Demand section and navigate to Netflix. Either sign up through your TV or via your PC or tablet, and then sign in.

#### **GAMING**

### TV from Sky on PlayStation 3

bit.ly/skytv364

Minimum requirements:

PlayStation 3 Size: N/A

Sky's web-based TV-streaming app Sky Go launched on the PlayStation 4 via an app last year as 'TV from Sky', and is now available for the older version of the console. To get TV from Sky on your console, go to the apps section of the PlayStation store and download the free TV from Sky app. You'll need a subscription to use it, even if you already pay Sky for TV, and pay £5 a month for Sky Go Extra, unless you already have a Sky TV Multiscreen account. The app gives access to a huge selection of channels, including Sky Atlantic, which starts showing the next series of Game of Thrones in April, and Sky Movies. You can also watch series 'box sets' and catch-up content.

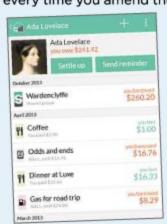


### X Don't install...

### Splitwise

bit.ly/splitwise364

It's easy to lose track of who owes what after a meal, night out or holiday. Splitwise is a handy tool that's designed to help, but its major flaw is it requires an email address or phone number for everyone you split a bill with; then every time you amend the running tab, it



notifies them by email or text. That may be a handy way to make sure you get paid, but it's hard not to feel like you're nagging your friends to pay up, when all you're really doing is trying to get your own finances organised.

### ...Install this instead

### Settle Up

bit.ly/settleup364

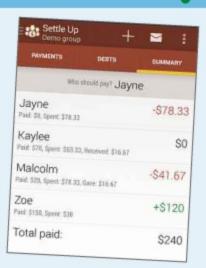
Min requirements: Android 2.3.3,

iOS 5

Size: 3.8MB (Android), 9.9MB (iOS)

Settle Up does the same job as Splitwise, but doesn't force you to enter your friends' email addresses, and doesn't by default send notifications of what they owe. You can set up groups, such as to manage bills as roommates or if you're travelling with several people, and Settle Up will reduce the payment so you can all

settle up with the fewest transactions. It's easy to make payments directly via PayPal, and if anyone is querying the charge, you can attach a photo of the receipt. The interface isn't quite as smooth as Splitwise's, but we'd rather take a minute to fiddle with an app than take several explaining to a friend why they have an inbox full of demands to cough up their portion of the cash.







## Haptic technology

Want your technology to have a human touch? **David Crookes** examines the touchy-feely world of haptics

### What is it?

Technology already makes great use of our eyes and ears via the numerous screens and speakers that bombard us with information each day. But manufacturers want to make greater use of our skin. Haptic technology is a tactile feedback system that uses our sense of touch in order to communicate. By vibrating or producing a feeling of force on the skin, users can gain information from the resulting physical sensation.

#### How does it work?

At its heart, most haptic technology makes use of tiny motors called actuators which convert electrical, pneumatic or hydraulic energy into vibrations. Software can tell the actuators when they should or should not be activated. This allows the software to control and manage the duration and frequency of the vibrations as well as their maximum extent, determining what the user will feel.

#### Where is it used?

The most common current usage for haptics is in videogaming. Sega's arcade game Moto-Cross was the first to explore its use in 1976. Players would use a controller that was shaped to look like motorcycle handlebars, which would vibrate in tandem with what was

happening on the screen. In 1997,
Nintendo made haptic feedback a feature
of its Rumble Pak, an accessory which
connected to a N64 console controller. In
certain situations – perhaps when driving
over grass in a game or firing a weapon –
the controller would vibrate, offering a
heightened sense of realism. Since then,
haptic technology has been included in
numerous controllers, including those for
the PlayStation and Xbox.

### Isn't haptic technology used in smartphones, too?

Yes. The vibration mode of a handset to indicate incoming calls or notifications is a good example of the use of haptics. But manufacturers are also looking at more sophisticated ways to give us tactile feedback, especially as newer smartphones have fewer buttons. Some phones, for instance, vibrate when users are dialling or tapping out a text on a soft keyboard, giving them a physical sense that they are carrying out a task.

### What other things can haptics be used in?

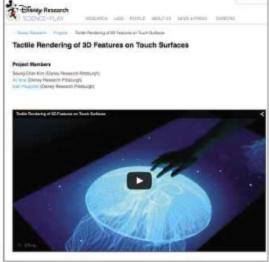
Pretty much anything, it seems. At the CES in Las Vegas earlier this year, Lechal (lechal.com) showcased haptic insoles for shoes, which vibrate to provide information about fitness performance and even directions. And Volkswagen (www.volkswagen.co.uk) is exploring its use in cars with haptic feedback on steering wheels and in seats, the latter giving the illusion of a buge subwoofer.

### What's next for haptics?

For a long time now, haptic feedback has been rather unrefined – your entire phone or controller will shake in response to stimuli – but more recent trends have been to concentrate feedback on specific areas of a device, so that only certain parts will put pressure on your skin. Experts have also been looking to use haptics to assess any subtle increases of pressure a user may be making on a device with no buttons. The idea is that we will begin to feel technology as we use it, making our devices more textural, more alive and more responsive.

### So will we be able to feel our screens?

Disney Research (bit.ly/disney364) has developed a tactile touchscreen that





worlds, thus

helmet strapped to

also says its system could

their head. The company

replace the mouse

and keyboard by

allowing them to

'touch' whatever

they see in the

wearable controller will let users

feel their way around virtual

simulates bumps, edges, ridges, textures, protrusions and more on its surface. It alters the friction encountered as a person's fingertip slides across a screen, letting them feel whatever object is being displayed on it. Disney gives the example of someone moving a finger across a topographic map on a tablet, and being able to feel the bumps and curves of hills and valleys.

### Why is Disney involved in this?

It believes that haptic technology could be used to enhance storytelling, whether in films, games or the rides at its theme parks. Other companies including Finnish startup Senseg (senseg.com) and Fujitsu (www.fujitsu.com/uk) have worked on similar technologies.

### What's worth touching today?

Amazon's high-end e-reader, the £169 Kindle Voyage (bit.ly/voyage364), has a pressure-sensitive screen called PagePress. Readers are able to hold the Kindle as normal but, if they press down on the surface, the sensor detects the

pressure. By pressing hard enough, the action is turned into an instruction to turn the page. A haptic response in the guise of a buzz is then sent to the reader's thumb, offering them instant feedback. It feels, to a degree, as if you are physically flicking through the book.

when the user manipulates the watch in any way - perhaps by touching the display or turning the digital crown - the Watch will send specific sensations to your wrist. Haptics will also be used for communication between Watch wearers. By tapping someone's name on your own Watch, you will be able to activate a wrist-tapping sensation on their Watch. Apple says you will even be able to send your heartbeat to someone else.

receives a notification or an alert, or

### But is it all just a gimmick?

There are some serious uses for haptic technology which could revolutionise people's lives. Researchers at a conference in Gothenburg showed how deaf-blind people could navigate a website using a prototype system which sends Morse code vibration to a games controller. And in the Bristol Robotics Laboratory (www.brl.ac.uk), scientists are looking at using high-speed, ultra-

> sensitive vibrations within surgical devices to increase the efficiency of remote surgery. Experts envisage machines that will allow surgeons to literally go deeper when operating remotely by wearing special gloves that would let them feel the muscles and bones of their patients.



Definitely. A company called Control VR (controlvr.com) is one of many looking at this area. Control VR claims that its "next-generation"

allowing people to control computers just by

moving their hands through the air.

### Very much like Minority Report, then?

There are certainly echoes of that particular sci-fi movie in some uses of haptic technology, not least when it comes to "ultrahaptics" (ultrahaptics .com). In 2013, researchers at the University of Bristol unveiled an ultrasensitive touchscreen that doesn't need to be touched. It emits vibrations from a set of very small speakers that, thanks to acoustic radiation pressure, can be felt at certain points in the air. By feeling for such mid-air feedback, researchers could control a computer interface.

More work is needed before it appears in the shops, but it was showcased at this year's CES and it has received a cash injection of £600,000.

### Is there much money to be made?

The haptics market is predicted to increase to a worth of \$13.8 billion by 2025, according to Lux Research. The IEEE World Haptics Conference 2015 is scheduled to take place in Chicago in June (haptics2015.org).



### Will haptics be used in wearables too?

Apple has already announced that its forthcoming

Watch (bit.ly/ watch364) will contain a vibrating motor, which it is calling the Taptic Engine. When the gadget





### REACH OUT AND TOUCH

### Haptics could also bring the universe closer to humankind

As well as having many practical applications here on Earth, haptic technology could also revolutionise the way we operate in space. NASA astronaut Barry Wilmore conducted an experiment on board the International Space Station in January, in a weightless environment, using a special body-mounted joystick to provide a sense of touch in his fingertips and hands. In



time, this will allow astronauts to control robots in space, enabling them to perform complex tasks on planets and asteroids that humans cannot access.



Rumours were flying that Windows 10 would be free for Windows 8 users, but Microsoft has surprised everyone by saying it will also be free for those on Windows 7. **Wayne Williams** tells you what's new in the most eagerly awaited operating system for years

t's fair to say that Windows 8 has been a colossal failure for Microsoft. The company effectively tried to reinvent the wheel by producing an app-focused operating system that could run on both touchscreen devices and mouse-and-keyboard PCs, but the gamble simply didn't pay off. The initial version of Windows 8 was a horrible, half-baked affair, and although Windows 8.1 was a vast improvement, it took until the arrival of Windows 8.1 Update for the new operating system to become properly usable on a traditional PC.

Despite it coming pre-installed on all new PCs and laptops, and even after all its subsequent changes and enhancements, Windows 8 has never found much of an audience. At the start of 2015, according to web analytics firm NetMarketShare (www.netmarketshare.com), the combined incarnations of Windows 8 account for only 13.52 per cent of the market for desktop operating systems. In comparison,

Windows 7 has a 56.26-per-cent share, and even the ageing, long-discontinued Windows XP is ahead with an 18.26-per-cent share. It's generally accepted that Windows Vista was Microsoft's least popular operating system, but its sales and usage share were way above what Windows 8 has managed.

It's therefore no surprise that Microsoft is determined not to make the same mistakes with Windows 8's successor. So keen is it to distance the



next operating system from the current one that it's skipped a whole version number (what, no Windows 9?) and has recruited Windows users to help shape the direction and features of the new OS. Anyone can download the Windows 10 Technical Preview, and become a so-called Windows Insider. To date, more than two million people have joined the programme, submitting in excess of 800,000 pieces of feedback covering more than 200,000 topics. You can find out more about the Windows Insider programme at https://insider.windows.com.

To ensure that Windows 10 is adopted by as many people as possible, Microsoft has revealed that it will be giving away the new OS completely free of charge. That might sound like a crazy strategy, but there's method in Microsoft's madness. The company needs people to move from older operating systems, and what better way to encourage this than by offering a free

### Windows 10 uncovered





upgrade? There are some catches, of course. You need to upgrade within the first year, and the offer only applies to customers running Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 (and Windows Phone 8.1). Once a Windows device is upgraded to Windows 10, Microsoft will continue to keep it current for the "supported lifetime of the device" at no additional charge (yes, free really means free). What's the "lifetime of the device"? Microsoft isn't saying. Nor, for the moment, has it revealed how much it

will be charging for the nonupgrade version. or what the price of the upgrade version will be once the initial first-year offer comes to an end. These details will be revealed in due course, as will the launch date. It's believed Windows 10 will be finished in the second half of



2015 (autumn seems like a good bet).

### Welcome back Start menu, good riddance Charms bar

Windows 10 is designed to run on a variety of different devices, including PCs, hybrids, tablets and mobile phones. A new feature called Continuum tailors the interface to suit the device the OS is running on. If you're using Windows 10 on a PC with a



keyboard and mouse, you'll be presented with a Desktop and a Start menu. If you're running it on a tablet, you'll see a more Modern UI-style touch-based interface, similar to Windows 8.

The Windows 10 Start menu is very different from the Start menu in Windows 7 and older versions of the OS. It provides you with access to File Explorer, Documents and Settings, and all your installed software on the left, while the right-hand side displays tiles, like Windows 8.1. You can expand the Start menu to full screen if you prefer.

Windows 10 introduces some very useful features, such as support for virtual desktops. Instead of cramming loads of open programs and windows into a single workspace, you can spread them out across multiple desktops.

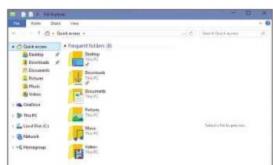
There's also a new Notifications Centre,



which lets you view in one place all the notifications that Windows flashes up. These include system alerts, OneDrive and Skype messages, and more. You can also access various settings here, such as Tablet Mode (which gives you the same Modern UI interface you'd see if you were using the OS on a tablet), Display settings, Connect (which lets you connect to other nearby devices), Location and Wi-Fi.

Your feelings about the Windows 8
Charms bar will likely depend on
whether you use a touchscreen, but
many people will be delighted to hear
that it's been removed in Windows 10.
Pressing Win+C (the keyboard shortcut
used to summon the Charms) now does
nothing and many of the bar's features
have been more sensibly tucked away in
the new Settings menu.

File Explorer (the Windows 8 name



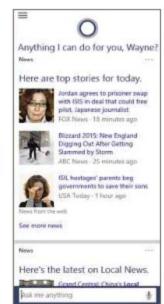
for Windows Explorer) has a new Quick Access view that takes you straight to the files and folders you use the most. If you don't like this, you can switch back to the standard view. Windows 10 also makes it easier to access content stored in the cloud through OneDrive, and share files using your favourite apps.

#### Tell Cortana what to do

One of the biggest new features of

Windows 10 is Cortana. Microsoft's personal assistant (similar to Siri on Apple devices, and Google Now on Android) which is currently found on Windows Phones. Cortana can answer questions,

which can be



asked by typing or speaking. It isn't yet available in the UK version of Windows

Settings

Cortana

Cortana can give you suggestions, ideas, reminders, aleris, and more. Turning off Cortana won't delete anything from Cortana's Notebook, but you can manually choose what to delete once she's turned off.

On

My name

Wayne

change my name

Change the name Cortana uses for you, or how Cortana pronounces it.

Have Cortana call me by my name.

On

Detect tracking info, such as flights and packages, in emails on my device.

Otf

Let Cortana respond when you say "Hey Cortana."

Otf

Search

10, but you can try it out by switching to the US language. We explain how to do this in the Workshop on page 52.

Not everyone will appreciate the benefits of Cortana on a desktop PC (talking to your computer isn't going to be much use in a

noisy office), but you can easily disable this feature if it's not required.

