/ Best software / New apps / Need a Squirtle?

KILL ADVERTS in WINDOWS 10

And reverse other settings the Anniversary Update changed p58

Off

GREAT
£2
VALUE

50.
SPECIAL ISSUE

BEST FREE APPS EVER!

Thousands tested – so *you* don't have to p44

PLUS

HATE HAVING TO BACK UP?
This software does it for you – *automatically*

BEST *OLD* SOFTWARE*
Programs you'll never need to update p42
*don't worry – they're all safe

only
£2

9 771473 709141
32

🏠 Homepage

Gotta install 'em all!*

My name is Robert and this week I'm a Pokémon Go addict. It's been one hour and seventeen minutes since I last caught a Pokémon. It was only a Rattata (one of the crappiest creatures) and almost got me run over, although it did gain me a 'candy' from Professor Willow. If you think I'm talking nonsense, you're absolutely right, but such is the power exerted by this mobile fad – at least until something better comes along.

That certainly won't be the case with the 50 fantastic free apps in our cover feature on page 44, which you'll be using for a lifetime rather than a few frustrating hours. Our carefully chosen selection covers everything from tools that speed up your phone and save battery life to the best apps for planning your holiday and growing your garden.

And yes, I'm afraid there are lots of Pokémon mentions in this issue – catch 'em all and I'll send you a *Web User* mug!**

*Well, not *all* of them
**First five entries only!

Robert Irvine
robert_irvine@dennis.co.uk
#webuser

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50 BEST FREE APPS EVER!

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Take control of the Windows
10 Anniversary Update **p58**

What's New Online

Find areas of interest in Google Maps

Google has made some subtle but welcome changes to its mapping service, so its maps are now cleaner and easier to browse. Superfluous elements such as road outlines have been removed, and the typography of street names and points of interest has been sharpened for greater emphasis. You'll also notice that extra detail appears in a smoother way as you zoom in.

The most significant additions, however, are the 'areas of interest'. Google has used a mix of algorithms and human intervention to show where in a particular zone you'll find the most to do and see. So in large cities, you'll see lots of orange shading to mark where the shops, restaurants, bars, museums, hotels and other amenities are concentrated. Each of these has an icon you can click to view more information.

And that's not all. It's now easier than ever to add places to the map and suggest edits: just select an area and choose to either 'Add a missing place' or 'Suggest an edit'. If a suggestion for a location is already pending, you can verify that the information is accurate. When enough people have voted, the suggestion will be published, which means amendments will appear more quickly, making for more accurate and useful maps.
bit.ly/googlemaps403
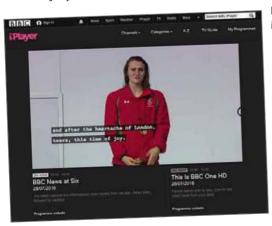
View subtitles for live channels on BBC iPlayer

www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/live
If you are deaf or have impaired hearing, you can now benefit from live subtitling on BBC iPlayer. The live trial is currently available only for PC and Mac users, but it should hopefully expand to include other devices such as smart TVs, tablets and mobiles in the near future. The subtitles work on all the major live channels: BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Four, CBBC, CBeebies and BBC News. Activating them is easy – just click the S icon to the left of the full-screen button in the iPlayer's control panel and the subtitles will appear. If you can't see them, try changing your location to England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland rather than a region.

Share entertainment you buy from Google Play

bit.ly/family403
Google is following Apple's lead by allowing six people to share apps, games, films, TV shows and books across devices, without needing to pay again. The new Family Library feature lets you enter the details of up to five family members and allow them to access as much or as little of your purchased media as you choose. Although you retain your own Google account and personal library of content, you set up a single payment method that all family members can share.

This allows the whole family to read books and watch films and TV on Android, iOS and in their browsers, and could save you a lot of money and hassle. That said, it's not a complete free-for-all. You can't share any apps and games you bought before 7 February unless the developer approves, and you can't share rentals either.

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

Watch more of what you like in Instagram

www.instagram.com

Instagram is about more than just kittens and Kardashians, and it has recently put a lot of effort into video, too. Since March, users have been uploading minute-long videos, and you can now discover these via its Explore tab. Called 'Videos You Might Like', it offers movies based on your past viewing. Topic-based Featured channels are also coming soon.

Play with objects in a museum

www.nms.ac.uk/gen

This fun game takes a while to get your head around, but it's certainly clever and educational. Created by National Museums Scotland, with the help of the creative brains at Aardman, the game asks players to care for a poorly digital creature called Gen by selecting objects to help diagnose its ailments and bring the little blob back to health. It ties in with the museums' biomedical collections, so diagnoses and treatments use real-life objects that are on display, from early X-ray machines to a bronchitis kettle. It's creative and strangely addictive.

View a map of Pokémon locations

pokevision.com

A 33-year-old phone-repair engineer reportedly became the first person to catch all 142 Pokémon in the UK, but the hunt continues for millions of other players. To help you in your quest, the Pokévision map uses Pokémon Go developer Niantic's servers to show you where the creatures are spawning and, just as importantly, how long they will linger. And while it takes away the element of surprise, it's fascinating to see how many Pokémon there are around you. If Pokévision isn't active, try Trackemon (www.trackemon.com) instead – it works in the same way.

Tweet in the dark

bit.ly/twitter403

If you find that after a bout of late-night tweets, Twitter's bright white background brings on a frustrating bout of #insomnia, there's some good news. You can now tweet in the dark thanks to a new night mode for Android that turns the background a dark blue that's more comfortable on the eyes. To activate it, tap the navigation menu or profile icon and flip the Night Mode slider to On.

5 TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

@wholabels
See signs, labels and handwritten notes that appeared in *Doctor Who* from 1963 to 1996

@ing_pellegrini
The former Man City boss offers updates on his new project, Engineering Football

@shadyarthur
Arthur memes have taken over the internet. Here's where it all began

@skyfootball
Live Premier League clips are set to be broadcast on Twitter this season

@PatnaOstrich
An escaped ostrich in Ayrshire has set up its own Twitter account

Discover London's past in pictures

bit.ly/london403

Click locations on this map of the capital to view images from the past, some of which date back to 1450. Numbers inside colour-coded circles tell you how many photos you can view in various locations.

Check your internet speed

bit.ly/speed403

This Chrome extension from Ookla, developer of Speedtest.net, lets you check your internet speed without visiting its website, so you can find out why pages are loading slowly.

Ask for Netflix recommendations

www.andchill.io

Stuck for something to watch on Netflix? This chatbot for Facebook Messenger gives you recommendations based on the kind of film or TV show you fancy viewing. It's great for unearthing gems and it shows you trailers, too.

BT hangs on to its Openreach network despite poor service

What happened?

BT has been allowed to keep its broadband-engineering division Openreach, following calls to break it off to a separate company, but regulator Ofcom has demanded that the telecoms giant invests to fix its myriad problems.

Rivals including Sky and TalkTalk have loudly called for Ofcom to spin off Openreach, which owns and manages the fibre and copper infrastructure that supplies broadband to most UK homes, and which many ISPs – from the biggest companies down to small local firms – pay to access its services.

Critics have said that BT has invested too little in Openreach, leading to poor service, and that Openreach's business decisions too often favour BT's own broadband business. Ofcom has agreed that the relationship between BT and Openreach is flawed and needs to be improved, but said spinning off or selling Openreach is not the best solution. Ofcom CEO Sharon White claimed selling Openreach could take years, while her proposed plan would only take months to see improvements.

White has called for Openreach to be run as a legally separate company within BT. This means that Openreach will have its own board of directors and a chairperson separate from BT. Despite White's reticence to completely separate the two companies, she stressed: "If Openreach fails to up its game, we will return to a plan to break up BT and Openreach, however difficult".

As well as the wider division between the two organisations, Ofcom is forcing

Despite objections from rival ISPs, BT will continue to own Openreach

Openreach to provide easier access to its telegraph poles and tunnels, which would allow rivals to roll out their own fibre networks at less cost – and, as White noted, help "reduce the country's reliance on Openreach".

The plans were welcomed by BT, which probably would have welcomed anything that didn't involve a complete divorce; meanwhile, rival ISPs and industry critics said the plans don't go far enough.

How will it affect you?

The separate boards and distinct company arrangements should mean Openreach is less likely to favour BT with its investment decisions and is more accountable to its direct customers – the ISPs that connect us to the web. However, any benefit from that structural change will take time to trickle down to customers.

