WINDOWS 10's MOST IMPORTANT APP

Use it – or lose all your PC's settings **p64**

WebUser

GREAT £2 VALUE

9 771473 709141   49>

2 - 15 December 2015 / Best software / New apps / Microsoft gets emotional

ACCESS ALL BLOCKED CONTENT

▶ Watch TV, films & videos from ANYWHERE
+ BEAT the latest restrictions **p38**

PLUS

REMOVE FILES THAT MALWARE LEAVES BEHIND

So they don't wreck your PC **p56**

STOP USING CHROME (controversial!)
USE THIS NEW BROWSER INSTEAD
(it's faster and doesn't crash) **p52**

Break out of the bagging area!

I always approach self-service checkouts like a gunslinger approaching his mortal enemy. What's it got for me this time: an unexpected item in the bagging area? A deluge of change in 1p pieces? It's only a matter of time before one tyrannical till tells me that the pack of bourbons I've scanned "isn't available in your area". Sadly, this latter annoyance is now increasingly common online, such as when you're trying to watch a YouTube video that's restricted to the US. Fortunately, there are ways to get around these frustrating geographical blocks and put the worldwide back into 'www'. In this issue's cover feature (page 38), we pick our favourite tools for beating web restrictions so you can stream and download whatever you want. They're free, easy to use and – most importantly – they actually work!

On a separate note, if you're still looking for Christmas gift ideas, our new and updated Definitive Guide to Android has just gone on sale at Amazon – buy it now from bit.ly/defguidetoandroid.

Robert Irvine
robert_irvine@dennis.co.uk
#webuser

ISSUE 385   **2 - 15 DECEMBER 2015**   **ON THE COVER**

p64
p38
p56
p52

WINDOWS 10's MOST IMPORTANT APP
Use it – or lose all your PC's settings p64

Issue 385

WebUser
2 - 15 December 2015 / Best software / New apps / Microsoft gets emotional
GREAT **£2** VALUE

ACCESS ALL BLOCKED CONTENT
▶ Watch TV, films & videos from ANYWHERE
+ **BEAT** the latest restrictions p38

PLUS
REMOVE FILES THAT MALWARE LEAVES BEHIND
So they don't wreck your PC p56

STOP USING CHROME (controversial!) **USE THIS NEW BROWSER INSTEAD** (it's faster and doesn't crash) p52

5 Things you'll learn this issue

1 How to get Microsoft to recognise people's emotions in photos   **page 6**

2 How to check customer reviews before you buy from an online store
          page 32

3 How to let kids watch YouTube without viewing unsuitable content
          page 37

4 How to use secret codes to perform useful tasks on your Android phone
          page 48

5 How to stop your laptop battery draining after you upgrade to Windows 10
          page 68

Subscribe to Web User!

Never miss another issue — subscribe at **dennismags.co.uk/webuser**

Contents

FREE MINI TORCH!

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Turn to page 62 for special subs offers
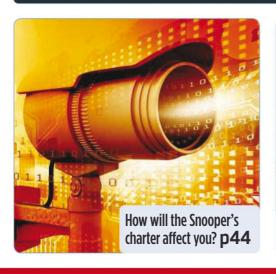
COVER FEATURE

ACCESS ALL BLOCKED CONTENT

How to get around unfair and unnecessary streaming restrictions

p38

How will the Snooper's charter affect you? **p44**

Six Registry-editing tools, tried and tested **p46**

Access hidden menus in programs and apps **p48**

IN DEPTH   Articles on the latest tech topics

REVIEWS   Apps, sites and products on test

Contents

FAVOURITES Must-read regulars

Why the BBC Store rips off licence payers **p74**

Practical WebUser
Workshops, tips, projects and problem solving

16 pages

Sync passwords with Google **p54**

Fun things to do with your phone's GPS **p58**

What's New Online

Challenge Microsoft to recognise your emotions from photos

Microsoft may not yet be able to read our minds, but it can now recognise our emotions. That's the aim at least of its new 'machine-learning' software, which interprets expressions in photos as different emotions, including happiness, surprise and disgust. You can test the accuracy of the 'Emotion Recognition' tool by uploading a photo of yourself at bit.ly/emotion385. The software will display a blue frame around each face – hover your mouse over these to see the emotion 'scores' (it's all explained on Microsoft's blog: bit.ly/msblog385).

To test the software ourselves we needed a photo displaying a wide range of emotions, and found this gem taken at last year's *Web User* Christmas party. Gurning at the bottom is Andy Shaw, our Technical & Reviews Editor, whose look of

menace (he was dressed as The Godfather) Microsoft took as 'surprise'. Not a complete success then, but we blame Andy's dodgy acting skills, rather than Microsoft's software.

As well as being great fun, it's another way to get a glimpse of Microsoft's Project Oxford, which is developing the potential of artificial intelligence. It launched earlier this year with the age-guessing tool 'How old do I look?' (how-old.net),

which was followed by 'Twins or not?' (www.twinsornot.net). You can upload photos on both.
www.projectoxford.ai

Explore the British Museum on your browser

bit.ly/museum385
This is the British Museum's beautiful atrium, from where you can explore the latest virtual collection in Google's Cultural Institute (www.google.com/culturalinstitute). It's the largest indoor space yet captured by Google's Street View cameras, covering the museum's 85 galleries and 4,500 exhibits, including Egyptian mummies, the Elgin Marbles and the Sutton Hoo Helmet. For shortcuts to the exhibits, click the top-right Refine button and type what you want to find. You can also create your own virtual galleries by saving favourite items. Just click the plus sign ('+') on the page of any exhibit.

Watch satellites fly above your house

bit.ly/sight385
On a clear night, away from light-polluted cities, it's possible to spot dozens of satellites orbiting Earth. You need to be quick though, because they move fast – at around 17,000 miles per hour – and are usually visible only for a few minutes. To increase your chances, use the Line Of Sight map, which tracks the path of every satellite – around 2,250, currently.

Start by searching for a large UK city near you, then hover your mouse over one of the moving grids to find out what the object is, such as a weather satellite or a discarded piece of an old rocket. Filter the type of satellite using the top-right menu. If you're lucky, you may spot the International Space Station (ISS) – you can find out when it's overhead by using spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings.
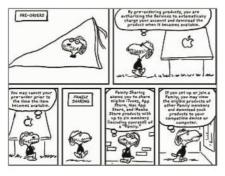
We highlight 10 of the most amazing and amusing things you can do on the web this fortnight

Download Google maps to read directions offline

bit.ly/maps385

You can now get 'turn-by-turn' directions in the Google Maps app for Android even when you're offline. Once you've downloaded an area, the app will switch between online and offline modes depending on whether you have a connection. You can also search for destinations when offline. Visit Google's blog for more information: bit.ly/googleblog385.

Read iTunes' T&Cs as a comic

itunestandc.tumblr.com

Containing 20,000 words of mind-numbingly tedious legal jargon, iTunes' terms and conditions (bit.ly/terms385) has to be the dullest page on the internet. In a work of genius, US artist Robert Sikoryak has turned it into a graphic novel, with each page drawn in the style of a famous cartoon, including Tintin, Garfield and Peanuts. Steve Jobs appears in every strip, once even as a bearded Snoopy, narrating in punishing detail what Apple's lawyers don't allow you to do.

See the world's winds on a 3D globe

www.windyty.com

Windyty has evolved from a flat map of Earth to a spinning, zoomable 3D globe, painting a more realistic picture of the world's wind patterns. It forecasts 12 days, and lets you add meteorological information such as temperature and air pressure. Our screengrab shows the UK about to be battered by Storm Abigail in November.

Explore *Lord of the Rings* locations in Street View

bit.ly/newz385

You may recognise this spectacular view from the opening of *The Fellowship of the Ring*. It's what you see if you climb Mount Luxmore on New Zealand's South Island, where much of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy was filmed. Google has captured seven of New Zealand's 'Great Walks' in Street View, including many locations that look like they could be home to a hobbit or two, such as the Enchanted Forest and the Korokoro Falls.

5 TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

@Cirque
News about Cirque du Soleil shows with video clips

@HamillHimself
Follow the build-up to the new *Star Wars* with Luke Skywalker himself

@rincon_p
Headlines on science and the environment from Paul Rincon, section editor on the BBC's website

@KathyBurke
Sweary, funny (and occasionally drunken) rants from the actress and theatre director

@googlecardboard
Updates on the cheapest way to experience virtual reality (who needs Oculus Rift?)

+ Use 'comics mode' in Google Play Books

bit.ly/booksapp385

Google now lets you read comics in landscape mode in its Play Books app for Android (iOS coming soon). You can scroll through comics vertically on phones and tablets. See Android's blog: bit.ly/comics385.

Add audio to OneNote

www.onenote.com

The latest update to OneNote has the option to add audio recordings to notes in the online or iOS version. You can also embed YouTube videos in the Desktop version. For more info, visit: bit.ly/noteblog385.

Ask Google Search more complex questions

www.google.com/search/about

When you ask the Google Search app a question, you should now get better answers. It's been improved to understand and tackle more complex queries. You can find examples at bit.ly/google385.

Best new Christmas gadgets

Stuck for Christmas present ideas, or don't know what to ask for yourself? Then feast your eyes on these nine innovative gift ideas…

Scosche strikeDRIVE EZTIP

www.mobilefun.co.uk
www.bubbleit.com
www.cpc.farnell.com
£19.99

If you've ever lost your patience while trying to plug a charger into your phone or tablet, you'll appreciate the strikeDRIVE EZTIP. With this Reversible Micro USB Connector, it doesn't matter which way up you insert the connector, because either way will see it fit securely into your device, saving you time and hassle, and preventing possible damage. The 12W, 2.4 Amp strikeDRIVE EZTIP connects to your car's power socket using a three-foot coiled cable, so it won't get tangled or get in your way.

Scosche magicMOUNT XL Tablet Headrest Mount

www.mobilefun.co.uk
www.bubbleit.com
www.cpc.farnell.com
£34.99

Rather than balancing your phone or tablet on your dashboard, get a Scosche magicMOUNT XL Dash/Window lets you mount your mobile device any surface, so you can use it just as happily at home or at work, as you can in the car. Just slip the supplied MagicPlate behind the battery cover or case of your phone or tablet, and it locks to the stand using high-powered magnets, with no need for a cradle. You can then angle your device as required.

Scosche smartSTRIKE

www.mobilefun.co.uk
www.bubbleit.com
www.cpc.farnell.com
£19.99

Why carry two long and cumbersome cables around with you, when you can use a Scosche smartSTRIKE instead? This innovative two-in-one cable charges and syncs both Apple devices with Lightning connectors and Android devices with microUSB connectors. The slim barrel design allows you to slide the cable easily into any protective case, and its three-feet length gives you ample scope to keep using your device while it's charging.

August DVB500 Smart TV Box

www.idaffodil.co.uk
£87.45

This stylish set-top box comes with a variety of popular apps pre-installed, including Netflix, BBC iPlayer, Facebook, YouTube and Skype, and you can install more from the Play store. You can also watch live Freeview channels in HD, record your favourite shows to a USB drive or SD card and view videos and play videos, music and photos using the built-in multimedia player. For endless entertainment from your sofa, stick the August DVB500 on your Christmas list.

Yamaha MusicCast Trio

http://uk.yamaha.com/en/dealers
£899.95

Enjoy your favourite songs in every room in your home at the touch of a button using Yamaha's brilliant new MusicCast system. This lets you play music from your PC, NAS drive or mobile device, and from streaming services such as Spotify and internet radio on any MusicCast device, and either listen to the same song or different tracks throughout your home. It's controlled via an easy-to-use Android or iOS app, streams over Wi-Fi and Bluetooth and is compatible with a wide range of audio formats.

Elgato Avea

www.elgato.com/avea
From £39.95

Don't suffer winter lights that are too bright or too dim – get perfect lighting throughout the day with Avea. This dynamic mood light is controlled using your smartphone, iPad or Apple Watch, allowing you to transform the ambience of a room while lifting no more than a finger. Avea can cycle through different colour combinations using one of its pre-defined light scenes and includes an option to wake you up as gently as possible. The battery-powered, wirelessly charged Avea Flare illuminates the inside and outside of your home for more than eight hours on a single charge.

Scosche magicMOUNT XL Tablet Headrest Mount

www.mobilefun.co.uk
www.bubbleit.com
www.cpc.farnell.com
£34.99

It's not just drivers who want to use their tablets in the car, but back-seat passengers, too. Scosche's magicMOUNT XL Tablet Headrest Mount uses powerful magnets to hold your device securely in place, once you've inserted a MagicPlate into its case. The mount comes with both large and small MagicPlates, which means you can use it with any size of tablet or phablet, and lets you attach your device in landscape or portrait mode, and any angle in-between.

August MS515 Bluetooth Stereo Speaker

www.idaffodil.co.uk
£32.45

This portable Bluetooth stereo speaker set is the perfect gift for audiophiles, combining a unique design, a 10W output and an impressive 15 hours of battery life. The two speakers pair with your phone, tablet, smart TV or laptop, and non-Bluetooth devices can be connected through the 3.5in audio-in socket. The superb sound can be boosted further using EQ apps for Android and iOS, and you can adjust the volume and skip through tracks using your phone or tablet.

iStorage datAshur Pro

istorage-uk.com
From £69

To prevent anyone from accessing your private data, keep it stored on an iStorage datAshur Pro. Described as the world's most secure USB flash drive, it protects your files using a 7-15 character PIN code and military-grade AES 256-bit hardware encryption. The device locks automatically when you disconnect it from a USB port, includes a rechargeable battery and is dust- and water-resistant. It's available in capacities of 8GB to 64GB, and requires no software or drivers.

Windows 10 users hit by update problems

What happened?

Microsoft rolled out its first major update for Windows 10, but many users reported problems during and after installation.

As we reported in the last issue of *Web User*, the Fall Update (which was codenamed Threshold 2), includes performance tweaks, expands the Start menu and adds new features to the Cortana voice assistant, including the ability to read hand-written notes. It also improves the Edge browser and speeds up boot time by as much as 30% compared to Windows 7.

However, users who downloaded the update have reported a host of problems on Microsoft's forums. One bug appears to crash the installation process approximately half-way through, although a moderator suggested that the error could be avoided by ensuring you've removed any SD cards or other external media before you perform the update.

That's problematic for anyone who's installing the Fall Update on a PC or laptop with limited storage, who may have been using an SD card to free up the 20GB that the massive update requires. Microsoft suggested that USB memory sticks or USB external hard drives would provide a more effective workaround for this problem.

Other angry users complained that the update is uninstalling programs, and only telling them after the fact rather than before the action is taken. Affected apps include the system tools CPU-Z, HWMonitor and Speccy, and the anti-malware tool Spybot. The programs can be easily reinstalled, but it's still an arrogant move on Microsoft's part. It's even been reported that the Fall Update reinstalls apps that users deleted when they installed Windows 10, and reverts settings they had customised to Microsoft's defaults.

How will it affect you?

If you've been trying to install the Fall Update only to have it stall, check that the SD card slots on your PC are empty before continuing.

Microsoft said it isn't yet actively pushing the Fall Update to all new users. If it's been fewer than 31 days since you upgraded to Windows 10, you won't get the update immediately, which gives you the flexibility to downgrade to Windows 8.1 or Windows 7 if you decide that Windows 10 isn't for you.

Otherwise, the update will automatically download to your PC. You may have it already (perhaps prompted by last issue's cover feature) but, depending on your settings, you may need to give your computer permission to install it. Microsoft will hopefully have fixed the bugs by the time you read this, but it's still worth making sure that your PC is fully backed up before running the installation – although that's good advice for any upgrade.

The problems highlight the difference between updates – the security patches that Microsoft rolls out once a month – and upgrades, when new versions arrive with fresh features. Microsoft is set to allow anyone using Enterprise, Education or Pro versions of Windows 10 to allow automatic security updates but hold off on feature upgrades.

However, users of the Home version are faced with an 'all or nothing' approach, which means they're more likely to experience bugs.

What do we think?

We're hardly surprised to see glitches and bugs in such a major update – it involves a lot of code that can interact with your current setup in unexpected ways, and that's one reason many users hold off installations for a few days or weeks. However, we do expect better from Microsoft. Any minor problem affects thousands or even millions of people, and it's not asking too much for the company to take a closer look at its code before releasing it to the world. None of these features needed to be rushed out. We'd rather wait a few more weeks for solid code than be forced to accept a buggy mess.

We also wish Microsoft would give Home users more control over updates, but we also understand why it's wary: many people don't bother installing security patches, because they take time and often require a reboot. That leaves users at risk, and makes Windows look like an insecure system. Still, if Microsoft made updates run more smoothly and ensured upgrade code was bug-free, then perhaps we'd be happier to install automatically rather than wait and see.

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

Chrome ends support for XP and Vista

What happened?

Google announced that it will stop supporting its Chrome browser on older operating systems, most notably Windows XP and Vista. As of April 2016, anyone using Chrome on either OS will no longer receive security patches or other updates, although the browser will still work. Google is also ending support for Mac OS X 10.6, 10.7 and 10.8.

Google continued to support Chrome on XP long after Microsoft stopped patching the OS itself. Indeed, the April 2016 deadline will mark exactly two years since XP last had security support from Microsoft, so Google has actually been more generous to its rival's customers than Microsoft itself!

How will it affect you?

If you're still using one of the older Windows operating systems, you can keep using Chrome, but Google won't be rolling out security patches to protect you if flaws are found. That leaves you at greater risk of being targeted by criminals online, because you're not only using a vulnerable OS, but an increasingly weak browser, too.

Mozilla still supports a version of Firefox that works with XP, provided you updated to the last Service Pack, so you could switch browser, but that's only a short-term solution and you really should consider upgrading.

What do we think?

Pulling the plug may sound harsh, but don't forget that Microsoft and Apple no longer support their own outdated operating systems.

That said, Windows XP remains the second-most popular version of Microsoft's OS, with just under 12% market share. Many of these XP users are likely to be businesses that are unable to upgrade because of compatibility issues with a critical in-house app, or Chinese residents who are forbidden by the government from upgrading. But there are surely many Brits who are also still using XP and Vista.

If you're still running the 14-year-old OS, you might want to put a new PC or laptop on your Christmas list or find one in the sales. It's worth the money to keep yourself safe.

Sky unveils new premium TV service

What happened?

Sky unveiled its new "super-premium" TV service, Sky Q, which combines live broadcasts and on-demand shows in a system the company has called "fluid viewing". You can watch TV shows and films across three TVs and two tablets at the same time, and also record shows to view offline.

Sky Q can be accessed on your TV via an interface on Sky's new set-top box, the Sky Q Silver. This has a 2TB hard drive for storing shows to watch later, which is five times more space than is currently offered by Sky HD boxes. There's also a new Sky Q Mini box, which lets you watch outside your living room on a phone or tablet. If you also opt for the Sky Q hub, it replaces your router and turns the Mini box into a Wi-Fi repeater, boosting wireless coverage around your home.

How will it affect you?

There are two important details that aren't yet known: the price and the availability date. Sky said Q will arrive in early 2016, but couldn't be more specific. Existing customers may love the added features, but Sky's TV packages are often expensive, and the added functionality may not be enough to draw new customers away from a £6-a-month Netflix package.

What do we think?

We're amazed that Sky or other television channels haven't done this before. Tying live TV together with on-demand makes perfect sense. It's annoying to have to flip between different systems on a TV to watch the show of your choice. Having everything in one place is a great selling point for Sky Q.

The Sky Q Mini box is an intriguing idea, particularly for its ability to act as a Wi-Fi repeater. This should help Sky see fewer customers complaining about poor Wi-Fi coverage. Better TV and better Wi-Fi is the sort of package we can get behind – assuming we can afford it!

UK government to double funding for cybersecurity

What happened?

In the wake of the terror attacks in Paris, Chancellor George Osborne said that the Treasury will double its investment in cybersecurity to £1.9bn over the next five years to fight terrorism online.

"ISIS's murderous brutality has a strong digital element," he said. "At a time when so many others are using the internet to enhance freedom and give expression to liberal values and creativity, they are using it for evil." Although British intelligence does not indicate that Islamic State has the ability to cause harm to the UK through cyber-attacks, Osborne warned they "are doing their best to build it". He added: "From our banks to our cars, our military to our schools, whatever is online is also a target."

The announcement followed the atrocities in Paris, when 129 people were killed in bars and restaurants, as well as a concert venue and a stadium, for which Islamic State claimed responsibility.

How will it affect you?

As Osborne suggests, a cyber-attack on the UK wouldn't simply mean being

knocked offline for a while or unable to take any cash out – it could affect every aspect of our lives. Catalin Cosoi, Chief Security Strategist at Bitdefender, warns that such an attack could have devastating consequences on the UK. "A possible worst-case scenario is the crippling of all communication and critical infrastructures, ranging from mobile phone to water supply, electricity and gas," Cosoi says. "This could be co-ordinated alongside a physical tactical assault, because disrupting any form of communication or internet-connected technology could be used as a serious tactical advantage on the ground."

What do we think?

Although we're concerned that the government may use the increased terrorist threat to further invade our privacy (see our FAQ on the Snooper's Charter on page 44), we welcome it investing more in cybersecurity. The

web has undoubtedly played a huge part in aiding Islamic State to spread propaganda and plan attacks, so it would be foolish to ignore the risk of terrorists using the web itself as a weapon. So many services now rely on the internet that its abuse by fanatics could lead to far more serious consequences than those that were envisaged from the Millennium Bug.

Recent hacks on companies such as TalkTalk have highlighted the weaknesses in the security of many systems, so we're happy to see more money being spent on protecting national services.

 FIRST LOOK

Beats Pill+
uk.beatsbydre.com

The Beats Pill+ portable wireless speaker is big-sounding, bassy and pretty to look at – living up to its name with a pill-shaped design that houses both front- and rear-facing speakers. Its rubberised case displays four basic buttons – power, volume up, volume down and the Bluetooth button. Apple acquired the company in April 2014, and its most prominent effect on the Pill+ design is its Lightning charging cable, which has replaced the micro-USB found in its predecessor. However, the 3.5mm aux and USB phone-charging ports remain unchanged.

The audio performance is impressive, delivering a full range of tones with excellent clarity, which is

where the Pill+ begins to merit its £189 price tag. The original Pill favoured the higher end of the scale but struggled to reproduce lower frequencies, so we kept this in mind during our tests. We played a wide range of music through the device, in an attempt to catch out the Pill+, but everything we threw at it sounded good. However, there is one caveat: the sound is typical of Beats products. Not the muddy, muffled bass of early Beats headphones, but bassy in the same way as the current Beats Solo2. It's not a sound that will match the high expectations of audiophiles

and purists.

The good-quality audio hardware and large battery (Beats quotes the Pill+ as having a 12-hour battery) makes the Pill+ quite heavy (745g), so its not going to sit comfortably in a jacket pocket. The accompanying Beats Pill+ app is pretty unremarkable and you'll only really need to download it if you want to stream to more than one Beats Pill+ speaker or grant control of it to a guest. But if you're after a speaker that produces good-quality audio for a wide range of music, and can be used in multiple scenarios, the Pill+ is well worth considering.

WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

Is Apple about to launch its second smartwatch?

After all the hype about 2015 being the 'year of the wearable', smartwatches didn't prove quite as popular as predicted, but the Apple Watch was definitely one of the best options. Now, Apple is rumoured to be launching a second version, with an improved screen and better battery life, which could be here as early as April 2016.