### Farewell IE, hello Spartan

Spartan, Microsoft's new browser, is another big change that's coming to Windows 10, although it isn't currently available in the latest Technical Preview. Microsoft debuted Internet Explorer back in 1995, and has rolled out new versions of its browser on a regular basis. Spartan (it may undergo a name change before its release) is a new, modern browser that's fully integrated with Cortana and, like Firefox and Chrome, offers support for extensions.

The browser has an annotation tool that lets you draw and add comments directly on websites and save articles



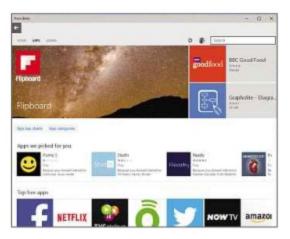
for reading later across different synced devices, including other Windows PCs, phones and tablets. Spartan will also have a new rendering engine which, according to Microsoft, "is designed to work with the way the web is written today". Although there isn't yet a version of Spartan available that you can try, there is a new build of Internet Explorer in the Technical Preview which offers many of the updates that the new browser will use. It also comes with some experimental features you can try. Type about: flags into the address bar and hit Enter to see what's available.

You can read more about Project Spartan on the IEBlog at bit.ly/ spartan364.



### Apps that work like Desktop programs

Apps don't have to run full screen (or snapped) in Windows 10 as they do in Windows 8. Instead, they can run in a window with a title bar at the top so you can minimise, maximise and close them. The calculator app, for example, which came in two versions in Windows 8 (Desktop and full screen), is now only available as a resizable Modern app. It also offers a choice of modes -Standard, Scientific, and Programmer - and there's a Converter you can use to



make calcualtions for volume, length, weight, temperature, area, speed and

Plenty of other included apps have also been updated. The new Maps app comes with offline maps support; the app store has been revamped; and a new Alarms app includes a world clock. timer and stopwatch. The Photos app gets a makeover, too, letting you edit and share albums, and browse folders. It also aggregates photos from multiple sources, using OneDrive to sync them across your devices.

There's also a new Xbox app looming that will connect an Xbox games console to your other Microsoft devices.



You can search for existing friends and make new ones, and keep up with your favourite games and see how close you are to unlocking new achievements.

The Windows 10 Technical Preview comes with a rough build of the Xbox app, but it doesn't do much beyond giving you a basic indication of what to expect.

### Hidden hacks for Windows 10

Tucked away in the latest build of

Windows 10 are a redesigned System Tray clock and calendar. These can only be accessed by making a tweak to the Windows Registry. Type regedit in

12:4	0.40					
Additi	onal d	ocks				
Wedn	esday,	28 Jan	uary 2	015		
Jan	uary	2015			•	•
.Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	fri.	Sa
28	29	30	31	.1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	2
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

the search box on the taskbar to launch the Registry Editor. Navigate (by clicking the little plus symbols) to:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\ Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\ ImmersiveShell

Right-click inside the window on the right and create a new DWORD (32-bit) value: 'UseWin32TrayClockExperience'.

Exit the Registry Editor, then click the clock in the System Tray to see how it looks.

While you're in the Registry Editor, you can also activate the new login screen. Navigate to

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\ SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\ CurrentVersion\Authentication\ LogonUI\TestHooks

Double-click 'Threshold' and change the value to 1. Changing it back to 0 will revert to the default login screen.

### See holograms in your living room

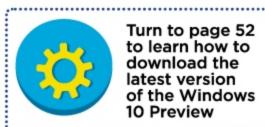
During its Windows 10 briefing in January, when Microsoft introduced the world to the newest build of its operating system, the company did something unexpected and debuted a product called HoloLens. This is a wireless visor (with a transparent screen) that adds "holograms" to the world around you, like a form of augmented reality. It overlays these holographic items on to real physical objects. You can use your hands to interact with the holograms, even



though they don't exist in the real world.

According to Microsoft, the "HoloLens intelligently maps the room you're in, blending holograms with the environment around you. You can pin holograms to physical locations so that your room becomes the canvas for your holographic projects and games. With Microsoft HoloLens, you can interact with holograms and everyday objects together". To find out more, sign up at the HoloLens website (bit.ly/

hololens364). If you're wondering what this has to do with Windows 10, the HoloLens runs the new OS. We'll explain more about this in next issue's Instant Expert.



Turn to page 52 to learn how to download the latest version of the Windows 10 Preview

## Windows 10: 5 things we still don't know

### 1 How much will Windows 10 cost after the first year?

In a Q&A session following the Windows 10 presentation. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said that the price of the new OS had yet to be decided. It will be free (for the first year, at least) for users of Windows 7 and 8.1, but if you have XP or Vista, or want to install Windows 10 on a new PC, you will need to buy a copy. The full version of Windows 8.1 currently costs £99 (Windows 8.1 Pro is £189.99), so it's likely that Windows 10's price will be similar. There are rumours that Microsoft will be introducing a yearly subscription, as it does with Office 365, but there's nothing to substantiate this suggestion. Microsoft has said once you have upgraded to Windows 10, there will be no more to pay.



### Will the full version of Windows 10 be free?

Anyone thinking 'what's the catch?' may assume that the free version will lack key features, and that Microsoft will try the hard-sell to convince you to upgrade. But this business strategy would be illogical because the point of offering Windows 10 for free is to get more people to switch from older operating systems.

### What does "supported lifetime of a device" mean?

Microsoft says "once a qualified Windows device [one that matches hardware/software requirements] is upgraded to Windows 10, we will continue to keep it up to date for the supported lifetime of the device". But it hasn't clarified what that means. Traditionally, it has supported an OS for



10 years (full support for the first five, and then extended – security fixes only – thereafter). We'd expect the "lifetime" of a device to be a minimum of five years, but Microsoft will reveal more details closer to the release date.

### Will you need to buy a new PC to run it?

While there are clear benefits to buying a new computer installed with Windows 10, particularly if it has a touchscreen, the OS should run on most existing PCs. The Windows Insider site (https:// insider.windows.com) lists the requirements needed to run the Technical Preview: 1GHz processor (or faster), 16GB of free hard-drive space and 1GB RAM (32-bit OS) or 2GB RAM (64-bit OS). It's possible these specifications might change when the final version is released, but if you can run Windows 7 or later on your current PC, then you should be able to run Windows 10.

### 5 What personal info will Cortana pass on to Microsoft?

Microsoft says it will only collect personal information that you share with Cortana. It won't be snooping on your every action and passing information on without your knowledge. However, it needs to collect and store details about you in order to work properly (it needs to know you, so it can assist you). It's hard to say exactly what details Cortana will collect and pass on, although the FAQ relating to the Windows Phone version (bit.ly/cortanafaq364) does go into some detail regarding privacy.



Now you know it's going to be free, will you upgrade to Windows 10?

I will upgrade one of my 'test bed' PCs to see how it goes, then perhaps upgrade for real on my main one. After all, if it's free, why say no?

Richard Bond

No, I'll wait until I need a new laptop/PC. Can't be doing with all the hassle of upgrading, as I've never done it before.

Lynn Sharpe

If it's better than Windows 7 and doesn't come with junk that can't be removed, then why not?

Jack Gold

Never. I'm sticking with XP Pro for as long as I can. After that I'll go to Linux.

Gerrit Max

Absolutely. I hope it lives up to the hype surrounding it, and we have a welcome return of the 'Start' button.

David Pawley-Smith @david\_p\_s

If they get rid of the Start menu icon, I might consider it.

Matt McCallion

Only after Microsoft deal with the major bugs. So maybe two years after release.

Martin Walker @MartinWalker666

I don't know. I have a desktop PC and laptop both running Windows 8.1, and they are working great. Would I upgrade to Windows 10? Maybe. But it might take me a while before I make the jump.

Michael Bradbrook

I think I would wait for a bit. Once it's been out for a while, any problems with it should have been fixed

Paul Emsley

Nope! I have only recently upgraded from Windows XP to Windows 7, so I will be staying with that for a while.

Colin Wallace

## My first 24 hours with Windows 10

Since ranting about bad mobile manners (page 74), **Barry Collins** has calmed down enough to take the latest preview version of Windows 10 for a test drive. And he finds himself pleasantly surprised



nother version of Windows, another redesign of the Start menu. Once again, I find myself plunged into the unfamiliar, trying to work out where to find the Control Panel and how to rejig the Live tiles so I don't have to look at rotating photos of David Cameron and Ed Miliband in the News app.

Microsoft hasn't stopped fiddling with the Start menu since it launched Windows 8. Now, five fiddles later, we've ended up with what can best be described as a Frankenbutton: a Windows 7 Start button with a side order of Windows 8 Live tiles. As a compromise it's a bit of a mish-mash but you know what? After a few hours of acclimatisation, I'm starting to get used to it. I'm even beginning to like it.

Better still, search is no longer hidden away like a naughty child, but put slap bang next to the Start button, which makes it easy to find programs and files quickly. But where's Cortana, the voice-activated assistant that's meant to be built into the search bar? Apparently she's still working on her English accent, so she doesn't start work for a few weeks (although we suggest a workaround on page 52). Guess I'll have to keep talking to myself.

You only need to use Windows 10 for a few hours before you realise that one thing Microsoft has got right is tailoring the operating system to the device you're using. On my old-fashioned laptop, you get the smaller Start menu by default and the option to run every Windows app in a resizable window. That instantly makes the apps you get from the Windows Store much more attractive, because they don't have to hog huge chunks of your Desktop. On my tablet, however, I get the fingerfriendly Start Screen and apps filling the screen, as you would expect on an iPad or Android device. The one-size-fits-all clunkiness of Windows 8 has gone.

I'm also rather taken with the design of the new Notifications menu. Not only does this give you clear warning of Search is no longer hidden away like a naughty child, but put slap bang next to the Start button, which makes it easy to find programs and files

incoming emails, calendar appointments and updates to Windows 10, it also replaces the abysmal Windows 8 Charms bar - the menu that peeked in from the right-hand side of the screen to let you tweak various settings. You have no idea what I'm talking about, do you? No, because these settings were almost impossible to find, requiring you to place the cursor within a square millimetre at the bottom right of the screen while singing the second verse of God Save The Queen (helpfully provided by the British Monarchy website: bit.ly/queen364) before they'd even appear. That said, if my first day of running Windows 10 is anything to go by, I'm going to have to switch some of those notifications off because my laptop is pinging every five minutes. It's like living in a submarine.

Overall, however, I'm gently impressed - if not instantly smitten - with Windows 10. It's better than Windows 8, but there's little in the way of killer features to tempt anyone still perfectly happy with Windows 7 to

bother upgrading their operating system, even if Windows 10 will be free when it's finally released.

With Microsoft skipping from
Windows 8 to 10 (which still feels
a bit daft), people will expect two
versions' worth of new features.
Right now, this feels more like
Windows 8.5, but there's still
plenty of time for improvement.



### SO... SHOULD YOU UPGRADE **TO WINDOWS 10?**

You've read all about it but should you make the switch when it comes out? Wayne Williams says you should, but Andy Shaw is not so sure



f you had a chunky old CRT TV and someone offered to swap it for a modern Ultra HD 4K LED TV - for free! - you'd bite their hand off. This is no different. Yes, Windows 7 is a perfectly adequate operating system, but Windows 10 is far superior, and because it won't cost you anything, there's no reason not to upgrade.

Windows 10 has a Start menu (thankfully) and lots of productivity features, such as virtual desktops. If you run into problems with the OS, fixing your system is simpler than ever thanks to built-in troubleshooting tools that don't exist in outdated operating systems like Windows 7.

Windows 10 provides support for touchscreen devices, but it's also been designed with keyboard and mouse controls in mind. The new OS is incredibly easy to master, and there's none of the nasty compromises Windows 8 users had to put

up with. Microsoft learned a lot of lessons from the failure of its previous OS, and Windows 10 will benefit from

Sure, a lot of the Windows 8 features that people weren't keen on - such as apps and the flat Modern UI look - remain in Windows 10, but you can easily ignore or avoid them. Even new features, such as Cortana, can be turned off if you don't like them.

Microsoft plans to roll out Windows 10 updates and new features on a regular basis (all for free), whereas Windows 7's Mainstream support ended in January, so users will now only get occasional security patches and fixes for major known problems. If you only need one reason to upgrade, that should be it.

Windows 10 is shaping up to be a fantastic, well-tested OS that's packed with modern features costs absolutely nothing. What's not to love?

### **Against Windows 10**

he only reason we need Windows 10 is because Windows 8 was such as disaster. Before that, with Windows 7, PC owners had a perfectly good operating system, which many are still happily using. In fact, take away the talking search engine and the app store that nobody wants, and most of Windows 10's changes are U-turns. Removing the Charms bar and making the Start screen and apps less overwhelming just reminds us that Windows 7 was better all along.

Microsoft is hoping that Windows 10 will make me switch from my iOS and Android devices, and buy Microsoft's alternatives. Seamless integration between my gadgets would be nice, but it's not enough of a problem to make me abandon my current phone or tablet. There may still be annoyances with Android and iOS, but they're suited to their devices. They're not

trying to be full-blown PC operating systems, and are all the better for it.

The only thing going for Windows 10 is the price, but the free deal we've been promised is exclusively for upgraders and is only available for 12 months. It sounds more like a beta test, where a company gives its software away to early adopters so they can iron out the bugs and test device drivers. I'm not prepared to take that risk.

I was an early adopter of both Windows Vista and Windows 8, and I paid the price. Both were crippled at launch and only rescued later through service packs and upgrades. It's not good enough to get it right eventually; I want an operating system that works from day one. The bottom line is I just don't trust Microsoft to manage that any more. Let me know when Windows 10.1 comes out and I might take a look.

### **NEXT ISSUE**

### on sale Wednesday 25 February 2015

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### MyHeritage Family Tree Builder 7 | bit.ly/family364 | ★★★★★

FEATURES ★★★★☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★★

WebUser GOLD AWARD

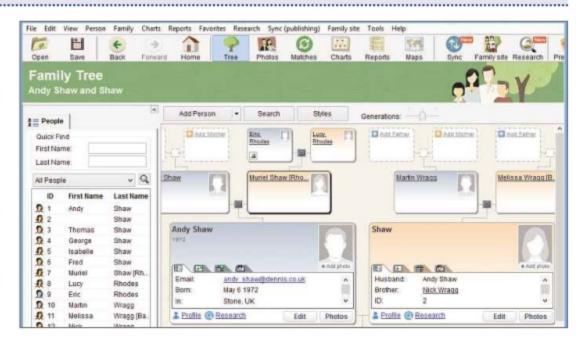
### What we liked:

The main screen of Family
Tree Builder looks like a
table on to which you
spread out a collection of
index cards containing
your family's personal

details. The attractive and practical design of the interface makes it perfectly suited to the task at hand: you enter your data using a simple form, which has spaces to type details. It also has drop-down options, such as for dates, which you click to select.