One area that may lead to a more immediate change is the call for greater consultation with ISPs, with those discussions held confidential from BT for a time. This allows ISPs to develop infrastructure plans with Openreach without tipping off BT's own broadband division. Hopefully that, alongside the greater access to infrastructure such as poles and ducts, will spur other ISPs to roll out their own networks and truly boost competition.

None of this is likely to immediately improve customer service on engineering callouts – a longstanding problem with Openreach – or to suddenly expand fibre coverage or cut costs. However, a bit of patience from customers in the short term will hopefully pay off in a few years.

What do we think?

It's fair to say that Ofcom's decision to put checks on BT and Openreach is a half step, and rival ISPs would clearly prefer a full split because it would benefit their bottom lines. But a complete separation of the two services would be an unwelcome distraction for Brits at a key time in fibre rollouts, and it's impossible to say if it would provide customers with better service, lower prices and higher-quality broadband.

With that in mind, Ofcom is right to continue to hold the threat of a full separation over BT and Openreach. If customer service and infrastructure investment don't improve quickly, it'll simply prove that rival ISPs were right in their complaints. And while Sharon White is correct that a sale of Openreach would delay progress by years, it may still be an inevitable move. Here's hoping that's not the case and that broadband customers across the UK feel some benefit from these protracted negotiations.

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

Amazon Dash comes to the UK

What happened?

Online retail giant Amazon is finally bringing its Dash ordering tool to the UK, two years after it launched in the US. Dash is a barcode scanner and microphone that lets you reorder household goods with a scan or verbal search. If you run out of your preferred washing powder, for example, you can simply scan the barcode to add it to your Amazon basket.

The gadget is similar to Amazon's Dash buttons – small internet-connected devices branded with a product's logo that let you reorder that product with one touch. Stick the button for your favourite toilet paper in the bathroom and, when you run out, you just push the button to get a delivery the next day. This isn't yet available in the UK, and nor is Amazon's smart voice assistant, Echo.

How will it affect you?

Dash is only available to customers who have signed up to Amazon Fresh, the store's grocery-delivery service, which is currently limited to selected areas of London but is expected to expand its coverage to the rest of the UK in due course. Enter your postcode at www.amazon.co.uk/amazonfresh to see if your neighbourhood is included. If you make two orders before the end of August, Amazon will offer you the Dash gadget for free – otherwise it costs £35.

What do we think?

Using the Dash gadget could make it quicker and easier to do your online grocery shop, because you won't need to make a list or visit the supermarket. However, it does mean that you have you do all your grocery shopping with Amazon Fresh.

That said, the idea itself is sound. We'd love an app on our phone that lets us make a grocery list by simply scanning an item's barcode. If you'd prefer to stick with your current grocer, you'll have to wait for Sainsbury's, Tesco, Ocado and the other major players to come up with a similar time-saving tool.

Google fights spam calls on Android

What happened?

Google declared war on spam phone calls, updating its Phone app for Android with a spam-blocking tool. The separate Phone app is so far only available on Google's Nexus handsets, and uses the existing caller-identification system. The spam-blocker feature compares the number of an incoming call to a database of unwanted callers. If the call is on that list, Google notifies you with a red screen that says it may be spam. You can still answer the call, or you can choose to block the number permanently or whitelist it, if the call has been mistakenly designated as spam.

How will it affect you?

If your phone is a Nexus device running Android Marshmallow, you can update the Phone app now at bit.ly/phone403 to get this new feature. If you're on a different version of Android, you can use alternatives such as TrueCaller (bit.ly/true403) and Call Blocker (bit.ly/call403) until the updated Phone app is made available on older versions of Android.

If you have an iPhone, you're currently out of luck because Apple has locked down the iOS operating system so that such tools can't work. That's set to change this autumn with iOS 10, which is expected to allow spam-blocking apps to access the new caller ID system.

What do we think?

It's easy to forget the original purpose of phones, given the number of functions they now perform. While developers happily add slick animations, sophisticated games and other flashy entertainments, they often forget the basics – such as battery life, ease of use and phone calls.

With that in mind, we're happy that Google is trying to solve the problem of unwanted calls. Such a simple tool as a call blocker may not sound impressive, but it will genuinely save time and cut frustration for the hundreds of millions of people using Android. That's an innovation we truly appreciate.

Yahoo to be sold to Verizon for $5bn

What happened?

Telecommunications company Verizon has confirmed that it has agreed to buy Yahoo's core internet business for $4.83bn (£3.62bn). This comes just a year after Verizon bought another ailing web pioneer, AOL, to boost the internet side of its business. One great advantage of the deal for Verizon is that it gains access to masses of user data, as well as Yahoo's incredibly lucrative advertising technology.

Forrester analyst Shar VanBoskirk explained how acquiring a huge amount of customer data from Yahoo might boost Verizon's advertising operations: "The more access to customer data it has (online through Yahoo and AOL, in home via cable boxes and on mobile via smart devices) the more targeted it can be with advertising and sponsored content or product placements across those same devices".

VanBoskirk added that this would allow Verizon's "ad products" to compete more effectively with those of online companies such as Google, as well as other cable and telecom companies.

While this deal signals the end of Yahoo as a trading company in the West, it still exists in the form of Yahoo Japan, of which Yahoo retains 35.5%, along with a 15% stake in China's Alibaba e-commerce company.

How will it affect you?

In an interview with the Associated Press, Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer said: "We haven't even scratched the surface [of] how things will be run after the takeover", so it's not clear what the future holds for Yahoo and its 225 million users. Verizon bought the Yahoo brand name as part of the deal, so it's likely that it will continue to operate Yahoo as a separate brand, at least to begin with. Yahoo's email and search tools may also be rolled out to Verizon's US customers by default. It's no secret that Yahoo has been struggling of late, so the future of the company's other services, such as Flickr and Tumblr, is no more or less certain than it's been at any other time recently.

What do we think?

Yahoo may not be the internet search juggernaut it once was, but its global brand is still strong enough for this to be a lucrative deal for Verizon. Because Yahoo has suffered such financial trouble recently, however, we wouldn't be surprised to see its strategy change dramatically over the coming months and years. In the past, both Google and Yahoo have shut down services used by millions of people, and Verizon could easily do the same to make a success of its acquisition.

FIRST LOOK

SoundMagic E10 C
www.soundmagic.com

SoundMagic's E10 C headphones don't look particularly special, but stick them in your ears and they'll blow you away. This level of clarity from a pair of headphones costing just £40 is simply astonishing, and the sense of space and separation they produce is of such high quality that we wouldn't have batted an eyelid if we'd been told they cost £150. They don't provide the attack, detail and dead-flat frequency response you get with our favourite in-ear monitors, the Etymotic ER-4P, but the bass quality and sense of scale are beyond anything else we've heard at this price.

As well as sounding great, the SoundMagic E10 C set is well made, with metal earphone housings rather than the plastic used for most headphones at this price. The smooth finish on the cables means that when they rub against your clothing, they don't transmit every scrape and tap straight down your ear canal.

SoundMagic has produced several different versions of the E10 headphones, but the E10 C is the first pair to include a three-button inline remote control with integrated microphone for use with a smartphone. It's no ordinary inline remote, either, because it works seamlessly with both iOS and Android devices, which is unusual. Play, pause, skip, voice-control activation and volume all functioned perfectly on both types of device when we tried them.

The SoundMagic E10 C also comes with a robust storage case, seven pairs of silicon earbuds of various sizes and an adapter that splits the microphone and headphone connection into two, so you can use them with older laptops and PCs.

All told, you get a lot for your money with the SoundMagic E10 C. They sound wonderful, come with a good selection of accessories and the price is very reasonable. Quite simply, they're the best headphones you can buy at this price.

WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

Is the smartwatch already dead?

Smartwatch sales slid by a third from April to June 2016, their first decline since the wearable technology took off with the Apple Watch in April 2015. That's according to International Data Corporation (IDC) (bit.ly/idcwatch403), which reported smartwatch shipments of 3.5 million globally in the second quarter of the year, down from 5.1 million in the same period last year. Although Apple's sales were the only ones in the top five to slide – diving a whopping 55% – they make up half of all smartwatch sales, at 1.6 million, which means Apple remains "far and away the market leader".

"Consumers have held off on smartwatch purchases since early 2016 in anticipation of new hardware, and improvements in WatchOS aren't expected until later this year, in effect stalling existing Apple Watch sales," said Jitesh Ubrani, senior research analyst for IDC Mobile Device Trackers. Apple currently has a 47% share of the market, followed by Samsung with 16% and Lenovo with 9%. "Apple still maintains a significant lead in the market and unfortunately a decline for Apple leads to a decline in the entire market," Ubrani said.