That date comes from a comment made by one of Apple's suppliers, Quanta, that it expects to see a surge in orders in the second quarter of 2016. However, it's more likely we'll see the Apple Watch 2 released in June. That way, the company's wearable product will renew on a yearly cycle, like the iPhone.

Apple previewed the Watch 2's likely operating system, watchOS 2, earlier this year, offering some clues about the device itself. Alongside new features such as more clock faces and a Time Travel function, watchOS 2 also makes the Apple Watch more independent from a paired iPhone. One of the most common complaints about the current model is that it relies on a tethered

iPhone for everything, from messaging and weather updates to location tracking and Apple Pay. It's likely that the watch's design will remain largely unchanged, but it could become slightly thinner.

LIKELIHOOD RATING
✓✓✓✓✓

We've no doubt whatsoever that Apple plans to release another watch, but considering that most people still haven't bought the first one, the rush seems unnecessary. What we'd genuinely like to see is a lower price point than £299 but, of course, budget devices really aren't Apple's style.

What's new on Kickstarter
Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

Pixelio
bit.ly/pixelio385 | From £78

If you're intrigued by the concept of 3D printing but deterred by the cost and complexity, the Pixelio is the perfect device for you. This low-cost, portable 3D scanner lets you capture 360-degree photos of objects using your smartphone or GoPro camera, and saves them as high quality 3D files that can be printed by other people or used to make a copy for yourself. You can also use Pixelio to create time-lapse movies and stunning panoramas. It's Wi-Fi-enabled and very easy to use, and is set to reach its £33,000 target by 16 December.

WEBOMETER

WE LIKE...

⬆ **Channel 4 adds Chromecast support**
Channel 4 shows are now available to stream on Chromecast for the first time, through its All 4 service. For now, this is only available to Android users and those using the Chrome browser, but support for iOS devices will be introduced soon.

⬆ **Facebook introduces fundraising tool**
Facebook has launched a new tool that lets charities raise funds directly from the social network. The service works much like the fundraising website JustGiving.com, letting non-profit organisations set up a campaign page, collect donations and track progress toward a goal.

WE DON'T LIKE...

⬇ **The word of the year is an emoji**
Oxford Dictonaries has absurdly chosen 'face with tears of joy emoji' as its word of the year, saying that it "represents the ethos, mood and preoccupations of 2015". Other shortlisted words included 'lumbersexual' and 'Brexit'.

⬇ **Mobile devices harm kids' digital skills**
An Australian educational body has identified a 'significant decline' in the IT literacy of some students since 2011, and its report highlighted that the skills learned by using smartphones and tablets are very different to the everyday technology skills required in a workplace.

🔒 Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

Telegram blocks Islamic State accounts

Messaging app Telegram has announced that it has blocked 78 accounts that were being used to spread propaganda by the so-called Islamic State, according to the BBC. Although the BBC first reported that the service was being exploited by ISIS in early October 2015, Telegram said it was 'shocked' to learn that it was being used in this way. Naturally, the news has resulted in further calls for backdoor encryption. Indeed, Manhattan's district attorney published a report demanding that a method to access passcode-locked devices be built into iOS and Android. However, those responsible for the Paris attacks reportedly used standard SMS text messages to communicate, which means encrypted messaging services may not have been used at all.
bit.ly/is385

Malvertising strikes Fantasy Football site

The Premier League's official fantasy football website (fantasy. premierleague.com) carried malicious adverts that could have been used to infect users' PCs, the Telegraph reports. The offending flash-based advert appeared to be for a yacht seller but redirected users to a website offering a 'Nuclear exploit kit' that uses Flash's vulnerabilities to compromise the end-user's PC. The malicious ad, which used Google's goo.gl URL shortener to hide its final location, was discovered by security company Malwarebytes. After being notified of the security threat, a spokesperson for the Premier League said, "We are looking into this and have asked the agency which sells our advertising space to make sure this advert is not appearing on our website anywhere in the world."
bit.ly/fantasyfootball385

Facebook snooping increases 60% in UK

Requests for personal data on Facebook have increased by 60% in the UK in one year, according to the social network. In the first six months of 2015, there were 3,384 requests from the Government and law-enforcement authorities in the UK, most of which related to criminal investigations. As described on its page about government requests (bit.ly/about385), data requests are normally for "basic subscriber information, such as name and length of service", but can also relate to IP-address logs and account content.
bit.ly/data385

Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: David Emm, Principal Security Researcher at Kaspersky Lab (www.kaspersky.co.uk)

KASPERSKY lab

Q Following the arrest of the TalkTalk hacker, is it true that most hackers are teenagers?

Abbey Lynch, Facebook

A Yes. Teenagers, some as young as 14, make up the majority of hackers monitored by the National Crime Agency, which demonstrates how clued-up young people are at using the internet. This is reflected in recent research conducted by Kaspersky Lab, which found that 43% of young web users believe that they are more 'internet-savvy' than their parents by the age of 13.

Our research also revealed that many teenage hackers did not realise they were breaking the law, which highlights the importance of educating children on what constitutes acceptable behaviour online. Young people need to understand the wider context (in both legal and moral terms) of something they might otherwise see only in technical terms and do 'for kicks'. With this in mind, it is imperative that parents discuss their children's activities on the web, yet our research shows that only a fifth of respondents feel they can talk to their parents about such issues.

Our survey also indicated that while many young people believe they are more technically savvy than their parents, 60% of them still rely on their elders for guidance on cybersecurity. This trust is often misplaced because 83% of parents don't feel able to protect their children from online dangers such as cyberbullying and inappropriate content.

That's why it's important for parents to understand the potential threats, so they can open up a dialogue with their children about the risks and use the technology that's available to help them control their web access, especially in an age where young people have so much influence and vulnerability in potentially dangerous online activity.
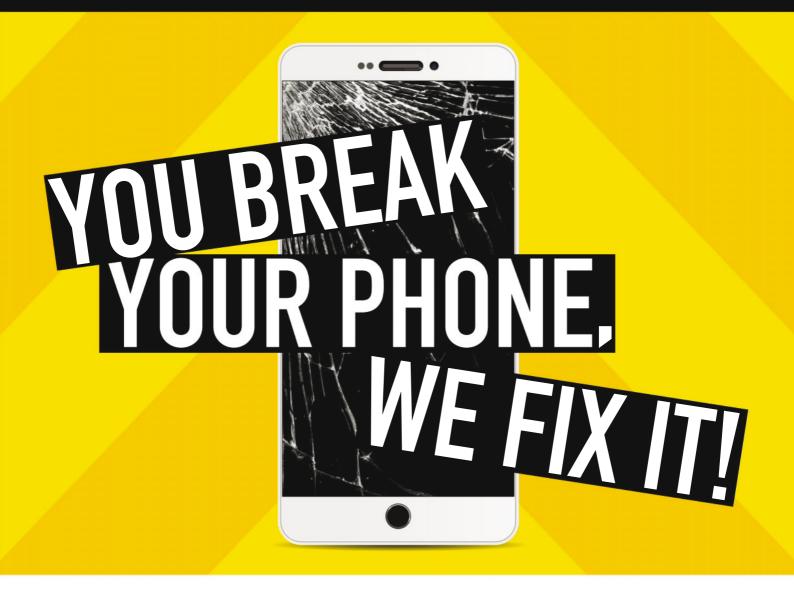
> **"Many teenage hackers don't realise they are breaking the law"**

➕ Email us your security questions at webuser@dennis.co.uk

YOU BREAK YOUR PHONE, WE FIX IT!

THE SHIELDX2 REPAIR & REPLACEMENT PROMISE

If your phone breaks whilst in your ShieldX2 case, we will repair or replace your phone!*

Thin, sleek and transparent, you can barely tell that it is on the phone. We have cases available for new and old phones from all major brands. Our 12 month Repair or Replacement Promise combined with the shock absorbing ShieldX2 case means that your phone is protected from things such as:

- **Cracked screen**
- **Water damage**
- **Mechanical failures**

MORE THAN JUST A PHONE CASE. We have you covered!!!

DROP IT!   **BANG IT!**   **SPLASH IT!**   **SMASH IT!**

*Terms and Conditions apply

ShieldX2

shieldx2.com

Best New Websites
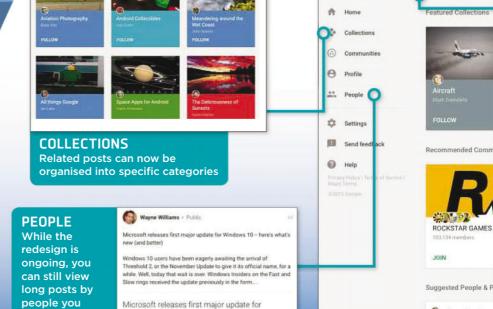
Site of the Fortnight

SOCIAL
RELAUNCH

Google+
plus.google.com

Google+ has been given a surprise new lease of life by this smart redesign, which makes the popular Communities and Collections features more prominent. The former lets users with like-minded interests connect to discuss burning issues and plan get-togethers, while the latter lets you organise posts for public or private viewing. Sharing content is now easier and feels more intuitive, with all the main options instantly accessible in the left-hand menu. By putting users' interests rather than egos centre-stage, Google+ is no longer just a less-populated Facebook. Its updated mobile version is also simpler and smoother.

Our rating ★★★★★

COLLECTIONS
Related posts can now be organised into specific categories

PEOPLE
While the redesign is ongoing, you can still view long posts by people you follow

NEWS

The Sun
www.thesun.co.uk

The Sun newspaper's digital paywall was relaxed earlier this year – no doubt because the number of monthly unique users had fallen dramatically from the 30 million it once enjoyed - and a lot of content is now free. So what have we been missing? Well, it's fair to say The Sun won't be to everyone's taste but visitors can enjoy a packed and lively mix of news, sport and gossip. Each story is punchily written, well presented and packed with photos and videos. There is plenty of opportunity to interact, either by commenting on stories or by sharing the articles on Facebook and Twitter. There's certainly loads to read and many former readers may be tempted to return.

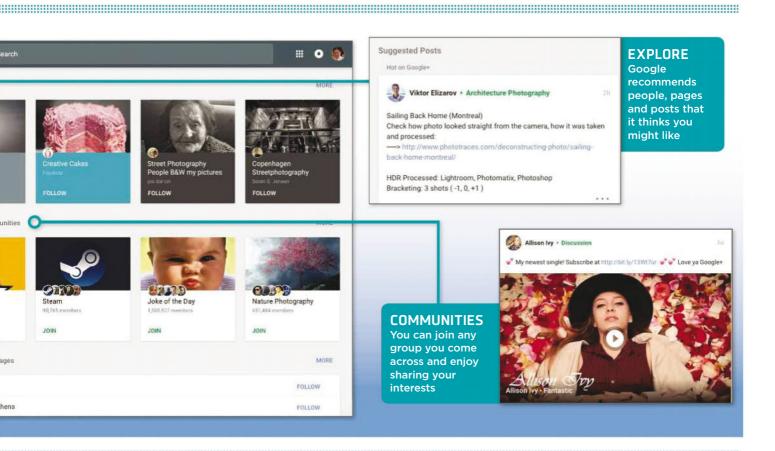Our rating ★★★★☆

HEALTH
RELAUNCH

Dementia UK
www.dementiauk.org

This inviting and informative website offers a service to people displaying the symptoms of dementia and to the families and friends who care for them. The relaunched site is a vast improvement on its previous offering, and puts families at its heart. Bright and spotlessly designed, it offers a long and comprehensive list of questions and answers, and provides details of your local Admiral Nursing Team. The site also goes to great lengths to avoid overwhelming visitors, offering clear links, bullet points and short bursts of text to get its message of support across.

Our rating ★★★★★

Reviews by David Crookes

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

Suggested Posts

Hot on Google+

Viktor Elizarov • Architecture Photography   2h

Sailing Back Home (Montreal)
Check how photo looked straight from the camera, how it was taken and processed:
⟶ http://www.phototraces.com/deconstructing-photo/sailing-back-home-montreal/

HDR Processed: Lightroom, Photomatix, Photoshop
Bracketing: 3 shots (-1, 0, +1)

EXPLORE
Google recommends people, pages and posts that it thinks you might like

Allison Ivy • Discussion   3w

💕 My newest single! Subscribe at http://bit.ly/13Wt7ur 💕💕 Love ya Google+

COMMUNITIES
You can join any group you come across and enjoy sharing your interests

---

RETAIL   `RELAUNCH`

SpeedyHen
www.speedyhen.com

SpeedyHen has been around since 2009 and you may have seen it pop up as a seller of books, DVDs and CDs on sites including Amazon Marketplace, eBay and Rakuten. The site lets you save an extra bob or two on the prices it offers elsewhere, and its category-based drop-down menus and fast, efficient search engine make finding items a breeze. Product pages are clear and concise, and dispense with the clutter that distracts on busy sites such as Amazon. We love the 'Get this Speedy' delivery option, which gets many items to you the next day.

Our rating ★★★★★

NEWS   `RELAUNCH`

The Scotsman
www.scotsman.com

The national Scottish newspaper is read online by 106,510 people each day – four times as many as its print version. The site's responsive design means it can be browsed as easily on a tablet and mobile device as on a desktop computer. Four new sections have been added – Giving Back, Heritage, We Know Scotland, and the innovation-focused Future Scotland – and there's as much an emphasis on lifestyle as on news, sport and business. We like the trending section and the rolling live updates, although the tiny headlines on the homepage stories make them easy to overlook on a larger screen.

Our rating ★★★★☆

FOOD   `NEW`

Dish Next Door
www.dishnextdoor.co.uk

Usually, when you're feeling peckish, you have three options: make something yourself, order a takeaway or go out for dinner. Sophie Inge, the creator of this website, wants to shake things up by allowing home cooks to rustle up tasty dishes and sell them to their neighbours for between £6 and £9. It's a lovely idea that's still in the early stages of finding cooks and enticing diners but we can see it taking off, particularly in metropolitan areas. Sure, there is the whole issue of kitchen hygiene to address but the service promises to check chef's homes and perform taste tests. Yum!

Our rating ★★★★☆ ➡

✚ Tell us about your website via webuser@dennis.co.uk

⭐ Best New Websites

NEW

PROPERTY
Kontor
www.kontor.com

When you stare past your screen at the cluster of desks and beige walls of your office, do you feel inspired? Probably not. Styled to mimic the interior-design website Houzz, but with a work-based angle, Kontor lets you view photos of hundreds of wild and inventive office spaces around the world. You can search by room type, industry and style, or look for specific products. If you see something you like, it can be saved, shared, downloaded or marked as a favourite. The images are broken down into their components and the product pages show prices and availability. One to show the boss, perhaps.

Our rating ★★★★☆

NEW

POLITICS
Hansard Corpus
www.hansard-corpus.org

Hansard Corpus is the kind of site you can easily lose yourself in for hours. While the design looks dull and the premise may not sound compelling – it's an online database of 7.6 million Parliamentary speeches from 1803 to 2005, which amounts to some 1.6 billion words – the unique selling point is that you can search through the hot air to come up with some fascinating finds. From the frequency of words to the favourite phrases of MPs (Winston Churchill tended to say "fight" a lot), you can build a vivid picture of British political life and history. It's a lovely idea, well implemented and full of fascinating tidbits.

Our rating ★★★★☆

NEW
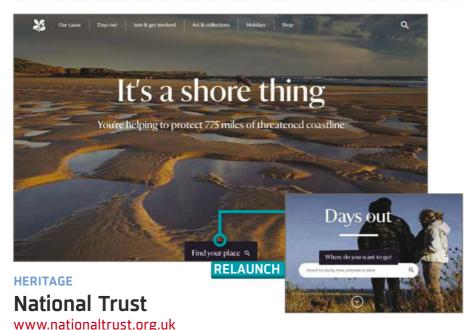
HERITAGE
Spotify Charts
charts.spotify.com

Do you remember hovering your finger over the Pause button on a Sunday afternoon, trying to record as many songs as possible from the Top 40 countdown? Well, Spotify's latest move in the face of intensifying competition from other streaming services has been to launch this website dedicated to the Top 200 most-streamed tunes of the moment, as well as the top 50 viral. Disappointingly, the site says the data isn't up to date, which raised a few eyebrows in the office, but as well as getting a flavour of what's popular, you can look back at specific weeks and see the charts in countries from Andorra to Uruguay.

Our rating ★★★☆☆

RELAUNCH

HERITAGE
National Trust
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The National Trust's long-standing members don't seem too keen on modern websites, judging by some of the comments on social media, but the detractors have a point. This revamped website undoubtedly looks beautiful with its many lovely scenic shots, but it's a nightmare to navigate. The huge images are accompanied by mostly irrelevant text that distracts from the interesting content, and you find yourself endlessly scrolling, overwhelmed by the lack of a cohesive structure. Finding year-round opening times is harder than it should be and, indeed, the most pleasurable section is the shop – but only because it has stuck to a more traditional look.

Our rating ★★★☆☆

NEW

TRAVEL
Visit Morocco
www.visitmorocco.com

North Africa's tourism industry has taken a battering of late but Morocco is eager to encourage people to visit its beautiful ancient cities and coastal resorts. This classy new website uses a split screen to display myriad locations alongside its wide number of experiences. You can find your potential holiday by category and seek inspiration by asking for suggestions. Alternatively, browse the long list of activities and locations, complete with lovely images, a map and an inspirational journal packed with articles. It's very much an online brochure, though, and there are no travel tips or hotel recommendations.

Our rating ★★★☆☆

Never miss that...
"we'd like to offer you the contract" call.

BT One Phone

Every time the office phone rings it could be an amazing opportunity on the other end. But what if no one's there to take the call? With BT One Phone, your employees can handle all their landline calls through their mobiles, so it's easy for them to take every call, especially the really important ones.

Find out how BT One Phone can help your business never miss that call.

0800 032 4210   bt.com/onephone/gomobile

BT

The Perfect Christmas Gift
from just £19.99

Give your loved ones a technology magazine gift subscription to any of our computing or photography titles, from just £19.99. Choose the perfect gift from our great selection.

To order online, visit
magazinedeals.co.uk/xmast2
or call **0844 844 0053** using offer code **P1601PXT**

Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge

Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

Top Tips of the Fortnight

123-reg updates Website Builder

123-reg has overhauled its Website Builder (bit.ly/website385). The online web building tool has been totally revamped and now creates

beautiful, mobile-responsive websites from a selection of great-looking templates, starting at £5.99 per month. If you've already put a lot of work into your site, you can use that as a starting point and the software will redesign it using the same content and colour scheme. There

are also lots of new tools to help you make your site more personal, such as welcoming return visitors and making special offers.

Change your cookie code

If you use the free Cookie Consent tool (bit.ly/cookie385) to warn your site's visitors that you use cookies, you might need to change your code, because the tool's server has moved. Click the site's 'Download now' button, copy the new code and replace the old code on your site to make sure it complies with the EU's cookie law.

Deal of the Fortnight

PAC Web Hosting is offering a 10% discount for life for a Twitter 'follow' or Facebook 'like'. You can find out more from its blog at bit.ly/pachost385.

Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT:
Richard Stevenson of ePages
(www.epages.co.uk)

e.pages

Q What's the best, easiest font to use on a website?
Colin, Web User Forums

A You should stick to a clean typeface with a reasonably large font size and make sure your text has high contrast to the background. Web-safe fonts such as Verdana and Georgia are a good choice, since they are widely used and were designed specifically to display on computer screens. Besides that, they are pre-installed on almost every device, so you don't have to load additional fonts. The font of your choice shouldn't be too light as it will be difficult to read on low-density screens. Finally, if you're using more than one font, proper font-pairing will help maintain the overall readability of your text.

MINI WORKSHOP | Make style changes to any website
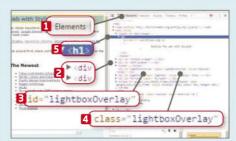**Stylish: userstyles.org** | 🕐 **15 mins** | 🔵 **Chrome**, 🦊 **Firefox**, 🧭 **Safari**, ⭕ **Opera**

Think you can do better than the professionals? Prove it with Stylish, a browser add-on that lets you change the CSS code on any website, so you can rearrange and redesign it to suit your preferences

1 Download and install the appropriate add-on for your browser from userstyles.org. **1** There are lots of existing alternative styles for many popular websites so it's worth having a browse to see what others have done. **2** If you see one you like, install it in your add-on by clicking the 'Install with Stylish' button.

2 To make a change to a site, open your browser's developer tools. For example, in Chrome, click the menu button, select 'More tools' and choose 'Developer tools'. Select the Elements tab **1** and scroll through to find the HTML code, **2** CSS 'id' **3** or 'class' **4** of the element you want to change. Here, we'll change the heading <h1>. **5**

3 Click the Stylish icon and click the link next to 'Write style for'. **1** Start typing your changes to the CSS code section in the main panel. **2** You'll also have to name your style change and click the Save button **3** when you're done. Clicking the Beautify button **4** will arrange your code neatly so other people can read it if you decide to share it.

Web-design software

Get yourself online in no time as **Andy Shaw** reviews five programs that can help you create the perfect website

Building your own website can be an overwhelming project, and there are lots of different ways to do it. You could set yourself the task of learning HTML (HyperText Markup Language), so you can carry out the coding yourself, or use online tools and services offered by WordPress or a web host. But one of the simplest ways to get a good-looking site online with very little fuss is to use web-design software to design your site offline, and upload it to your web host when it's finished.

Here, we've reviewed five of the latest web-design programs to see which is best-suited to creating a great-looking site with the minimum of fuss.

HOW WE TESTED

Each program was installed on a Windows 10 PC and used to create a simple site. We analysed the breadth of tools and features on offer, how good each program was at doing its job, how easy it was to use and whether it offers good value for money compared to the other products we tested. We also looked at whether each program was able to create a responsive website that adapts well to being viewed on a mobile device, because this is becoming increasingly important.

Xara Web Designer 11 Premium | **£69.99** | www.xara.com

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

Xara's web-building software is called Designer for good reason, because it focuses primarily on the layout of your pages. The software interface looks like a desktop-publishing program, in that you create a page, arrange the pictures and text, then move on to the next page. You can also add shapes, shadows and fills, and organise how everything is layered, much as you would if you were designing a static page for print or PDF, such as a newsletter. The icons that are visible around the edges of the interface change according to the element you've highlighted.

Because it uses a layout system that's similar to page design, it doesn't create truly dynamic websites that change depending on the size of screen they're being viewed on. However, it does have some flexibility built in, which can deduce from a user's browser settings how big their screen is and alter the layout accordingly. To do this, you'll need to design separate versions of the site for each screen size you want to cater for. Fortunately, Xara takes this in its stride and links the content in each version, so if you change something on one design, it will alter it on the others, too.

Once you've designed your site, there are lots of options for getting it online, including basic free hosting if you want to do everything through Xara. This isn't a bad idea, because it allows you to use Xara's online site-editing tool to make small changes to your website, even if you're away from the PC that your web-design software is installed on. If you'd prefer to find your own hosting deal, Web Designer lets you connect using its built-in FTP software, so you can transfer everything to your web server, straight from the program itself.

VERDICT
★★★★★

Web Designer 11 makes it easy to create a good-looking website without having to use HTML or CSS code. The interface will be familiar if you've ever carried out page design before, even if your publishing experience has been restricted to printed matter. Despite this static approach, the program provides all the tools you need to create flexible sites that change depending on the size of the screen. You simply rearrange your design to suit smaller screens, and the software will ensure that the content fits.