This card-based system feels instantly familiar, even more so than a standard family tree view, which makes the program very straightforward to use. You click a name to bring that person's card to the foreground, then you can rearrange ancestors and descendents around it. You can also adjust a slider to show several generations at a time, and sort and view the data in different ways.

The card display is handy for editing your tree, but it isn't the best way of presenting it. For that, Family Tree Builder has a vast range of different printing options, from attractive charts to full reports, including PDF documents crammed with all your research. You can even add your relatives to a Google Map, which shows



where major events such as births and deaths occurred.

The software includes an automatic back-up to the MyHeritage website, so you won't lose any of your work. Files are uploaded and encrypted, and while you can publish your tree to the web if you wish, it doesn't happen by default, so you don't need to worry about privacy.

### How it can be improved:

Family Tree Builder is linked to MyHeritage, so you end up being tied to that site if you want to publish your family tree online, though you can export it using the open GEDCOM standard. Some tools, such as merging and all-in-one charts, are only available if you upgrade to a paid-for account.

.....

### **OUR VERDICT**

MyHeritage has produced an excellent tool with a well-designed interface that looks friendly and is a pleasure to use. Some features have to be paid for, but you can easily build your family tree without them.

### Free family tree software

### RootsMagic Essentials 7

www.rootsmagic.co.uk | ★★★★☆

FEATURES ★★★☆☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★★☆ EASE OF USE ★★★★☆

### What we liked:

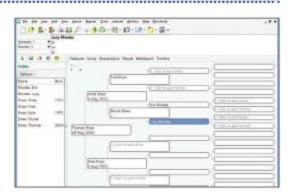
Essentials is a cut-down version of the full RootsMagic software. All that's missing is the ability to automatically back up and print your finished family tree, so you're

still provided with the tools you need to

RootsMagic starts with a blank tree. You begin by entering a name and working back in time by adding parents, grandparents and so on.

The interface is very easy to use. The default 'add person' form lets you fill in a person's details, such as their name, and dates for their birth and death. You can also add other elements including occupation and nationality, and drop in religious events such as a christening or

This form takes you to what looks like an information card, where you can add more facts about a person as you discover them. If you add a marriage date, you're prompted to add a spouse, which can be a new person or someone



whose details you've already added. The interface is very logical, and takes no time at all to get used to.

### How it can be improved:

The biggest restriction to the free version is its limited formatting and printing options. If you try to use them, you get nagged to upgrade.

.....

### **OUR VERDICT**

The free cut-down version doesn't let you print and back up your tree. To get these options, you'll have to pay £20 for the Basic version, but it's a good price for a powerful tool.

### Legacy Family Tree

www.legacyfamilytree.com | ★★★★☆

FEATURES ★★★★☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★★☆ EASE OF USE ★★★☆☆

#### What we liked:

Legacy Family Tree provides a wizard to BRONZE introduce and guide you through the software. The program's data-entry forms aren't as dynamic as

those in Family Tree Builder; to enter dates, you have to type them yourself, rather than choose a date from a calendar.

You enter all the facts about a person in this way, which makes the program uniform and straightforward, but a bit dry: it's more like a database tool than a specially designed family history recorder.

Once you've added some information, you can view the tree in a variety of ways including a card-like layout with ancestors above and descendents below, and a 'pedigree' view which shows ancestors branching off to the right. There are a number of views that aren't accessible in the free version, but you are given plenty of options for printing your information.



### How it can be improved:

The software's wizard makes you go through a set-up section at the beginning, which forces you to customise details such as the colour scheme of the software when you'd probably rather get started right away on your family tree.

### **OUR VERDICT**

The wizard is helpful in setting up the software, although it includes some unnecessary steps. The program works well, but some buttons are only there to nag you to upgrade to the paid-for version.

.....

### BEST OF THE REST

#### ScionPC

#### bit.ly/scion364

Our award-winning programs all need to be installed, but ScionPC

is portable, so you could keep both the program and data on a USB stick and run it from any PC. As a result it's small, not very intuitive and is



best used as a simple family database. It doesn't have as many reporting options, so you might end up wanting to export the data, but that's easily done using the GEDCOM standard.

### XY Family Tree

#### xyfamilytree.com

XY Family Tree is a small 4.3MB download. It's a no-nonsense

program and more refined than ScionPC, but it's significantly harder to get started with than our three awardwinners. The



interface largely revolves around individual records, though you can break out into a separate window if you want to view an entire family tree.

#### Gramps

### www.gramps-project.org

Gramps is a well-respected opensource program, so you don't get nagged to upgrade to a paid-for version. However, the design of its interface is plainer and isn't as much fun to use as our awardwinners. We found it wouldn't install on a PC protected by Avast

anti-virus, which we suspect to be a false positive, since other anti-virus software



let it through, but you may want to proceed with caution until its developers can resolve the problem.

WebUser

AWARD

**Browse web** maps offline

Saving maps to explore offline has never been easier. Edward Munn shows you how to get directions, discover local attractions and track your workouts without an internet connection



Downloading map files over Wi-Fi and storing them offline means you can avoid the mobile data costs associated with using map apps on the go. Furthermore, when you save the maps to your device, you don't have to worry that you'll be lost somewhere without a mobile signal, unable to access an online map to get directions.

Free apps such as Maps.Me (maps .me) and Nokia's Here Beta (bit.ly/ here364) let you download road maps for entire countries, which means you can search for and navigate to an address without needing a mobile data connection. This is a real bonus if you travel abroad, where using mobile internet can result in hefty bills, regardless of your data allowance in the UK.

### Navigate to anywhere

Once you've downloaded the map of England in Maps.Me, you can search for addresses anywhere in the country. of results (unlike online services, you can't search by full





O Your location

All antiques included

navigate to your destination, tap the appropriate search result. then select the car icon. If you haven't already, you'll be asked to download the 'Routing' data required to give you

directions, so make sure you download this before embarking on a journey and while you still have a Wi-Fi connection.

Nokia's Here Beta app can be used online and offline. To switch the app to

offline mode, tap the menu icon and choose 'Use app offline'. As with Maps.Me, you'll need to download the before you can use the app's routing function, so

download. Again, you're limited to

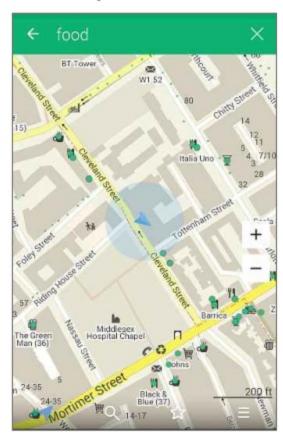
searching for street names and towns, so find your destination and tap the arrow icon to navigate to it. The app lets you choose your mode of transport and you can then follow one of its proposed routes.

### Find nearby restaurants, hotels and attractions



Maps.Me can't match Google's vast business directory, but it has a solid catalogue of restaurants. hotels, shops and attractions that you can search offline. The app uses your GPS to pinpoint your

location and you can then search for a



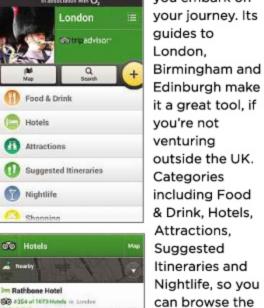
### Browse maps offline



amenities using the app's 16 categories. This is an invaluable feature when you urgently need to find the nearest cash machine or train station, but can't get a mobile data connection.

When you're travelling, it's always handy to have an app that functions as a comprehensive city guide, providing offline maps and a tool for discovering nearby points of interest. TripAdvisor's City Guides Catalog (bit.ly/

tripadvisor364) lets you download guides to the world's top cities before you embark on



like the sound of, the app uses your device's GPS and compass to direct you there.

city's best

places to eat, drink and relax,

to connect to

When you find

somewhere you

the internet.

without needing

### Optimise your phone for accurate map browsing

The navigation tools mentioned in the tips above won't perform at their best if Map your workouts offline

unexpected data charges.

Many fitness apps can track the route you take when you run or cycle, but they usually need a data connection to do so. If you want to accomplish the same thing with your mobile internet switched off, it's sometimes possible by using a Wi-Fi connection to load the maps before or after your workout. For example, when we tested MapMyRide (bit.ly/mapmyride364), a map of the local area loaded automatically when we used Wi-Fi to log in and the app was then able to track our position, distance and speed long after we disconnected

**Record Workout** COACHING LIVE TRACKING OFF None selected ACTIVITY ROUTE GEAR (5) 0.0 km Add Gear Road Cycling None selected GPS A A5204 Googe

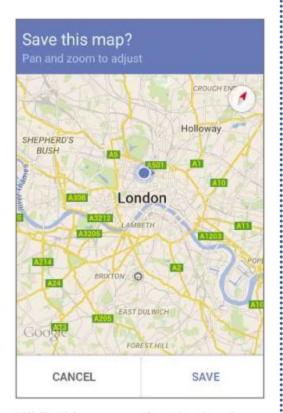
from the internet. Although we discovered the feature largely by accident (using a device without a SIM card), a quick Google search confirmed that MapMyRide has a new local-storage option. This saves maps temporarily until you can find a data connection, which makes it perfect for use "in areas with low coverage or abroad". What's more, the app now also lets you save your workout directly to your device until you have a reliable internet connection, when it will sync with your MapMyRide account. ■

### WHY GOOGLE'S OFFLINE MAPS ARE NO GOOD

Although Google Maps lets you save maps, its offline functionality is extremely limited compared with the other apps in this feature. Rather than letting you download maps for an entire country, Google Maps limits you to an area smaller in size than Greater London. This can be useful for checking your location in an unfamiliar city or identifying the direction in which you're travelling, but if you don't have an internet connection, there are no routing options whatsoever.

Also, unlike TripAdvisor's guides and Maps.Me, Google's offline maps don't let you search or browse nearby attractions. Stations, museums, hospitals, universities and some other major points of interest are listed on the map, but that's only useful if you're visiting a very well known establishment and know where it is.

Lastly, Google's offline maps are only available for 30 days at a time.



While this ensures that they're always up to date, it also means you need to download a new file every month.

Charlotte Street Hotel

Sanderson London Hotel

751 m

The Langham, Londo

# Run old computers on your modern PC

Hands up if you had a ZX Spectrum, Commodore 64 or another classic home computer in the Eighties? **Rob Beattie** did, and he's been celebrating their legacy by finding the best way to emulate them on a modern Windows PC

### ZX Spectrum

One of the first stops for any Speccy fan should be ZXSpectrum4.net (www .zxspectrum4.net) – and not just for the wry tagline: "Why break new ground when you can dig up the past?" This emulator replicates every iteration of Sir Clive Sinclair's classic home computer, from the 16K model up to the +3, launched in 1987, with its 'revolutionary' built-in 3in Amstrad floppy drive.

This brilliant emulator requires no installation: just download and unzip it to begin. The free version comes with three games (including Manic Miner) and has joystick support. A \$10 (around



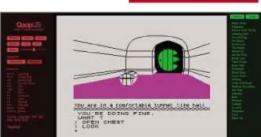
£6.60) donation will unlock all the emulator's features and give you access to the site's extensive library of games.

Fans of mobile gaming should check out Spectaculator (www.spectaculator .com) where you'll find not only a great emulator for Windows, but also iOS and

Android devices. Spectaculator even includes a 'Load from Audio Source' feature that lets you load programs from the original cassette tapes, if you have them. If you've long since thrown them out, go instead

to World of Spectrum (www. worldofspectrum.org/archive.html)





where you can choose from nearly 25,000 games. Spectaculator 8.0 is free for 30 days, after which it costs £10; the iOS version is priced £2.99, while the Android app is free with in-app purchases.

Alternatively, if you don't want to download anything but would like a quick fix of classic Spectrum games such as The Hobbit, Galaxians and Horace Goes Skiing, then scoot over to torinak.com/qaop where you'll find nearly 300 titles to play in your browser for free, handily organised by year. Usefully, you can save the current game as a snapshot and come back to it later.

### **BBC Micro**

The machine that began the Eighties home-computer revolution in schools may be long gone, but you can relive its glory days at BeebEm (www.mkw.me .uk/beebem), a free emulator for Windows.

Install the software, fire it up and choose Run Disc from the File menu. Choose Games from the list of files and you'll be able to dive straight into several games including Chuckie Egg, Cylon Attack and Snapper. Enthusiasts will find plenty of settings to fiddle with, such as turning the display green or amber to mimic an ancient computer monitor.

You should also head over to the BBC



Games Archive (www.beebgames.com) where there are stacks of classic games you can download and play for free. You'll find full instructions on how to play the games in the Help menu.

For a quick play online with no commitment, go to bit.ly/micro364 and, when the emulator loads, hold down the Shift key and press F12 to load the



classic space-based trading game Elite. For more games, open the Discs menu, choose STH Archive, select your game and, when the main screen appears, press Shift+F12 to start.





### Commodore 64

If you owned Commodore's follow-up to the PET (read about it on Wikipedia: bit .ly/pet364), then you're not alone - it's still listed by the Guinness Book of Records as the best-selling computer of all time. For a revel in notalgia, head to www.c64forever.com and download the Free Express Edition of C64 Forever. The file is large, at 125MB, but it includes a whole stack of ready-to-play games, plenty of demos and emulators for 14 different Commodore machines.

The C64 emulator is a faithful recreation of the original, right down to the "now loading from disk, please wait approximately 1.5mins" message when you load a game. There's a paid-for version for \$14.95 (around £10), which removes adverts and adds lots of advanced tools, but the free version is enough to keep any Commodore fan entertained.

If you don't want to download any





C: commodore

software, you could try some of the online C64 emulators, although we didn't find them particularly good. If you still want to have a go, there's a Flash-based emulator at codeazur.com .br/stuff/fc64\_final, complete with eight games (including Elite). Alternatively, try the JavaScript-based emulator at www.kingsquare.nl/jsc64, which has six games. There's also a decent online emulator for Survivor (www.schillmania .com/survivor), a 1982 game that, at the time, was one of the best shoot-em-ups available.

If you fancy playing C64 games on a mobile device, install the free Android app Frodo C64 (bit.ly/frodo364). We couldn't find an iOS equivalent, though a C64 emulator did exist briefly about

### Run old computers



We asked Web User readers which was best - ZX Spectrum or Commodore 64?

Commodore 64. Loved it. It had a better keyboard and better games.

Ramos Fae Samos

Spectrum. More games and better gameplay.

Lee Jacob

Definitely the C64. Better computer, better sound, better graphics.