LIKELIHOOD RATING
✓✓✓✓✓
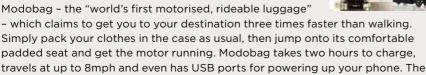
Although a 55% drop in Apple's sales is alarming, we don't see it spelling the end of the smartwatch just yet. Apple was the only major manufacturer to see a slump, and there is a perfectly good reason for this. Unlike some Apple products, the Watch doesn't have an annual release cycle, so consumers would have been particularly wary of parting with their hard-earned cash for a device that is already quite old, in technological terms. We expect to see sales pick up again when the next versions of the Watch are launched.

WHAT'S NEW ON INDIEGOGO
What's new on Indiegogo
Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

Modobag
bit.ly/modobag403 | From $1,199 (£850)

Why carry a heavy suitcase around the airport or railway station when you can ride it instead? That's the idea behind Modobag – the "world's first motorised, rideable luggage" – which claims to get you to your destination three times faster than walking. Simply pack your clothes in the case as usual, then jump onto its comfortable padded seat and get the motor running. Modobag takes two hours to charge, travels at up to 8mph and even has USB ports for powering up your phone. The project has already quadrupled its target of $50,000, so best get in there fast!

WEBOMETER

WE LIKE...

⬆ Barclays telephone banking to introduce voice recognition
In a bid to make its telephone banking easier and more secure, Barclays has scrapped passwords in favour of voice recognition. The system will profile users' voices over the course of two or three calls so that in future they'll only be required to say a few words to access their accounts.

⬆ Apple replaces revolver emoji with water pistol
Amid growing concerns about gun crime, Apple will replace its revolver emoji with a green and red water pistol when it launches more than 100 new emoji next month.

WE DON'T LIKE...

⬇ Broken smart feeder leaves pets hungry
Owners of Petnet, a device that feeds cats and dogs automatically, were advised to "feed their pets manually" after a server problem stopped the devices working. Feeding is usually controlled using a mobile app.

⬇ Customers disappointed by HP pricing error
Online shoppers were surprised to see HP list some of its laptops, which usually sell for thousands of pounds, for less than two quid. HP blamed a 'processing error', and said it would refund customers rather than deliver the products at such a big loss.

🔒 Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

WhatsApp doesn't delete your 'deleted' messages

WhatsApp continues to store your conversations even after you delete them, a security researcher has discovered. The latest iOS version of the app leaves a forensic trace of chats whether or not you delete or archive your messages, iOS security expert Jonathan Zdziarski said in a blog post. The problem, Zdziarski explained, is that once WhatsApp messages are deleted, they enter a 'free list' that's stored locally in WhatsApp's database and are not deleted from the device until the database needs to free up storage space. The researcher explained that "there is no guarantee the data will be overwritten by the next set of messages. In other apps, I've often seen artefacts remain in the database for months". This might not be a problem if it were not for the fact that this database of stored messages is sent to your iCloud account in routine backups, if you have those enabled.
bit.ly/whatsapp403

Chthonic banking Trojan spread by PayPal accounts

PayPal emails have been spreading the Chthonic banking Trojan, research by Proofpoint has discovered. Proofpoint found that PayPal emails with the subject line "You've got a money request" were being used by criminals to distribute the malware. However, rather than using fake emails that appear to be genuine, it seems the emails were sent using PayPal-registered accounts.

The criminals were able to send emails to other PayPal users via the money-sending service, adding the malicious link in the personalised message. The content of the message explains that the victim's PayPal account has been used to defraud another PayPal user; however, the other user is actually the criminal, asking for a refund of the monies. The attack is twofold: the victim is asked to send a payment to this user, and they might also click a malicious link in the email, which claims to link through to evidence of the fraudulent transaction but actually directs them to a malicious site that downloads a hidden JavaScript file. This file, if opened, downloads Chthonic – a variant of the Zeus banking Trojan.
bit.ly/trojan403
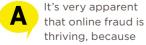
Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

**THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT:
Robert Capps,
VP at NuData Security
(nudatasecurity.com)**

Q **Is online fraud getting worse, and what can we do to avoid it?**
Dave Helsey, via Facebook

A It's very apparent that online fraud is thriving, because it's easy, cheap and lucrative to carry out. All that's needed is a simple consumer laptop and an internet connection. Added to this, the 'cool' factor, the low prosecution rate and the potential impact of a cybercriminal's actions all play into the ego, drive and motivation of these attackers. Imagine the temptation if you're of that ethically challenged mindset.

The internet is awash with consumers' financial and identity data, just waiting to be plucked and cashed in on. It's like walking through an apple orchard, and picking the ripest, reddest apples – all available for free and with very little opposition.

The increasing volume of attacks globally can also be attributed to more fraudsters willing to commit the crime,

> " Committing online fraud is like walking through an apple orchard, picking the ripest, reddest apples "

more data available on the black market and more financial institutions and merchants that are vulnerable to attacks.

You can help secure yourself against fraud in the following ways: Only shop with well-known companies online, or use safer payment systems such as PayPal, Apple Pay and Android Pay to avoid directly providing your payment details to an unknown merchant.

Use strong, unique passwords on each and every site you register with, and don't use public computers or free, unencrypted Wi-Fi to conduct banking or shopping transactions or interactions.

Make sure you don't fall victim to email and phone scams that pretend to be from your bank and ask for personal account information. If you are contacted in this way and you aren't sure if the email or call is genuine, call the bank directly, using the number displayed on the back of your card or on a recent statement.

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

⭐ Best New Websites

Site of the Fortnight
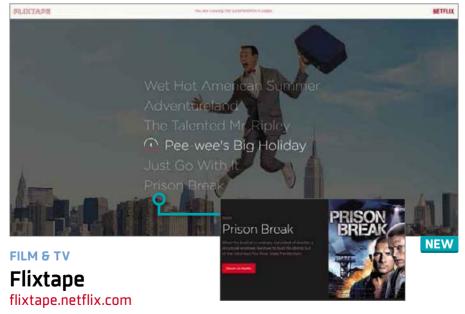
MOTORING NEW
Citroën Origins
www.citroenorigins.co.uk

Car manufacturers' websites tend to lack a certain va-va-voom, but not this brilliant celebration of nearly 100 years of Citroën history, which presents you with 48 iconic vehicles and a timeline slider that tells you when they were made. Click one and the engine really starts to rev – not only do you get instant stats, but you can also see a 360-degree view of the car, sit behind the wheel, enjoy sounds ranging from the horn to the wipers, browse original brochures and adverts, and read full product specs. We love that each vehicle is accompanied by music representing its period and were driven to distraction by the quality of this site.

Our rating ★★★★★

INTERESTING FACTS
Browse contemporary reviews, adverts and awards for each vehicle

DISCOVER
View at-a-glance specs including weight, size and maximum speed

FILM & TV
Flixtape
flixtape.netflix.com

Remember the days of audio cassette when you'd make mixtapes of favourite songs to share with friends? This new site lets you do something similar with Netflix by curating and sharing your favourite films and TV series. It's a simple enough process: give your Flixtape a name, prompting the service to find three starting matches, then edit your playlist, adding up to six titles before customising the cover and posting the result on social media or sharing it by email. The recipient needs Netflix to watch your selection, and you can't break down your playlist to individual episodes (a major omission, in our opinion), but it's still a clever and fun way of bringing viewers together.

Our rating ★★★☆☆

SECURITY NEW
Secplicity
www.secplicity.org
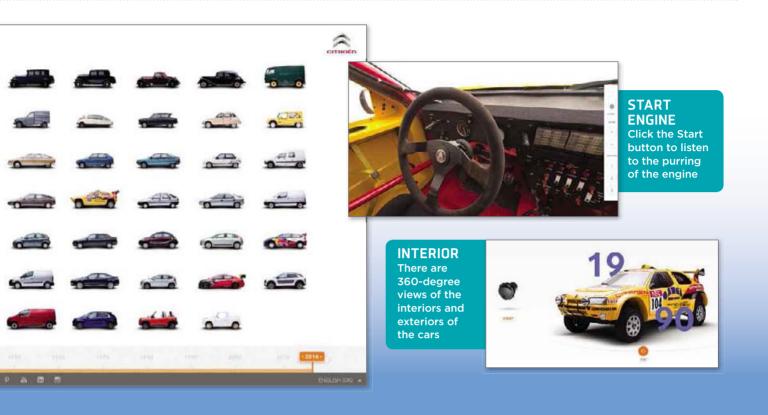
With so many hacks of late, it's more important than ever to stay on top of the latest cybersecurity news and alerts. Secplicity mixes videos with news and insightful opinion while trying to keep things as simple as possible (no easy task given the complex nature of some of the stories). The Daily Security Bytes videos provide well-explained overviews of the latest problems and you can also ask experts your security questions via a contact form. Secplicity's layout is clear and neat, with well-illustrated and easy-to-browse articles, although it's really more of a blog than a website.