Serif WebPlus X8
£89.99
www.serif.com

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

WebUser
SILVER
AWARD

Serif's software comes with a ton of introductory videos and tutorials to help you get started. You can access these from the splash screen that launches with the software or directly from the website.

Like our Gold Award-winner Xara, WebPlus is essentially a page-design program, so you create a layout in the software and the website will look just like it when you publish it online.

The software lets you create sites that change depending on the resolution of the screen they're viewed on, but it doesn't work as intelligently as Xara's. You still have the tools to design two or more versions of the site to cater for different screen sizes, but WebPlus only links the pages by using redirects. Making changes to the text, for example, on one version of a site doesn't change it in the other.

VERDICT	★★★★☆

Serif's web-design tool lacks some of the useful extra features in Xara's, but its wealth of videos and tutorials make it a great option for beginners. It's not as good at creating responsive sites, though.

Incomedia Website X5
Professional 12 | £139
www.websitex5.com

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

WebUser
BRONZE
AWARD

Website X5 gets its name from its five-step system of creating sites, although each step breaks into further sub-steps. There are plenty of templates to choose from but Website X5 uses a credit system to sell them to you. You start with enough credits for around six templates, so you can choose ones you want, but we thought they looked a bit old-fashioned compared to Xara and Serif's.

The software can create sites that respond to screen size but it doesn't use a WYSIWYG system to help visualise it. Instead, you split the screen into rows and columns, then drop in the content and edit it separately. The Professional version we've reviewed here can also deliver your content to an Incomedia app, which your readers can download to access your site's content from mobile devices.

VERDICT	★★★★☆

Website X5 is supposed to be a simpler web-building tool but its lack of WYSIWYG means you won't know exactly how your site is going to turn out until you've previewed it. The Professional version comes with a handy app for mobile users.

WYSIWYG Web Builder | $49.95
(around £33)
www.wysiwygwebbuilder.com

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

WYSIWYG Web Builder uses a ribbon toolbar like Microsoft's Office apps, so it looks familiar and is easy to explore. There are about 12 templates installed, with many more available to download, but the designs lack flair, so while they can get you up and running with a basic page, they won't help you to create anything spectacular.

The software allows you to create responsive websites, but it's a bit fiddly. You add 'break points' of different sizes, which are a bit like separate views, and although changes to text and images in one view will follow through to another, you have to make sure you completely divorce your content from your layout, otherwise elements can stop working properly.

Putting together a basic page is very straightforward, though, and as the cheapest of the products we've reviewed, it offers good value for money.

VERDICT	★★★★☆

WYSIWYG Web Builder is easy to get to grips with and offers good value for money, but its supplied templates aren't the best starting point unless you're happy with something really basic.

Coffee Cup Responsive Site Designer |
$129 (around £85)
www.coffeecup.com

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

Of all the software we've reviewed, Coffee Cup's Responsive Site Designer is the most focused on creating a site that works well on any size of screen. However, it's had to ditch the simplicity of a WYSIWYG design to do this and focuses instead on a column-based layout, similar in style to popular web-building templates used by professional designers.

The downside of this powerful software is that it's complex and relies on the user having a good understanding of how web pages are coded, so it's not a tool for beginners. Much of the layout and design options are configured around HTML and CSS settings, which will make for a cleaner, search-friendly web page, but the onus is on the user to know what they're doing. If you've never dabbled in HTML and CSS, you'll be lost in Responsive Site Designer.

VERDICT	★★★☆☆

Responsive Site Designer is a powerful tool if you already know how HTML and CSS work, and want to streamline your build of a responsive site. However, its lack of a WYSIWYG interface makes it suitable for advanced users only.

	Xara Web Designer 11 Premium	Serif WebPlus X8	Incomedia Website X5 Professional 12	WYSIWYG Web Builder 10	Coffee Cup Responsive Site Designer
WEBSITE	www.xara.com	www.serif.com	www.websitex5.com	www.wysiwyg webbuilder.com	www.coffeecup.com
PRICE	£69.99	£89.99	£139	£33	£85
WYSIWYG DESIGN	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
RESPONSIVE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TEMPLATES	90+	47+	6+	12+	5+
EMBED CODES (eg YOUTUBE VIDEOS)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ADD HTML	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SITEMAP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
BROWSER PREVIEW	Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera	Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer	Own browser	Any browser	Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer
ONLINE EDITING	✓	✗	Some	✗	✗
FTP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HOSTING	Yes, requires registration	Optional	12 months	✗	Yes, requires registration

OUR VERDICT

We've awarded our Gold Award to Xara Web Designer 11, which can create a professional-looking site without you needing any knowledge of web technologies such as HTML or CSS. It uses a familiar page-layout interface but can still create separate versions of a site that work well on mobile devices.

Serif's Silver Award-winning PagePlus X8 is almost as good, particularly for beginners looking to get guidance on their site-building. It's not as good for creating responsive sites, though.

Our Bronze Award goes to Incomedia Website X5, which breaks site building down into simple steps. However, it doesn't have a WYSIWYG interface, which can leave you guessing what your final design will look like. ◼

Chromecast 2

Google's Chromecast was a fabulous gadget that made your TV smarter. **Alan Martin** finds out what its successor has to offer

Google's original £30 back-of-the-TV Chromecast dongle did pretty much everything you'd want it to do at a hugely appealing price, streaming content straight from your phone to your TV. It made standard TVs smart, as long as they had an HDMI port. The new version does much the same thing but has some minor improvements, including better Wi-Fi and a new design.

The new Chromecast 2 looks very different, like an ice-hockey puck with a short cable to connect it to the HDMI port. This is better than the stick-like design of the previous model which could get in the way of other devices if the area behind your TV was particularly crowded. However, you still need to provide power to its USB port, either from a powered USB port on your TV or a wall socket.

Setting it up is as quick and easy as ever. Plug everything in and it immediately flashes up easy-to-follow instructions, starting with information on downloading the Chromecast app to your smartphone. From there, you pair the two, so your handset knows where to send your content.

In any cast-compatible app, you'll see the Chromecast icon in the top-right corner of the screen. Tap it, select your Chromecast and the app appears on the big screen.

It's certainly nippy. Screen mirroring exhibited virtually no lag, allowing you to broadcast whatever's on your phone's screen in both landscape and portrait mode. This speed is in part due to the improved Wi-Fi. The new Chromecast includes an adaptive antenna system supporting 802.11ac Wi-Fi, which means you can hook up to 5GHz networks as well as 2.4GHz ones, making it more reliable if you have a compatible mobile device.

You can also use your phone as a remote, to control volume and fast forward/rewind. And you can continue to stream content while you use your phone for other things. Best of all, because the video data is pulled from the cloud rather than streamed from your phone, it won't suck the battery dry.

The new model works as well as ever. We connected it to a busy office router and it coped effortlessly, pumping out Netflix and BBC iPlayer programmes to a big screen at Full HD.

You can also broadcast a Chrome browser tab to show everyone what you're doing, or run embedded videos with no cast support built in. This works in much the same way as before, and the results are perfectly watchable.

OUR VERDICT

★★★★★

Apart from the new Wi-Fi channels, the technology remains broadly the same. If your existing Chromecast works well, there isn't much reason to upgrade, unless you have a collection of 802.11ac devices and you want to benefit from its improved connection.

For anyone who hasn't already got a Chromecast, now is as good a time as any to jump in, because the improved hardware is available at the same low price as the original. It remains the best way to get stuff from your smartphone on to your TV.
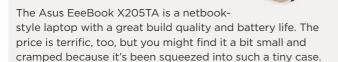
FEATURES	★★★★★
PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
EASE OF USE	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★

Web User's Best Buys

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

HARDWARE

WINDOWS 10 LAPTOP

Asus EeeBook X205TA

£149.99 from **www.pcworld.co.uk**
Date tested: October 2015

The Asus EeeBook X205TA is a netbook-style laptop with a great build quality and battery life. The price is terrific, too, but you might find it a bit small and cramped because it's been squeezed into such a tiny case.

KEY SPECS

Quad-core 1.33GHz Intel Atom Z3735F processor ■ 2GB of memory ■ 32GB eMMC storage ■ 11.6in non-touchscreen ■ 1,366 x 768 pixels resolution ■ 2 x USB 2 ports ■ 802.11n Wi-Fi ■ 286 x 193 x 18mm ■ 980g ■ One-year collect and return

SMARTWATCH

LG Watch Urbane

£224 from **www.amazon.co.uk**
Date tested: November 2015

The LG Watch Urbane looks good, is simple to operate and has a great screen (if you stay out of direct sunlight). It doesn't have the full range of fitness tools, but it's ideal as a smartphone companion. It won't pair with an iPhone, though.

KEY SPECS

Android Wear 5.1 ■ Gorilla Glass 3 ■ 1.3in circular display ■ 320 x 320-pixels resolution ■ 512MB memory ■ 4GB storage ■ Bluetooth ■ 52 x 46 x 11mm ■ 67g ■ One-year return-to-base warranty

MULTI-DEVICE CHARGER

Griffin PowerDock 5

£79.95 from **www.johnlewis.com**
Date tested: September 2015

Griffin's PowerDock 5 lets you charge a whole household's worth of mobile devices at one time, supplying plenty of power across all five of its USB ports. It doesn't matter whether you've got five tablets or five phones, they'll all sit nicely in this dock, although you'll need to make sure that the cables don't get tangled.

KEY SPECS

Supports five USB devices ■ 2.1A output on each port ■ 200 x 130 x 80mm ■ 340g

WINDOWS 10 PC

PC Specialist Evora

£559 from **www.pcspecialist.co.uk**
Date tested: September 2015

This is more of a workaday PC than an all-out powerhouse, but it's cheaper than other Windows 10 PCs and its impressive gaming performance gives it lots of potential as an all-round family computer.

KEY SPECS

Quad-core 3.2GHz Intel Core i5-4460 processor ■ 8GB of memory ■ 1TB hard drive ■ 120GB SSD ■ 2 x USB 3, 6 x USB 2 ports ■ Gigabit Ethernet ■ 477 x 450 x 190mm ■ Three-year return-to-base warranty including one-year parts

WI-FI EXTENDER

Netgear Nighthawk AC1900 Extender

£130 from **www.broadbandbuyer.co.uk**
Date tested: July 2015

The Netgear Nighthawk is pricey, but it's also fast, powerful and built to last. Its advanced tools will be compatible with future Wi-Fi standards and it provides excellent performance.

KEY SPECS

AC1900 Wi-Fi ■ Dual-band ■ 5 x Gigabit Ethernet ports ■ USB 3 ■ WPA and WPA2 security ■ DLNA server ■ 252 x 174 x 31mm ■ Two-year return-to-base warranty

TABLET

Google Nexus 9

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

The Nexus 9 is our favourite Android tablet. It has a fine screen and the battery lasted 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 x 154 x 8mm ■ 425g

All prices correct at time of review

SOFTWARE & SERVICES

WEB DESIGN

Xara Web Designer 11 Premium

£69.99 from **www.xara.com**
Date tested: November 2015

NEW!

A great tool for for creating a good-looking website without needing to use HTML or CSS code. It's also very easy to use.

KEY FEATURES
90+ templates ■ WYSIWYG design ■ Create responsive websites ■ Embed codes ■ Add HTML ■ Online editing ■ FTP uploader ■ Hosting (requires registration)

INTERNET SECURITY

Kaspersky Internet Security 2016

£19.99 from **bit.ly/kaspoffer2016**
Date tested: June 2015

This performed near-perfectly in our tests. *Computeractive* is selling it for £19.99 (full price £39.99). Click the link above.

KEY FEATURES
Anti-virus and firewall tools ■ Protects online shopping and banking ■ Identity, privacy tools ■ Dangerous website alerts ■ Advanced parental control ■ Compatible with Windows 10

BACKUP AND SYNC

SyncBackFree

Free from **bit.ly/syncback366**
Date tested: March 2015

If you know what you need from your backups and you're prepared to spend some time configuring the options, SyncBackFree has everything you need.

KEY FEATURES
Synchronise: Copy files in both directions ■ Restore back-up files easily ■ Email logs ■ Schedule backups ■ Simple and Advanced mode ■ Runs on Windows 8, 7, Vista, and XP

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.

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

Best Free Software

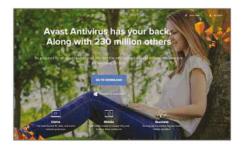## SECURITY SOFTWARE

Avast Free Antivirus 2016
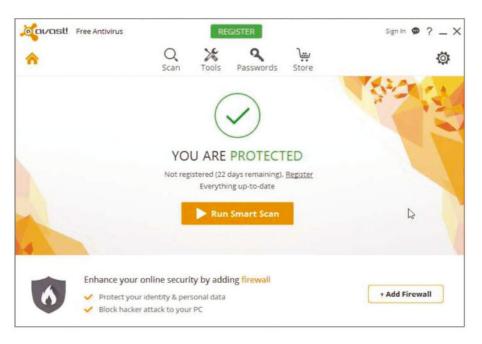
www.avast.com

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

File size: 5.2MB (installer-only)

The 2016 edition of Avast's popular free anti-virus software has an impressive, new, streamlined design. Where the previous interface featured an overstuffed sidebar and a strip of buttons across the middle, this new release has just four buttons across the top – Scan, Tools, Passwords and Store – and a single Run Smart Scan button in the centre. Click this and the program will work its way through all the available scans in sequence, looking for viruses, outdated software, bad browser add-ons, network threats, performance problems and more. The new layout is a lot cleaner and much easier to use.

You can run any of the scans individually, which is handy if you just want to check for malware, fix network threats or download new versions of installed software. The Tools section provides access to a virtual private network (which keeps your IP address and browsing secure – see our feature on page 38 for more about this), a remote-access tool, a rescue disc and usage statistics.

The big new addition to this release is Avast Passwords. This powerful password manager can generate, store and automatically fill secure passwords for all the sites you have an account with. The software also syncs your logins on mobile devices via Avast's free Android and iOS apps.

The improved network scanner now detects 12 more types of router vulnerability, while HTTPS secure scanning is much smarter. Pay attention during installation and untick the option to install Chrome and set it as your default browser, if you don't want it. Choose the Customise option to pick which components to install.

MINI WORKSHOP | Protect your PC using Avast Free Antivirus 2016

1 Avast lets you check for any malware or problems on your PC simply by clicking the Run Smart Scan button on the main screen. The program will run through the available scans and show you the progress. **1** You can halt the process at any time. **2** Once complete, you'll be alerted to any problems and can resolve them.
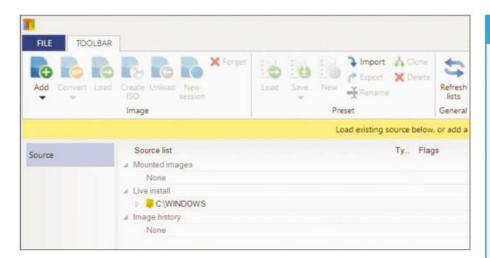
2 You can run individual scans by clicking the Scan button **1** and making your selection from the list that appears below. **2** The Tools section **3** gives you access to various features, including the SecureLine VPN, and provides stats on your system security. You can buy additional Avast programs from the Store. **4**

3 Click Passwords **1** to see a list of options: **2** Overview checks the status of your passwords so you can make them stronger; Passwords is where you manage your logins; Personal Data is for setting up auto-fill details; and 'Secure notes' provides a place to store sensitive personal information, such as credit card details.

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

WINDOWS CONFIGURATION TOOL
NTLite
www.ntlite.com
Min requirements: Windows 7/8+/10 **File size:** 7.2MB

NTLite lets you build your own customised setup disc for Windows 7, 8+ or 10. You can remove unwanted components, choose which updates and drivers to include and activate 'unattended setup', which handles all the installation prompts automatically so you don't have to keep clicking Next and OK. It's a great tool for anyone who needs to install or reinstall Windows on a regular basis, and saves you having to spend ages getting everything how you want it after installation.

MAGIC MIRROR
Mirror Reality 2
luxand.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10, webcam
File size: 26.2MB

This fun tool uses your webcam to transform your looks in real time. It offers a selection of effects, including ageing, zombie, rejuvenate, fatter and slimmer. Just look at the camera and apply an effect. You can change the quality and configure the settings – for example, add a few years to your age or make yourself look much older. You can also tweak the face-detection settings.

DICTIONARY
WordWeb Free 8
www.wordwebsoftware.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 or Mac OS X
File size: 21.5MB

WordWeb is a free dictionary and thesaurus that lets you look up any word in a document. It also gives you access to online resources, including Wikipedia and Wiktionary. The latest update to the program offers thousands of new and revised definitions, and one-click lookup features for all the major browsers, including Edge. Suggestions for misspelt words have also been improved.

New Windows Apps

BBC Store
bit.ly/bbcstore385
Min requirements: Windows 8+/10
File size: 10.4MB
This app lets you stream and download TV programmes you've bought from the new BBC Store, including the latest shows and classic series. You'll need a free account to use it.

Loadkit Download Manager
bit.ly/loadkit385
Min requirements: Windows 8+/10
File size: 21.3MB
This is a simple download manager that offers http, https and ftp downloading, and lets you filter, sort and search through downloaded files. It works with Firefox and Chrome.

Tweakolor
bit.ly/tweakolor385
Min requirements: Windows 8+/10
File size: 0.9MB
Open a photo using this app, and it will display it in black and white and let you paint in your own colours. You can adjust the size of the brush to suit your painting requirements.
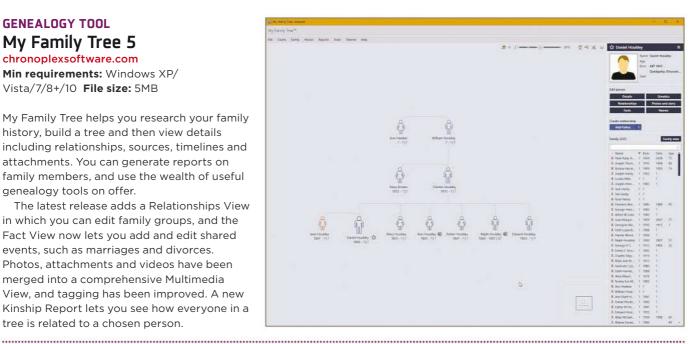
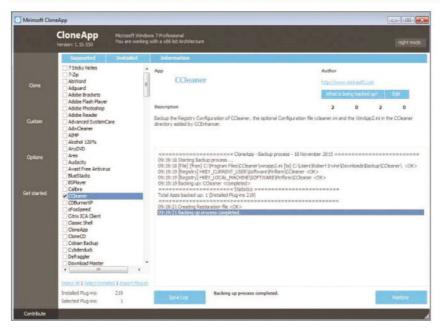# ⬇ Best Free Software

My Family Tree 5
chronoplexsoftware.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/
Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 5MB

My Family Tree helps you research your family history, build a tree and then view details including relationships, sources, timelines and attachments. You can generate reports on family members, and use the wealth of useful genealogy tools on offer.

The latest release adds a Relationships View in which you can edit family groups, and the Fact View now lets you add and edit shared events, such as marriages and divorces. Photos, attachments and videos have been merged into a comprehensive Multimedia View, and tagging has been improved. A new Kinship Report lets you see how everyone in a tree is related to a chosen person.

CloneApp
bit.ly/cloneapp385
Min requirements: Windows XP/
Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 396KB

This tiny portable tool could prove invaluable if you're planning to move to a new PC, reinstall Windows or upgrade to Windows 10, and want to ensure that all your programs work in the same way as before. It lets you back up and restore the settings for lots of popular software, including Adobe Reader, CCleaner, Chrome, Internet Explorer, Microsoft Office, Firefox, VLC Media Player and many more, as well as Windows tools such as the Start menu. Simply select an application on the left, click CloneApp and all the Registry keys, files and folders will be backed up. Run the program again and click Restore to configure your saved settings.
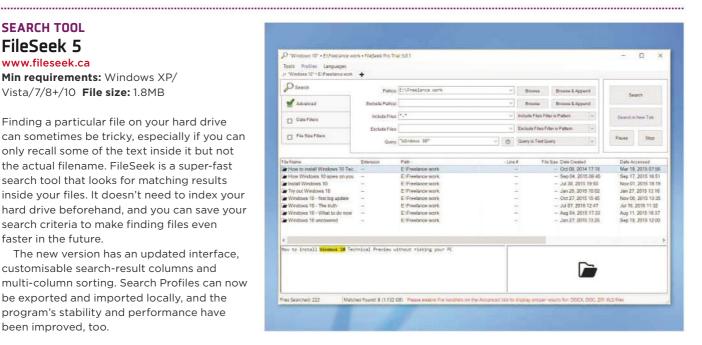
FileSeek 5
www.fileseek.ca
Min requirements: Windows XP/
Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 1.8MB

Finding a particular file on your hard drive can sometimes be tricky, especially if you can only recall some of the text inside it but not the actual filename. FileSeek is a super-fast search tool that looks for matching results inside your files. It doesn't need to index your hard drive beforehand, and you can save your search criteria to make finding files even faster in the future.

The new version has an updated interface, customisable search-result columns and multi-column sorting. Search Profiles can now be exported and imported locally, and the program's stability and performance have been improved, too.

GAME

Invader Crush

bit.ly/invader385
Min requirements: Windows XP/
Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 40.3MB

In this colourful arcade game, a wave of evil space invaders makes its way slowly down the screen towards your lone spacecraft. Your task is to destroy single invaders or whole groups of them by using matching-coloured missiles. There are two modes – Target, which destroys a target in the middle of the wave, and Killcount, which obliterates a set number of invaders.

✗ Don't install...

PoDoFoBrowser

bit.ly/podofo385
Min requirements:
Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
or Linux
File size: 1.1MB

If you're after a free PDF editor, this probably isn't the one you want. It breaks down PDF files into streams and binary data, so you can edit and delete specific objects, but unless you're a software developer and familiar with the Qt programming language, you're likely to find it as utterly baffling as we did!

...Install this instead ✓

PDF Shaper

www.glorylogic.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 8.1MB

PDFs are a useful means of sharing documents via email and over the web, but they can also be quite restrictive unless you pay for professional software to edit them. This certainly isn't the case with PDF Shaper, which comprises a collection of free PDF tools that allow you to perform all manner of useful tasks. You can split PDFs into several files or merge multiple documents into one file; extract text, images and other elements; convert PDFs into Word documents, and images into PDFs; encrypt your files using a password; and much more.

Extract Text	Extract Images	PDF Tools
Extract text from PDF	Extract images from PDF	Rotate pages or sign PDF
PDF to Image	Image to PDF	PDF to Word
Convert PDF to image	Convert any image to PDF	Convert PDF to Word RTF

UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs

SYSTEM TOOL

Process Lasso 8.8.8.8

bitsum.com
Min requirements:
Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 2.8MB

Process Lasso is a more advanced alternative to the Windows Task Manager that automatically prevents programs from hogging system resources. This is a minor maintenance release that improves the base code, fixes some bugs and updates a couple of international languages.

SYSTEM CLEANER

WinUtilities Free 12.04

hi.ylcomputing.com
Min requirements: Windows
XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 6.1MB

WinUtilities is a comprehensive all-in-one system-cleaning and optimisation suite that offers a large collection of powerful and useful tools. The latest version is better cleaning up after the Edge and Chrome browsers, and can now remove Windows events reporting files.