Vince Barnes

Spectrum. It was my first computer. I got it with Double Dragon. It took half hour to load but blew my mind.

Craig Wilson @uexpectme2talk

Spectrum. Manic Miner was the best game.

Phil Owen

C64. You could make tea and toast while a game loaded. There is just no time with these modern gaming machines to do anything!

Chris Brown

Speccy all the way because it wasn't beige like the C64. And Your Sinclair was the best magazine around (bit.ly/sinclair364).

.....

SlobJunkie @SlobJunkie

five years ago (you can see it in action on YouTube at bit.ly/iphone364).

If your interest extends beyond merely playing the games, visit C64.com (www .c64.com). It's an online encyclopedia of C64 games, demos, interviews, articles, video clips and stills from famous games. Finally, don't forget the allimportant Commodore 64 User Manual: www.lemon64.com/manual.

### **Commodore Amiga**

The Amiga series of computers followed the Commodore 64 and were popular in the late Eighties. There are several paid-for emulators available (the FS-UAE Emulator at fs-uae.net is the best), but getting them up and running is so complicated that only diehard fans should attempt it. Instead, you can get some instant old-time Amiga action by going to bit.ly/amiga364 and following





the instructions. The main Workbench screen (the Amiga Desktop) takes an age to load, but this is deliberate and the status messages are genuinely entertaining.

Once it has loaded, double-click the First Demos icon, then the ReadMe icon. Follow the instructions to enjoy some of the demos that came with the original Amiga back in 1985.



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3	E	EE: Broadband & Calls	£9.95 (£1.95 for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	unlimited	£23.40
4	plusnet	Plusnet: Broadband & Calls	£9.99 (£2.50 for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	oo unlimited	£30.00
5	TalkTalk	TalkTalk Fibre Broadband	£13.50 (£5 for 12 months)	18 months	38Mbps max speed	oo unlimited	£60.00
6	c) plusnet	Plusnet: Fibre Broadband & Calls	£14.99 (£3.75 for 6 months)	18 months	38Mbps max speed	oo unlimited	£112.44
7	sky	Sky: Fibre Broadband & Calls	£20.00 (6 months FREE)	18 months	38Mbps max speed	oo unlimited	£120.00
8	Virgin (S) media	Virgin: Broadband & Calls	£17.50 (£12 for 12 months)	18 months	50Mbps max speed	unlimited	£144.00
9	E	EE: Fibre Broadband & Calls	£19.95 (£9.95 for 6 months)	18 months	38Mbps max speed	oo unlimited	£179.40
10	Virgin	Virgin: Broadband & Calls	£30.00 (£24.50 for 12 months)	18 months	152Mbps max speed	oo unlimited	£294.00

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Data supplied by www.broadbandgenie.co.uk. Correct as of 27 January 2015.



Broadband Genie's helpline is powered by Simplify Digital, the Ofcom-accredited switching service

<sup>\*\*</sup> Fair-usage or restriction policy applies.



### Take a Screen Break

Give your eyes a rest from your PC, phone or tablet, and try our fiendish fortnightly challenge. This issue we're asking: How well do you know **BBC Online**?



The BBC's first URL was www .bbcnc.org.uk. What did the 'nc'

stand for?

What was the first BBC Radio show to be

broadcast live over the web?

- In which year did BBC Online 3 officially launch?
- And what did it temporarily change its name to in 2001?

In 2004, which Radio 4 show became the first **BBC** radio podcast?



What was the name of the BBC's online 'celebrity stock exchange' game, launched in 2002?

What's the name of the BBC online collection of study guides for students?

The trial of which former world leader, in 2007, was the subject of the first tweet by @BBCNews?

The web-only show E20 is a spin-off from which BBC TV programme?



Which online encyclopedia did the BBC run from 2001 to 2011?

What's the name of the BBC's online disability magazine?

For which event in August 1997 did the BBC create a special website?

In March 2014, which TV channel did the BBC say would become online-only?

For how long are news bulletins available to watch on BBC iPlayer?



5 Which TV show was the most watched on the iPlayer during Christmas week 2014?

### WHAT ARE THE MISSING WORDS FROM THESE LOCAL BBC STORIES?





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### COMPETITIONS

### WIN 1 OF 5 Linksys EA6300 Smart Wi-Fi Router

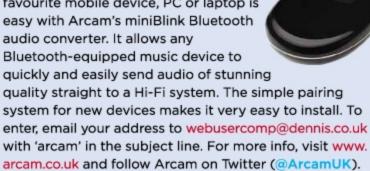
The Linksys EA6300 Smart Wi-Fi Router, which won the Silver Award in our Group Test in Issue

360, comes with a USB 3.0 port and four gigabit ports, letting you connect multiple devices so you can quickly print, share and store content across your network. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'linksys' in the subject line. For more information visit www.linksys.com, follow Linksys on Twitter @linksys and 'like' their Facebook page www.facebook.com/Linksys.uk.



### Arcam miniBlink Bluetooth Receiver

Streaming high-quality music from your favourite mobile device, PC or laptop is easy with Arcam's miniBlink Bluetooth audio converter. It allows any Bluetooth-equipped music device to quickly and easily send audio of stunning



WORTH

£89

**EACH** 



### Practical WebUser

17 pages of workshops, tips, projects and problem solving

### Try out the latest Windows 10 tools | bit.ly/10win364

Microsoft has released a new version of its Windows 10 Technical Preview, offering lots of improvements and additional features. Here's how to download and use it

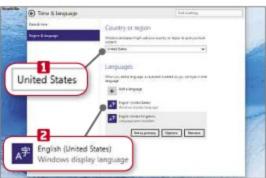
he changes incorporated into the Windows 10 Technical Preview January Build (9926) include a more polished Start menu; Cortana on the Desktop (our workaround lets you try this US-only tool); apps for Settings, Photos, Maps and Xbox; and the ability to connect to wireless audio and video. It's definitely a lot closer to how the

finished product will look and behave.

Although the latest build is stable, we don't recommend you use it as your main operating system. Consider installing it as a dual-boot alongside your main OS (see our Weekend Project on page 58 for instructions on how to get started) or run it on a virtual PC using VirtualBox (www.virtualbox.org).



The taskbar has a Start button 1 and a search box 2 for searching Windows and the web. Cortana, Microsoft's voice-activated personal assistant, isn't currently available in the UK version of the OS. Click towards the right edge of the search box to summon her, but she won't be able to assist you.



You can overcome this restriction by pretending to be in the US. Click the Start button, then click Settings in the Start menu. Click 'Time & language' in the window that opens, then 'Region & language'. Change the region to 'United States', 1 then click 'Add a language' and add 'English (United States)'. 2





You can now set up and use Cortana.

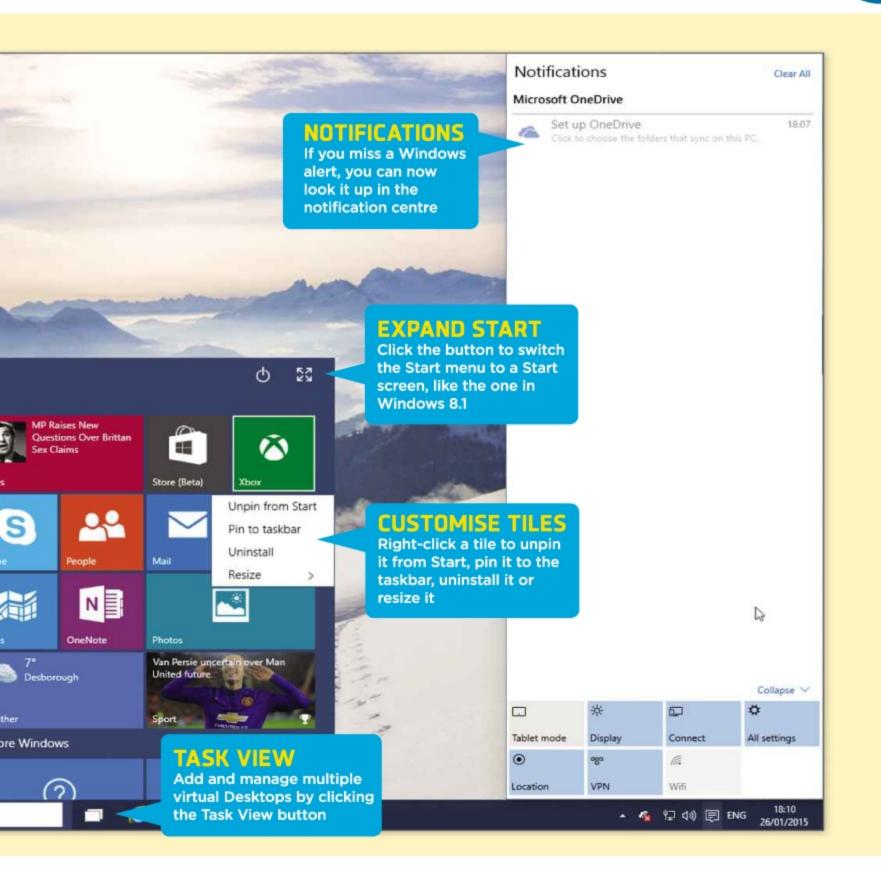
Tell her what you'd like her to call you and listen to how she says your name. If it's not right, speak your name correctly into the microphone. You can type in the search box or click the microphone icon to ask a question. Click the menu button to customise Cortana's settings.

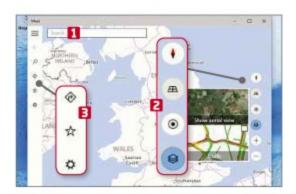


The Start menu has changed a lot in the latest build. The strip along the left includes Places 1 and 'Most used' items. 2 Click 'All apps' 1 to switch to an alphabetical list of installed programs. The right-hand side of the Start menu contains tiles, 4 which you can click and drag to reposition.



The Windows Store has also been updated in the new version of the operating system. Click the Store (Beta) tile to view it. You can explore the Home screen selection, 1 or filter by Apps 2 or Games. You can also browse the charts and categories, 4 or just search for an app by name.





This Preview comes with new and improved apps. The Maps app has a stylish, clean design with tools that let you search for a place, 11 rotate the map, show your current location and switch views. 2 You can also get directions, add places to favourites and access the settings. 🖪



Microsoft is working on a new browser codenamed Spartan, but it's not included in this version. The latest changes to Internet Explorer have mostly taken place under the bonnet, but you can browse the list in the start page's 'What's new' section. 🚺 To give feedback on the browser, click the smiley face. 2



The Charms bar, introduced in Windows 8, is gone. Most settings in Windows 10 can be found, logically enough, under Settings. This is like a basic Control Panel and is launched via the Start menu. You can browse the different categories 11 or search for a particular setting by name. 2



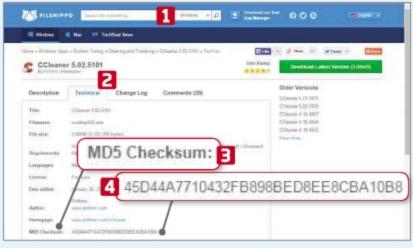
## Download safe files every time

MultiHasher: bit.ly/multi364 | (1) 10 mins | 27 XP, Vista, 7, 8+

checksum is a mathematical formula that, when applied to a file, produces a unique identifying code. Responsible download sites such as FileHippo (filehippo.com) list their files with checksum numbers so that, using software such as MultiHasher, you can calculate the checksum number for a file you've downloaded and make sure that it matches the one on the download site. This tells you that the file hasn't been corrupted in transmission and, if the site you grabbed it from was littered with confusing adverts, you can be certain you've downloaded the correct file before attempting to install it.

As well as being able to calculate lots of different types of checksum, MultiHasher has a built-in tool that gives one-click access to VirusTotal's databases, so you can also check if a file is safe. If the file isn't listed on the VirusTotal database, you can scan it by uploading it directly from the program.

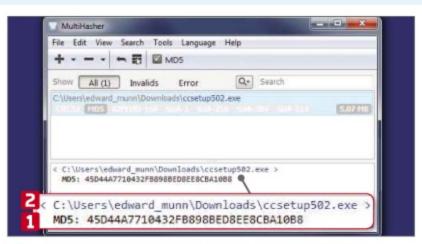




FileHippo lists checksums for all its downloadable files. To find this information, search the website for a program that you want to install, 1 click the Technical tab 2 and look for the code next to MD5 Checksum. 1 Make a copy of this unique number.



After downloading the program's installation file, visit bit .ly/multi364 and download the MultiHasher installer by clicking Mirror 1 or Mirror 2. Install and run the program, which will tell you whether the checksum for the program you downloaded matches the one listed on FileHippo.



Before analysing the file, click SHA-1 to choose the appropriate format (in this case, MD5). Drag and drop the file you downloaded to MultiHasher. The file's MD5 checksum is beneath the filename. If it matches the number listed on FileHippo, you downloaded the right file.



You can also use MultiHasher to check the file you've downloaded against the VirusTotal database, without opening your browser. To get this working, you'll need to set up a free account by visiting www.virustotal.com and clicking 'Join our community'.





### **EXPERT TIP**

### **Edward Munn says**

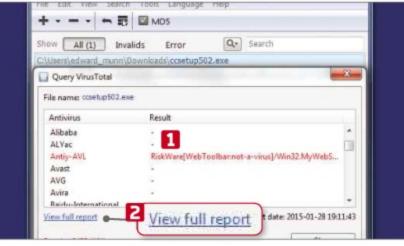
Checksums are best used for inspecting a download's integrity rather than its authenticity, because it is technically possible to create a malicious file with the same checksum number as a legitimate program. Therefore, even in the event of a checksum number match, we'd still recommend using MultiHasher's VirusTotal tool to double-check that a file is clean.



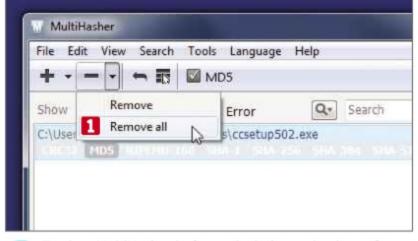
Fill in the required details and click 'Sign up'. You'll receive an email containing a link to activate your account. Log into VirusTotal, click your username and select 'My API key' from the drop-down menu. Copy the API key from here and open MultiHasher again.



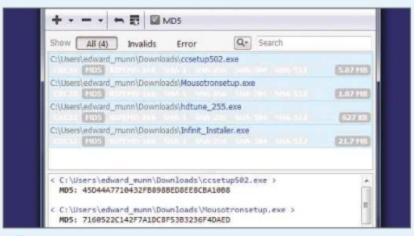
In MultiHasher, click Edit and Preferences, then select the VirusTotal tab. Paste your API key into the box and click Close. To scan a file with VirusTotal, right-click its name and select Query VirusTotal. The number of negative results is shown highlighted in red.