Our rating ★★★☆☆

Reviews by David Crookes

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

START ENGINE
Click the Start button to listen to the purring of the engine

INTERIOR
There are 360-degree views of the interiors and exteriors of the cars

---

RELAUNCH

HISTORY

NMAAHC
nmaahc.si.edu

The National Museum of African American History & Culture is the latest addition to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. To accompany its launch, this revamped site lets you explore the museum's 37,000-strong collection by topic, data, name, object type and place. It promises to inform you about civil rights, slavery, education and more, but it's still a work in progress. While the Story section is good, only 7,229 objects have been uploaded and we came across some broken links. Hopefully, these will be fixed soon, so this potentially fascinating site can fulfil its potential.

Our rating ★★★☆☆

NEW

TRAVEL

Luxury For Less
bit.ly/luxury403

Given post-Brexit financial uncertainty, it's important to consider currency-exchange rates when booking your holiday. To help with this, Travelex has set up Luxury For Less, which tells you the probable cost of flights, hotels and spending money for various locations based on when you're likely to go, the length of your stay, the number of people and your budget. The site helpfully reveals the average cost of food, drink and taxis for your destination, along with the cheapest times to visit, and whisks you off to Travelex's partner, Skyscanner, to book flights and hotels.

Our rating ★★★★☆

NEW

SECURITY

No More Ransom
www.nomoreransom.org

This fantastic site hits back against the growing ransomware threat, with downloads that could help recover your data and lots of advice on preventing its loss in the first place. We love the Crypto Sheriff page that lets you upload encrypted files to discover how they've been locked, and the clear Q&A pages that tell you all you need to know about ransomware. The site has been created by the tech-crime unit of the police in the Netherlands together with Europol's European Cybercrime Centre. Backed by Kaspersky Labs and Intel Security, it's certainly one to bookmark.

Our rating ★★★★☆

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

INTERIOR DESIGN

Inspired Wallpaper

www.inspiredwallpaper.com

Want to do up your house and need some inspiration? Then get some help from this magazine-style site from three wallpaper brands – Coloroll, Crown and Vymura – which offers all manner of fresh ideas. Packed with well-shot images, it lets you view bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and living-room wallpaper, and design interiors by colour or a particular style. You can then easily order samples and work out how many rolls you'll need before you buy. We particularly like that you can add wallpaper to a Mood Board and adjust it for specific rooms and whims. However, the blog could do with more splashes of personality.

Our rating ★★★★☆

GAMES

Is Pokémon Go Down or Not?

ispokemongodownornot.com

If you're hooked on Pokémon Go, you may have experienced the frustration of trying to catch 'em all while battling with a temperamental server. With millions of players out there and newbies joining all the time, the game has been creaking under the strain. This useful site tells you instantly whether the servers are working and how long they've managed to stay afloat, so you'll know if it's your connection that's at fault. It breaks this information down by territory, so you can see the status that matters to you, and provides details of the current latency time and whether you can place a 'lure'.

Our rating ★★★★☆

WEDDINGS

Ultimate Wedding Magazine

www.ultimateweddingmagazine.co.uk

A dream wedding takes a huge amount of planning, so help with choosing the right wines and the best honeymoon destinations is always welcome. This site accompanies a digital-only magazine and brings together a collection of useful articles about fashion, beauty, planning and more. It's regularly updated with case studies of real weddings, along with reviews and competitions, and includes a promising section called the Collective which, in due course (it's still in beta), will become packed with suppliers.

Our rating ★★★★☆

FOOD

Cook's Science

www.cooksscience.com

This new cooking hub has only just started to add ingredients but it's already looking tasty. As well as collating lots of recipes and showing you how to make an eclectic range of dishes, it goes behind the food to explain the science. Whether it's charting the history of ice cream, divulging some sweet tricks or telling you how palate cleansers actually work, you feel as if you're feeding your brain as well as your belly. Although current formatting issues interfere with printing pages, each article is cleanly presented and can be shared on social media. Check out the fast-paced videos and sign up to the newsletter to stay abreast of the latest additions to the site.

Our rating ★★★★★

TRAVEL

Park Inn by Radisson

www.parkinn.com

The refreshed Park Inn website is bursting with colour and life, with a more friendly and less corporate feel than the old one. This broad, visually packed new layout only stretches to the homepage, though; elsewhere, the site reverts to a more traditional, narrower and more functional look. Not that this should put you off, though. The site has a simple booking system and there's an excellent blog that not only provides lots of travel tips but delves deep into locations from Antwerp to York. It also encourages social-media interaction, while the newsletter promises to deliver offers and inspiration. ■

Our rating ★★★★☆

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

</> Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

Top Tips of the Fortnight

Code with Brackets

Many websites are built using WordPress, but occasionally you need to edit code such as HTML, CSS or PHP. Brackets (brackets.io) is a free editor from Adobe that is now up to version 1.7 and offers some great features, such as the clever ability to open a small window within your code to edit the CSS that applies to it. Another new feature is Ctrl+Tab, which lists recently opened files, so you can reopen them. Although you edit the code directly, Brackets displays a live preview of the page in Chrome as you type.

Customise the WordPress dashboard

The WordPress dashboard is flexible and customisable. Click the Screen Options button at the top and tick the items you want to see. You can click and drag the dashboard panels into your preferred order, placing your most used items first. Click the up arrow in the top-right corner of a panel to shrink it.

Spam comments are a frequent problem, but if you go to Settings, Discussion Settings, Content Moderation and enter 1 then any comments with links will not be posted until you approve them.

Deal of the Fortnight

If you don't yet have a website, One.com is offering your first year's web hosting for free with a website builder, 15GB of online storage and WordPress included.

Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT:
Edmund Turbin, Sales Engineer at WP Engine (wpengine.com)

Q My Dreamweaver site looks great on my PC but awful on my phone. Should I make a separate site for mobile visitors?
gareth5506, via Web User Forums

A You shouldn't have to create different websites for different devices. There are lots of website builders, including WordPress, that can be used to design a website that looks great on phones and tablets, as well as on a Desktop. These allow your website to respond to the screen it's being viewed on, to optimise legibility, image size and layout. A website with responsive images also lets users with limited bandwidth download less data. This makes pages load more quickly, which means people will have a more enjoyable experience when visiting your site.

MINI WORKSHOP | Compare your website with your competitors
Alexa: www.alexa.com | ⏱ 10 mins | Any browser
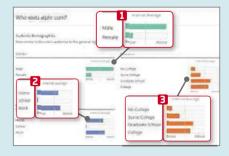
The free service Alexa lets you analyse your site and those of your competitors to compare your ranking, audience demographics and more. This interesting data can be used to improve and expand your site

1 Go to www.alexa.com and sign up for a free account **1** – this isn't compulsory and you can use the site without it. Scroll down the page until you come to Browse Top Sites. Enter the URL of a website (either your own or a competitor's), **2** then click the Find **3** button.

2 The results page appears, displaying a chart **1** that shows your ranking over the last year. Ideally, the chart should show growth. On the right you can see the global rank **2** and the UK rank. **3** The lower the number, the more popular the website – so 1 would be the best (it's www.google.com).

3 Scroll down the page to view information about the site's visitors. You can get data on their gender, **1** level of education **2** and whether they are browsing the site from work or home. **3** You can then tailor your own site's content accordingly.

✚ Email us your website building questions at webuser@dennis.co.uk

Media streamers

You don't have to spend hundreds of pounds on a new TV to access the best entertainment on the web. We test eight devices that let you stream the latest films, sport and catch-up channels

Streaming devices have revolutionised the way we access content on our televisions, and the latest models are cheap, easy to use and offer more to watch than ever. With a media-streaming device plugged into your TV, you can rent movies, subscribe to all-you-can-watch movie and TV services or, if you prefer, just catch up with your current terrestrial favourites at a time that's most convenient to you.

Services such as Sky offer better deals and increased flexibility because you no longer have to have an unsightly dish mounted on an outside wall of your house, and even Freeview can't compete with the free services available online.