ZIP ARCHIVER

Bandizip 5.10

www.bandisoft.com
Min requirements: Windows
XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 4.5MB

Bandizip is a fast, easy-to-use compression tool that supports all the main file formats, including ZIP, RAR and 7Z. This release improves the security of the updater, and fixes a problem with certain files that extract too slowly. It's a good alternative to WinZip, not least because it's free.

DISC-AUTHORING SOFTWARE

BurnAware Free 8.6

www.burnaware.com
Min requirements:
Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 7.6MB

BurnAware Free can write files and folders to all types of optical disc, including Blu-rays, and create and burn image files. This latest version adds an option to set the number of copies to a media disc, and displays the progress for each file during verification. ■

GET FREE SOFTWARE FIRST subscribe to Web User at subscribe.webuser.co.uk

Best New Browser Tools

CHROME

Read reviews of stores before you buy

As we head into the busiest shopping time of the year, it's useful to know which online stores you can rely on to offer good value and service, and which should be avoided at all costs. One way to find out is to install the excellent SiteJabber extension (bit.ly/ sitejabber385), which provides reviews and ratings of thousands of websites, so you can steer clear of unreliable retailers. When you visit a site, the add-on's toolbar button will turn green, red or yellow to indicate whether that company has received mostly positive, negative or mixed reviews. Click the button to view a breakdown of reviews and ratings, and to read other customers' opinions and share your own. SiteJabber ratings also appear next to Google and Bing search results, and you don't need to create an account to use the free service.

Play YouTube videos instantly

When you search for a video on YouTube, it's almost always the first result – Google is pretty good at the search thing, after all. But wouldn't it be better if you could skip the search results altogether and jump straight to the video? That's the idea behind the new Chrome extension YouTube I Am Feeling Lucky (bit.ly/lucky385), which adds an 'I'm Feeling Lucky' button to the video site. When you want to watch something straight away, just type the title into the search box and click the button to bypass the results page and play the video instantly. Alternatively, press Shift+Enter after typing your search query to skip to the video.

Save recipes from across the web

Avid cooks who are forever forgetting where they spotted that delicious recipe for shepherd's pie will love a tasty new

Chrome tool called Chef's Hat (bit.ly/ chefs385). This lets you save recipes from food sites to cook and enjoy later, simply by clicking its toolbar button to 'clip' the content. Chef's Hat is free to use, although you do need to create an account, and lets you organise your recipes using keyword tags and email them to friends. We tested it on various recipe sites including BBC Food, Food Network UK and All Recipes UK, and it worked a treat, although it did make us very hungry!

Avoid spoilers for films and TV shows

There are few things worse than having unwatched episodes of your favourite TV shows ruined for you by loose-lipped 'friends' and thoughtless TV reviewers. Rather than staying offline until you've caught up, you can use Spoiler Alert (bit.ly/spoiler385) to filter mentions of specific TV

series, films, events, football matches and more from web pages and social media. Just install the add-on, register your details and click Find Alerts to choose which spoilers you want to avoid. The choices are heavily biased towards US culture, but several British programmes and films are covered, too (although not *Doctor Who*, strangely), and the lists are frequently updated to include new releases such as *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. We also like that you can easily switch individual alerts on and off if you decide that you don't care what happened in *Downton Abbey*, after all!

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

FIREFOX

Enter passwords by right-clicking

We covered Firefox's new, more powerful Private Browsing mode in last issue's What's New Online, but another welcome improvement is an update to the built-in password manager. This now lets you access multiple logins for the same site by right-clicking a text box and choosing Fill Login, then picking the account you want to use from the options available. These will only include passwords that you've specifically asked the browser to store for you. Mozilla has also made it much easier to view your password for a specific site – rather than going to Tools, Options, Security, Saved Passwords, simply right-click the password box on the page and select View Saved Logins from the Fill Login menu. You can also click Import to grab your passwords from Chrome and Internet Explorer.
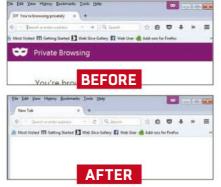
Block adverts in search results

Many of us aren't too bothered by non-intrusive online ads, because they help to keep the web free, but we draw the line at those that litter and confuse our search results in Google, Bing and DuckDuckGo. Search Engine Ad Remover (bit.ly/search385) is a new Firefox add-on that strips the ads from above, below and to the right of search results, so you're not 'tricked' into visiting a site that has paid to be featured on the page. It also means you don't need to use a full-on ad blocker, such as Adblock Plus, which may slow down your system by using excess memory and deprive smaller websites of essential ad revenue. We found that certain sponsored links still slipped through, especially on Google, but generally the add-on worked very well. Below, you can see how effectively it cleaned up our Bing search results.

BEFORE

AFTER

Make Private Browsing more private

BEFORE

AFTER

One drawback to using the Private Browsing mode in Firefox 42 is that it displays a 'You're browsing privately' confirmation message under a purple banner and eye mask, thus revealing to anyone in the vicinity that you're possibly up to no good. Blank Private Browsing Mode (bit.ly/private385) provides a simple solution by replacing that banner with an empty tab, so nosey parkers nearby will be none the wiser. No other elements of private browsing will be affected, so your history, cookies and searches still won't be saved to your computer.

OTHER BROWSERS

View food-hygiene ratings for takeaways

It's easier than ever to order takeaway food online, but how can you be sure the restaurant you're buying from isn't a filthy, mouse-infested hellhole? By installing MunchDB (bit.ly/munchdb385), that's how, so you can view official food-hygiene ratings for thousands of UK takeaways. The add-on, which is also available for Chrome, claims to cover more than 85% of companies listed on Just Eat and Deliveroo, and to "uncover the truth" when restaurants hide online under incorrect trading names. It's a handy way to avoid falling victim to food poisoning.

Browse popular YouTube videos

YouTube videos with millions of views are usually popular for good reason, but you probably don't have time to keep visiting the site to discover why. The Opera and Firefox add-on YouTube Popular Videos (bit.ly/youtube385) saves you the trouble by displaying a one-click grid of the 10 most viewed clips in four categories: General, Music, Sports and Gaming. The grid opens in a new tab, so it won't obstruct the current page, and also lets you browse popular playlists and search for specific titles within each category.

Best Free Apps

BROWSER
Firefox for iOS

NEW

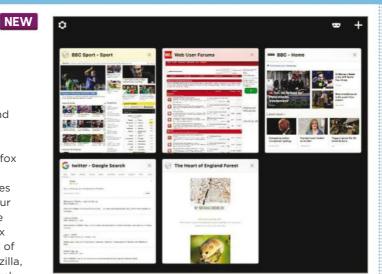bit.ly/firefox385
Min requirements: iOS 8.2
Size: 28.8MB

Firefox has long been a favourite of Windows, Mac and Android users, but until now the browser hasn't been available on iPhones and iPads. Like its Desktop counterpart, the fast, full-featured iOS version of Firefox aims to help protect your privacy, offering a Private Browsing mode that won't save your history or cookies (and can also be set to close your private tabs when you close the browser). Elsewhere, the Firefox browser provides the high level of flexibility we'd expect from Mozilla, letting you select a default search engine but still choose from a range of other search providers for every query you make.

We tested the iPad version of Firefox and found its design simple and intuitive: numbered tabs let you easily switch between open pages and whenever you open a new tab there are quick shortcut buttons for accessing your most visited sites, bookmarks and history. Like Firefox for Android, there's a handy Reading Mode that simplifies articles by stripping away unnecessary elements. Once opened, this mode also lets you save articles for reading later with a single tap.
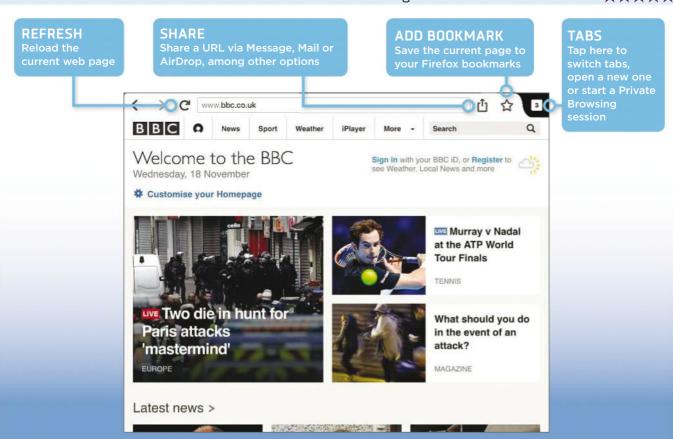
Our rating ★★★★★

REFRESH
Reload the current web page

SHARE
Share a URL via Message, Mail or AirDrop, among other options

ADD BOOKMARK
Save the current page to your Firefox bookmarks

TABS
Tap here to switch tabs, open a new one or start a Private Browsing session

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

SECURITY

NEW

App Lock: Fingerprint &Password

bit.ly/applock385
Min requirements:
Android 4.0.3
Size: 2.6MB

App Lock keeps your private information away from prying eyes by letting you lock specific apps on your phone or tablet. When you first launch the app, you must choose whether you want to use a PIN or a pattern. A list then appears, letting you choose which of your apps you want to lock. It's a particularly useful tool if you want to lend your device to friends and family, but don't want them having access to your personal emails, messages and photos. If you own a compatible Samsung device, App Lock also lets you unlock apps using only your fingerprint.

Our rating ★★★★★

MESSAGING

UPDATED

Signal Private Messenger

bit.ly/signal385
Min requirements:
Android 2.3, iOS 8
Size: 14MB

Signal is a free messaging app that lets you chat in real time and share media files with your friends without paying SMS and MMS fees. Like WhatsApp, there's no need to set up a username and password because it simply uses your phone number and the contacts saved on your device. What sets it apart from many of its competitors is the importance is gives to user privacy. Indeed, the app uses end-to-end encryption to ensure that your private messages are never intercepted and it will also never store any of your communications on its servers.

Our rating ★★★★☆

EMAIL

NEW

Unroll.Me

bit.ly/unrollme385
Min requirements:
iOS 8
Size: 33.9MB

Unroll.Me is an email client designed to help you declutter your inbox by managing your email subscriptions. The app lets you unsubscribe from newsletters with a single swipe, or you can stop emails taking up precious space in your inbox by consolidating them to a daily 'Rollup' digest. Should you change your mind, you can reinstate mail from specific senders in a single tap. Although the service has been around for a while, its new to iOS. Unroll.Me is compatible with most major email providers Gmail, Yahoo! Mail, AOL, iCloud, and Outlook.com.
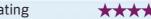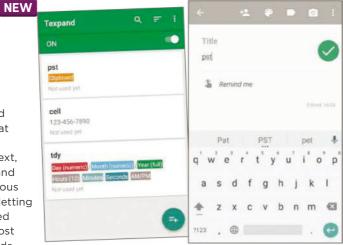
Our rating ★★★★☆

TOOL

NEW

Texpand

bit.ly/texpand385
Min requirements:
Android 5.0
Size: 610k

If you've ever wished there was an app that could turn your own shorthand into full text, you're in luck. Texpand can save you enormous amounts of time by letting you assign text-based shortcuts to your most frequently used words and phrases – for example, you could use the shortcut 'mob' instead of having to type your phone number. The app works with most keyboard apps (including Swiftkey and Google Keyboard), and uses a suggestion bubble to help you complete (or undo) your text expansions. But the most impressive feature is that the app lets you use dynamic values in your phrases. For example, instead of entering a fixed phrase, you can use Texpand's Clipboard option to paste whatever's currently on your device's clipboard. You're limited to 10 phrases unless you upgrade to its premium version, but that's enough for most of us.

Our rating ★★★★★
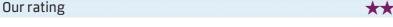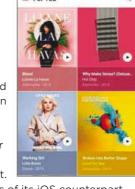
📱 Best Free Apps

MUSIC

NEW

Apple Music
bit.ly/applemusic385
Min requirements: Android 4.3
Size: 29MB

We made Apple Music our 'App of the Fortnight' when it was introduced with iOS 8.4, and now it's available on Android devices, too. Like the iOS version, the Android app invites you to start a three-month free trial, after which you decide whether you're happy paying £9.99 a month to use it. The app includes all the best features of its iOS counterpart, including its 30-million track library, its 'For You' music recommendations and Beats 1 Radio. One significant omission is the option to set up a family subscription (you currently need an Apple device to do this), but the app is still in beta and Apple has promised this feature is coming soon.

Our rating ★★★★☆

ORGANISATION

UPDATED

Doodle
bit.ly/doodle385
Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 8
Size: 6MB

Doodle is a free scheduling app that helps you plan anything from a business meeting to a school reunion without sending endless emails. When you use the app to create a new 'poll', you can select multiple dates and time slots before choosing the recipients you want to invite. They are asked to indicate the option that works best for them by following a link in the email they receive. Once your recipients have responded, Doodle displays the most popular suggestions so that you can select a final date. It's a great, simple idea and Doodle even doubles up as an online survey tool if you opt to 'Make a choice' instead of 'Find a date'.

Our rating ★★★★☆

---

5 NEW APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

FITNESS

FitStar Personal Trainer
bit.ly/fitstar385
Min requirements: Android 4.4
Size: 45MB **Price:** Free (with in-app purchases)
New to Android, FitStart Personal Trainer (developed by FitBit) offers personalised video workout tutorials. The app is free to download but you'll need to buy a subscription to FitStart Premium to take advantage of most of its features.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Relight
bit.ly/relight385
Min requirements: iOS 8.1
Size: 10.5MB **Price:** £2.29
This new photo-editing app enhances your mobile snaps by correcting light and exposure. There are more than 50 presets in modes including 'Artistic', 'Clarity', 'Low Light' and 'Overexposure'.

GAME

Tomb Raider II
bit.ly/tombraider385
Min requirements: Android 4.0
Size: 219MB **Price:** 99p
With this new Android app, you can play the multi-award-winning adventure game Tomb Raider II in all its original glory on your phone or tablet. Available for a mere 99p, you'll be hard pushed to find a better value paid-for game on the Google Play Store!

TRAVEL

Louis Vuitton City Guide
bit.ly/louis385
Min requirements: iOS 7
Size: 30.5MB **Price:** Free (with in-app purchases)
The Louis Vuitton City Guide helps you to discover beautiful hotels, design galleries, iconic luxury houses and the finest chocolate shops in 25 of the world's major cities. There's a selection of free content from each guide, but unlocking a city costs £7.99!

GAMES

Family Guy Pinball
bit.ly/familyguy385
Min requirements: Android 4.0
Size: 18MB **Price:** £1.55
Family Guy Pinball lets you relive many iconic gags and moments from the animated TV series, playing unique character-themed modes for the whole Griffin family and competing with your friends to top its online scoreboards!

FitStar Personal Trainer

Relight

Tomb Raider II

Louis Vitton City Guide

Family Guy Pinball

Best New TV Apps

TV & FILM
Amazon Video for Roku
bit.ly/roku385
Min requirements: Roku streaming device
Size: N/A

Honestly, sometimes the web giants behave like children – no sooner has Amazon removed Google's Chromecast from its store than it launches its video app on rival streaming platform Roku! On the upside, this means Roku users can now buy and rent some 50,000 films and TV shows from Amazon via their televisions, or – if they're Prime subscribers – stream a library of 15,000 movies and TV episodes at no extra cost. Series on offer include *Game of Thrones* and *Downton Abbey*, as well as Amazon-exclusive shows such as *Transparent* and *Ripper Street*. Roku now supports all the major streaming services, but Amazon refuses to make its video app compatible with the Chromecast. Come on, play nicely, kids!

KIDS TV
YouTube Kids
bit.ly/ytkandroid385
bit.ly/ytkios385
Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 7
Size: 38MB (Android), 59MB (iOS)

Nine months after it launched in the US, YouTube's child-friendly streaming service has arrived over here, giving kids aged between three and eight a safe environment in which to watch such popular shows as *Peppa Pig*, *Morph* and *Thomas & Friends*. If young viewers try to venture beyond the curated channels by searching for an unsuitable term such as 'sex' or 'Chucklevision', they'll receive an alert and be advised to search for something else. Parents can also set a limit on the length of time children can spend viewing, flag inappropriate videos and turn off search altogether. YouTube Kids is free to watch, but – being a Google service – it's supported by ads. It's compatible with Chromecast for family viewing on the big screen.

FILM & TV
IMDb Movies & TV
bit.ly/imdb385
Min requirements: Android (varies with device), iOS 8
Size: 26.1MB

"You asked for it and you got it," says the Internet Movie Database on its Play store page, which is very in keeping with the Christmas season. The "it" referred to is the new ability to play videos from your IMDb Watchlists on your Android devices, rather than just in your Desktop browser. This means you can watch trailers for upcoming releases, clips from current ones and highlights from older movies wherever you go, although you can't create lists on your mobile device (the feature is "coming soon"). Instead, you'll need to compile them on the IMDb website or browse other users' lists.

✗ Don't install...

WeSpeke
bit.ly/wespeke385

This app certainly means well, offering to help you learn Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German and "125+ additional languages" by talking directly to native speakers, for free. However, in practice, it's confusing to use and prone to crash, freeze or not load properly in the first place. To the team's credit, they are replying directly to users' complaints about the app in the Play store, but it would be even better if they could fix the countless bugs, too!

...Install this instead ✓

Duolingo
www.duolingo.com
Min requirements: Android (varies with device), iOS 7, Windows Phone
Size: 25.8MB

Mastering a foreign tongue needn't be a boring process of learning verb tenses – with Duolingo, it can be fun and surprisingly easy. This superbly designed app teaches 14 different languages, including Spanish, French, Dutch, Swedish and Russian, via bite-sized lessons that make it feel more like you're playing a game than learning something. You earn points for correct answers, lose lives for incorrect ones and can race against the clock to make things more exciting. Each addictive lesson includes a mix of speaking, listening, translation and multiple-choice challenges. Best of all, Duolingo is completely free to use, with no ads. ■

ACCESS ALL
BLOCKED CONTENT

Don't be told what films, TV shows and music you can and can't enjoy online. **Robert Irvine** reveals the best new ways to get around streaming restrictions

At *Web User*, we've long believed that your access to the web should be unrestricted and that nobody – not the government, not big business, not former newsreader Angela Rippon – should be able to control what you see and do online. Sadly, this hasn't stopped many websites and online services applying restrictions to their content and, after users discovered ways to circumvent those blocks, introducing further restrictions to block the unblockers. But you can't keep a determined web user down and, recently, several new tools have emerged that allow you to resume your unrestricted viewing, listening and downloading.

In this feature, we reveal our favourite free ways to bypass unfair and unnecessary geographical restrictions to access any TV, films, music, software and products you want on your PC, phone and tablet. We also take a closer look at the practice of 'geo-blocking' and the legal issues surrounding it.

YOUR GEO-BLOCKING QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q What is geo-blocking and why should I care about it?

A Geo-blocking is a system that's used to restrict your access to specific websites, online services and their content, based on your location. Blocks are usually implemented for legal reasons, most commonly because the copyright holders of films and TV shows only license their work to be available in a particular country. Geo-blocking is also used by retailers who want to charge different prices in different territories, and as a means of stopping malicious traffic from specific domains.

As to why you should care, geo-blocking undermines the idea of the web as being open and fair, as originally visualised by Sir Tim Berners-Lee. It makes the internet regional rather than a level playing field for all business and consumers, with the price and choice of content varying considerably between territories.

Q How does geo-blocking work?

A Every computer, phone, tablet and other device that accesses the internet has a unique numerical identifier called an IP (internet protocol) address. Each time a device makes a request to a server to provide content, its IP address is included, so the server knows where to send the requested content.

IP addresses also reveal your geographical location with reasonable accuracy, so if a server detects that you're requesting content from a territory in which it isn't supposed to be available, it will geo-block your request.

Geo-blocking undermines Tim Berners-Lee's concept of the web as an open market
(photo © Paul Clarke)

Game of Thrones broke records for the number of viewers using VPNs to watch it

Q How do I get around geo-blocks?

A That's what we're going to explain in this feature, so just be patient! Essentially, the main methods are to use a virtual private network (VPN), a proxy tool or a DNS-based solution to change or disguise the server you use to access the internet. All three have their advantages and disadvantages, which we'll outline in the next section.

Q Is it legal to bypass geo-blocking restrictions?

A We had a feeling you might ask that! The truth is that it's still a giant 'grey area'. Although it's perfectly legal to use a VPN or proxy, if you stream or download content that hasn't been authorised for release in your country you're likely to breach copyright restrictions. This means you could technically face legal action from the rights holder, such as a production company. However, that hasn't stopped millions of web users worldwide using VPNs and proxies to watch popular TV shows including *Game of Thrones*, *The Walking Dead* and our own *Doctor Who*.

Q What do governments think about geo-blocking?

A Interestingly, commissioners at the European Union are currently proposing to scrap "unjustified" geo-blocking in EU countries to create a single digital market. In April, they argued that "too many Europeans cannot use online services that are available in other EU countries, often without any justification; or they are re-routed to a local store with different prices. Such discrimination cannot exist in a single market". This hasn't gone down well with US companies such as Amazon and Google, whose monopolies of the global retail and entertainment industries benefit greatly from regional variations in the pricing and availability of content, and who don't like the idea of increased competition from a single European digital market.

Q Does this mean I'll be able to watch iPlayer on holiday?

A Theoretically, yes. As we reported in Issue 371 (bit.ly/webuser371), the European Commission's plans for "harmonised" copyright across all 28 countries in the European Union would mean you'd be able to watch BBC iPlayer and the UK version of Netflix while you're on holiday. Indeed, anyone living in the EU will be able to do so, without needing to resort to VPNs and proxies. However, this does raise questions about copyright restrictions and, in the case of the BBC, the licence fee. See our boxout on page 42 for more about the Beeb's attitude to overseas viewers.

We reported about the EU's plans to end geo-blocking back in Issue 371

BEST NEW TOOLS FOR UNBLOCKING WEB CONTENT

Since we tested VPNs in Issue 378, several tools have been launched and updated that offer more flexibility for less hassle. Here, we choose six of our favourites

Hotspot Shield Free VPN Proxy
bit.ly/hotspot385

We've long had a love-hate relationship with Hotspot Shield. Indeed, in Issue 371 (bit.ly/webuser371), we included it in our 'Software & Apps You Should Never Download' feature because "the free version bombards you with adverts and is unnecessarily obtrusive".

So we were pleasantly surprised – nay, gobsmacked – by the quality of its new Chrome extension, which has replaced the controversial Hola (hola.org) as our favourite browser-based VPN. Why? Well, firstly, because it couldn't be easier to use; you just click the toolbar button and choose one of five countries – including the US, France and the Netherlands – as your fake browsing location. Secondly, unlike its Desktop counterpart, it gives you unlimited bandwidth for free (at least for the moment) and without any adverts

Just click the toolbar button to switch to a proxy location

getting in your way. Thirdly, it works quickly and reliably, without slowing down your browsing, and lastly, the support team seems only too happy to answer users' questions on the add-on's Chrome Web Store page. This Hotspot definitely *is* a good spot!

Hotspot Shield lets you access blocked content by pretending you're elsewhere

Betternet
www.betternet.co

Free services inevitably involve some sort of catch – for example, they target you with ads, they sell your personal data or they tease with you with 'premium' features that you need to pay to use – but, for the life of us, we can't find the catch to Betternet. This amazing tool ticks all the right

Betternet is fast, free and unlimited, and you don't need to register to use it

Unlike many VPNs, Betternet works equally well on Android, iOS and Windows

boxes – it secures your connection, conceals your IP address, encrypts your data and unblocks all websites – yet it requires no payment, doesn't ask you to register and it imposes no limits on time, speed or bandwidth.