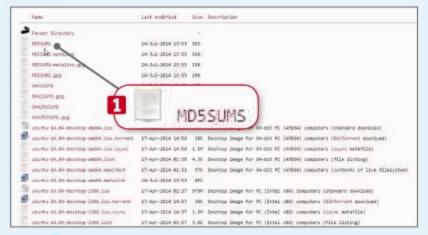
Under the Result heading, you'll see the reason the file has been flagged by anti-virus programs. 1 For more information, click 'View full report', 2 which directs you towards the VirusTotal website. Here, you'll also see a user verdict as to whether the file is likely to be safe or not.



To clear MultiHasher before calculating a checksum for a different file, click the arrow and select 'Remove all'. 
Alternatively, you can compare the checksums of two or more files by clicking File, Add and Files.



Selecting a file displays its name and checksum in the box below. To compare the checksums of two or more files, hold Shift and click the files you want to view, or press Ctrl+A to select all.



You can use checksums to make sure downloads haven't got corrupted on their way to your hard drive. For example, on the Ubuntu releases page (bit .ly/ubuntu364) you can see a file called MD5SUMS, which contains the checksums for each of its ISO images.



### Get a better Command Prompt

ou can manage your files and folders much more quickly if you use your keyboard instead of your mouse, but the basic Windows Command Prompt is woefully short on useful tools. PyCmd fixes this with extra shortcuts and features

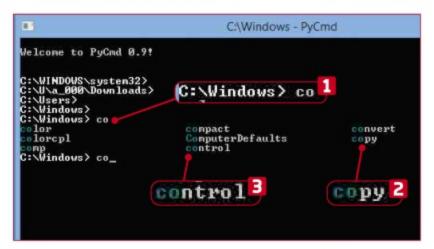
to streamline your command-line work. For a full list of the standard Windows commands, which also work in PyCmd, visit dosprompt .info/commands.



PyCmd: pycmd.sourceforge.net | 🕒 10 mins | 🎥 XP, Vista, 7, 8+

```
Welcome to PyCmd 0.9!
C:\WINDOWS\system32>
C:\U\a_000\Downloads>
C:\Users>
C:\Windows>
C:\My Backups>
```

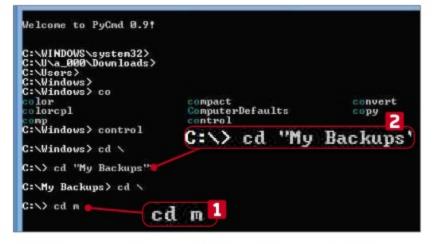
Typing directory names when using the cd command is time-consuming and it's easy to make a mistake. PyCmd remembers every folder you've ever been to, even from previous sessions. Hold down Alt and use the left and right cursor keys to jump straight to previously visited folders.



Start typing a letter or two, then press Tab. 11 The screen shows all the options for those letters, including commands such as 'copy' 2 or executable files such as 'control' 🟮 (which, because we're in the Windows directory, would launch the Control Panel).

```
elcome to PyCmd 0.9!
   |
| WINDOWS\system32
| U\a_000\Downloads
   lor
lorcpl
 omp
:\Windows> control
C:\Windows>
                           control 1
```

The letters appear again on the line below, so you don't need to retype them. If only one option exists for the folder you're in, it will be typed in full when you press Tab, so you can just press Enter to execute it.



You can use the same trick to quickly move to folders, even those with tricky spaces in their names. This folder only has one folder beginning with 'm' called 'My backup'. Here we've typed cd m 11 and pressed Tab; PyCmd fills in the rest automatically. 2

```
Welcome to PyCmd 0.9!
  \WINDOWS\system32>
\U\a_888\Downloads>
\Users>
\Windows>
\Windows> co
 lor
lorcpl
                                                                 convert
                                     uterDefaults
C:\Windows> control
C:\Windows> cd \
: > cd "My Backups"
                                  My Backups
: My Backups > cd \
 cd My Backups
```

Unlike the Windows Command Prompt, you can use Ctrl+X, Ctrl+C and Ctrl+V to cut, copy and paste. To highlight something you've typed (or recalled from the history), use the cursor keys to move through the letters and hold down Shift at the same time to highlight them. 1

```
Welcome to PyCmd 0.9!
 :\WINDOWS\system32>
:\U\a_000\Downloads>
:\Users>
:\Windows>
:\Windows> co
  lorcpl
                                           terDefaults
::\Windows> control
C:\Windows> cd \
 : >> cd "My Backups"
:: My Backups > cd \
 :: >> control_
```

Press the up arrow to show previously used commands. To search your history, type a letter or two and press the up arrow. It will scroll through any commands in the history that contain those letters, which are highlighted in purple. 11 Keep pressing up or down to rotate through the options.

### Find and remove space hogs from Android

ndroid's built-in tool can show you which types of files take up the most space on your device, but it can't precisely identify them and tell you where they are stored. The free app Memory Map provides a visual

representation of all the files and folders on your Android device, and the storage they occupy, so you can quickly identify space hogs on your phone and tablet.



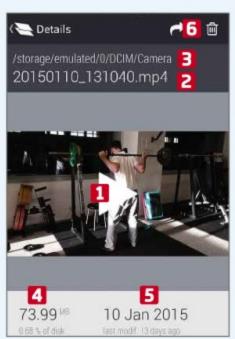
Memory Map — Disk Cleaner: bit.ly/memorymap364 | 🕒 10 mins | 🖷 Android 2.3



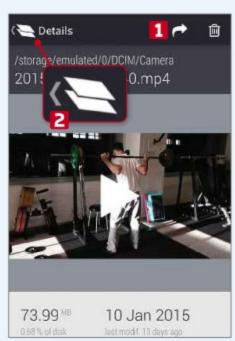
Install and run Memory Map to make the app scan your device and identify how its storage is being used. A model of your file directories appears, where the size of each box represents the amount of space the file or folder occupies.



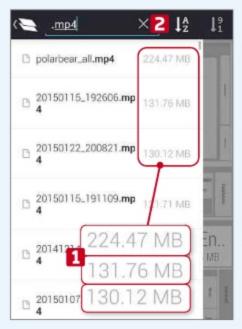
Free space on your device is represented by a single cross-hatched box. To get a more detailed impression of the files contained in a particular folder, pinch to zoom in. Once you've selected a file, 11 tap the Info icon 2 to find out more about it.



Media files such as music, photos and videos can be previewed from this screen. 11 The filename. Iocation and size 4 are also shown, and you can see the date it was created. 5 To delete the file, tap the trash icon 6 and select 'Yes I am'.



You can open the file in another application by tapping the arrow. 11 Tap the Back button 2 to return to the previous screen and use the up arrow to highlight the folder that the file is located in.



Tap Back again to return to the home screen and select the magnifying-glass icon to search your files. Results are automatically listed by size, 🚺 so you can instantly see the ones that take up the most space. To sort the list alphabetically, tap the A-Z icon. 2



Select the menu button from the home screen 11 and untick 'Show free space' 2 to hide the free-space box. You can also use this menu to change the app's colour scheme by choosing 'Select a coloration mode'. El Selecting 'Color by file type' will make it easier to find where your personal files are stored.

### Weekend Project

Get to grips with some serious PC DIY to boost your computer's performance





### Set up a dual-boot system

Why restrict your PC to one operating system when you can dualor multi-boot? Wayne Williams shows how it's done

here are lots of different operating systems you can run on your PC, including the various incarnations of Windows (7, 8 and the Windows 10 Preview), numerous versions of Linux and even a few specialist operating systems for running things like media servers. Most people choose one operating system and stick with it, but if you want to broaden your horizons and enjoy the different advantages specific to each, you can install several.



There are a few ways to try out a new operating system, such as running it in VirtualBox (www.virtualbox.org) or using a Linux Live CD. However, these options provide limited access to your PC's resources, which makes them run slowly.

If you're serious about using a secondary OS, the best option is to set up a dual-boot. When you switch on your PC, you're presented with a menu that lets you choose which OS you want to

run. The one you select then runs as if it were the only one installed.

Setting up your PC to use dual-boot is simple, but it's not without potential hazards. However, if you follow our instructions, we'll help you set everything up safely.

### Before you begin

Although the process is very straightforward, you should take the time to make sure you've backed up all the important content on your hard drive. It's unlikely you'll lose any files but it's always better to be safe than sorry. You can back up individual files (save them anywhere except your main hard drive) or create an image copy of your PC using a dedicated tool such as EaseUS Todo Backup Free (www.easeus.com).

Windows 7 comes with its own built-in imaging tool. To use it, go to Start,

Control Panel, 'System and Security', then 'Backup and Restore'. Click the 'Create a system image' link on the left. You can save the image file to a removable hard drive, burn it on to several DVDs or send it over a network to another computer. If you end up having problems, you can restore the image by rebooting your computer and pressing F8. Select Repair Your Computer in the Advanced Boot Options menu and choose System Image Recovery.

Creating a full image isn't an essential step, but it's a good idea to have this as a back-up in case disaster strikes.

### Dual-boot, multi-boot

Dual-booting means running two different operating systems alongside one another, in separate partitions (artificial compartments you can create on your hard drive). This can be useful if, for example, you want to run a particular operating system (such as Ubuntu) while the rest of your family would prefer to use something else (such as Windows 7). Or you can use it to try an operating system such as Linux, or a trial such as Windows 10 Preview.

Provided you have the installers (on disc or as ISO files), you can install any operating system configurations you like: Windows 7 alongside Windows 8.1; Windows 8.1 alongside Windows 10 Preview; Windows 7 alongside Ubuntu; and so on.

You aren't limited to just two operating systems, either - if you want to set up three or four (or more), you can. The process for a multi-boot system is the same but it can be much harder to get up

GNU GRUB version 2.02~beta2-15 Advanced options for Ubuntu Windows 7 (loader) (on /dev/sda1) Use the ↑ and ↓ keys to select which entry is highlighted. Press enter to boot the selected OS, `e' to edit the commands before booting or `c' for a command-line.

With a dual-boot PC, you can choose which operating system to launch when you first turn on your PC

and running, because as well as individual partitions for each OS, you'll either need to install them in a specific order or mess around with Windows bootloaders afterwards, which can get tricky. If you do want to go for a multi-boot system, we would recommend you start with a blank hard drive and build from there. See our Mini Workshop, below, for a guide to partitioning your drive.

### Boot-order problems

Creating a dual- or multi-boot system is mostly just a matter of creating one or more partitions, installing the operating systems in them and then choosing the one you want to boot from each time you turn on your PC. However, it's crucial to perform these actions in the correct order if you want to avoid anything going

When you install your Windows operating systems, be sure to install them in order of age. So, for example, you should install Windows 7 before Windows 8. If you mix up the order and install, say, Windows XP after Windows 8, the earlier version of Windows won't recognise the start-up files used in the later ones, and will probably overwrite them, preventing the newer OS from booting. Also (and this is of particular concern in multi-boot systems), resizing partitions can confuse the Windows bootloader, preventing it from being able to read the partition table properly, which can lead to even bigger problems.

If you want to run Linux alongside Windows, it's best to install Windows first, followed by Linux, because the Windows bootloader can be fussy and cause all sorts of grief. The downside to

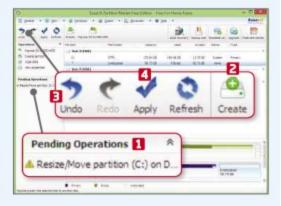
### ORKSHOP | Partition your hard drive in preparation for multi-boot



If Windows is already installed on your hard drive and you haven't previously partitioned it, you will need to resize the Windows partition to make room for the new operating system. EaseUS Partition Master Free (www.partition-tool.com) is a good tool for the task. Click 'Go to home page' and select your system drive. [1]



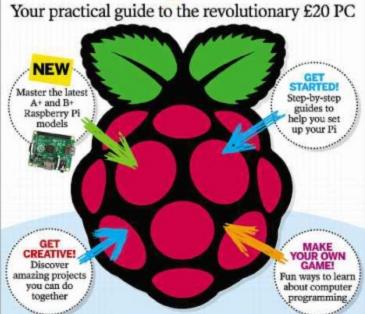
Click the Resize/Move button. 11 Use the slider 🔁 to set the size of the new partition on the existing drive, but remember to leave plenty room for the existing OS to grow. El Click OK [4] when you're happy with your settings. The software will lock the volume ready for making your changes.



The program won't resize or move the partition immediately. Instead, it will add the task to a list of pending operations. 11 You can create a new partition using the button 2 or by right-clicking it and selecting 'Create partition'. If you change your mind at any point, you can Undo the actions. Finally, click Apply 4 to perform the chosen tasks.

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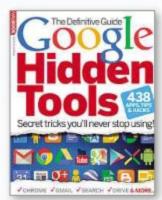
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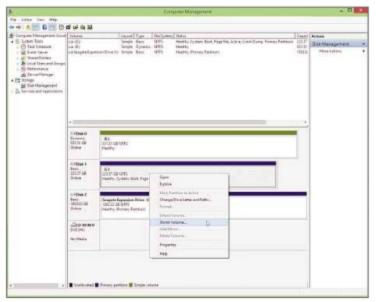


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It's possible to partition your hard drive using Windows' Computer Management tool

this is that you'll need to choose your OS from the Linux boot menu and Linux will be the default option, so if you switch on your PC, then walk away, you'll find Linux has loaded and you'll need to restart to get back into Windows. We show you how to set up Ubuntu, a popular version of Linux, in our Mini Workshop below.

### Create a partition in Windows

Although we'd recommend using a dedicated tool such as EaseUS Partition Master Free to create partitions, the task can be handled directly by Windows if you'd prefer not to install any software. Go to Start, Control Panel, 'System and Security', then Administrative Tools. Double-click Computer Management and select the Disk Management option on

the left. Right-click the drive you want to partition and select Shrink Volume to make space for the new operating system.

### Disable secure boot

If you're planning to dual-boot Linux alongside a pre-installed copy of Windows 8, there are a couple of steps you should take. First, you'll want to disable the secure boot feature, which Microsoft introduced to help protect against rootkits. This is found in UEFI (Unified Extensible Firmware

Interface), the replacement for BIOS used in newer computers, and it can be disabled from within Windows

Press Windows+C to open the Charms bar and click Settings, then 'Change PC settings'. In Windows 8, go to General PC Settings and select 'Advanced startup', then click 'Restart now'. In Windows 8.1, go to 'Update and recovery', then click Recovery and 'Restart now' under 'Advanced startup'. In the window of options that appears, select Troubleshoot, then go to 'Advanced options'. Choose 'UEFI Firmware settings' and click Restart. In UEFI locate the Secure Boot setting (it will probably be under the Boot or Security tab). Select it and use + or - to disable it. Press F10 to save the changes and exit.