We've tested eight media-streaming devices to see which one you should use to bring the best of internet TV to your living room.

Roku 3 | £83.98 | www.very.co.uk

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

The Roku 3 is a compact box that supports a broad range of content. Catch-up TV is very well supported, with all the UK terrestrial services represented, including BBC iPlayer, All 4, ITV Hub and Demand 5. The device also supports Netflix, Amazon Video and Sky's Now TV, and you can rent or buy movies on a pay-as-you-go basis from Google Play, Sky Store and Sainsbury's.

The Roku 3 has a Fast Ethernet port and 802.11n Wi-Fi, or you can stream video, pictures and music from a microSD card or a USB port. It only has an HDMI output, though, supporting resolutions of 720p or 1080p.

Setting up the device is easy. You need to create a Roku account on your computer or mobile device in order to link the account to the media streamer. Once that's done, you simply connect the box to your TV and start installing channels.

The Roku 3 has a wonderful user interface, with a scrollable menu of categories and options on the left-hand side and

a matrix of channel tiles to browse on the right. It's slick to operate and looks great.

The Roku store includes Plex, which makes it easy to access your own content through networked devices, though it isn't quite as slick on the Roku as it is on other devices.

The hardware is brilliant, particularly the remote control. It has a headphone socket that automatically mutes the TV, so you can watch whatever you like without disturbing others. It connects to the device via Bluetooth so you don't even need to point it at the box, which sounds gimmicky but is a joy to use – pointing your other controllers at the screen will become a chore after using this.

WebUser GOLD AWARD

VERDICT
★★★★★

The third-generation Roku brings together the best elements of its previous models. Unless you absolutely must have 4K capability – in which case, you should opt for the Amazon Fire TV box – this is as close to a perfect TV-streaming device as you're likely to find, providing all the terrestrial catch-up services and a choice of Netflix, Amazon Video, Google Play and Sky services.

Amazon Fire TV Stick | £34.99 |
www.amazon.co.uk

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

WebUser SILVER AWARD

The Fire TV Stick plugs into an HDMI port on your TV and is about the size of a USB memory stick. It's powered by a USB power adapter, or will run from a TV's USB port, as long as this supplies enough power.

Like the Roku, the Fire TV Stick supports all the main UK catch-up channels. As you might expect, it prioritises Amazon Video (which comes bundled with the £79 per year Amazon Prime delivery service) but can also stream from Netflix, Spotify Connect, YouTube, Sky News and BBC Sport.

You can control it using the supplied remote or, if you prefer, your mobile device. This gives you the added benefit of voice search, but for £10 more you can get it built into the remote. There's also a game controller available for another £40, but if you want to play games rather than watch TV, you'd be better off with the additional power supplied by Amazon's Fire TV with 4K Ultra HD.

VERDICT ★★★★★

At £35, the basic Amazon Fire TV is great value for money. If you're an Amazon Prime member, it's a particularly good way of getting extra value out of your delivery subscription by taking advantage of Amazon's video-streaming service.

Amazon Fire TV with 4K Ultra HD | £80 |
www.amazon.co.uk

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

WebUser BRONZE AWARD

If you've taken the plunge and bought a 4K TV, Amazon's latest Fire TV is the ideal companion. It's the best streaming device around to support ultra high-resolution, and has the content to match, with both Amazon Video and Netflix offering a selection of 4K films and TV series through the device.

It's a bigger box than our other award winners but its contents are more powerful, so navigating around its menus feels incredibly slick. It also comes with the voice remote we mentioned in the Fire TV Stick review, so you can speak your searches into the device.

It streams programmes from all the UK catch-up services, and you can download an app to connect it to a Plex server for streaming content over your own network. With the option of Fast Ethernet or 802.11ac Wi-Fi, you should enjoy a smooth and unbroken connection.

VERDICT ★★★★☆

If you've already splashed out on a 4K TV, this device lets you get the most out of the technology. Viewers with lower resolutions are better off with the Fire TV Stick, unless you want an excuse to upgrade your TV at a later date.

Apple TV | £129 |
www.apple.com/uk

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

Apple got a bit more serious about its TV device with this 2015 refresh of its set-top box. But while the hardware and the interface are suitably powerful and slick, the content lets it down. Netflix and Now TV are available but there's no built-in catch-up TV from UK channels and, unlike Roku, it hasn't cut a deal with Amazon, so you can't access its video-streaming service.

This is a shame because everything the Apple TV does, it does wonderfully. The remote is the most sophisticated in this group, despite its minimal buttons – it has a trackpad that can move the cursor around; it's a motion controller (like the Nintendo Wii's) for playing games; and it's rechargeable. It also provides sophisticated Siri-based voice control for searching apps and controlling playback.

All is not lost, however, because you can use an iOS device to fill some of the missing elements by casting with AirPlay, but it's a hamstrung streamer if you don't already have an iOS device.

VERDICT ★★★★☆

If you only want to beam content from your mobile device, the Chromecast is more affordable than Apple TV. It's great for Netflix and playing games, but there aren't enough catch-up services and it doesn't support Amazon Video.

BEST OF THE REST

The cheapest way to get a decent streaming service on your TV is to use **Sky Now TV** (**£15** | **www.nowtv.com/box** | ★★★★☆). This gives you simple no-contract access to Sky's movie, entertainment and sports channels, and the pay-as-you-go Sky Store, on a device that's basically a re-badged Roku. You can also use it to view all the catch-up channels, but rival services such as Netflix and Amazon aren't included.

The **Google Chromecast** (**£30** | **store.google.com** | ★★★★☆) remains a great device when used in conjunction with a smartphone but casting content through your mobile device is less convenient than having everything already built in, as is the case with the other streamers we've reviewed.

If you're into gaming and want to play PC and Android games on a big screen (even a 4K model), you'll love the **Nvidia Shield Android TV** (**£150** | **www.ebuyer.com** | ★★★★☆). It's not so good at streaming TV, though, and there aren't enough Android apps configured to support it.

The **NZXT Doko** (**£117** | **www.amazon .co.uk** | ★★☆☆☆) is a disappointment. It's another gaming accessory, which can connect to your PC (though only using an Ethernet cable) and display content on your TV, but there's plenty of room for improvement.

	Roku 3	Amazon Fire TV Stick	Amazon Fire TV with 4K Ultra HD	Apple TV	Sky Now TV
WEBSITE	www.roku.com	www.amazon.co.uk	www.amazon.co.uk	www.apple.com/uk	www.nowtv.com/box
PRICE	£83.98	£34.99	£79.99	£129	£15
BUY FROM	www.very.co.uk	www.amazon.co.uk	www.amazon.co.uk	www.apple.com/uk	www.nowtv.com/box
FORM FACTOR	Box	Dongle	Box	Box	Box
VIDEO OUTPUTS	HDMI	HDMI	HDMI	HDMI	HDMI
AUDIO OUTPUTS	Headphone out	None	S/PDIF	None	None
USB PORT	1 x USB3	Micro USB (for power)	1 x USB2	USB Type-C (for service)	1 x USB2
INTERNAL STORAGE	512MB	None	8GB	32 or 64GB	None
EXPANDABLE STORAGE	MicroSD	None	MicroSD	None	None
NETWORKING	802.11n, Ethernet	802.11n	802.11ac	802.11ac, Ethernet, Bluetooth 4.0	802.11n, Ethernet
STREAMING SERVICES	All 4, Amazon Video, BBC iPlayer, Demand 5, Google Play Movies and TV, ITV Hub, Netflix, Plex, Sky Now TV, Sky Store, Spotify, YouTube	All 4, Amazon Video, BBC iPlayer, Demand 5, ITV Hub, Netflix, Plex, Spotify, YouTube	All 4, Amazon Video, BBC iPlayer, Demand 5, ITV Hub, Netflix, Plex, Spotify, YouTube	Apple Music, iTunes, Netflix, Now TV. Via iOS AirPlay: All 4, BT Sport, BBC iPlayer, ITV Hub	All 4, BBC iPlayer, Demand 5, ITV Hub, Sky Now TV, Sky Store, Spotify, YouTube
STREAMING SERVERS	Plex, UPnP	DLNA, Plex	AirPlay, DLNA, Plex, SMB, UPnP	AirPlay, DLNA, Plex	UPnP via app
WARRANTY	One-year return-to-base	One-year return-to-base	One-year return-to-base	One-year return-to-base	One-year return-to-base
DIMENSIONS	89 x 89 x 25mm	119 x 44 x 14mm	115 x 115 x 17mm	98 x 98 x 35mm	84 x 84 x 23mm
WEIGHT	142g	57g	281g	425g	100g

OUR VERDICT

Our favourite device for getting the best internet entertainment to a TV is the Roku 3. With a full complement of catch-up channels; services from the likes of Sky, Amazon and Netflix; and an innovative interface and remote, it's a brilliant device. It deserves our Gold award.