What's more, Betternet is available for Windows, Android and iOS (a Mac version is 'coming soon'), with extensions for Chrome and Firefox, and is also incredibly simple to use – just install the program, app or add-on, then click or tap Connect to start browsing anonymously.

If you think that all sounds too good to be true, you're right. You do have to view 'recommendations' for other apps within Betternet, but the company has to make money somehow and these are non-intrusive and don't track you or collect your data. Betternet even provides a full breakdown of its costs and income at www.betternet.co/transparency.html, which must be a first for a new web company.
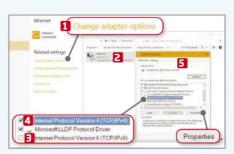

⚙ MINI WORKSHOP | Browse the web without restrictions using Tunlr

1 Sign up for a free Tunlr account (tunlr.com). You'll see a message saying that before you can use it, you need to recommend the service on Facebook or Twitter, or invite a friend via email to check it out. This isn't true – you can just tick the 'Don't show this message again' box, **1** click Close, **2** and start using the service.

2 You'll now be asked which device to set up – your current PC, phone or tablet, or your router. **1** We'll set up a Windows 10 PC. Click that button and a guide explaining how to set up Tunlr will appear. For Windows 10, open Settings and click Network & Internet. Select Wi-Fi or Ethernet, depending on your connection.

3 Click 'Change adapter options' **1** and a 'Network Connections' window will open. Right-click your network connection **2** and select Properties. Find and untick Internet Protocol Version 6 (TCP/IPv6), **3** then highlight Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4) **4** and click Properties. **5**

Tunlr
tunlr.com

VPNs almost always require you to download and install software, which consumes space and memory on your PC or mobile device. Proxy servers, by contrast, don't require any downloads, but they can be very slow and they're usually supported by a surfeit of ads. The amazing new service Tunlr suffers from neither of these drawbacks, while still allowing you to unblock TV, music and films from overseas, without anyone knowing.

It works by asking you to change the DNS settings on your PC, Mac, router, phone, tablet or games console to access Tunlr's own DNS servers. This sounds slightly risky but, as long as you note down your original DNS settings, you'll be able to reverse any changes. See our Workshop below to find out how to set up Tunlr.

Once you're up and running, you'll be granted instant access to lots of popular US streaming services, including Netflix, Pandora and Comedy Central. Tunlr says that Hulu will be added soon and that if you live outside the UK, you can use the service to watch BBC iPlayer. Streaming happens directly between your device and the content you're streaming, so it won't slow down your internet connection.

F-Secure Freedome VPN
freedome.f-secure.com

Considering that VPNs offer one of the most secure ways to browse the web, it's surprising that only a handful of security software companies offer their own. One of the most powerful and reliable is F-Secure's Freedome, which is available on Android (including Kindle Fire), iOS, Windows and – since May this year – Mac OS X. Freedome was recently updated to reduce its battery consumption on mobile and to add an

F-Secure Freedome VPN offers total protection when you're browsing the web
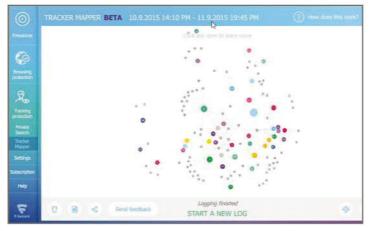
innovative feature called Tracker Mapper. This creates a 24-hour visual record of all the tracking attempts it has blocked while you've been browsing the web, so you can see who's been watching you online. Freedome deletes this data automatically after three days, or you can purge it yourself. You can also export the info as a text file.

Freedome VPN is free to try for 14 days, after which you'll need to purchase a subscription. Prices start at £39.99 for secure browsing across three devices for one year.

Tunlr unblocks several popular US streaming services with no need to install any software

F-Secure Freedome's Tracker Mapper shows you who's been trying to follow you online

4 Select the option to 'Use the following DNS server addresses'. **1** If this is already selected, make a note of any existing server addresses – you'll need them in case you decide to remove Tunlr in future. For the 'Preferred DNS server', enter 45.33.81.76. **2** For the 'Alternative DNS server', enter 45.33.12.13. **3** Click OK. **4**

5 Close all the open settings windows and click the Services link in your browser. **1** You should see a banner saying your device is set up. **2** Below are a selection of services that work with Tunlr, including Netflix, BBC iPlayer and YouTube. Toggle the ones you want on, **3** and select the country you want to appear to be browsing from. **4**
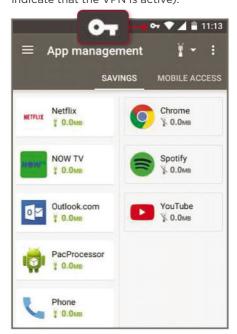
6 You can now visit those websites and browse freely. Click the Dashboard link **1** and you'll be shown notifications from Tunlr regarding any changes to DNS settings and the like. **2** The services that are in use are shown here, **3** with your account details below. **4** You can also invite friends to use the service. **5**

Opera Max

www.opera.com/mobile/max

We recommended the Opera Max app for Android in Issue 383 as a means of compressing web pages and videos to make them faster to load, but it also has a handy VPN function. This is because Opera routes your internet traffic through its own servers, effectively disguising your real location and allowing you to access content that's otherwise blocked on your phone or tablet, such as geo-restricted videos. Opera Max works with lots of popular apps, including YouTube, Chrome, Amazon and Netflix, and the VPN feature works automatically without needing to be configured (a key symbol appears at the top of your screen to indicate that the VPN is active).

Opera Max's built-in VPN lets you access blocked content on your Android device

TV Chrome

www.tv-chrome.com

Want to watch live TV from around the world, without installing a VPN? Then you need TV Chrome, which lets you browse and tune into an incredible 2,780 live TV channels from across the globe. Once you've added the extension to your browser, click the toolbar button to explore the list of countries on offer – from Afghanistan to Vietnam – then choose a category from options including News,

TV Chrome streams 2,780 live TV channels from around the world

IS THE BBC NOW BLOCKING VPNs?

For those of us in the UK, the Holy Grail of streaming services is US entertainment hub Hulu (**www.hulu.com**), which is notoriously strict at blocking VPNs and proxies. Viewers outside the UK, however, including British expats and holidaymakers, are most keen to access BBC iPlayer so they can enjoy such top-quality programming as *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock* and *Homes Under the Hammer* (well, maybe not the last one).

Overseas viewers will miss out on the thrilling Series 19 of Homes Under the Hammer

Until recently, it was fairly easy to watch iPlayer overseas using a VPN, but the Beeb has got wise to such tricks and is now blocking these tools from accessing iPlayer, even if you're based in the UK. If you try, you'll simply see an error message reading: "BBC iPlayer TV programmes are available to play in the UK only".

The BBC's reasons for this blockade are understandable: why should the rest of the world get to watch *Bargain Hunt* for free when us Brits have to pay £145.50 for the licence fee? There are also rights issues to consider, and the fact that – as we reported in Issue 381 (**bit.ly/webuser381**) – the BBC plans to launch a paid-for streaming service in the US next year. "We regularly make updates to our technology to help prevent access to BBC iPlayer from outside the UK, which breaks our terms of use," a BBC spokesperson told The Register (**bit.ly/register385**). "BBC iPlayer is freely available to users across the UK without a VPN".

The new BBC Store (**store.bbc.com/terms**) is also covered by the VPN ban and makes clear in its terms and conditions that "to stream content, or to download content to your device, you have to be located in the UK".

See Barry's column on page 74 to discover what he thinks of the BBC Store.

The BBC Store is only available to UK residents and not sneaky VPN users

Music, Lifestyle, Sports and Movies. The latest update to the service adds the useful ability to find channels by keyword, which saves you scrolling through long lists.

TV Chrome's channels are streamed in the add-on's own drop-down panel, so you're not redirected from your current page. You can also open the player in a separate window. The catch to getting all this international TV for free is that you need to sit through an advert for 20 seconds before you start streaming a channel. But once this is out of the way, your viewing will be uninterrupted (aside from commercials screened by

the channels themselves).

There's also a Firefox version of the add-on called, unsurprisingly, TV-Fox (**toolbar.tv-fox.com**).

You can browse channels by country and category, or search by keyword

WATCH US NETFLIX ON YOUR TV

NETFLIX

The US version of Netflix offers a greater choice of films and TV shows than its UK counterpart. Using the right unblocking tool, you can enjoy US Netflix not just on your PC and mobile device, but also on your TV by streaming the service to your Chromecast.

Sadly, this isn't as simple as installing a VPN app on your phone or tablet and then 'casting' US Netflix to your TV, because both your Chromecast and your mobile device need to be configured to access the service. If your iPad, for example, is set up for US Netflix but your Chromecast isn't, the Chromecast won't be able to connect to the proper stream.

Using a Chromecast or other streaming stick, you can watch US Netflix on your TV

Change your DNS address settings
To get US Netflix working, you need to prevent your Chromecast from accessing its usual Google DNS server

Create a static route on your router to force your Chromecast to use a VPN server

addresses and force it use the DNS addresses of your preferred unblocking tool. The easiest way to do this is to create a static-route rule in your router. Static routes are a way of telling your router how to access specific IP address. Not all routers support this option (the BT Home Hub, for example, is very locked down); if yours doesn't, then you won't be able to get US Netflix on your Chromecast.

Go to your router's web-based management page by typing its IP address into your web browser – this is usually 192.168.0.1 or 192.168.1.1. Enter your username and password (your router's manual will tell you the default ones) and look for the static-route option, which is usually in the advanced settings. Create a new static route and enter the destination IP address as 8.8.8.8, the subnet mask as 255.255.255.255 and the gateway address as your router's IP address, such as 192.168.0.1. If required, enter the Metric as 2. Repeat, but this time enter the destination IP address as 8.8.4.4.

Next, you'll need to change your network's DHCP server settings so that all your devices receive the DNS addresses used by your chosen unblocking tool. These will vary according to the service you're using, and should be
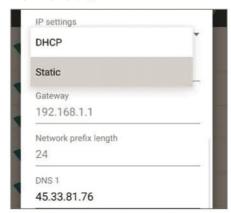
provided on the website – with Tunlr, as mentioned in the Workshop on page 41, the server addresses are 45.33.81.76 and 45.33.12.13. Make sure you note down any settings you change so you can restore them when you want to stream UK services such as iPlayer.

Configure your mobile device
You should now be able to cast US Netflix to your Chromecast, provided both the Chromecast and the device you're casting from are configured to use the same DNS addresses. To check this on Android (and to change the settings manually if the addresses don't match), open the Wi-Fi networks list and long-press the one you're connected to. Tap 'Modify network' and choose to show advanced options. Ensure that 'IP settings' is set to Static and that the correct DNS server addresses are entered below.

On iOS, go to the Wi-Fi Settings screen, tap the arrow next to the network you're connected to, and tap the DNS field. ∎
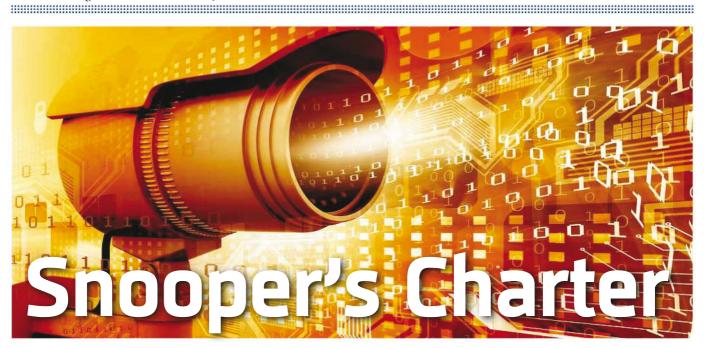

You can manually configure your Android device to use different DNS servers

Snooper's Charter

Are you happy to expose your browsing history to prying eyes? **David Crookes** looks at government proposals to let spies do just that

What is the Snooper's Charter?

The Snooper's Charter – or Snoopers' Charter – is the nickname given to a draft bill that would allow law enforcement and government intelligence agencies to access details pertaining to the personal internet usage of millions of UK citizens. The proper title of the latest version is the Investigatory Powers Bill (previously it was the Communications Data Bill), and many claim that it tips the balance between freedom and security to the serious detriment of our privacy.

In the light of the recent terror attacks in Paris, some political commentators and MPs are calling for the Bill to be rushed through as soon as possible.

What is being proposed?

The Home Secretary, Theresa May, wants internet service providers to store their customers' browsing history for a period of one year. These records would be made available to intelligence agencies, the police and other public bodies if an individual is under suspicion. The draft bill also lets the security services legally bug and hack phones and computers to amass their own communication data.

Wow! Will they need permission to do this?

Yes, they'll need a surveillance warrant. Issued by Cabinet ministers, these warrants will be carefully considered by senior judges before they can be enacted. The promise is that they will only get the go-ahead if there are concerns about national security, economic well-being or serious crime.

What details will be stored?

ISPs and mobile-phone providers will be forced to note the metadata of communications – the who, what, when and where – but they won't be asked to keep logs of any content. This means that only the domains of the websites you visit will be stored rather than individual pages. For example, if you browsed www.webuser.co.uk, a log of the site would be made against your IP address but no record would be kept of your conversations with Madeline and Bedstor on the forum, or what you voted in the latest poll. The authorities certainly wouldn't have access to the intricate logs that appear in the History section of your browser.

What use is such vague information?

Well, even a list of sites that you visit can reveal crucial information about you. For example, spooks could see who you bank with, the political party you associate with, your hobbies and even your health problems. The news websites you visit could say much about your interests and, if a dating website appears, it could be assumed that you are single – or having an affair! And you may not be too keen on the authorities knowing that you've visited pirate or pornography sites. Even if the logs don't indicate what you actually do when you visit a site, the information could still be used against you. And that is what concerns civil liberty groups.

Why is the government doing this?

The idea is to combine the current laws that grant the authorities access to our data. May claims that this is essential to tackle child sexual exploitation, serious crime cartels, drugs, guns and terrorism. It is the second time the Conservatives have tried to push this kind of legislation through Parliament (the Draft Communications Data Bill was blocked by the Lib Dems last time).

Snoops will know if you visited dating sites, but not necessarily who you met there

What's the general consensus?

Opinion is split. Although the Bill's critics acknowledge the need to combat evils such as terrorism and child sex abuse, they warn that collecting everyone's data by default to catch the small percentage of bad guys is like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. But there is a general agreement that the nature of communications has changed greatly over the past 15 years and that the law needs to be upgraded to reflect this.

Can ISPs cope with so much data?

That's a good question: the government thinks they can but the ISPs beg to differ! Matthew Hare, the CEO of broadband network Gigaclear, says customers download 15TB of data each year. He also said that the Bill didn't take into account that terrorists and cybercriminals were encrypting their communications. There is no mention in the Bill about Virtual Private Networks, either, and given that they are used to blur the origins of net traffic, this strikes us as a major oversight.

So will encrypted services be affected?

This is a grey area. There have been a few headlines claiming that services such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and Facebook Messenger would be banned if the Bill successfully goes through both Houses of Parliament and becomes enshrined in law, but that's a myth – encryption services won't be banned. Instead, the draft Bill says companies must work with MI5, MI6 and GCHQ to help them bypass any protection on your computer or phone if they need to gain access to your data. In serious crime cases, encryption would become useless.

Will it make our computers less secure?

Some security analysts are concerned that the draft Bill effectively means they would be unable to flag up 'backdoor' vulnerabilities if they were being exploited by spies or the police. They argue that it could leave those backdoors open to cybercriminals.

There is also the danger that the masses of data being stored for long periods of time by ISPs will attract hackers, who will inevitably seek to gain access to the databases and the personal info they contain. Certainly, given the recent breaches, it would appear that no company can ever truly claim to be guarding your data 100% securely.

Who will bear the costs if the Bill becomes law?

We will, it seems. The government says

GCHQ has been criticised for its surveillance of UK citizens

The Guardian has been suggesting ways to foil the Snooper's Charter

that it will be setting aside £175 million to pay for the storage of the data (which means it will be funded by taxpayers' money). Yet the ISPs told a Commons select committee that the costs are likely to be higher. They argue that the ongoing costs would be passed onto providers and that they would be forced to increase broadband bills to cover them.

Will we need to rethink how we use the internet?

Perhaps. Even if you do nothing wrong online – and that goes for the vast majority of us – there's still a serious threat to our privacy. United Nations privacy chief Joseph Cannataci said: "The Snooper's Charter in the UK is just a bit

worse than scary, isn't it?". Already some activists are looking at ways to scupper the plans. The *Guardian* newspaper has even suggested overwhelming the databases by browsing nine random websites for every one you want to visit, but that seems like a bit of an overreaction, not to mention tediously time-consuming.

WHAT THEY SAY

Communications technologies that cross communications platforms and international borders increasingly allow those who would do us harm the opportunity to evade detection.

Theresa May, Home Secretary

After all the talk of climb-downs and safeguards, this long-awaited Bill constitutes a breathtaking attack on the internet security of every man, woman and child in our country.

Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty

Any backdoor is a backdoor for everyone. Everybody wants to crack down on terrorists. Everybody wants to be secure. The question is how. Opening a backdoor can have very dire consequences.

Tim Cook, CEO of Apple

We support the government in their attempt to update the law in this important and sensitive area... [The draft Bill is] neither a snooper's charter, nor a plan for mass surveillance.

Andy Burnham, Shadow Home Secretary

Best free Registry editors

The Windows Registry Editor (Regedit for short) does a good job but it's very basic. Luckily, there are plenty of free Registry-editing tools around that are much better and provide useful additional tools. **Andy Shaw** compares six of the best

Registrar Registry Manager 7.75 Home Edition | www.resplendence.com | ★★★★★
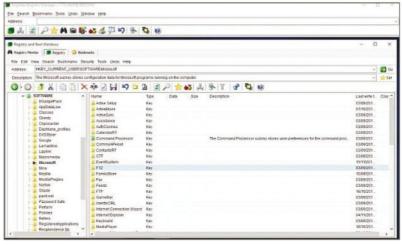FEATURES ★★★★★   PERFORMANCE ★★★★★   EASE OF USE ★★★★☆

WebUser GOLD AWARD

What we liked: Registrar Registry Manager is a much more sophisticated tool than Regedit. For starters, navigation is much easier. If you know the path of the key you want to get to, you can simply type it (or paste it) into the Address bar, as you would a web address on a browser. Alternatively, if you only know part of the key you want to go to, you can click the search button and just type what you know. All the keys that include your search term will be displayed, which is a huge improvement over Regedit's Find tool.

The software uses a system of tabs, located just below the toolbar (so it's a bit different to browser tabs), which let you keep different views open at the same time. It also remembers which tabs you had open the last time you closed the software, so you can get back to the same place you left off. Elements such as searches and bookmarks have their own tabs, as well

as the basic Registry-exploring tab.

Once you've found the key and value you want to edit, double-click it to make changes. You can carry out all sorts of tweaks above and beyond the basic Windows tool. This means Registrar Registry Manager can look a bit complicated, but the ability to add your own notes makes it easy to keep track of any changes you've made, and you can still export and import backups.

If you decide to install Registrar, you should take advantage of its offer to import its pre-configured Registry bookmarks and tweaks. These add descriptions to many of the Registry

keys, which will help you find what you're looking for when searching.

How it can be improved: The free Home Edition displays a splash screen for the Pro Edition every time you launch the software, which is understandable but becomes annoying. Also, the layout of the tabbed interface is a bit confusing – having the tabs below the toolbar is an unwelcome reminder of what Windows software was like 20 years ago.

> **OUR VERDICT**
> The best thing about Registrar Registry Manager is that it provides stacks of extra features that make the software easier to use. The search and navigation tools in particular are a huge improvement over Regedit's, making this a much more attractive alternative.

Spybot RegAlyzer | www.safer-networking.org | ★★★★☆
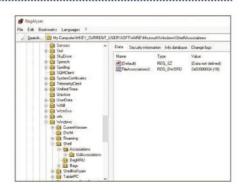**FEATURES** ★★★★☆ **PERFORMANCE** ★★★★★ **EASE OF USE** ★★★☆☆

What we liked:
RegAlyzer looks basic and has a very similar appearance to the built-in Windows Regedit tool, but don't let its ultra-simple interface fool you. Despite having very few options openly visible, there's a surprising amount of power available if you take the time to explore.

It doesn't add many extra tools beyond what Regedit already has, but it refines them significantly. There's a better bookmarks manager, which lets you create folders and arrange your files as you like. The search tool is a lot more sophisticated, too, and provides many more search options than Regedit, including searching by date and providing a handy list of all the results.

RegAlyzer saves a log of any changes you make, so you have a handy record of what you've done in case things go wrong. This can be used to roll back any individual changes you've made without having to restore an entire back-up.

How it can be improved:
Because it hides its tools away and doesn't provide the quick access of a toolbar, RegAlyzer isn't as easy to learn as our other award-winning programs.

OUR VERDICT
RegAlyzer's basic interface hides a lot of sophistication in its menus and windows, and it can take time to get used to the interface and work out where everything is. Once you're familiar with it, though, you'll find it a perfectly straightforward tool with lots of added extras.

O&O RegEditor | www.oo-software.com | ★★★★☆
FEATURES ★★★★☆ **PERFORMANCE** ★★★★☆ **EASE OF USE** ★★★★☆
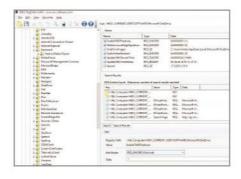
What we liked:
O&O's RegEditor is a simple tool that will look familiar to users of the standard Regedit, adding a few useful extra features rather than overhauling the entire process. The search tool is much improved, listing search results in a panel at the bottom of the screen; just click a result and it will open in the side bar to the left and display the key information above. There's also a Path bar, so you can type or paste a path to go straight to it, or easily copy the path of the location you're currently at.

The process of editing keys is very similar to the Windows version, with drop-down options keeping the look of the interface simple. This makes it easier to get used to than the more complex options available in the Gold Award-winning Registrar.

O&O's software can be used without installing, so you can save it to a USB stick and carry it around, which is handy if you often find yourself fixing other people's computers.

How it can be improved:
The bookmarking system is presented as a simple list of favourites. If you have a lot, the list can become long and unwieldy, and they can't be arranged into folders in the way Registrar's can.

OUR VERDICT
Because it's very similar to the basic Windows version, it's easy to think RedEditor doesn't offer much, but it's worth exploring because most of the tools have been enhanced significantly.

BEST OF THE REST

Regmagik
www.regmagik.com
Regmagik's interface provides lots of toolbar buttons, giving you quick access to options that you can also get to from the menus. While some of the tools are more sophisticated than those in Regedit, we found it lagged a bit behind the award-winners. However, if you're after a shorter step up from Regedit, and find our top three too complicated, then this might be worth a try.

NirSoft RegScanner
www.nirsoft.net
If you're happy using Regedit but just want something that's better at finding the keys you're looking for, then RegScanner is ideal. It's a fantastic search tool that makes it easy to find the Registry settings you want to tweak, but double-clicking on the result simply opens the Regedit tool rather than providing editing tools of its own.