Turn off Fast Startup if you're going to be transferring files between operating systems

It's also worth turning off Fast Startup, because there's a risk of losing data, particularly when transferring files between the two operating systems. Go to Control Panel, 'Hardware and Sound', Power Options, System Settings, 'Choose what the power buttons do' and untick 'Turn on fast startup'.



The Windows 8 Charms bar Settings let you make changes to your PC's boot firmware

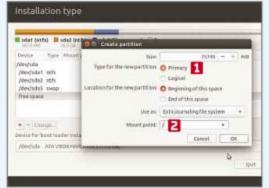
### MINI WORKSHOP | Install Ubuntu alongside Windows



Install Windows (if it isn't installed already), then insert the Ubuntu disc or the USB drive and reboot the PC. The Welcome screen will give you the option to Try Ubuntu (without making any changes to your computer) or Install Ubuntu. Select the latter option. If you take it for a test-drive first, you can always install it later. 🚹



When you get to the 'Installation type screen', select 'Something else' and click Continue. We have an empty partition, created earlier, referred to as 'free space'. 🚺 Select this, click the + button 2 and devote 10 per cent of the space [3] for use as a swap file (virtual memory). Change 'Use as' to 'Swap area' and click OK.



Select the remaining free space and click the + sign. Set the partition type as Primary 11 and select slash (/) as the 'Mount point' (this means the root directory). 2 Ubuntu will copy the required operating system files to your hard drive and install them. When finished, you'll be able to boot from either Ubuntu or Windows.

**NEXT ISSUE** 

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### Web User's Top Tips

Our experts explore how to save time and effort by automating programs and tasks in Windows

### **TOP TIPS FOR AUTOMATING TASKS IN WINDOWS**

### Record tasks to replay later with one click

inyTask (bit.ly/tiny364) is an amazing tool that can automate a wide range of tasks by saving your key strokes and mouse movements so you can repeat the actions in one click. As it's name suggests, it is tiny, at just 33KB, and makes no changes to your system folders or Registry. In fact, it doesn't have to be installed at all, and can be run from a USB drive instead.

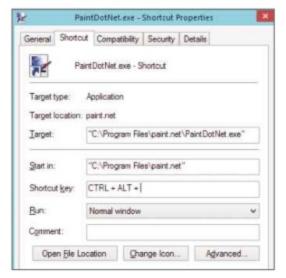
Double-click it to display a tiny toolbar with six icons. When you click the blue orb, it will turn red and record every action you perform until you click the button again to stop it. You can then replay the recording by clicking the green Play button. For example, if you recorded yourself opening a browser and typing a URL, the software would recreate the task every time you play it back. It's a handy way of automating short, repetitive tasks.



Record simple tasks using TinyTask and then replay them to perform the action automatically

### Start programs with hotkeys

Instead of searching the Start menu or Start screen for programs, you can



Create shortcuts to programs and then define hotkeys to start them

If you see words that look like they've been typed in a typewriter, follow the instructions and type them exactly as they appear, paying close attention to spaces and punctuation. create keyboard shortcuts for them.

Open Explorer, find a program in 'C:\
Program Files', right-click it and select
Send To, 'Desktop (create shortcut)'.
Right-click the icon on the Desktop and
select Properties. On the Shortcut tab,
click inside the 'Shortcut key' box and
press any combination of keys, such as
Ctrl+Shift+P. Click OK. Now, whenever
you use that key combination, the
program will run. Just make sure you
don't use a shortcut key combination
that's already being used elsewhere.

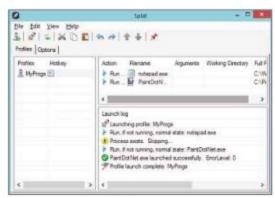
### Start several programs simultaneously

Free program Splat (bit.ly/splat364) lets you perform several actions with a single mouse-click or key-press, which is particularly useful when you want to start several programs at once.

Download it, unzip the file, open the folder and double-click 'splat.exe' to run it. In Windows 8, you'll then need to click the 'More info' link and then 'Run anyway' to bypass Microsoft's program blockers.

Splat saves your commands in lists that it calls 'profiles'. Click the first toolbar button to create a new profile and name it. Select it in the profiles list and double-click an empty line in the Action column on the right. A window opens and, at the top, you can select an action to perform. Choose Audio and you can pick an MP3 music file to play; select Run and a program in the 'C:\Program Files' folder can be launched.

Creating music playlists and running groups of programs is very straightforward. Any number of entries can be added to a profile, so you could start your favourite music and programs simultaneously. Delays and pauses can be added to a profile, to allow programs time to start or



Create profiles in Splat to run programs, play music and perform other commands

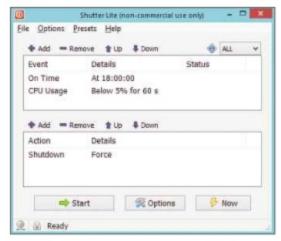
music to play, for example.

You can also make advanced functions start and stop, close applications and kill processes in the Task Manager. However, it's best to avoid these unless you're sure of what you are doing. But if you know your way around Windows, you could use this to create profiles that shut down unnecessary services when you want to play a game or watch a movie without interruptions. You could then create another profile to start them again afterwards.

### Create triggers for actions

Shutter Lite (free from bit.ly/shut364) lets you set events that will automatically trigger certain actions. Run it and you'll see two lists: one for events and the other for actions. Click the Add button and choose one of the 13 events from the list. These include Countdown, which counts down hours. minutes and seconds; On Time, which triggers at a certain time; and CPU Usage, which lets you define a maximum or minimum processor usage. Shutter Lite can also recognise when a window title appears on the screen, or a laptop's lid is opened or closed. You can group together combinations of events as triggers, such as the CPU level falling below 5 per cent after 6pm.

Click the Add button above the Actions list to choose an action you want the event to trigger, such as shutting down the computer, opening files, running programs, playing a message, controlling the volume, running the screensaver and many more. As with the events, actions can be combined so you could, for example, make Shutter Lite turn off your computer and sound an alarm when the CPU usage falls below 5 per cent after 6pm, meaning that your computer will let you know that it's shutting down for the evening if it is not being used. Click the Start button after defining the events and actions to minimise the program to an icon in the notification area.



Use Shutter Lite to define actions you want performed when certain events occur

### TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

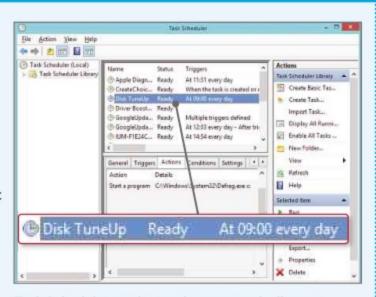
### Use the Task Scheduler

Windows has a built-in tool called Task Scheduler which you can use to automate tasks in the OS or on any program that's running on it. Most people aren't aware of it and it's been particularly well hidden in Windows 8. However, it's extremely useful for certain tasks, such as running the Disk Defragmenter every day to optimise your

hard drive and maintain performance. Click Start or go to the Start screen and type schedule, then click Task Scheduler or 'Schedule tasks'. Open the Action menu and select Create Task. Enter a name for the task on the General tab, such as Drive Tune-up. Tick the option to 'Run with highest privileges' (in other words, as an administrator). You now need to set a trigger that determines when the task is run, so select the Triggers tab and click New. The 'Begin the task' menu has several options, such as 'At log on' and 'At startup', but the one we want is 'On a schedule'. You can then select Daily and set a start time, such as 09:00. To ensure that the defrag takes place, even if your computer isn't yet switched on at 9am, select the Settings tab and tick 'Run task as soon as possible after a scheduled start is missed'.

Select the Actions tab and click New. Set the Action to 'Start a program' and click the Browse button. then select Defrag.exe from the C:\ Windows\System32 folder. Type c: in the 'Add arguments' box, so the program will defragment drive C:, and click OK. Select the Conditions tab and tick 'Start the task only if the computer is idle for'. Here you can set a time, such as 10 minutes, and there is an option to stop the task if the computer ceases to be idle. You can also specify that it shouldn't run when a laptop is on battery power, so that defragmentation doesn't run it down. Click OK to finish.

Disk Defragmenter will now automatically run every day to tune up your hard drive.



Task Scheduler can be used to automatically start programs when certain events occur

### Control applications with

Autolt (www.autoitscript.com) is a powerful programming language that can automate just about anything in Windows. It not only lets you start applications, but also control them. It does this by sending mouse-clicks, key-presses and menu selections directly to the application. For example, you could set it to start WordPad or Notepad, and then send key presses to access the file menu and then open a document, such as a standard letter. You could then continue to edit it yourself or send more key presses and commands, such as printing it and closing it when you've finished.

If you fancy a challenge and want to automate some of the applications on your PC, install Autolt. Right-click in an Explorer window and select New, AutoIt Script to create a new program script. Right-click it afterwards and select Edit Script. There isn't space here to explore this automation tool in detail, but there are some useful step-by-step tutorials at bit.ly/ auto364.



Work through Autolt's tutorials to find out how to use the scripting tool

### Ask the Expert

Roland Waddilove computer programmer and PC journalist since 1981, answers all your technical questions. Email us for help at webuser@dennis.co.uk



### **SOFTWARE**

### Security software for USB drives

I once read something about running Malwarebites Anti-Malware (www.malwarebytes.org) from a USB flash drive, but I've since lost the article. I got a USB 3.0 SanDisk flash drive for Christmas, with 32GB of space and speeds of up to 100MB/s. It may have its own security software already installed.

Where do I start with installing Anti-Malware? Do I need to format the drive? Do the programs need to be installed on the flash drive? Since the drive has such large capacity, can I install or run other software on the flash drive at the same time?

David Barton, via email

USB flash drives are supplied formatted and ready to use. You can't install regular Windows software on them, but you can install portable software that's been specifically designed to run from a USB drive. Visit a program's website and look for a portable version, or go to a website that specialises in portable software,



Portable software, such as Emsisoft Emergency Kit, does not need installing

such as PortableApps.com (portableapps.com) or The Portable Freeware Collection (www .portablefreeware.com). The usual procedure is to download and unzip the program, then copy the folder to the USB drive using Explorer. To run a portable program, open the folder and double-click the program.

Malwarebytes Anti-Malware is not a portable application, although there is a paid-for version designed for use by computer repair shops (www .malwarebytes.org/techbench). ClamWin (bit.ly/clam364), Spybot Search & Destroy (bit.ly/spyport364), Comodo Cleaning Essentials (bit.ly/ comcle364) and Emsisoft Emergency Kit (bit.ly/emsis364) are all reliable free security tools that run from USB flash drives

Phones and tablets can both be used for email and are usually set up to do this when they are first used. An Android phone or tablet will prompt you to create a Google account, or sign into an existing one, and an iPhone or iPad will prompt you to create an iCloud account. Gmail and iCloud email can be accessed from anywhere in the world, as long as you have a web connection.

Make sure that whatever phone or tablet you take only uses Wi-Fi, if you want to avoid being charged. On a Samsung Galaxy S4 phone, for example, go to Settings, Connections, Data usage and turn off 'Mobile data'. On an iPhone, go to Settings, Cellular and turn off Cellular Data and Data Roaming. Most tablets are Wi-Fi only, so won't accrue extra charges; you just need to find a Wi-Fi service, but they are common in cafés and hotels.

If you can find a time to talk when you and your relative are both available. despite any time differences, and you both have Skype (www.skype.com), Viber (www.viber.com), Line (line.me) or a similar app, you can make voice and video calls for free from anywhere in the world. As with email, only use it when connected to Wi-Fi. They are all easy to set up - you can download Skype from the app store on the device and sign in with your Microsoft account (such as an Outlook.com email).

You should set up these devices before you start your travels. Send a few test emails and make some Skype or Viber calls to make sure you're familiar with how to use them.

### 🗸 🔘 Data usage Mobile data Set mobile data limit Data usage cycle 5 Jan - 4 Feb

Turn off mobile data when travelling abroad to avoid extra charges

#### SECURITY

### Skype pop-up message

While I was on a Skype call, a pop-up appeared asking for my username and password. What is it and how can I stop it? The only information I can find about it online is that it is something to do with Microsoft. My laptop is a Packard Bell Easynote TE and I'm using the Skype app on Windows 8.1.

Paul Cheshire, via email

The screenshot you sent looks like a genuine Microsoft message, but you should ignore it until the computer has been thoroughly checked for viruses and other malware. Use your anti-virus software to scan the computer and get

a second opinion by running the free version of Malwarebytes Anti-Malware (www.malwarebytes.org). ActiveSync, mentioned in the pop-up message, is used with email and mobile devices, so make sure your email software, such as Outlook, is working properly.

### **EMAIL**

### Stay in touch while overseas

I'm going on a round-the-world trip later this year, leaving a relative to look after my house while I'm away. The time difference will make phone calls impractical, so I have been considering email as a way to keep in touch. I'm taking my smartphone and tablet, but I have no idea how to set up email.

Robert Meadows, via email

## **Ask the Expert**

#### **SECURITY**

### Remove WindowsMangaProtect

Before Christmas, my security software let WindowsMangaProtect install on my Windows XP Pro PC. This has locked all the executable files so I can't run anything. Are there any removal tools that will get rid of it?

Les Griffiths, via email

WindowsMangaProtect (there are several variations of the spelling) is a PUP (potentially unwanted program) that's often bundled with software and is accidentally installed. It is usually associated with unwanted advertising. However, it doesn't lock EXE files, so you may also have a malware infection.

It's hard to do anything on a computer if the EXE files are locked because nearly every program uses them. The solution is to use another computer to download a rescue disc and burn it to a CD using a tool such as InfraRecorder (infrarecorder.org). The rescue disc can then be inserted into your problem computer, and used to boot and clean it. Good rescue CDs are available from AVG (bit.ly/avgcd364), F-Secure (bit.ly/ fsec364), Bitdefender (bit.ly/bitdef364) and others.

To remove WindowsMangaProtect, right-click the taskbar and start Task Manager. Find 'protectwindowsmanager .exe' on the Processes tab, right-click it and end the process. Go to 'Programs and Features' in the Control Panel and double-click the program to uninstall it. Better still, use an uninstaller such as IObit Uninstaller (www.iobit.com) to remove all traces of it.

The problem may also be down to extensions, add-ons and settings on your browser. In Internet Explorer, click the gear icon and select 'Manage add-ons'. Select each of the add-on types on the left, select unwanted add-ons (such as anything to do with WindowsManagaProtect) on the right, and click Disable or Remove. Go to IE's gear menu and select Internet Options. Enter a new homepage on the General tab, click Settings in the Tabs section and, when a new tab opens, select the option to show the homepage.