The Silver and Bronze awards both go to Amazon. Silver is taken by the £35 Amazon Fire TV Stick, which has great support for catch-up TV and is doubly useful if you subscribe to Amazon Prime. But if you've already got a 4K TV, or are planning to get one soon, consider upgrading to the £80 Fire TV with 4K Ultra HD, which won our Bronze award. Both are superb value for money and cover a good range of services, including Netflix, should you prefer it to Amazon's own streaming service. ■

Web User's Best Buys
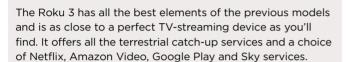
Web User and its sister titles test over 2,500 products every year

HARDWARE

MEDIA STREAMER

NEW!

Roku 3

£83.98 from **www.very.co.uk**
Date tested: August 2016

The Roku 3 has all the best elements of the previous models and is as close to a perfect TV-streaming device as you'll find. It offers all the terrestrial catch-up services and a choice of Netflix, Amazon Video, Google Play and Sky services.

KEY SPECS

HDMI video output ■ 1 X USB 3 port ■ 512MB internal storage with microSD slot ■ 802.11n Wi-Fi and Ethernet connectivity ■ Plex and UPnP streaming servers ■ 89 x 89 x 25mm ■ 142g ■ One-year return-to-base warranty

WINDOWS 10 PC

Palicomp AMD Avenger

£500 from **www.palicomp.co.uk**
Date tested: June 2016

The Palicomp AMD Avenger's medium-sized case still provides plenty of room to upgrade. Its carefully chosen components provide good performance, especially when playing games.

KEY SPECS

Quad-core 4.5GHz AMD Athlon X4 880K processor ■ 8GB of memory ■ 1TB hard drive, 240GB SSD ■ 2 X USB 2 ports, 3 x USB 3 ports ■ Ethernet ■ 485 x 420 x 235mm ■ Three-years return-to-base warranty

BUDGET SMARTPHONE

Sony Xperia M4 Aqua

£149 from **www.tesco.com/direct**
Date tested: June 2016

A great budget smartphone with some high-end specs, including a powerful octa-core processor, a decent camera and a reasonable battery life. It's also dust- and water-resistant, with an impressively bright screen.

KEY SPECS

5in screen ■ Octa-core 1.5GHz processor ■ 2GB of memory ■ 8GB of storage ■ 13-megapixel rear camera ■ Android 5.0.2 Lollipop ■ 1,280 x 720 pixels resolution ■ 2,400mAh battery ■ Dust- and water-resistant ■ 146 x 73 x 7.3mm ■ 136g

MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER

Canon Pixma MG5750

£65.59 from **www.photospecialist.co.uk**
Date tested: June 2016

The MG5750 is an excellent all-rounder, producing top-quality prints at a great price and a reasonable speed. It uses multiple cartridges – including a special one for black text – to reduce waste and keep running costs low.

KEY SPECS

Thermal inkjet multifunction printer with scanner/copier ■ 4,800 x 1,200dpi maximum print ■ 1,200 x 2,400dpi (24-bit) optical scan resolution ■ 5 cartridges ■ USB and 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi ■ 100-sheet tray ■ Duplex printing ■ 455 x 369 x 148mm

WINDOWS 10 LAPTOP

Acer Aspire One Cloudbook 14

£149.99 from **www.currys.co.uk**
Date tested: April 2016

The Cloudbook 14 is as good a laptop as you'll get for less than £200. It's not particularly fast and doesn't have a brilliant display, but it's fantastic value, especially because it includes a year's subscription to Office 365 Personal.

KEY SPECS

Dual-core 1.6GHz Intel Celeron N3050 processor ■ 2GB of memory ■ 32GB SSD ■ 14.1in non-touchscreen ■ 1,366 x 768 pixels resolution ■ 1 x USB 3, 1 x USB 2 port ■ 802.11n Wi-Fi ■ 339 x 235 x 17.9mm ■ 1.6kg ■ One-year return-to-base warranty

WIRELESS ROUTER

Netgear Nighthawk X4S

£259.99 from **www.currys.co.uk**
Date tested: December 2015

The Netgear Nighthawk X4S will boost your network, no matter what type of web connection you have. It's expensive but built to last, and should make further upgrades unnecessary until the next 802.11 standards are launched.

KEY SPECS

Dual-band 2.4GHz, 5GHz ■ 802.11ac ■ 2.53Gbps theoretical max speed ■ ADSL2+ and VDSL ■ 5 x 10/100/1,000Mbps Gigabit Ethernet ports ■ Dual-core 1.4GHz processor ■ 285 x 185 x 50mm ■ One-year return-to-base warranty

All prices correct at time of review

SOFTWARE & SERVICES

INTERNET SECURITY

Kaspersky Internet Security 2016

£19.95 from bit.ly/shop389
Date tested: January 2016

Kaspersky is rock solid at protecting your PC from the worst of the web, and has come top in seven of our most recent tests, blocking all viruses and malware with its robust defences. Click the link above to save £30 on the software (normal price £49.99).

KEY FEATURES

Antivirus and firewall tools ■ Protects online shopping and banking ■ Identity and privacy tools ■ Dangerous-website alerts ■ Advanced parental control ■ Licences for one, three and five PCs; for one or two years, or pay monthly ■ Multi-device version ■ Compatible with Windows 10

WEB DESIGN

Xara Web Designer 11 Premium

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

Xara Web Designer 11 is a great tool for anyone who wants a good-looking website without having to use HTML or CSS code. The interface is easy to use and the software includes all the tools you need to create flexible sites that change depending on the size of the screen.

KEY FEATURES

90+ templates ■ WYSIWYG design ■ Create responsive websites ■ Embed codes ■ Add HTML ■ Online editing ■ FTP uploader ■ Hosting (requires registration) ■ Browser preview (Chrome, Firefox, IE, Opera)

PHOTO EDITING

Adobe Photoshop Elements

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

With its tidy interface and pop-out trays, Adobe Photoshop Elements provides everything an amateur photographer needs and helps you quickly find the right editing tools.

KEY FEATURES

Compatible with Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8+ and 10 (32- and 64-bit) ■ Bundled photo organiser ■ Content-aware edits ■ Guided edits ■ People-beautifier tools ■ RAW support

ONLINE STORAGE

Google Drive

From free from drive.google.com
Date tested: January 2016

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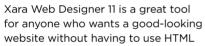
KEY FEATURES

16GB free storage ■ Web-based office software ■ Works with XP, Vista, 7, 8+ and 10 ■ Chrome browser add-on ■ Android and iOS apps ■ 100GB extra storage for £1.36 per month; 1TB for £6.01 per month; 10TB for £60.16 per month

BACKUP AND SYNC

SyncBackFree

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

SyncBackFree is very capable software that gives you plenty of control over how it can be used. 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 backup files easily ■ Email logs ■ Schedule backups ■ Simple and Advanced mode ■ Runs on Windows XP, Vista, 7. 8 and 10 ■ Extensive Help documentation and support

VIDEO EDITING

Adobe Premiere Elements

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

Premiere Elements' superb interface makes its many features neat but accessible. You won't find better video-editing software for the price.

KEY FEATURES

Automatic editing ■ Export to multiple video formats ■ Burn to DVD and Blu-ray ■ Image stabiliser ■ Stop-motion capture ■ Motion tracking ■ Musical scores and sound effects ■ Upload to YouTube and Vimeo

⬇ Best Free Software
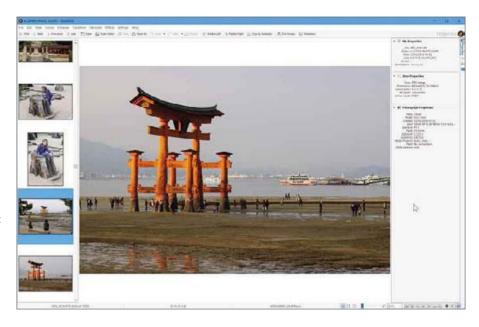
DigiKam 5

bit.ly/digikam403

Min requirements: Windows XP/
Vista/7/8+/10, Mac OS X or Linux
File size: 73.1MB

The excellent free DigiKam is a very powerful photo organiser and editor. There are actually two separate programs included in the download – DigiKam and Showfoto. The former lets you manage your photo collections; sort images into albums; browse for pictures by keyword tag, label, date, location, subject and more; and share items across numerous services, including Facebook, Imgur, Dropbox, Flickr and Google Photos.