Reg
bit.ly/regtool385
Reg looks like a promising open-source tool but it's been around for a while and is still on version 1.0. As a result, it didn't work well on our Windows 10 test machine, and threw up an error as soon as we launched it. With better-supported alternatives available, Reg was a bit of a disappointment.

Solve problems using hidden menus

There's more to your favourite software than meets the eye. **Wayne Williams** reveals secret options in programs and apps that unlock new features and fix problems

Access the hidden Windows Start menu

There's a second Start menu in Windows 8.1 and Windows 10, which offers instant access to several useful features. To open it, you just right-click rather than left-click the Start button. From here, you can quickly access system tools such as Power Options, Device Manager, Disk Management and Command Prompt (regular and admin mode versions), and also launch the Task Manager, Control Panel, File Explorer, Search and Run functions. You can shut down Windows from here, too, or go straight to the Windows Desktop, minimising all open windows in the process.

Use Shift to unlock more Windows options

The right-click context menu in Windows brings up a lot of different options, depending on where you are in the operating system and what you're doing (hence the 'context' part of its name). However, the menu you see may not show all the available options. To display bonus commands, hold down the Shift key when right-clicking the Desktop or in File Explorer (or other places). These extra commands let you carry out a variety of actions such as copy a file path or expand the Send To options to include more destinations.

Open the Battery Settings menu in iOS 9

Apple introduced a new Low Power Mode in iOS 9, which automatically springs into life when your iPhone or iPad battery life drops to 20% (and again at 10%). There is a new, built-in Battery Settings menu, which lets you turn this mode on any time, and also shows which of your installed apps drains the battery the most (it's probably Facebook or Safari). To access this menu, tap Settings, scroll down and tap Battery. Tap any of the apps in the list, or the small clock icon in the top-right corner, and the menu will reveal how much time each app has been running both onscreen and in the background.

Access Android's hidden Developer Options

There is a secret menu tucked away in Android that lets you access special options that change the way your phone or tablet works. For example, you can force applications to use 2D hardware acceleration; increase the speed of animations to make everything feel snappier; and stop apps running in the background when they're no longer required. Unlike most mobile menus, this one really is hidden. To access it, go to Settings, choose 'About phone' or 'About tablet' in the System section and scroll down to 'Build number'. Tap this seven times, then go back to Settings. You'll see a new Developer Options menu toward the bottom that effectively turns you into an Android power user!

Use Android's secret codes

All Android phones have secret codes built into them that let you perform useful tasks. To use these codes, simply enter the relevant characters on your keypad. Not all codes work with all devices, and there are special codes for Samsung and HTC phones that you can find by searching the web. Try the following to get started:

*#06#
Displays your phone's IMEI number (International Mobile Station Equipment Identity), which identifies your phone to help you recover it if it's lost or stolen

##273283*255*663282*#*#*
Backs up all the photos and videos on your device

##7594#*#*
Turns off your device without displaying the Power menu

##4636#*#*
Displays information about your phone, including battery usage and Wi-Fi

##7780#*#*
Performs a factory reset (so be careful!)

*2767*3855#
Wipes the phone completely (so again, be careful!).

##1472365#*#*
Tests your GPS

Reload sites in Safari for iOS 9

Here's a simple trick you can use for those times when a site doesn't display as it should on your iPhone or iPad.

Press down on the Refresh button in the address bar for a couple of seconds, and a small menu will pop up at the bottom of the screen. From here, you can request the Desktop version of a site (if you're viewing the mobile one) and reload the page to view all available content.

Access iOS's hidden Field Test settings

There's a hidden Field Test screen in iOS, which mostly includes baffling advanced settings, but it also offers the useful option to display the signal strength on your iPhone in numbers rather than bars. To access this screen, turn off Wi-Fi, dial *3001#12345#* and press Call. From the Field Test menu, hold down the Power button until you see 'Slide to Power Off', then release it. Hold the Home button until you're returned to the main screen, and you'll now see numbers showing your signal strength. Tap the numbers to switch back to bars.

ACCESS NETFLIX'S SECRET MENU

Netflix automatically manages streaming based on your connection, but you can manually manage buffering via a hidden settings menu, which may fix streaming problems. If you're watching on a computer, press Shift+Alt on a PC, or Shift+Option on a Mac, and left-click the video. If this doesn't work in Chrome, press Ctrl+Alt+Shift+S to bring up the Stream Manager. On a Smart TV, Blu-ray Player or game console, you'll need to enter a special code. On your remote control or games controller, and press: Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, Up, Up, Up, Up. This brings up a secret menu you can use to tweak the settings.

Boost Firefox using secret tweaks

There are lots of advanced settings tucked away in Firefox, which change the way the browser behaves and can fix many annoyances. To access these hidden options, type `about:config` into the address bar, and hit Enter. A warning screen will be displayed, alerting you that "Here be dragons!". Read the details, then click: 'I'll be careful I promise!'. You'll be presented with a long list of preferences that you can configure to perform tasks such as speeding up the browser, customising how it looks and disabling unwanted features. However, it's far from obvious what each option does, so you should do some research before you make any changes. You can discover the meaning of each entry at bit.ly/aboutconfig385.

Be first in line to try Chrome's future features

Chrome has a selection of experimental features hidden away, which often include useful new tools that Google plans to introduce in future versions of the browser. If you want to try these before everyone else, type `chrome://flags` into the address bar and press Enter. Google warns that these experiments "may bite", and also change, break or disappear at any time.
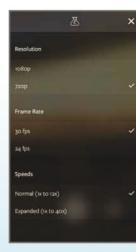
Unlike Firefox's about:config menu, it's more obvious what each setting on this secret page does because entries are accompanied by short descriptions

and the experiments are easily enabled or disabled. That said, it's important to understand what impact the changes will have on your browser, so don't alter anything if you aren't certain of the repercussions.

Get advanced video options in Hyperlapse

Hyperlapse from Instagram (bit.ly/hyperlapse385) lets you shoot impressive timelapse videos on your iPhone or iPad. The app offers digital stabilisation and all you need do is tap a single button to start recording. Although Hyperlapse doesn't have any settings to tinker with, there is a hidden menu you can summon by tapping the screen four times with four fingers. This lets you switch the recording resolution from 720p (the default) to 1080p, and lower the frame rate from 30fps to 24fps. You can also switch between normal (1x to 12x) and expanded (1x to 40x) speeds.

Broadband Deals

Take a Screen Break

Give your eyes a rest from your computer by taking our fiendish fortnightly challenges. Can you unravel our system-tool themed word search and guess our movie-title emoji?

WEB USER WORD SEARCH

Can you find the following system tools in the grid on the right? Names may appear vertically, horizontally or diagonally, and forwards or backwards

AUTORUNS
BLEACHBIT
CCLEANER
DEFRAGGLER
RECUVA
SPACESNIFFER
SPEEDFAN
SPECCY
ULTRADEFRAG
WINUTILITIES

```
D  T  U  N  K  U  W  H  A  N  X  S
E  M  U  E  A  T  T  U  X  I  P  D
F  M  I  U  C  F  T  Z  Z  A  J  R
R  I  W  E  H  O  D  R  C  P  Z  B
A  U  L  T  R  A  D  E  F  R  A  G
G  W  R  U  V  D  S  P  E  C  C  Y
G  R  N  U  I  N  U  L  B  P  I  H
L  S  C  O  I  Y  F  E  L  A  S  E
E  E  A  F  R  E  N  A  E  L  C  C
R  B  F  B  L  E  A  C  H  B  I  T
S  E  I  T  I  L  I  T  U  N  I  W
R  E  C  N  E  R  U  A  L  I  H  U
```

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE FILM TITLES FROM THE EMOJI?

1 🐘 👨

2 ⬆️ ↖️

3 🔪 🏃

4 👀 👂 👄 ✋ ❓

Get the answers online at **www.webuser.co.uk/quiz385**

COMPETITIONS

WIN 1 OF 6
MAGIX Music Maker Live 2016

WORTH £69.99 EACH

The latest version of MAGIX's excellent music-creation software lets you drag and drop sounds from genres, including hip hop, techno and 80s. The new Choir tool gives you full control over a choir - female, male or mixed voice. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'music maker' in the subject line. For more information, visit www.magix.com/gb and follow @MAGIX_INT on Twitter.

WIN 1 OF 6
olloCase for iPhone 6

WORTH £24.99 EACH

The new olloCase for iPhone 6 is designed to work seamlessly with the olloclip lens systems. It has rubber bumpers for complete control and a sturdy scratch-resistant back for extra protection. We're giving away six grey cases in this competition – it's also available in orange, white and black.
To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'ollocase' in the subject line. For more info, visit www.olloclip.com and follow @olloclip on Twitter.
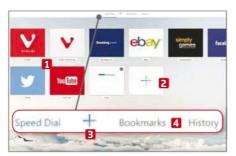
Browse the web using Vivaldi
vivaldi.com

Vivaldi is a new web browser from the former CEO of Opera. It's recently been updated with extra features, including support for Chrome extensions. Here's what you need to know

Most people tend to stick with the big-name web browsers – Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer and Opera – but there are many smaller, more interesting alternatives available. Vivaldi has received a lot of attention thanks to its pedigree – coming as it does from Jon S von Tetzchner, the

co-founder of Opera – and has notched up over 2 million downloads since its launch in January. We looked at Vivaldi's 'technical preview' in Web User 366, when it was far from complete and missing many big features. It's now a polished beta release that could well serve to replace your existing browser.

ADAPTIVE INTERFACE
The browser changes its colour based on the site you're viewing. Visit Facebook, for example, and the browser will be blue

1 Open a new tab and you'll be greeted with the Speed Dial page. As with most of the big browsers, this displays thumbnails of your favourite sites. **1** You can add locations **2** and create new folders by clicking the plus symbol at the top of the page. **3** You can also browse bookmarks and history. **4**

2 The narrow sidebar on the left **1** provides access to bookmarks, Vivaldi Mail (not currently available), downloads, notes and a new Web Panels tool (the plus icon), for easy access to your favourite sites. Click a button to open the tool in a resizable side panel. **2**
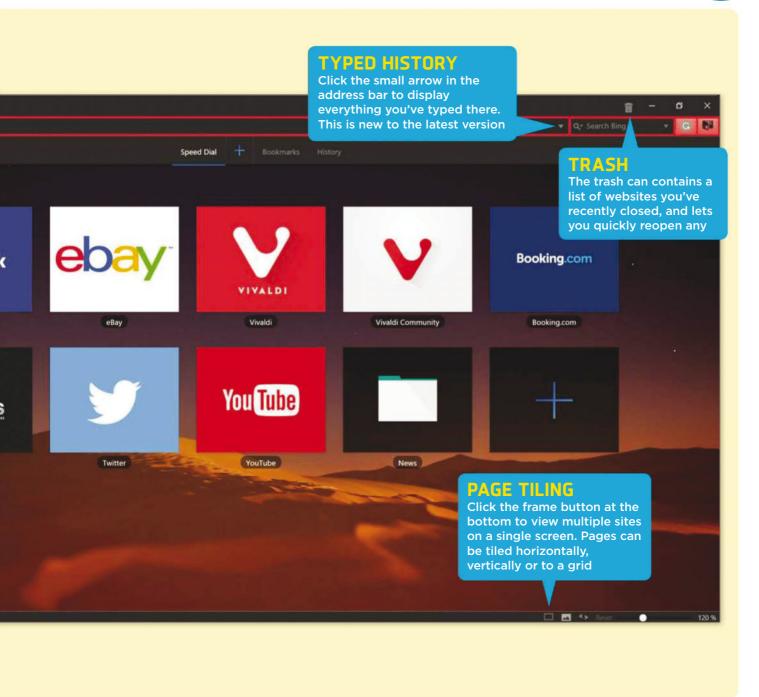
3 From the Web Panels tool, enter the address of a favourite site, such as Facebook. The site will open in a panel. **1** You can then log into it, **2** if you need to. Resize the panel to your preference. You can add as many sites as you like, and each one can be accessed via its tab in the sidebar. **3**

4 Vivaldi now supports Chrome add-ons and says its browser can handle "most extensions made for Chrome". Type `vivaldi://extensions` into the address bar to manage your installed add-ons. **1** Click 'Get more extensions' **2** to open the Chrome Web Store to find and add new ones.

5 Vivaldi lets you group tabs together, which is handy if you have several open. Just drag and drop one tab on to another to create a group. The thin line at the top of the tab **1** shows how many sites are included, and lets you switch to a particular one. Hover over a group to see previews of the sites it contains. **2**
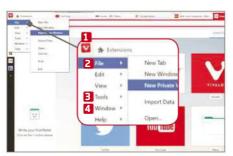
TYPED HISTORY
Click the small arrow in the address bar to display everything you've typed there. This is new to the latest version

TRASH
The trash can contains a list of websites you've recently closed, and lets you quickly reopen any

PAGE TILING
Click the frame button at the bottom to view multiple sites on a single screen. Pages can be tiled horizontally, vertically or to a grid

Speed Dial   Bookmarks   History

eBay   Vivaldi   Vivaldi Community   Booking.com

Twitter   YouTube   News

6 Click the Page Actions arrows at the bottom of the browser **1** to see a menu of options that let you change the look of websites. 'Content blocker' **2** removes ads, and the filters change the colours. **3** 'Skewed images' skews all pictures, while Transform 3D lets you rock the page from side to side. **4**

7 Vivaldi is highly customisable. Click the cog icon at the bottom of the sidebar **1** to open the settings window. Startup **2** lets you change the default homepage and choose which pages open with the browser. You can change the look of the Start Page **3** and manage the tab layout and behaviour under Tabs.

8 Click the Vivaldi logo in the top-left corner **1** to access the browser menu. The File menu **2** lets you create new tabs and new windows, and access private-browsing mode. Tools **3** lets you view extensions, clear private-browsing data, and more. The Window menu **4** lets you jump to any currently open page.
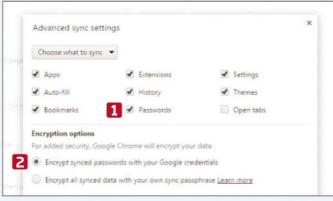
Sync your passwords securely with Google

Google Chrome: www.google.co.uk/chrome | 🕐 10 mins | 🪟 XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10

Chrome's built-in password manager makes it easy to sync your login details across all your devices, and its experimental features can be set up to make it as powerful as many purpose-built password managers. Once the browser is set to save your passwords, a pop-up offering to save your credentials will appear each time you log into a new site. And with password syncing activated, your details will be filled automatically when you next visit the site, regardless of which device you use. You just log into passwords.google.com from any browser to manage your passwords. It even works with Android Lollipop's Smart Lock feature to automatically log you into your favourite Android apps.

In this Workshop, we show you how to set up Chrome as a password manager and configure its chrome://flags settings to use experimental tools, including a secure password generator and a 'force saving' option that offers to save passwords even for websites that normally stop the browser from doing so.

1 Open Chrome, click the menu button and select Settings. Check that you're signed in to your Google account, then click 'Advanced sync settings' and make sure that Passwords **1** is ticked. The encryption mode should be set to 'Encrypt synced passwords with your Google credentials'. **2**

2 Return to the Settings page and search the menu for 'passwords'. **1** Tick 'Offer to save your web passwords' **2** and 'Enable Auto-fill to complete web forms in a single click' **3** if you want Chrome to save and auto-fill personal information including addresses and credit card details.

3 Later, you can manage your saved passwords and auto-fill information from this menu by clicking the appropriate links. **1** To access your passwords from another device, visit passwords.google.com and sign into your account.

4 To start using Google's password manager, visit a website and sign in. A pop-up appears in the address bar asking if you want Chrome to save your login details for the site. **1** Select 'Save password', **2** Never **3** or click the 'X' **4** to make the decision another time.
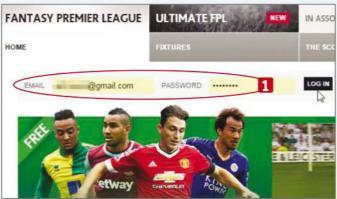
5 Log out, visit the website again and your username (or email address) and password will be filled automatically by Chrome. **1** If you've saved more than one account, click the username field to select the account you want from the drop-down menu.

6 Type `chrome://flags` **1** into the address bar, then press Ctrl+F and search for 'password'. **2** 'Enable password generation' is an experimental feature that lets you set Chrome to generate random, secure passwords when you create new accounts online. **3**

7 Select Enable from the drop-down menu, relaunch Chrome, then visit a website you want to set up an account with. When you click the Password box, a pop-up appears displaying a suggested password. **1** Click it and Chrome will save the password once you've finished creating your account.

8 Chrome might not ask to save your login details for some sites, but you can force it to do so by activating 'Enable force-saving of passwords'. **1** If you want to save passwords automatically, without a prompt, for every site you log into, click Enable below 'Save passwords automatically'. **2**

9 To reveal a password from Chrome's settings page's 'Manage passwords' pop-up, you're asked to enter your Windows password. If you're the only person who uses your PC, you can stop this by clicking the Enable link below 'Disable Password Manager Reauthentication'. **1**

10 Your saved passwords will be synced to your mobile browser if password syncing is turned on in the Chrome app. Android devices running Lollipop or later also have a feature called Smart Lock, **1** which signs you into apps as well as websites.
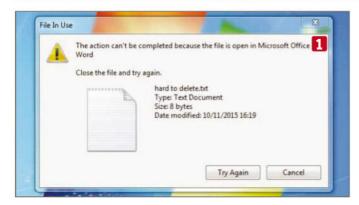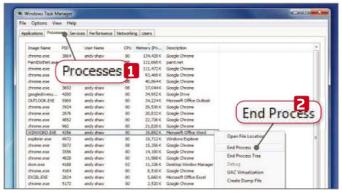
Delete undeletable files

Every now and again, you'll encounter a stubborn file that refuses to let you delete it, for no apparent reason. Usually, it's because the file is tied up by another program that won't release it, but it isn't always obvious which program this might be. Here, we look at some tricks you can use to release and delete your undeletable files.

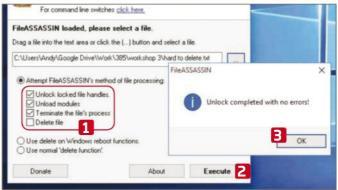**Malwarebytes FileAssassin: bit.ly/file385** | ⏱ **10 mins** | 🏁 **XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10**

1 Before you download any software, check that the file you're trying to delete isn't just locked by some other software. Windows offers clues to this, letting you know if it's being used by another process. **1** If you can't close the program as normal, it might have crashed.

2 Right-click the taskbar and choose Task Manager or Start Task Manager. Check whether the program is on the Applications tab and, if it isn't, look for it on the Processes tab. **1** Either way, right-click on the culprit and choose End Task or End Process. **2**

3 If that doesn't work, use a file-deleting tool such as Malwarebytes FileAssassin (bit.ly/file385). Download, install and run it – it will ask for Administrator rights. Click the three-dot button **1** to select a file to delete. Some versions of Windows let you drag and drop the file to the text box. **2**

4 The default settings **1** attempt to remove and shut down all running references to the file, including the process (program) that's running it. Note that the 'Delete file' option isn't ticked. Click Execute **2** to try these default settings. Click OK on the pop-up, **3** then try deleting the file.

5 If that doesn't work, try repeating the process with the 'Delete file' option ticked. **1** You could also try rebooting the PC and trying again, which might help Windows or the culpable program release its grasp on the file.

6 If a startup program is claiming the file, select the 'Use delete on Windows reboot functions' option **1** and click Execute. **2** This won't remove the file immediately, but it will have a good stab at it the next time you reboot your PC, before the usual startup programs can get hold of it.

Control which Android apps can access the web

Because mobile networks limit the amount of data we use, it's important to stop apps from eating into your precious allowance without you realising. NetGuard makes this possible, connecting to the internet via a VPN to give you a fine level of control over how and when your apps can access the web. By granting access only via Wi-Fi (or when your screen is on), the app also helps to preserve your battery life.

NetGuard: bit.ly/netguard385 | ⏱ **10 mins** | 🤖 **Android 5.0+**
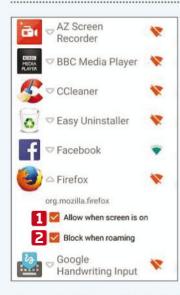
1 Install NetGuard, open the app and tap OK to agree to its public licence agreement. Tap the switch to enable it. **1** A message appears **2** warning that it uses a VPN to block internet traffic. Tap OK, **3** then OK again to activate the VPN.
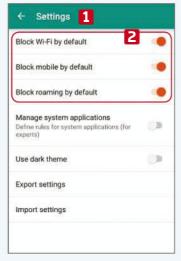
2 A key icon appears in the status bar, representing the active VPN connection. **1** By default, all manually installed apps are blocked from using the internet via both Wi-Fi and your mobile data connection. To allow access, tap the appropriate buttons, which will turn from orange to green. **2**
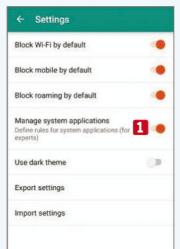
3 Selecting an app's name opens a sub-menu that gives you further control over how and when it accesses the internet. To give an app internet access when your device is in use, tap 'Allow when screen is on'. **1** By default, roaming is blocked for all apps. **2**

4 In the right-hand column, icons indicate the advanced settings you've chosen for each app. **1** After giving an app internet access (via mobile data or when the screen is on), NetGuard lets you enable roaming by unticking the 'Block when roaming' option. **2**

5 If you have a long list of apps, you can use NetGuard's search tool to find the one you want. Tap the three-dot menu button and select Settings to open the app's settings menu. **1** Here, you can choose whether you want to block access to Wi-Fi, mobile data and roaming by default. **2**

6 Even when NetGuard is set to block internet access for all apps, Google apps including Gmail and Drive will continue to sync. You can prevent this by using NetGuard's 'Manage system applications' option, **1** but only do this if you're confident fiddling with advanced settings. Otherwise, open Android's Settings menu and tap Accounts to manage your Google account.

How to... Get more from your phone's GPS tools

There's more to GPS tools than getting directions. **Wayne Williams** tries out some new and fun ways to use this handy technology

The days of needing a standalone Global Positioning System (GPS) device for your driving or walking directions are long gone. All you need now is a smartphone. Whether you want to know the quickest way to get to a friend's house by car or are lost in the countryside and trying to find your way back to civilisation before nightfall, your handy iPhone or Android device has you covered. However, GPS isn't only good for pinpointing your location in Google Maps and there are plenty of other uses for your device's global-positioning capabilities. Here are some suggestions.

Go Geocaching

Geocaching is a giant worldwide scavenger hunt, in which you seek out 'caches' hidden by other players. The size and type of the items can vary, but they are most often trinkets with sentimental rather than financial value. To get started, you need the GPS co-ordinates of the first cache, which you might find on a geocaching forum or a site such as Geocaching.com (www.geocaching.com).

Once you've got the co-ordinates, you use your phone to visit the location and find the cache. The rules of the game may differ slightly from one service to another but, typically, once you find a cache, you take the item inside, replace it with something of your choosing (for the next player to find), sign the log book, share your find online and move on to the next cache.

Geocaching.com is a great place to start because it has more than 2.5 million geocaches in over 185 countries and more than 10 million registered users so, unless you live somewhere particularly remote, you should be able to find a cache within walking distance of your location. You can play anywhere, so if you're going on holiday, you might be able to find geocaches near to where you're staying.