In Chrome, click the menu button and choose Settings to change the homepage and search engines. Add-ons can be disabled from chrome:// extensions.

In Firefox, click the menu button and go to Options, then the General tab to change the homepage or Add-ons to

remove unwanted extras. To change the search engine, select Manage Search Engines from the drop-down menu in the search box.



Create a rescue CD to help clean up malware that's difficult to remove

#### MOBIL F

### Uninstall default Android apps

I'm sure I read about an app in Web User that can delete pre-installed apps from an Android smartphone, which the Applications Manager can't remove. I've looked through my back issues, but I can't find it.

Mike Chalk, via email

Certain apps on a phone can't be removed: manufacturers' apps such as Samsung My Galaxy, S Voice, Samsung Music and Samsung WatchON; and apps that are part of Android, such as Gmail, Play Music and Chrome.

By rooting a phone, which involves accessing and modifying Android system files, you can remove these bundled apps. But this should only be attempted by an expert because it will invalidate the warranty of your device and could create more problems.

You could disable rather than remove the bundled apps. Go to Settings, open the Applications Manager (sometimes called Apps). Tap one of the apps you don't want, then tap 'Turn off notifications', Force Stop, Clear Cache, Clear Data, Uninstall Updates and Disable. Now open the Play Store app and tap the menu button in the top-left corner. Select Settings, tap Auto-Update apps and set 'Do not autoupdate apps'. If you want to manually update them, go to My Apps, select an app and tap the Update button.

#### WINDOWS XP

### Can't access backed-up data

I backed up the pictures and files on a friend's Windows XP PC, then formatted the hard drive and installed a new operating system.

Unfortunately, I can't now access the 80GB of data that I backed up. Unless I use the same operating system with the same service pack, I can't retrieve my friend's files. Do you have a simple solution?

### Richard Demynn, via email

Bundled with XP is a File And Settings Transfer (FAST) wizard that saves back-ups as UNC files. It can transfer files from one XP PC to another, but later versions of Windows don't recognise UNC files, so it should not be used when upgrading the operating system. Instead, use a back-up tool that runs on both the old and new operating systems.

One solution would be to get an XP CD and install it in a virtual machine using VirtualBox (www.virtualbox.org) or run it on an old PC. You can then run the wizard again to access the

An alternative that may or may not



Windows Easy Transfer may recover files lost using XP's FAST wizard

work is Microsoft Windows Easy Transfer (bit.ly/wintran364), which is used to transfer files and settings from an XP computer to Windows 7. Run the program and click Next until vou're asked to either start a new transfer or continue one in progress. Select Continue. When it asks if the computer is on a network, select 'No, I've copied files and settings to a CD, DVD or other removable media'. There are then options to select a CD, DVD, or an external hard drive or network location. Choose this last option and you'll be able to select the location containing the UNC file. Select 'Files and Settings Transfer Wizard (\*.DAT)' next to the Filename and then choose the DAT file that starts with IMG. The files are copied to a folder called OldFiles.



This fortnight, Roland has set up his private cloud storage after hearing that Tonido Pro (tonido.com) is now free

### **Your Top Tips**

Our pick of the best advice from our readers. To get help or offer it to others, visit forum.webuser.co.uk

### **TOP TIP**

### WEBSITE

### Check appliance running costs

With all the cold weather we've been having, I'm worried about how much my fan heater and electric blanket might be costing me to run. Thankfully, I found a website called Sust-it that tells you how much you can expect to pay to run different types of appliances. Visit bit.ly/energy364 and enter the wattage of the product, along with how long you typically use it for, and the site will estimate the cost based on the UK average rate of 15.2p/kWh.

I was relieved to discover that I can afford to run my electric blanket all night for the coldest months. However, using the fan heater even for an hour costs around 50p!



Sust-it's calculator can work out the cost of running different appliances

If you've got an appliance that's very uneconomical, the website also has a handy section for browsing the most energy-efficient alternatives available, from TVs and laptops to fridge freezers and lightbulbs.

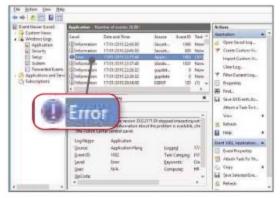
Anne, via email

#### **GENERAL PC**

### Explore recent events

Windows records everything that happens on your PC in log files, including information telling you which programs have been run, what errors have occurred and details of any warnings that have been issued to the user. It's sometimes useful to look at these logs. because they can help you work out why things have gone wrong. You may also spot that a program regularly has problems, and then look online for an update to solve it.

In Windows 8, press Windows+X to



The Windows Event Viewer can help pinpoint the cause of PC problems

open the menu in the bottom-left corner of the screen and select Event Viewer. In previous versions of Windows, type event viewer into the Start menu. Expand the items in the left-hand pane and, under Windows Logs, select Applications. Scroll down the list in the middle section to find errors, which are marked with a red icon. Select them to display a description below.

Paul Walters, via email

#### **GENERAL PC**

### Change low battery alerts

By default, my laptop warns me that my battery is low when it reaches 10 per cent. I then receive a critical alert once it's down to 5 per cent, at which point the computer hibernates. However, because the battery is quite old, I don't get much time after the first warning to finish what I'm doing or find a charger, and I'd rather it notified me sooner.

Fortunately, you can change this from the Control Panel by clicking 'Hardware and Sound', Power Options and then 'Change plan settings' alongside your current power plan. Here, you need to



click 'Change advanced power settings' and then scroll down to the Battery menu and expand it. Selecting the 'Low battery level' and 'Critical battery level' options lets you choose the percentage at which you receive these alerts, both on battery power and when the device is plugged in. You'll also see 'Critical battery action', which lets you select what your PC does once it reaches this level, from Hibernate, Sleep or Shut Down.

Anthony Harris, via email

### Pin files in Word and Excel

If there are files that you frequently use in Office applications such as Microsoft Word, you can pin them to make them easier to find, so you don't have to search for them in the Open File window. In Word for example, click File, Open (or the Office button, in more recent versions) and you'll see the Recent Documents. As you hover the mouse over each one, a small black pin icon appears on the right. Click it and the file will stick to the top of the list and never get lost. This also works in Excel.

Todd Gibbons, via email

### **ONLINE STORAGE**

### Restore old file versions in Dropbox

It may always have been a feature of the free version of Dropbox, but I only recently discovered that the cloud service lets you restore previous versions



Dropbox saves a new version of your files each time they are updated

of files you've edited. This is really handy if you make substantial changes to a document or photo and later decide that you need to undo them.

Like deleted files, previous versions are saved for 30 days. You can increase this to a year by upgrading to Dropbox Pro. I save any files I'm currently working on to Dropbox, just in case something should go wrong. To restore a previous version of a file, open the web version of Dropbox, right-click the file and select 'Previous versions'. Check the time and date of the previous versions to see which one you want to restore, then click its name to download it.

Barry Wright, via email

#### **BROWSERS**

### Carry on where you left off in Chrome

Did you know that Chrome can be configured to restore the tabs from your previous session? When you open the browser's Settings page, you'll see the option to 'Open the New Tab page', 'Continue where you left off' or 'Open a specific page or set of pages' on startup. Select the second option and the browser will restore your previous tabs, which is handy if you often close the browser in a hurry while you still have lots of tabs open.

**Bedstor, Web User Forums** 



Chrome lets you restore your previous session when you launch it

#### MESSAGING

### Free alternative to WhatsApp

I'd like to recommend Telegram (telegram.org) as a good free alternative to WhatsApp (www.whatsapp.com). I prefer it to WhatsApp, because you can use it on multiple devices, not just your phone. It's quick, simple and effective, and I receive and can reply to messages on my two phones, iPad and laptop. The only difficult thing is persuading your family and friends to use it too, which unfortunately is why we're all tied to the likes of WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter.

Matt, via email

### SOFTWARE

### Track your mouse stats

It's a bit gimmicky (and geeky!), but I recently came across a program called Mousotron (bit.ly/mouse364), which

gives you stats about your mouse and keyboard use. It tells you all kinds of information including how many times you've clicked the left and right buttons: the distance the cursor has moved; and the number of keystrokes entered. It doesn't have an obvious practical use, but I'm always fascinated to know how many times I've clicked the mouse and tapped my keys by the end of the day. There's no security risk, because Mousotron only counts your

setup on ? - X days hr min sec 3 3 33 yards 438 30 keystrokes 7883 left button right button middle button extra button 1 extra button 2 8 double clicks 63 833 speed (ml/hr) 888 933 hr min sec 0 80 80 88

Mousotron shows you the number of clicks and keystrokes vou've made

recording them). You can set the program to launch on start-up and then run quietly in the background.

Roy, via email

#### ANDROID

kevstrokes

(rather than

### Keep photos safe from prying eyes

If you're worried about the photos on your Android device ending up in the wrong hands, download Vaulty (bit.ly/ vaulty364). It lets you hide photos and videos from your Gallery and other apps, keeping them safe in a vault-like, password-protected app. Also, if anyone tries to access Vaulty and guesses your PIN or password incorrectly, the app will use the device's front camera to photograph them and save the image until you next log in.

Dan, via email

#### **BROWSERS**

### Prevent typing slips

I know how to spell, I just can't type. Judging by some of the posts on Facebook and Twitter, and the emails I receive, lots of other people suffer from the same problem. Spelling errors abound on the web, but there is a way to reduce them or even prevent them completely: install the Grammarly add-on for Chrome (bit.ly/gram364). This

monitors what you type into web pages, such as when writing emails and posting comments, and it notifies you if there are any spelling or grammar problems. As with Microsoft Word and other word processors, spelling errors are underlined with a wiggly red line and grammar problems are underlined in green. Clicking a problem displays a pop-up box with a correction, which you can then click. Now there's no excuse for bad spelling!

Craig Edwards, via email

### SOCIAL

### Get a live Twitter feed on your

I'm a student and I recently found that I was wasting more and more time checking my Twitter feed when I should have been doing work. This made me wish I could install some kind of widget that shows a live feed of incoming tweets, rather than having to open a new tab in Chrome and load the website each time I feel an urge to check it. Fortunately, such a thing already exists and it's called Twittalert (bit.ly/ twitalert364). It's invisible until a new tweet comes in, at which point a small rectangle appears on the right-hand side of your screen for about fifteen seconds. While this can still be distracting, I've definitely been getting more work done because I know I'm not missing anything important. It's a small, portable app, so you can try it without having to install anything.

Charlie, via email

### **BROWSERS**

### Limit your add-ons

As an old timer, I can remember the days when Internet Explorer used to get big and bloated because of all the toolbars that were installed. They filled half the screen! Now I see Chrome doing a similar thing when multiple add-ons are installed. This just makes the browser bigger and slower.

I know there are lots of great extras for Chrome, but don't go overboard or the browser will slow down. Half a dozen at a time should be more than enough.

Ron Nestor, via email



Don't overload Chrome or Firefox by adding too many extensions



### Readers' Helpdesk

Our pick of the best solutions posted on our reader forums. Visit forum.webuser.co.uk – it's friendly and free!

#### SECURITY

### Are Flash update notifications safe?

I keep getting notifications telling me to update to the latest version of Adobe Flash, but I think I've read somewhere that it's not safe. Is there any truth to this?

#### madmardle, Web User Forums

A It's important to keep Adobe Flash Player up to date because the updates fix vulnerabilities. There's information about the latest version on the Web User Forums at bit.ly/forums364, but you can normally assume that the newest version is the safest.

Whether or not the prompts are safe depends on when they're appearing. A genuine prompt can pop up when you open your browser, but if they appear after you've gone to a particular website, they could be malicious.

Check if you have the latest version of Flash (bit.ly/adobe364) and if you do, ignore any prompts you get when visiting a particular website. If not, make sure that you download the right version of Flash Player for your browser (there are different versions for IE and Firefox). You shouldn't need to do anything if you use Chrome, because the browser's Flash plug-in updates automatically.

### Cantrel, Stewart40, Madeline, Web User Forums



There are different versions of Flash Player for Internet Explorer and Firefox

#### **WEB DESIGN**

### Can I host my own website?

I'd like to host my own website completely independently. I have

### **BROWSERS**

### How do I make Google the default search in Firefox?

When I use Firefox's search bar, it loads results from Yahoo instead of Google. I checked in the browser's Tools menu to see if I'd accidentally installed an add-on, but there doesn't seem to be anything there. Can anyone tell me how this happened and how I can get Google back?

John\_Liverpool, Web User Forums

Click the down arrow on the left side of the search box and select Google from the list that appears. If you want to use a different search engine, such as the UK version of



Use the search box's drop-down menu to change Firefox's default search engine

Google, click Manage Search Engines, then the 'Get more search engines' link.

Succulent95, Web User Forums

designed the HTML and I have Windows Server and a DSL router, but have no idea where to go from here.

### abdullahseba, Web User Forums

It is technically possible to do what you want, but there are reasons why you most likely shouldn't go down this route for a public website. Firstly, many home broadband ISP's terms of service disallow hosting a public website from computers on their network, Secondly, the upload speeds on a typical home broadband connection are significantly slower than the download speeds. This means that with any kind of significant traffic, a website hosted from home would be very slow. Lastly, unless you are guaranteed to have a static IP address from your service provider, then hosting your own site would be almost impossible.

The advantage of third-party hosting is a fast, always-on connection with back-up options, dedicated customer support and plenty of bandwidth that won't infringe on your personal surfing and downloading. If 'home hosting' was easy and worthwhile, everyone would be doing it.

With annual hosting costing as little as £50 a year, there really isn't any compelling reason to host your own site, but if you're determined not to pay

anything, you could try hosting it via a cloud service such as Dropbox. You'd probably have to put all the files in your public folder and then generate links for them, but you'd have a workable site.

TheTechGuy and Jack Gold, Web User Fourms

#### **SECURITY**

### Why doesn't my anti-virus block PUPs?

I tried without success to install Yahoo Messenger and ended up installing a series of PUPs (potentially unwanted programs). I think I've managed to uninstall all of them now, but they didn't go without a struggle. Their names were PriceFountain, StormWatch and WSE Vosteran. Shouldn't my Kaspersky anti-virus program have



Malwarebytes scans your PC for threats that other anti-virus can't detect

prevented this from happening? extractor, Web User Forums

Since PUPs are normally packaged with legitimate software which you give approval to install, it's difficult for anti-virus software to block them. Unlike viruses, which are nasty bits of code that anti-virus software looks out for, PUPs are legitimate programs that you unwittingly install.