You can give each of your pictures a star rating, view them in several ways – such as in a slideshow or on a light table – easily add tags and find duplicate or similar images. You can also apply multiple changes in batches, which saves time and effort.

The other program, Showfoto, is a good photo editor that lets you view images in a window, full screen or as a slideshow; adjust a picture's colour; and enhance, transform or decorate it. It's no rival to Paint.net, but the software offers a good range of effects, including charcoal drawing, oil paint and blurs.

The interface takes a little getting used to because it was written for Linux and ported to Windows and Mac, but it's worth persevering. There's much more to both programs than you might expect, and you'll discover new, useful features hidden throughout as you play around with them.

This new version of DigiKam has been rewritten to make it much faster and more stable in Windows. It also gains new tools and editing functions, such as the ability to import images from a digital scanner and options for editing metadata and geo-location information.

⚙ MINI WORKSHOP | Manage your photo collection using DigiKam 5

1 Launch DigiKam and add one or more photo locations to the program. You can browse subfolders in the list on the left **1** and images in the pane on the right. **2** Hover your mouse over an image to add a star rating. **3** You can also view the picture full screen or rotate it left or right using the controls above the images. **4**

2 Double-click a thumbnail **1** to display a preview of the image. **2** Thumbnails of other pictures in the same folder are shown in a strip above. **3** There are various useful tools to be found at the top of the preview pane **4** and on the left-hand side of the interface **5** Click the strip on the right to open a sidebar containing other options. **6**

3 DigiKam also supports facial recognition. You can tag photos of people or have the software automatically search for faces across all your images. Go to Browse, **1** People, and click 'Scan collection for faces'. **2** You can choose which type of detection to use. **3** Click Scan **4** to begin, then People **5** to see the results.

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

VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK
CyberGhostVPN 6
www.cyberghostvpn.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 15.1MB

Virtual Private Network (VPN) tools disguise your browsing and protect your privacy. CyberGhost has been completely rewritten and gains a colourful new interface with tiles for different tasks, such as Surf Anonymously, Unblock Streaming, Protect My Internet Connection, Torrent Anonymously and Unblock Basic Websites. You get three days' free trial of the Premium plan, but after it expires only Protect My Internet Connection and Unblock Basic Websites remain available.

SYSTEM TOOL
Nero TuneItUp Free
www.nero.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 13.1MB

Clean-up tool TuneItUp optimises your PC by removing unnecessary files, emptying the Recycle Bin, clearing your browsing history and safely uninstalling unwanted programs. Its new Autopilot feature lets you run on-demand scans, while keeping an eye out for problems in the background. The program can also block unwanted software and its high-speed turbo mode frees up memory and processor power.

FILE MANAGER
XYplorerFree 17
bit.ly/xyplorer403
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 3.4MB

XYplorerFree is a great alternative to the built-in Windows File Explorer. It's fully portable, has a stylish dual-pane interface and uses tabs to make it easier to copy and move content between folders. You can even save your favourite folders for future access. The new version adds a Live Filter Box, which displays matching files as you type part of a name, and content searches are now much faster.

New Windows Apps
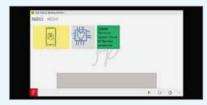
Fast Post
bit.ly/fpost403
Min requirements: Windows 10
File size: 15.3MB
Fast Post is a note-taking app that supports Windows 10's Ink feature, letting you draw notes and sketches using a stylus or your finger. Keyboard notes are also supported.

Acast
bit.ly/acast403
Min requirements: Windows 10
File size: 20.8MB
Acast is a hub for playing podcasts and audio shows. You can discover new content through curated lists, continue from where you left off listening, and keep up to date with shows you follow.

Client for tvTube
bit.ly/tvtube403
Min requirements: Windows 10
File size: 15MB
This app lets you watch and download videos from YouTube. As well as saving videos for offline viewing, it can download only the audio track. It has an innovative TV-style interface.

MEMORY TESTER
MemTest86 7
www.memtest86.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/
Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 4.5MB

Problems with your PC's RAM can lead to freezes and crashes, which is no fun at all. MemTest86's memory-diagnostic tool boots from a CD or USB flash drive and runs a series of tests looking for faults with your computer memory. Although the program looks very technical (and, actually, it is), all you really need to know is that if it reports any errors, that means there is a problem with your PC's RAM and you should probably replace it.

There's an additional test in this new version (Row Hammer Test) and the software can now run tests in Parallel CPU mode – if your PC supports this – meaning the process will complete significantly quicker.

FILE-RECOVERY TOOL
PreviousFilesRecovery
www.nirsoft.net
Min requirements: Windows Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 76.7KB

Modern versions of Windows (from Vista onwards) have a feature called Volume Shadow Copy Service, which takes regular, automatic snapshots of your hard drive. PreviousFilesRecovery from NirSoft lets you recover old files and folders from these snapshots and focuses on content that no longer exists. So if you've accidentally deleted some photos from your hard drive, it might be able to recover them for you.

To use PreviousFilesRecovery, enter a starting base folder, choose the subfolders depth (unlimited, by default) and specify the type of files you're looking for – '*.JPG', for example. Any found files can be easily recovered.

HARD-DRIVE MANAGER
DiskBoss 7
www.diskboss.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 6.5MB

Hard drives can go wrong in several ways, often with dire consequences, such as losing all your data. DiskBoss is a selection of drive-related tools that can do everything from telling you how much space you have remaining on each drive (and identifying the worst space hogs) to informing you of a drive's S.M.A.R.T (Self-Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Technology) status, so you can take action if a fault develops. The latest version can copy files to multiple destination directories and perform preset analysis and search commands on all the files in a chosen folder. A new right-click option provides important information based on the current location or selection.

GAME
Halcyon
bit.ly/halcyon403
Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 317MB

Halcyon is a short, fun first-person puzzle game that requires you to put together shapes by changing your perspective. According to the developer, "It is a game focused on the creation of metaphor through symbolism and symbolic play". It uses the Unreal gaming engine, so it may run more slowly on older PCs.

✗ Don't install...

Pistonsoft MP3 Tags Editor
www.pistonsoft.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 2MB

This is yet another of those programs that charges you for something that other tools do for free – in this case, to tag your MP3 files with track information. For $29.95 (£22.80), you can organise your music collection by manually entering and editing data in a similar manner to "working with spreadsheets" – and we all know how much fun that is!
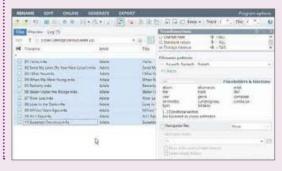
...Install this instead ✓

TagScanner
www.xdlab.ru/en
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 2.5MB

If your music collection is in a bit of a mess, TagScanner can help you tidy things up so you always know exactly what an audio file contains. Add some songs and you can manually edit details such as track number, name, artist and album. If that sounds like hard work, TagScanner can make the changes automatically by pulling information from reliable online databases. It works with all the major audio formats, as well as several obscure ones, and supports embedded lyrics and cover art, while the latest version adds a new and improved duplicate-file finder.

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

DISC-AUTHORING TOOL
True Burner 4.1
www.glorylogic.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+
File size: 3.8MB

True Burner can write all sorts of discs, including Blu-rays and DVD-Videos. The new version of the program updates the disc-burning engine and compilation selection box, and improves file loading and processing. Make sure you decline the bundled junk during installation.

SYSTEM CLEANER
CCleaner 5.20
www.piriform.com/ccleaner
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 7.8MB

The hugely popular system-cleaning tool gets updated on a monthly basis. The latest version improves the Firefox internet cache and Chrome download-history cleaning, and adds support for clearing up after the new Vivaldi browser. Various bugs in the software have also been fixed.

ANTI-MALWARE
RogueKiller 12.4
www.adlice.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 24.2MB

RogueKiller can help you identify possible malware on your PC, including worms and rootkits. This update adds further detections, shortcuts and tasks scanners, and updates the program translations. There's a new scanner for Registry classes, too, to detect any suspicious changes.