Geocaching.com is free to use but, if

Geocaching.com has thousands of caches hidden all over the world

Once you've found a cache, you sign the logbook and log your find online. Kids will enjoy swapping a prize from the cache

you're enjoying the experience, there's a paid-for Premium version available, which gives you access to more features and geocaches. This costs £24.99 a year (you can choose between auto-renewal and non-renewing memberships), or £7.99 for a three-month auto-renewing membership. This last option is useful if you just want to try out the premium features or go geocaching in the summer, when the weather's better. Remember to cancel your membership before the renewal kicks in, though.

There are also free and paid-for apps for Android, iOS and Windows Phone, and the iOS version offers an Apple Watch app, so you can check your position from your wrist without needing to hold your phone.

To help you get started with geocaching, see our Mini Workshops, below and on page 61.

Play GPS-based games
There are lots of other GPS-based games you can take part in using your mobile, such as Geo Crash: Stolen Rolls Royce

from Locomatrix (geos.locomatrix.com). This is a fairly simple game, suitable for all ages, the aim of which is to solve the mystery of why the Geo family stole the mayor's Rolls Royce and ended up in jail. You need to go to a large open area, such as a field or park, and walk around 'recovering' dropped personal items. It's available for iOS and Android devices.

Niantic Inc (a sister company to Google) produces the excellent Ingress (www.ingress.com), an augmented reality game set in the real world. The idea is to find portals, tap energy and acquire objects. GPS For Ingress (gpsforingress

GPS games are becoming increasingly popular – Pokemon Go is coming soon!

.com) is an unofficial app that provides directions to Ingress Portals.

Nintendo and the Pokemon Company have teamed up with Niantic to make a Pokemon geolocation game called Pokemon Go (bit.ly/ pokemon385). This will be released for iPhone and Android devices next year, and looks like it could be very good.

Find your lost car
We've all done it from time to time: parked the car in a busy car park or a side street in an unfamiliar town, then forgotten exactly where we left it. Using GPS to locate your vehicle is much more reliable than wandering around until you find it again. All you need to do is mark the location of your parking spot in a GPS app before leaving the vehicle, then navigate back to it later.

Go on a tour
GPS driving, walking and cycling tours are available for lots of countries. You'll find some good ones to follow at www .gps-tour.info. When you find a tour you like the sound of, scan the QR code and add the tour to your phone. However, a lot of the tours on the site are in German.

You can bring Ordnance Survey maps to your iPhone or iPad by using the meanderingly titled OutDoors GPS-Navigation, OS Maps and 200,000 Routes (outdoorsgps.com/products). It lets you

---

⚙ MINI WORKSHOP | Get started on Geocaching.com

1 To begin, sign up for a free account through Facebook or by entering your email, username and password. Once logged in, click Play at the top of the page **1** and select 'Find a Geocache'. Click inside the search box **2** to enter the name of a place you want to search for geocaches, or your current location.

2 You'll be presented with a list of nearby geocaches, some of which will be premium-only. Click a geocache to find out information about it, including a description **1** and map. **2** The co-ordinates are displayed **3** and you can enter these manually or download the waypoint to your device. **4**

3 The Play link also lets you open a map containing all the geocaches logged on the site. You can browse around or search for a geocache by address or co-ordinates. **1** Click an item on the map for details about it, including its size and difficulty. **2** Cache filtering **3** is only available to Premium members.

WebUser
Bookstore

GPS Tour can help you find the best spots in an unfamiliar location

Lots of major cities have audio tours – we like the Cities Talking app

You won't get lost in new cities if you use spoken directions from the Maps.me app

create your own routes or download one to follow. While the app itself is free, you'll need to subscribe to individual regions, and these are rather pricey. Most regions are £9.99, but the Lake District will set you back £25. If you want smaller maps of specific areas, the OS MapFinder app (bit.ly/osmap385) sells sections of the OS's Explorer and Landranger maps for between £2.29 and 69p.

Cities Talking (citiestalking.com) is available for iOS and Android, and offers audio tours of cities around the world. The app uses GPS to track your location and provides audio voiced by local celebrities. For example, Christopher Biggins is the narrator for London. Each tour costs £4.99.

Get spoken walking directions
Maps.me (maps.me) for iPhone and

Android provides downloadable maps of all countries and most cities, so it doesn't require an internet connection when you use it. One of its cleverest features is the walking directions, which provides turn-by-turn spoken instructions to get you from one place to another. You can use it to guide you around rural or urban locations, and the instructions are very easy to follow.
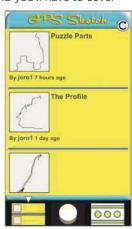
Create your own GPS art
People have been plotting their movements to make drawings for as long as there have been GPS devices, so this isn't a completely new idea, but GPS-A-Sketch for iPhone (www.gps-a-sketch.com) makes it easy for anyone to turn their travels into Etch-A-Sketch-style art. Make sure 'location services' is active on your phone and then start moving.

You need to walk, run, bike or travel at least 30m (around 100 feet) to draw a line in the app, and you'll have to cover quite a lot of distance to create anything that could be deemed an artwork. You can stop and start recording at any time, and GPS-A-Sketch comes with an Apple Watch app so you can record and view your artworks on your wrist.

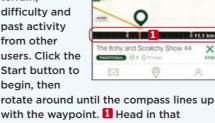*Make your own art by tracking your movements via GPS*

⚙ MINI WORKSHOP | Use your phone to go geocaching

1 You can use any GPS app, although if you're on a quest from Geocaching.com, it's worth downloading the official app. Log in with your account details and you'll see a

map of your current location. The dark dots **1** are available geocaches, while the grey ones **2** are premium only. Tap one to get information about it. **3**

2 Drag the geocache title up the screen to view additional details, such as a description (and who set it), size, terrain, difficulty and past activity from other users. Click the Start button to begin, then

rotate around until the compass lines up with the waypoint. **1** Head in that direction, paying careful attention to the compass.

3 The app can also display a traditional compass that shows the direction you should head in, **1** the distance remaining **2** and your current location and geocache destination. **3**

Tap the icon in the top sidebar to access it. When you find the cached item, you can log it in the app. Did Not Find (DNF) items can also be logged.

NEXT ISSUE **How To...** Add USB hardware to your Android device

On sale Wednesday 16 Dec

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Subscribe to **Webuser** today and save on the single issue price.

Each issue of **Web user** will be delivered directly to your device each fortnight.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE...

...on an iPad or iPhone

STEP 1   Return to the *Web user* library

STEP 2   Choose your subscription term and tap twice on the 'price' box

STEP 3   Choose whether to create an optional PixelMags account

STEP 4   Enter your Apple ID password to confirm

Download on the App Store

...on a Kindle Fire

Kindle Fire subscriptions come with a FREE one month trial.

STEP 1   Tap 'Free Trial Subscription' in the *Web user* library

STEP 2   Chose your subscription term from the drop down menu on the popup that appears

STEP 3   Tap 'Subscribe'

available on kindle fire

...via the Zinio app

STEP 1   Search for *Web user* via the search box in the Shop tab

STEP 2   Tap the 'Subscribe' button

STEP 3   Choose whether to create an optional Zinio account

STEP 4   Enter your Apple ID password to confirm

Subscribe to *Web user* today and save on the single issue price
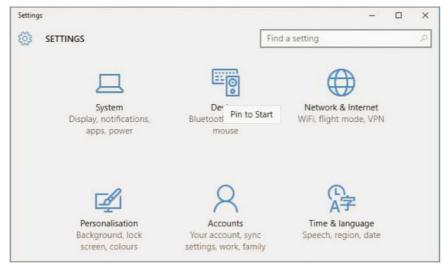
Web User's Top Tips

How to master Windows 10's configuration tools as Microsoft continues to phase out the Control Panel

TOP TIPS FOR WINDOWS 10 SETTINGS AND CONTROL PANEL

Pin important settings to the Start menu

You know that apps and programs can be pinned to the Start menu, but did you know that settings can, too? Click Start, Settings and right-click any section. 'Pin to Start' will add the setting as a tile on the Start menu. Open a section in the Settings app, such as Personalisation, and any of the items on the left can also be pinned by right-clicking them.

In fact, anything in the Settings app can be pinned. You can create a collection of tiles on the Start menu to access your favourite or most used settings, which saves time and effort when hunting for them in the Settings app. The fastest way to open Settings is to press Windows+I. Touchscreen users can tap instead of clicking items.

Pin your favourite settings to the Start menu to make them easier to find

Control Panel shortcuts

Microsoft introduced PC Settings with Windows 8, bringing some of the tools from the Control Panel into a new interface. When Windows 8.1 arrived, Microsoft moved over a few more settings. Windows 10's Settings (the 'PC' has been dropped), has more settings than ever, but the Control Panel is still there – for now.

It's clear where Microsoft is going with this, but the current transitional state inconveniently splits settings between the new Settings app and the old Control Panel: some Windows settings are exclusive to the Settings app, some are only in the Control Panel and some are in both. To see an example, click

Start, Settings, Personalisation, Themes. Click 'Theme settings' on the right and the Control Panel opens. You'll then have to make your adjustments from there. At other times, clicking an item in the Control Panel takes you to Settings.

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.

Control Panel jump lists help you get to your most used tools

This means that you still need the Control Panel to access certain settings. You can get to it from 'All apps' in the Start menu, by scrolling all the way to the bottom and opening Windows System. You can then right-click the Control Panel icon and select 'Pin to Start', so you can access it using a Start menu tile. You can also pin it to the taskbar, which is actually quite useful in Windows 10, because right-clicking the tile displays a jump list menu of shortcuts to some of the Panel's most recently used tools.

Search for settings

Sometimes, the easiest way to find a Windows setting is to search for it, and you can do this from within the Settings app. Click Start, Settings, click inside the search box in the top-right corner and enter a word that you think might appear in the setting you're looking for. For example, if it's something to do with Wi-fi, then type `wi-fi` or `wifi` (either will work). This shows settings

such as 'Change WiFi settings', 'Flight mode', 'Turn wireless devices on or off', 'Radio privacy settings' and more.

Another way is to click the search box in the taskbar and type a word or phrase. The search results often contain settings, which have a gear icon next to them. If you don't see the setting you're looking for, click My Stuff at the bottom of the search panel and scroll down to the Settings section. All the settings results will be listed.

Like the Settings app, the Control Panel also has a search box in the top-right corner. Open Control Panel and type a word into its search box to see every setting containing that word.

Find settings by searching for them in Settings or Control Panel

Click everything to find new tools

Some actions and tools in Settings are not obvious. For example, you might not have expected to be able to right-click items and pin them to the Start menu. Other items in Settings hide unexpected features, so our advice is to left- and right-click everything to see what happens. For example, if you click Start, Settings, System, Storage, you'll see a graphic display on the right showing the amount of drive space used and the total space available. You can then click this to display a further breakdown of the usage, which shows the space used by apps and games, documents, pictures, photos and so on.

Many links in Settings aren't immediately apparent, such as this Storage usage page
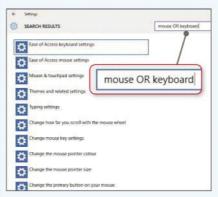
TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL
More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

Fix the Settings tool
A small number of people have had problems opening the Settings app after upgrading to Windows 10. If this applies to you, try running the Microsoft troubleshooter tool linked to by a user called 'faniko' on the Windows 10 Forums at bit.ly/sett385 – you have to download the file and run it. There is also a similar Windows apps troubleshooter tool in a link posted by Kapil Arya on the Microsoft Community forum at bit.ly/apps385, which might also help.

Advanced searching
When you search for settings in the Settings app or in the Control Panel, logical operators such as AND, OR and NOT can be used, but you have to enter them in capitals. If you type `mouse or keyboard` into the Settings or Control Panel's search boxes, then the exact phrase is searched for. But if you want to find settings for either the mouse or the keyboard, type `mouse OR keyboard` and a long list of results are found that contain one keyword or the other. To find only mouse settings that do not mention the keyboard, search for `mouse NOT keyboard`.
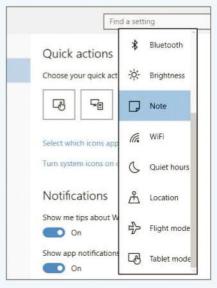
Use logical operators to help refine your searches

Activate God Mode
Another way to find settings is to use God Mode. This doesn't give you supernatural powers, as the name might lead you to believe, it's just a list of Control Panel settings organised into categories and sorted alphabetically. Right-click an empty part of the Desktop and select New, Folder. Click the folder's name and rename it:

```
GodMode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}
```

Choose the four quick-action tiles you want to see in Action Centre

Customise quick actions
Some settings are available in the Action Centre, which can to some extent be customised. Click the Action Centre's icon in the Taskbar's notification area. There are three rows of four tiles with settings; if you only see one row, click the Expand link.

The top row of tiles can be changed, so you can bring your favourite settings to the top. Go to Start, Settings, System, 'Notifications & actions'. There are four tiles at the top under 'Quick actions'. Click each one to see a menu of alternative actions. Click the one you want to use.

View internet usage
Whether you're trying to stay within your ISP's limits or you're just curious to see how much downloading and uploading goes on behind the scenes, it can be useful to keep track of how much internet data you use. There is a useful tool in Settings that lets you do this. Click Start, Settings, Network & Internet, 'Data usage'. On the right, you'll see your Wi-Fi and Ethernet usage displayed.

Right-click 'Data usage' on the left and select 'Pin to Start' to add it as a tile on the Start menu. This is a live tile that will update with a display of data usage, your external IP address (how the world identifies you), and internal IP address (how other devices on your network identify you). If you ever need to know your IP address, this is the easiest place to look for it.

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

GENERAL PC

Keeping tabs on bandwidth hogs

Q Is it possible for programs to start automatically in the background and be using my broadband bandwidth while I am doing other things? If so, how do I find this out and what do I do to stop them?

Is there a free real-time usage monitor that would let me set a daily usage limit in megabytes? Ideally, one that would put a live tile on my Start screen so I could take a quick look before and after I've done something to check on my usage each time I use the computer. I'd like something that's simple, light and won't spy on me.

Maurice Belshaw, via email

A To see which programs are running in the background, right-click the taskbar and select Task Manager, then select the Startup tab. Non-essential programs can be selected and disabled. However, this doesn't record internet usage.

Programs that use the internet include Windows Update and OneDrive syncing, plus a wide range of other software such as Chrome and Firefox updates, security software downloading virus definitions, apps such as News, Mail, Twitter and

Data Usage is a free Windows Store app for monitoring your internet usage

anything else that downloads updates.

Windows has tools to monitor internet usage. In Windows 10, go to Start, Settings, Network & Internet, 'Data usage' to show the amount of data used in the last 30 days. Click the 'Usage details' link to see which programs have accessed the internet and how much data they have used. Your web browser will probably be the heaviest user, but you could look for apps you don't use and uninstall them. Right-click 'Data usage' on the menu and select 'Pin to Start' to add a live tile to the Start menu that displays the last 30 days of internet usage.

An even better alternative is a free app in the Windows Store called Data Usage, which lets you set a monthly data allowance and a billing date. It shows your monthly usage, the allowance remaining, daily average, weekly total, uploads/downloads total and more. It also has a live tile for the Start menu that shows the data you have remaining.

Download Now. Run the program to install the latest version of the ATI graphics driver software. There is also an option to manually select and download the driver software. Use this if you already have the latest driver.

It's easy to clone your account and the process is the same as if you had bought a new computer. Go to Start, 'All programs', Accessories, 'System tools', Windows Easy Transfer. When it asks how you want to transfer items, select 'An external hard disk or USB flash drive'. Select 'This is my old computer' and save your account. The option to save shared items is not necessary because you are not moving to a new computer. Save the file to drive C:\.

Afterwards, go to User Accounts in the Control Panel, click 'Manage another account' and create a new administrator account. Restart Windows and log into the new account. Run Windows Easy Transfer again and select the option to use an external hard disk, but this time select 'This is my new computer' and select the file you saved earlier. It imports all your files and settings.

Use Windows Easy Transfer to clone your account to the same or a new computer

GENERAL PC

Problems with a Windows account

Q I have three user accounts on my PC. One has become corrupted and shows a blacked-out background with white icons and a Windows message saying the CCC has stopped. This all happened after a Microsoft Essentials scan and clean-up. The other two accounts are fine.

System Restore worked but, as soon as I did a new scan (this time with AVG), it rebooted and was blacked out again. It hasn't affected the other two accounts.

I would like to know how I can copy over all my files, folders and settings to a new user account.

Rod Attenborough, via email

A CCC is ATI Catalyst Control Centre, which is part of the video driver software. If it is corrupt or has become outdated, it could result in the blacked-out screen and other effects you describe. You should replace it with a fresh copy, even if it is up to date.

Go to support.amd.com and click Find Your Driver. Under 'Automatically Detect and Install Your Driver', click

HARDWARE

Find Vista drivers for a motherboard

Q I have an MSI B85 motherboard. It has XP video drivers, but no Vista drivers. I can't find any on MSI's website, so how do I install Vista video drivers?

Richad Banker, via email

A Vista drivers could not be located for this motherboard, but a search on eBay turned up a couple of original

driver CDs for just a few pounds. The auctions will have ended by the time you read this, but try searching again because there may be more. Have you tried the XP drivers on your computer? Vista drivers would be better, but you may find the XP drivers are compatible.

MOBILE
Bluetooth handset for overheating phone

Q Using my mobile phone for long conversations makes it heat up around the earpiece. I am looking for a separate handset that can sit in its own charger and connect via Bluetooth to my Windows mobile phone. This apparently isn't available in the UK. I have found a Panasonic handset, but it only mentions Android devices on the box. PC World, Maplin and many other places do not stock such a thing.

Richard Powell, via email

A Bluetooth is a widely supported method for wirelessly connecting two devices. It's hard to think of a current mobile phone that doesn't have Bluetooth, and most phones are designed to be used in hands-free mode with a Bluetooth headset – a handset is no different. It may not state on the box that a device is compatible with your Windows phone, but it would be surprising if it wasn't.

The Sony Smart Bluetooth Handset SBH52 (bit.ly/sony385) works with most phones and, if your phone has NFC, there is an option to simply touch the two devices to pair them. Sony lists the price as £79.99, but stores such as Amazon discount it significantly.

Headsets are more common (and cheaper) than handsets, and there is a wide range available.

You can use a Bluetooth handset to make phone calls instead of your mobile

PRIVACY
Stop Windows 10 phoning home

Q I really enjoyed your article in Issue 380 about Windows 10's privacy settings. I was wondering if it's possible to block the parts of Windows 10 that report your user data to Microsoft, and stop them from accessing the net in the first place? I use ESET Smart Security in interactive mode so I can choose which

O&O ShutUp10 can be used to quickly change the privacy settings in Windows 10

programs are given access to the net. It seems there are lots of Windows programs that want to access the net, but without knowing exactly what they all are, it is hard to know which ones to block and which ones to let through.

Colin Stevenson, via email

A The 13 sub-sections in the Privacy section of Windows 10 Settings contain switches you can turn off to prevent components in Windows from sending data to Microsoft. However, this isn't a complete list of the ways in which Windows 10 'phones home' with data. It may be better to use a good privacy tool such as O&O ShutUp10 (bit.ly/shut385) or Spybot Anti-Beacon (bit.ly/anti385). These programs present privacy settings as simple switches that you can easily turn off.

If you stop Windows 10 from sending data to Microsoft, some features may not work as well. The data is not always

personal and sometimes it is key to making certain services work. For example, you might not want to stop using location services, or stop Cortana from learning about you, and you may want to sync your account information across computers.

Remember that other devices such as your mobile phone also track your location, activities, apps, contacts, photos and more – not just Windows 10!

MOBILE
Facebook app crashes

Q I was using Facebook on my iPad when it suddenly quit and the home screen appeared. I presumed it had crashed. It's happened twice again over the past week. What can I do to fix it?

Mike Griffiths, via email

A There isn't a lot that can be done about apps that crash. It's not common, but it does happen occasionally. Double-tap the home screen to show all the apps suspended in the background and swipe them away. Hold down the sleep/power button until the option to power off appears and select it. Hold down the sleep/power button to restart the iPad.

Go to Settings, General, Software Update to make sure iOS is up to date. Open the App Store, tap Updates at the bottom and update any apps that need it. The next Facebook update might fix it.

HARDWARE
Repair damaged CDs

Q I have an extensive CD collection that I want to transfer to my computer, but a few of the discs are very old and scratched through wear and tear, and will not play. Is there any way they can be repaired so I can copy them to my computer?

Ray Weslake, via email

A There are two methods for repairing scratched CDs: one is to use an abrasive to rub away the scratch and the other is to fill it in. Some people have found that gently rubbing toothpaste (a mild abrasive) into the scratch with a soft cloth helps. Others have used wax polish, petroleum jelly or floor polish to fill in the scratch.

There are CD/DVD cleaning kits

available for around £5 to £20, which are more likely to be effective. For example, Maplin sells a Manual CD/DVD Cleaner and Repairer (bit.ly/disc385) that costs £4.99. You put the disc in the device, turn the handle for 60 rotations to grind it down, then 60 more rotations to polish it up. It is worth trying, but sometimes the scratch is simply too deep to repair.

This cleaner from Maplin will repair damaged music and software discs

This fortnight Roland has installed the new beta version of Windows 10 to explore its new tools

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

ONLINE STORAGE

Check your OneDrive capacity

You reported in Issue 381 of *Web User* that Microsoft is reducing the amount of free OneDrive storage from 15GB to 5GB. If you're wondering how much you are using and whether you are over the new lower limit, there are a couple of ways to find out. One is to right-click OneDrive in the left-hand panel of an Explorer window and select Properties from the menu. The other way is to log into onedrive.live .com and click 'Get more storage' in the bottom-left corner of the homepage. It shows the amount of space used, the total amount you have available and any bonuses you have earned, such as by syncing your mobile-phone photos.

Rachel Morris, via email

Check your OneDrive usage and reduce it below 5GB if necessary

Use Chrome while you use another app on the iPad using the split-screen feature

app and you will be able to search for things, view web pages and so on.

I have an iPad Air and the split screen is only about two-thirds app and one-third Chrome, but on newer iPads you can split the screen in half.

Paul Harrison, via email

WINDOWS 10
Change Wi-Fi priority

I recently noticed that when there are two or more known Wi-Fi networks in range, my Windows laptop always joins the same one, even if its signal strength is weaker. This, apparently, is because Windows 10 is set to give priority to the network you added first, regardless of how strong its connection is. Although I've not found a way of getting Windows 10 to join the networks based on signal strength (which would be most useful),
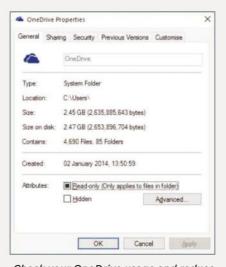
Use Command Prompt to change the priority of different wireless networks

I discovered that you can use the Command Prompt to change the order of priority of your wireless networks.