The best way to avoid PUPs is to always choose the 'custom installation' option when you install new software and to untick all options that refer to other junk. Even this method isn't completely infallible because you need to read every window carefully and deselect or decline everything apart from the program you downloaded. Installing Unchecky (unchecky.com) will also help to weed out PUPs

If you haven't got it already, download Malwarebytes Anti-Malware Free (www .malwarebytes.org). Run a guick scan after every installation and it will find PUPs and any other rubbish you may have picked up. If you think you've still got PUPs on your PC, try AdwCleaner (bit.ly/adwclean364). There's a Mini Workshop on page 40 of Issue 361 (bit.ly/ webuser361) explaining how to use it.

### Can anyone recommend a free VPN?

Izzit and Madeline, Web User Forums

I've tried some Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), but they either don't work or they slow down my PC. What's the best free VPN software, in your experience?

Peterx666, Web User

A VPN will always slow down your internet traffic to some degree because the data is routed through one or more proxy servers. I have used OpenVPN (www.openvpn.net) with reasonable success, but it needs a bit of tinkering to get it set up properly. If you want a no-frills free solution, ProXPN (www.proxpn.com) is easy to set up and



OpenVPN is a free VPN service for Windows, Mac, Android and iOS

might suit your needs.

TheTechGuy, Web User Forums

### **GENERAL PC**

### How can I fix a failed System Restore?

I recently tried to use System Restore on my Windows 8.1 HP laptop, but when the restore finished I was faced with a blue screen telling me:

'Your PC ran into a problem and needs to restart. We're just collecting some error info and then we'll restart for you. If you would like to know more you can search online later for this error: CRITICAL PROCESS DIED."

This message just keeps coming around in a loop. What should I do? ceedoublecee, Web User Forums

There is a useful explanation of this error and some possible solutions on the ReviverSoft website (bit.ly/ reviver364). It advises restarting your PC in safe mode, then using Device Manager to check all your devices for updates, as well as removing any programs you might have installed prior to the problem occurring. If that doesn't work, then you'll probably have to choose between performing a clean installation or a System Refresh, both of which are explained in the ReviverSoft article.

Before that, you could also try opening Command Prompt from the Advanced Repair Options menu and typing dism /online /cleanup-image /restorehealth (with a space before each '/') to see if that fixes the problem. If it doesn't, type dism /online /cleanup-image /scanhealth which might tell you what the problem is, although it may take a while. If you need anything that's stored on the PC, you can

probably still recover it by booting from a Linux disc and copying your data to an external drive.

Calimanco, Cantrel and Izzit, Web User **Forums** 

#### **BROWSERS**

### How do I get rid of DuckDuckGo?

I tried out DuckDuckGo's search engine (duckduckgo.com) in Internet Explorer, but now I can't get rid of it. I've deleted its Desktop icon and can see no other reference to it on my PC, but it keeps appearing when I use the search bar. I've found instructions online that say I need to click Tools in Internet Explorer, but I can't see that option.

#### **Extractor, Web User Forums**

To get the Tools menu, right-click at the top of Internet Explorer and tick Menu Bar to display it permanently. To get to it once, just hold down the Alt key. When you've found Tools, click 'Manage add-ons' then Search Providers. Highlight DuckDuckGo and click the Remove button. You should also go to Tools, Internet Options, then General, and set your homepage to what you require before clicking Apply and OK.

### Stewart40, Madeline and Helmut, Web **User Forums**



Internet Explorer lets you choose the search provider you want to use

### **VIDEO**

### How do I play CCTV footage on an iPad?

I'm looking for free videoconversion software that will convert .264 files (from a CCTV camera) into ones I can play on my iPad. I have tried Freemake Video Converter but it won't run on Windows 8 and doesn't open the .264 files, either. Can anyone help?

Dave1510, Web User Forums

Assuming your iPad can play AVI files, visit bit.ly/cctvsoftware364, scroll down to the Downloads tab and click the link for AVI Generator for PC. Once you've installed the program, click the 'Open' tab, navigate to your



Lorex Technology's AVI Generator for PC lets you convert 264 CCTV files

.264 CCTV file and select Open. The Save As field will default to the location of the .264 file, but you can save the file anywhere you like by clicking the Save As button. Finally, click Start to begin the conversion.

Moonshine, Web User Forums



### **Star Email**

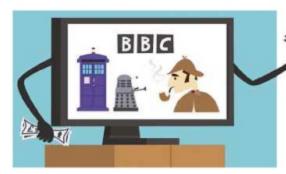
### Why Barry is wrong about BBC TV shows

always enjoy Barry Collins' Page 404 column but I really must disagree with him about the BBC in Issue 362 ('Give us back our BBC TV shows', bit.ly/webuser362). He wants all BBC programmes to be available to every licence payer on iPlayer forever, rather than the current 30-day limit, arguing

that we paid for them when we bought

our TV licence. However, our licence gives us the right to view the programmes, not to own them.

I remember the days when we had two channels delivering limited hours of broadcasting and if I missed a programme, tough. All I could do was hope it would be repeated. There is no reason for anyone to miss a show today with all the comparatively cheap recording technology available, the 30-



day iPlayer catch-up service and, of course, the repeats.

Barry compares a TV programme to an issue of *Web User*, saying that Dennis Publishing would not ask for the magazine back after 30 days. He forgets to mention that on page 5 of every issue, in the Permissions section, Dennis Publishing prohibits us from reproducing any material from the magazine without

.....

permission. So, although I have bought and paid for my magazine I cannot do what I like with it. If I lose a copy, or destroy it accidentally, I cannot demand the publisher replace it free of charge. That is my bad luck, just as it is if I

I think we are very lucky to have the iPlayer; after all, the BBC doesn't have to provide that service. Be grateful for what we have, Barry!

have missed a programme.

By the way, the BBC's boxed sets are excellent value. I recently bought the full set of *Luther* DVDs from the BBC for £12, including free delivery. You would have to be a real curmudgeon to complain about that price for three series.

Ethel Trueman, Dudley

### Why Barry is right about BBC TV shows

What a great idea from Barry Collins in Issue 362. Simply enter your TV licence number into the iPlayer and get access to the full BBC archive of TV shows. I prefer to watch drama series in a block rather than in weekly instalments and it is so frustrating to find a series I have wanted to watch has disappeared or, worse still, has just the last couple of episodes available.

Paula Howarth, via email

### Your smart TV could be watching you

In response to Ewan O'Sullivan's email in Inbox, Issue 361 (bit.ly/webuser361), 'Amazon Echo could compromise our privacy', if you're worried about domestic devices spying on you, it's not only the Echo you should

look out for.
Among the many common everyday devices which compromise your privacy, the internet-connected TV is a major offender.

TVs connected

to the internet will send details of every channel and programme you watch along with who knows what else, back to their makers, who then sell the information on. It is alleged that LG is a notable offender in this respect.

JimD, via email

### BT must respond much faster to line faults

I'm responding to your news story in Issue 361 about BT being rated the worst landline and broadband provider for customer satisfaction. The main problem with BT, Openreach and so on is the unacceptable delay in responding to line faults. The first, and perhaps most obvious delay is when contacting your ISP, which then contacts BT, then on to Openreach, all before reaching the

subcontractor. If you're lucky, this takes a week! Then the subcontractor has to report back, and therefore another week passes. Then, within three weeks, the fault in the BT roadside cabinet is fixed, usually by reconnecting a disconnected cable, in one or possibly two minutes. In contrast, one of my

neighbours, who is with Virgin Media, lost their television, telephone and

internet access and had all three reinstated in less than 24 hours.

Although BT Infinity may be good when it works, the name better reflects the near-infinite amount of time it takes for the company to remedy a fault.

BT was previously a lumbering public sector company and after privatisation it still assumes that a dreadful delay in providing a repair is acceptable and cannot be challenged.

However, now that Virgin Media and other companies are offering real alternatives, BT needs to improve or it will continue to lose customers. This is when privatisation starts to work, when there is genuine competition.

Andrew Porter, Hitchin

### Get your Minecraft terminology right

I am writing in reference to the article 'Minecraft Hacks' in Issue 361. The word 'Minecraft' dragged me towards this wonderful magazine (which I will be buying again) and I decided to get it. I then read the Minecraft article and was





### You can let us know your views and opinions via:

webuser@dennis.co.uk, www.facebook.com/webusermagazine, www.twitter.com/webusermagazine and forum.webuser.co.uk









confused. Some of the stuff Andy Shaw includes in the article should not be described as a hack! For

example, changing your skin is not a hack. And you shouldn't use the term 'hidden mods', it should be 'mods'. Everything else in the article was fine. Keep up the good work.

Eoin Mahon, via email

### CCleaner should not pester us to upgrade

I would like to respond to the letter from Spencer Rowe in Issue 362 - 'We should be grateful that CCleaner is free' - which was itself a response to a letter I had published in Issue 360. Does Mr Rowe work for Piriform? He certainly has ignored or misunderstood much of my complaint. Essentially calling me a liar is also offensive ("I find this very hard to believe"). He also makes almost the same suggestion as Piriform did when I alerted them to the problem, namely that I had a 'dodgy imitation' of CCleaner.

For the record, Mr Rowe, I acknowledged that CCleaner was freeware and that I have used it trouble-free for years. I even suggested that it was acceptable to try and persuade users to opt for the paid-for version. What is not acceptable - free or not - is to interfere with a person's PC when they opt not to upgrade, even when, for example, a program is a trial version. Furthermore, I am not the only person to have experienced this problem.

Finally, other than the first time I downloaded the program - from FileHippo (filehippo.com), I believe -I have downloaded every time from Piriform's own website after being alerted that an update was available. If Mr Rowe hasn't seen the pop-up for the update, then perhaps he has either blocked it or is overdue for an optician's appointment?

John Lockett, via email



### O YOU APPROVE OF SKY **BROADBAND'S DECISION TO BLOCK ONLINE PORN BY DEFAULT?**

Absolutely. Bring it on. I'm sick of how the most innocent search can bring up the most vile sites because they are so cleverly tagged.

Susan Skelton

No, I don't approve of the block, because it's unclear what is really being filtered out, including sexual health and educational sites.

Thoughtcat @thoughtcat

It's a slippery slope towards a censored web - what gives Sky the right to determine what filters we should have in our web use?

Keith Pearson

Yes, for porn, as long as it's not used to bring in general censorship. There is a lot of mind-damaging data online. However, what someone does in private, that affects no-one, is OK.

.....

The Mole UK @The\_Mole\_UK

### HE BBC HAS RELAUNCHED ITS NEWS APP. DO YOU USE IT?

Yes, it has a larger and better variety of content compared to the old one.

Nick Swarfega

Sky News alerts work for me on my iPhone. If it's interesting, I'll read about it online.

Simon Mellor @Simon9Hops

I do. It's very useful to get notification alerts when there's an important news story on my iPhone.

Alex Elliott @aleelliott

I've not used it since what I felt was

bias during the independence referendum here in Scotland.

Peter Anderson

### **RE YOU SURPRISED THAT** GOOGLE HAS STOPPED SELLING GLASS?

.....

Yes, because of the amount of money and time they have put in to it. Then again, with Google Glass perhaps they can see a lot of lawsuits in the future.

Chris Cole

No. I would expect it to come back in a different format, and at a much lower price.

David Bradforth @davidbradforth

Nope. I want smart contact lenses. I hope Google is focusing instead on improving Chrome and YouTube.

Jack Gold

No, and I don't think it's the first time an innovative product has been withdrawn for improvement.

.....

Joe Friswell

### O YOU UNFRIEND FORMER PARTNERS ON FACEBOOK WHEN YOU SPLIT UP?

Well, the first one deleted me. The second was/is a stuck up so-and-so - and I blocked her. The third blocked me, so I had no choice in the matter. while the fourth I am friends with.

lain James Lewis

Of course, otherwise you will be checking to see who is seeing who and who is saying what. Unfriend them and move on.

Brian Brown

Yes I do (unless it ends amicably, in which case maybe not). But the last one ended badly, so she was off my friend list fast.

Andrew Clennell

Depends why we broke up. But Facebook didn't even exist when my ex and I split up.

Joanne Evans

Barry Collins lays down the law for ill-mannered smartphone users

### A 5-point guide to modern mobile manners

e've had the damned things for decades, but many folk still struggle to grasp basic smartphone etiquette. In fact, the smarter the phone, the dumber the person holding it, in my experience.

The government is too busy trying to eavesdrop on our smartphones to issue any guidance on how to use the blasted things, so here are my five statutory regulations for using a smartphone in public. Pin them up in your offices, make your kids learn them off by heart: together we can build a better nation.

### 1. Fit a silencer

You're told countless times to switch off your phone in cinemas and theatres, but without fail some halfwit with an HTC One will ruin a tense scene when his careworker calls to check he's taken his medication. That halfwit is invariably me. Don't rely on remembering to silence the phone: let technology do it for you. Microsoft is working on a patent that will automatically silence and dim smartphone screens in cinemas, but

there are apps that can take care of the job now. The free Mute by Location (bit .ly/mute3674) puts your Android phone

on vibrate when it detects you're within range of predefined locations. Type the address of your local cinema/ theatre/office/ crematorium and

spare yourself the death stares of those you interrupt.

### 2. Turn off the clicky keyboard

The software designer who first decided that virtual keyboards should make little tappy noises as you type should be hauled up in front of The Hague. Offenders are normally found smashing out emails on London-bound commuter trains, shortly before they take a call from Keith in Marketing to discuss said email at a volume loud enough to wake Margaret Thatcher. Stop it.

### 3. No custom ringtones for anyone over 15

Grow up. Nobody is the least bit

Grow up. Nobody is the

least bit impressed if your

phone plays the theme from

Minder every time you

receive a call

impressed if your phone plays the theme from Minder every time you receive a call. Women will not fall at your feet once they cop an earful of Livin' on a Prayer emanating

from your iPhone. Evolution will deal harshly with those who allow their phone to do anything other than ring.

### 4. Switch off the flash

In every football stadium and gig venue across the land - as soon as something notable happens, the audience turns into a massive Christmas tree, thanks to the twinkling lights of their smartphone flashes. Allow me to let you into a little secret: unless you've got one of Wembley's floodlights strapped to the back of your Nokia, it's going to make bugger-all difference. The only plus side is you're wasting your battery, limiting your potential to be more annoying in the future.

### 5. Take the damned thing with you

Mobile phone: the clue's in the name. The office has doubtless provided you with a phone that sits on your desk; you don't need another one to keep it company while you swan off for lunch, forcing your colleagues to endure eight verses of Pharell Williams' Happy because your girlfriend "doesn't do voicemail" and you've inevitably failed to obey statutory regulation 3 about custom ringtones. Take it with you or be prepared to fish your iPhone out of a lukewarm cup of tea when you return.





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