To do this, run Command Prompt as an administrator, type `netsh wlan show profiles` and press Enter. After the console shows a list of all your known Wi-Fi networks, type `netsh wlan set profileorder name="networkname" interface="Wi-Fi" priority=1` where 'networkname' is the name of the network and the priority number represents the place in the list that you'd like that network to appear. Finally, press Enter and Windows should default to the chosen network the next time there is more than one in range.
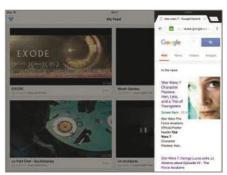
Bob Thornton, via email

MOBILE
Split-screen iPad browsing

If you prefer to use Chrome instead of Safari on an iPad, the latest version lets you use iOS 9's new split-screen mode. After updating Chrome to the latest version, swipe in from the right-hand screen edge while you are using another

GENERAL PC
Fix laptop battery-drain problem

I recently bought an HP Envy laptop that had Windows 8 installed on it. I upgraded it to Windows 10 and everything was running fine, with the exception of one thing: when I turned on the laptop, I noticed the battery percentage was significantly lower than when I'd previously turned it off. I experimented by fully charging it, shutting it down for a few hours, then checking it again and, sure enough, it was always much lower. Searching Google showed lots of other people reporting the same problem after upgrading to Windows 10.

I eventually got to the bottom of this. There's a BIOS setting (which is enabled by default) that states that USB charging can take place if the laptop is sleeping, hibernating and even switched off. This only affects 'charging' ports, which are normally indicated by a lightning symbol next to the port. I had a small Sandisk USB drive permanently plugged into my

laptop and, although it obviously can't be charged, it was still drawing power from the laptop.

One solution would have been to move the USB drive to a non-charging port, but I instead chose to disable the BIOS setting so that I don't have to worry about unplugging things every time I shut down my laptop.

Alan, via email

GENERAL PC
Capture a screen grab

If there's something on the screen that you want to save, such as in a web page, you can grab the screen by pressing the Prt Scn (or Print Screen) key. It can then be pasted into Paint and saved. However, there is an alternative: a Windows 7 tool that I use all the time, but rarely see mentioned anywhere. It is called Snipping Tool and you can find it in Start, All programs, Accessories.

Other screen-capture tools I have tried will grab the whole screen, a window or any rectangular section, but Snipping Tool also offers a freehand option. You can draw any shape you like on the screen and it is copied into the program.

Click the New button in the toolbar, then click the arrow to the right of the New button and select Free-form Snip. Draw around the part of the screen you want to capture and it will be copied into the program. From there. you can save it as a JPEG, PNG or GIF file.

K Murphy, via email

ONLINE STORAGE
Organise folders in Google Drive

Did you know that the web version of Google Drive lets you change the colour of your folders to make organising them a little easier? To do this, right-click a folder, select 'Change colour' and choose from the many available options. From the same menu, you can click 'Add star' to highlight important files and folders that you want to find quickly from the Starred menu in the sidebar.

Jack Gold, Web User Forums

You can colour-code your folders in Google Drive

BROWSERS
Speed up Firefox

After reading Anthony McNee's tip in Issue 381 (bit.ly/webuser381), I decided to try resetting Firefox to see if it would speed up the browser. Unfortunately, it didn't do the trick for me, but I have since discovered a website that helps. Your Online Choices (bit.ly/choices385) stops targeted ads (based on your previous browsing activity) from loading in your browser, and I find that it makes pages load much faster.

I enter a lot of competitions on various different websites and one site suggested that using an ad blocker such as AdBlock Plus could harm my chances of winning. I'm not sure how this works but, because Your Online Choices only stops the ad companies from gathering information about my browsing activity, I can enjoy faster page load times while hopefully not harming my chances on the competition sites. The service lets you individually block any of the 50 or so companies listed, or you can simply click 'Turn off all companies' to stop all targeted ads.

It works using cookies, so if you clear your browsing data, make sure you go back to Your Online Choices to get it working again.

Brommy, Web User Forums

Your Online Choices lets you block adverts that use your browsing activity

iOS
Prevent accidental purchases on iPad

Last week, my grandson bought something on my iPad shortly after I'd paid for a new app and, rather worryingly, he wasn't asked for the password. The in-app purchase he made was inexpensive, so I wasn't worried about having it refunded, but I decided to investigate the matter so that it couldn't happen again. It turns out that the iPad is set by default not to ask for your password on purchases made less than fifteen minutes after your last password-verified purchase, which can be seen as helpful or potentially disastrous, depending on your perspective.

To change this, go to Settings, App and iTunes Stores, then Password Settings. Under Purchases and In-app

Purchases, you can change the setting from Require After 15 Minutes to Always Require. This is well worth knowing if, like me, you've got grandchildren or children who could make dozens of purchases in the space of 15 minutes!

Ian, via email

Set your iPhone or iPad to ask for a password every time you make a purchase

BROWSERS
Extra Firefox searching tools

As a long-time Firefox user, I'm always finding clever tricks it can do. For example, it has some useful features that let you choose what to search.

If you have a lot of tabs open, they will shrink and the titles will disappear. So, if you want to find a particular tab, click in the Firefox address box (not the search box) and type % and a space, then a word or even just a few letters to identify the tab. Search results are listed below, along with a 'Switch to tab' link.

Another useful search option is #, which searches the titles of web pages that you've visited. It ignores URLs. In the address box, type # and a space, then a word that appears in the title of a page. Search with and without the hash if you want to see the difference.

Neil Carberry, via email

WINDOWS 10
Remove Windows 10 apps

Until recently, if you didn't like one of Windows 10's built-in apps, the best you could do was remove it from the Start menu; you couldn't remove it completely because the Uninstall button was greyed out in the 'Apps & features' menu. Following the release of CCleaner version 5.1.1, (www.piriform.com/ccleaner), it's now possible to remove any of the built-in Windows 10 apps including Calendar, Mail, Groove Music and Photos. In CCleaner, simply navigate to Tools, then Uninstall and you'll be able see all your installed programs including the built-in apps. Select one, click Uninstall and you can remove it permanently.

Make sure you are certain that you want to get rid of the app for good, because I'm not sure how straightforward it is to reinstall one once it's gone!

Stuart, via email

Readers' Helpdesk

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

HARDWARE
How difficult is it to fit a solid-state drive (SSD)?

Q I wonder if anyone can offer me some advice before I buy a new 250GB SSD. Will installing it on my desktop PC be as simple as fitting a SATA hard drive? Also, how straightforward is it to clone the old drive to the SSD if I use Macrium (www.macrium.com)? Lastly, do you recommend buying it from Amazon?
d307, Web User Forums

A Installing an SSD is relatively easy but there are important issues to consider after you've done so. I've uploaded three useful articles to my website at www.arwcsw.com, so I recommend that you read these before making a start.

If you haven't previously used an SSD on your PC, you should first check that your BIOS supports SSDs. You might also need to change the partition size on your original hard drive if it is larger than the capacity of the SSD that you want to replace it with. You can use EaseUS Partition Manager (bit.ly/easeus385) or Macrium Reflect (www.macrium.com) to do this.

I bought my SSD from Amazon because they were selling it at the best available price. I fitted it to an Icybox IB-2535StS 2.5in to 3.5in hard-drive converter so that it would fit in the SATA drive bay. I then cloned my hard drive to the new SSD using Paragon Hard Disk Manager Suite 12 (www.paragon-software.com), selecting the option to clone from hard drive to SSD. After I'd done all that, I removed the old hard drive and replaced it with the new SSD. The PC booted with no problems whatsoever.

There are plenty of guides you can search for online that offer advice on every aspect of migrating from a hard drive to an SDD, such as Lifehacker's bit.ly/migrate385.
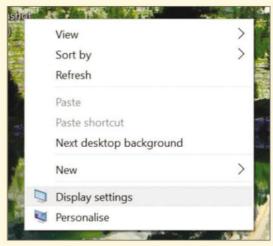**alanrwood, Peru and Sneakbeaky, Web User Forums**

TV
Why won't the picture fill the screen when I connect my laptop to the TV?

Q I often stream BBC and ITV shows on my TV by connecting it to my Acer laptop via an HDMI cable. However, for some reason, the picture only fills about 90% of the screen. When I try streaming with my old Lenovo laptop, it fills the screen nicely.

Both PCs are running the latest version of Chrome and the only other significant difference I can think of is that the Lenovo runs Windows 7, while the Acer has Windows 8 installed. Any ideas why they might be displaying differently on my TV?
mistajohn, Web User Forums

To change the settings for an external display, right-click the Desktop and select 'Display settings'

A If your TV is a recent model, it will probably have a 1080p resolution, so you have to adjust your graphics driver to output at the correct resolution. To do this, right-click the Desktop and select 'Display settings', check that the resolution is correct for the external display and also look to see if any kind of scaling has been enabled. A bit of tinkering in this menu should fix the problem but, if it doesn't, you can try opening the TV's own display settings to see if the problem can be fixed from there.
Helmut, Web User Forums

GENERAL PC
Why can't I wake my PC by moving the mouse?

Q I'm running 64-bit Windows 7 on my desktop PC. To wake the computer from sleep, I have to press the power button. Is there any way to change the settings so that I can wake it using the spacebar or by moving the mouse?
IRM072005, Web User Forums

A Go to Control Panel, then click Keyboard, select the Hardware tab and click the Properties button. From here, select 'Change settings' and the Power Management tab, then tick 'Allow this device to wake the computer' before clicking OK. You should be able to follow the same process for the Mouse, clicking Mouse instead of Keyboard in Control Panel. If you want to change what the power button does, open Power Options from Control Panel.
calimanco and Stewart40, Web User Forums

Change the settings in the Control Panel to wake your PC with the keyboard

Inbox

Star Email

How Microsoft solved my Office problem

I write in reference to your Star Email from David Guest in Issue 384, about Windows 10 sabotaging his copy of Microsoft Office. As I had a similar problem, I wondered whether the following advice might be useful to pass on.

I had Office 2013 installed on my PC when I upgraded to Windows 10. I was happy with the upgrade so I then installed Office 2016. However, when I tried to install Office 2013 on another computer, I was told that I couldn't, due to licensing restrictions. It appears that installing Office 2016 on top of 2013 does not 'uninstall' the old copy, so it looks like you're trying to abuse the licence.

David's letter implies that he used to have Office 2010 on his PC and that after upgrading to Windows 10, he tried to reinstall it. If he did not uninstall Office 2010 but, for example, reformatted his PC to do a Windows 10 install, it might be that Microsoft thinks he's trying to install two copies of the software, but only has a licence for one.

The error message he received certainly seems to indicate a software restriction rather than a 'fault'.

When I had my problem, I contacted Microsoft's helpdesk at 9pm on a Friday night. They were very helpful, and ended up taking control of both machines to fix the licensing issue. I was reluctant to give control to Microsoft, but my fears were unfounded. It took the helpdesk chap less than 10 minutes to resolve the problem, which was caused by Microsoft's licensing server not recognising the uninstall.

I'm no Microsoft fanboy, but the helpdesk person actually solved my problem, which I was *not* expecting. Perhaps David should give them a try.

Ian T, via email

Laptops with poor screens are a waste of money

I've just read Issue 384's Group Test of 'Windows 10 laptops under £250' (bit.ly/webuser384) and have reached the conclusion that none of them – including your Gold, Silver and Bronze Award winners – are worth buying.

For me, there are two killer reasons for this: screen resolution and battery life. A screen resolution of 1,366 x 768 pixels is simply dreadful, and 1,280 x 800 is only a little better. It amazes me that back in 2007 you could buy a laptop with a 1,920 x 1,200 non-glare screen but we appear to have been going backwards ever since. Last year, I reluctantly stopped using my Dell 1720 and moved to a new machine with a 1,920 x 1,080 screen. My spreadsheets and word processing and browsing programs miss those extra pixels, and using Facebook isn't nearly as easy – especially when playing games.

Only one of your choices has a decent screen resolution but it also has a dreadful screen size and battery life.

I might as well just use my Nexus 7 with a Bluetooth keyboard.

It's high time that laptop manufacturers ditched 1,366 x 768 screens. I will never buy one and I doubt if those informed enough to read *Web User* will either.

John Chapman, Web User Forums

The Chromecast Audio offers nothing new

With regards to Jonathan Bray's product test of Google's new Chromecast Audio in Issue 383 (bit.ly/webuser383), I would like to point out a few clarifications. The original Chromecast works very well with audio sources including many streaming services and BBC Radio, provided that it is not plugged directly into a TV. Once it is set up, it does not require a (TV) screen to operate.

After reading the article, I am sure that many of your readers may have got the impression that they need the newer Chromecast to stream audio, and will be tempted to buy this latest incarnation.

They might not realise that if they plug the original Chromecast directly into an AV amp with connected speakers, it will work perfectly well with for streaming audio. It would appear that the only difference and benefit of the Chrome Audio version is that it uses a phono connection as opposed to HDMI.

Roger Thomas, via email

Microsoft is wrong to force Windows 10 on us

As a business owner and home user of Windows 7, I would like to share my disgust over the way Microsoft is forcing users to upgrade to Windows 10.

Microsoft thinks you need reminding about the update because it has now been reclassified as 'important' and will therefore install automatically. So prepare for those 'Get Windows 10' pop-ups to start appearing again. To me this sounds misleading. When has a free OS upgrade ever been important when the current

➡

You can let us know your views and opinions via:
webuser@dennis.co.uk, www.facebook.com/webusermagazine,
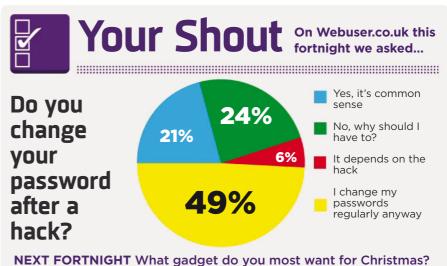www.twitter.com/webusermagazine and forum.webuser.co.uk

Your Shout
On Webuser.co.uk this fortnight we asked...

Do you change your password after a hack?

- 24%
- 21%
- 6%
- 49%

- Yes, it's common sense
- No, why should I have to?
- It depends on the hack
- I change my passwords regularly anyway

NEXT FORTNIGHT What gadget do you most want for Christmas? Vote online at **www.webuser.co.uk**

OS is still working flawlessly?

A novice user like my son would install this 'important' update, then turn off his system, only to wake up with Windows 10. This is not acceptable. My son's laptop doesn't support the new operating system. What right does Microsoft have to push an OS onto systems that do not support it or even work with it? Is this a deliberate attempt to force people into buying newer machines? It's downright wrong and possibly even illegal, because where is the user's choice?

As a business owner with over 180 Windows 7 machines, the nightmare simply gets worse in preventing Windows 10 from downloading its junk. We want to keep our current OS. We don't want to upgrade and forcing us to do so by annoying the hell out of us is wrong.

VsUK, Web User Forums

My never-ending problems with Virgin Media email

My email account with Virgin Media ranks below useless on any customer survey. The service has become virtually unusable as a primary email account. For over a month, it has been down more often than it has been working. Probably longer than that, because all this started when Virgin ditched Gmail as the provider of its email service.

This weekend, I have only been able to check for or send an email on a few occasions, and each time the session only lasted minutes. Often, after I had read a message and tried to go back to my inbox to read the rest, it just carried on loading and then timed out, or I had to close it to try and log in again. Sometimes, it would come back with a connection error or even a 'service unavailable' page. I haven't been able to log in at all today.

Virgin should issue a statement and an apology via media such as *Web User* to explain what is going on, when it will be fixed and why we should remain Virgin customers when the company cannot deliver a reliable service.

I have been with this company from the beginning of Cable & Wirelesss in Bromley and this is the worst the system has ever been. Usually, anything major is sorted quickly.

Is the problem down to hacker attacks and, if so, how safe are our details? Changing passwords won't help because it is the service shutting down on a frequent basis that is most worrying.

Eric Rush, via email

Destroying the Earth is just human nature

Why does everyone want to save the planet by turning off their devices ('Leave it On or Switch it Off', Issue 382, bit.ly/webuser382)? Trying to save the polar bears or whatever is interfering with nature – humans are part of nature, too! We now have animals on the planet that are only here because we have saved them. They are not meant to be here and in hundreds of years, this is going to cause serious problems.

Nature does not make mistakes. Nature created man, and if man wipes something out then this is nature. The world will end and start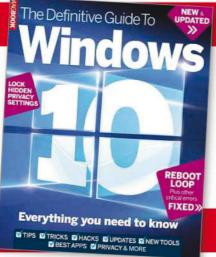 all over again, because that is what nature does. Nothing man does will change that fact. So please understand: humans are part of nature and everything we do is therefore natural.

Stan, Bangor County Down

Our personal data is constantly at risk

After another hack putting customers' data at risk (TalkTalk), I think the real culprit is the Data Protection Act and the seventh principle on security. While the weasel word "appropriate" is applied to companies on how to store our data, I fear more folk will have their online identities stolen. Relying only on credit monitoring after a hack is a joke when the same companies who create such reports also deal in selling customer information. No company should be allowed to pass on your information to anyone else in the first place (aside from the obvious exception of the police). And our data should be erased if no customer contact has been made within, say, the last year.

Galen White, via email

Why has Google bricked my Nexus 7?

Since about six weeks ago, after a Google OTA (over-the-air) update, my Nexus 7 will not go beyond the Google splash screen and will not even enter into Recovery mode. It is totally useless.

I've contacted Asus, who could only offer a chargeable repair because the tablet is outside the one-year warranty. I then contacted Ebuyer, from whom I originally purchased the unit, but have had no joy there, either.

I've noticed from the web that I am now one of many people to have suffered this problem. There doesn't seem to be a software fix (see forum discussion at bit.ly/nexus385). The tablet is just over two years old and the version of Android was a vanilla build (not rooted).

I find it amazing that Google is not willing to take responsibility for a software update that effectively 'bricks' the hardware. As the end user, I seem to be quite powerless to get an answer as to why this happened. I think Google and Asus should take their responsibility to customer service more seriously.

Shaun Smith, via email

What you say...

DO YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT WILL HIT ITS NEW TARGET OF 'FAST' BROADBAND FOR ALL BY 2020?

No, it will cost too much to roll out to rural parts of the UK. And five years isn't enough time to implement it all.
Paul @abertawejack

Of course they won't, this is the UK.
Andrew Wakeman

Nope. The cost is too high and there's no political will to reach remote areas. There are not enough connections in villages and towns as it is.
Bari Pollard @barijohn

They should roll out Virgin Media fibre to the whole of the nation. I can't even remember what dial-up was like.
Stuart A Hordern

No. There are too many rural areas that are not financially viable for ISPs. They will take the easy route.
Steve Ellis @gb022621

It can't be any slower than what I've got from Sky. Shocking!
Chris Lambert

ARE YOU HAPPY FOR THE SECURITY SERVICES TO ACCESS YOUR WEB HISTORY?

Why not? Every one else seems to have access, so one more won't make much difference.
Gill Hodson

If they can see our history, we should be allowed to see theirs. You can't have data-protection laws that only apply to certain people while others can look at whatever they want.
Paul Emsley

Absolutely not. This is supposed to be a democratic country. I'm tired of the anti-terrorism excuse being used.
Chris Cole

Not especially. I have nothing to hide, but with all the security hacks this year, it could make you an easy target.
Lawrence Monk @LawrenceMonk

THE POLICE WANT YOU TO CONTACT THEM USING SKYPE. IS THAT A GOOD IDEA?

I see a problem with this. How do you Skype if your computer, tablet or phone has been stolen in a burglary?
Martin James

I don't have a webcam on my PC or a front-facing camera on my phone, so it would have to be a voice call.
Martin Phillp

More and more crimes will go unreported. It should be an extra service to use, not an alternative.
Si Mellor

WHICH WEBSITE HAVE YOU SPENT MOST TIME ON IN 2015 — AND WHY?

The AnswerBank (www.theanswerbank.co.uk) because it is interesting, helpful, topical and fun.
Ethel Ethel @EthelEthel

Raspberry Pi Spy (www.raspberrypi-spy.co.uk), because I'm a Raspberry Pi geek!
Matt Hawkins @MattScript

Google Docs, because of all the coursework I have to do.
Jack @imthegoldmaster

Has to be Facebook, followed by Twitter and then Amazon. Sad, really.
Jason 'Boz' Bowyer

Facebook just shades it from Twitter. Facebook for friends and family, Twitter for fun, frolics and politics.
Ian Phipps

⚠ Page 404

Barry Collins accuses the Beeb of making a boob of flogging its TV archive

The BBC store is no match for Netflix

Almost precisely a year ago, in this very column, I suggested that all TV licence fee payers "should have access to the entire BBC archive on demand". We've already paid for the programmes once, so the BBC should hand them over to anyone who can enter their licence-fee number into a web browser. It seems someone at Auntie got the memo, but didn't read it properly.

Instead, we've got the newly launched BBC Store (store.bbc.com) – another attempt to fleece us for the television programmes we paid for the first time around. Worse still, the Beeb appears to have been asleep for the past five years and failed to spot the enormous popularity of all-you-can-eat subscription services such as Netflix and Amazon Instant Video, and is instead trying to flog us the streaming equivalent of DVD boxsets, much like Apple was about a decade ago.

Yes, you can now whip out your credit card and spend £24.99 on a 16-episode set of *Only Fools and Horses* specials or stump up £8.99 for the second series of *Gavin & Stacey* – a total spend of £33.98 to rewatch just two shows that are repeated on a virtually constant loop anyway on channels such as Dave and BBC Three.

What's more, that £34 combined outlay would buy you around five months' worth of Netflix, where you can already stream both of those BBC comedies and about a gazillion more shows, including much of what the BBC is offering for one-off purchase in its Store: *Blackadder*, *Sherlock*, *Peaky Blinders*, *Luther*... the crossover is considerable.

"Aha!" I hear the BBC Store press officers yelp. But there's a big difference between the BBC Store and Netflix. On Netflix, you can only stream what's available on the service at any given time, whereas in the BBC Store you "own" your purchases and can stream or even download them to your PC whenever you like.

> ❝ The BBC is trying to flog us the streaming equivalent of DVD boxsets, much like Apple was about a decade ago ❞

Except you don't. Not really. Although the 'My Programmes' section of the BBC Store says I "own the series" of *The Smell of Reeves & Mortimer*, which I bought to test the service, the Terms & Conditions say otherwise. They state that the BBC "cannot gu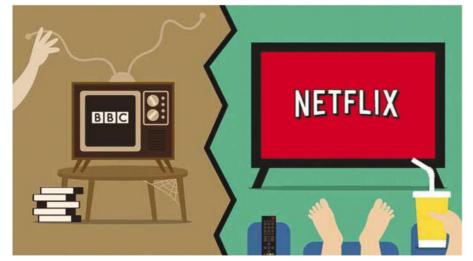arantee that you will be able to stream or re-download content that's in your BBC Store account forever" and that in cases where the BBC's "right to make content available has expired, you will no longer be able to stream or download that content from your BBC Store account".

So I don't "own" a copy of *Reeves & Mortimer* in the same way I would if I popped down to HMV and bought the DVD. I've merely bought the right to view it until the BBC removes it – an almost identical arrangement to that of Netflix and Amazon. Should the BBC Store close next year – a distinct possibility given how unattractive the prices are – all my purchases would go with it because even downloads are locked to the service using copy protection. You don't get a file you can keep.

A BBC Worldwide spokesperson told me, when I enquired about this point, that the Corporation "will only remove content for editorial reasons" and that there's "no danger" of the service being pulled within a year. To my mind, however, the BBC has found a blisteringly expensive way to rent us the shows we've already paid for, for a worryingly vague amount of time. Lovely jubbly, as a certain Peckham resident might say.

Illustration: Andrew Torrens

✚ Do you agree? Let us know at **webuser@dennis.co.uk**