FOLDER HIDER
Wise Folder Hider 3.37
www.wisecleaner.com
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10
File size: 3.4MB

If you have a file, folder or USB drive that you want to keep private, this handy free tool can help. The latest update stops the program freezing after an incorrect password has been entered, and fixes the issue of the software failing to detect hidden files when uninstalling. ■
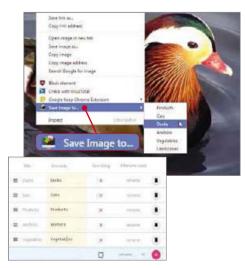
Best New Browser Tools

CHROME

Remove all mention of Pokémon from the web

Unless you've been living in a cave for the last few weeks, you'll know that Pokémon Go is the sensation that's sweeping the nation. Indeed, the mobile game has become so ubiquitous that you're probably sick of hearing about it, which is where PokeGone (bit.ly/pokegone403) comes in. Like similar tools for the Karsdashians (bit.ly/kard403) and Donald Trump (bit.ly/trump403), this extension removes all mention of Pokémon from web pages, so you can browse without being bothered by it. PokeGone offers three levels of sensitivity – mild, aggressive and vindictive – and keeps track of the number of Pokémon it has 'caught'. We found it worked well on social media, but on other sites it merely warned us that Pokémon were present, rather than actually blocking them. If you'd like to read more about Pokémon Go, rather than less, turn to our FAQ on page 36.

Download web images to different folders

Although it's easy to change your default Downloads folder in Chrome – just go to Settings and click the Change button next to 'Download location' – there are times when you'll want to save files elsewhere. Help is at hand from a new extension called Save Image Router (bit.ly/saveimage403), which lets you expand Chrome's right-click menu with multiple download locations. True, there are some restrictions – the locations must be subfolders within the main Downloads folder and you can only save images – but it's still a very useful tool.

To set the available subfolders to save to, click the toolbar button, select Options and add them to the list. They'll now appear when you right-click a picture and choose 'Save Image to...'. You can delete, rename and rearrange the new locations on the Options page.

Disable Chrome extensions more easily

If you have too many extensions running, Chrome can become slow and prone to crash. Right-clicking them on the toolbar only lets you hide them or remove them altogether, but if you would rather just disable add-ons temporarily, you should get Extensity (bit.ly/extensity403), which makes the process much quicker and easier. At the click of a button, it displays a drop-down list of all the Chrome extensions and apps you have installed. You can then turn them on and off individually, simply by clicking them, or flick a switch to disable or enable them all in one go. It's an essential tool for extension addicts.

Mute background tabs automatically

If you've got BBC News 24 going in one tab and decide to play a YouTube video as a bit of light relief in another, you'll end up suffering an aural assault from the clash of audio sources. Thank goodness for Smart Mute Tab (bit.ly/mute403), a new Chrome add-on that ensures only one tab – the current one – is able to play audio at any time, by automatically disabling sound from other background tabs. When you close the current tab, it will instantly 'unmute' the one you switch back to. You can set the extension to ignore specific websites, so you don't miss new-message alerts and other important audio notifications.

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

FIREFOX

Install Chrome extensions in Firefox

There are thousands of great add-ons for Firefox, but many new ones are only released for Chrome, which can be frustrating for Mozilla devotees. Until now, that is, because an incredible new tool called Chrome Store Foxified (bit.ly/foxified403) has arrived. This lets you install your favourite Chrome extensions in Firefox, to get the be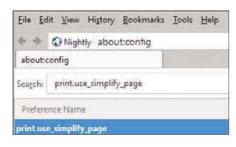st of both worlds. Simply visit the Chrome Web Store in Firefox (chrome.google.com/webstore), click the add-on you want and you'll notice that an 'Add to Firefox' button appears in the top-right corner. Click this and the extension will convert to Firefox format, and you'll be able to 'sign' and install it. You'll first need to create an account at addons.mozilla.org, if you don't have one already, but this doesn't take long and it opens your browser to a world of new possibilities.

Print cleaner versions of web pages

Firefox 49, which is currently in beta but will be officially released on 13 September, introduces a welcome new feature called Simplify Page. This lets you print online articles without the irrelevant clutter that surrounds them – such as adverts, links and design elements – saving you ink, paper and time. Oddly, Mozilla has decided to disable the feature by default (at least for the time being), but it's easy enough to turn on. Type about:config into your address bar, press Enter and click 'I'll be careful, I promise'. Find the entry 'print.use_simplify_page' and double-click it to set its value to 'true'.

When you want to print a cleaned-up page, press Alt on your keyboard and choose File, Print Preview. When the page opens, select 'Simplify page' and Firefox will remove the clutter so you

can proceed with printing cleanly.

If you can't wait a few weeks to try this fantastic new printing feature, you can download the Firefox 49 beta now from bit.ly/beta403

Close tabs by pressing Delete

Question: which keyboard shortcuts can you use to close the current tab in Firefox? If you said Ctrl+W and Ctrl+F4, give yourself a pat on the back, but don't stop reading yet because there is now a third way. Delete Tab No Restart (bit.ly/delete403) closes the active tab instantly when you press – you guessed it – the Delete key on your keyboard, thus saving you a whole key press. That's very handy, you might say, but what happens when I need to use the Delete key to actually delete something? Well, if you think about it – when did you last press Delete rather than Backspace when using your browser? Ages ago, right? So everybody wins.

OTHER BROWSERS

Delete cookies for specific sites

There are good cookies and bad cookies on the web, but removing the latter from Opera involves a lot of fiddling around in the browser's settings. Wouldn't it be easier if you could clear all the cookies implanted by the current site in one go? The good news is that you can, by using the Opera extension 'Remove cookies for the current domain' (bit.ly/cookies403). When you inadvertently visit a website you don't trust, just click the add-on's toolbar button to wipe all that site's cookies instantly. It's also a speedy way to log out of online accounts.
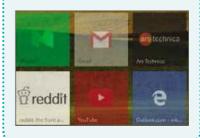
Try the new and improved Edge

Microsoft is continuing to tweak its Edge browser to make to it a stronger competitor to Chrome and Firefox. The recent Windows 10 Anniversary Update improved the tiles that appear when you pin websites to the Start screen. Previously, these merely featured the Edge logo and the name of the site, but they now display the proper 'favicon'. Microsoft also claims that Edge is the only browser, apart from Apple's Safari, to support the full-HD playback resolution of 1080p for Netflix streaming; and the latest version uses less memory and battery power. It's certainly worth another look.

Best Free Apps

App of the Fortnight

MEDIA

NEW

BBC+

bit.ly/bbcdroid403
bit.ly/bbcios403

Min requirements:
Android 4.1, iOS 8.1
Size: 14MB (Android),
10.6MB (iOS)

The BBC has made almost as many apps as TV shows over the last few years. Does the world – let alone your space-squeezed phone or tablet – really need another one? Yes, because despite its limited size, BBC+ does the job of several apps. Tell it what you're interested in, and it delivers relevant content from across the BBC's network.

The first thing we saw upon launching the app was a photo of David Attenborough, which was a great start. Sign in using a BBC ID, or create one, then choose 'interests' such as technology, entertainment and recipes, along with curated video and radio content such as 'BBC iPlayer TV picks', 'Latest sport videos' and the more topical 'Pick of the Proms 2016'. We'd welcome more such time-relevant feeds – how about an Olympics video feed, for example? Breaking news appears at the top of the screen, whatever feed you're looking at.

Although relying too heavily on BBC+ means you're unlikely to venture out of your 'comfort zone', the app serves its purpose well by supplying you with content you're bound to enjoy. It's very easy to use and feeds are updated regularly. As well as saving you the space that would be consumed by installing individual BBC apps, it's also a great time-saver and a fantastic source of programmes and articles you'd never otherwise see. However, in itself, it's fairly limited. It doesn't have a built-in media player, so you need the BBC Media Player app for Android (bit.ly/media403) or the iPlayer app for iOS (bit.ly/iplayer403) to open video and audio.

Our rating ★★★★★

MINI WORKSHOP
Set up BBC+ on your mobile device

1 Launch BBC+ and sign into your BBC iD account or create one for free. Tap 'Get started'. On the 'Add interests' screen, tap the '+' **1** next to three or more subjects to add them as feeds. Your selected subjects are ticked. **2** You can swipe down the screen to see dozens more. When you've finished, tap Next. **3**

2 Tap 'Use my current location' to include local weather, then 'OK I'm in' to get notifications or 'No thanks' to opt out. Finally, your default 'At a glance' screen will open. Swipe left to see your feeds, **1** then swipe up to scroll through items. Every item has a Share button; **2** tap it to send a link via apps including Gmail and Twitter.

3 Tap Menu, then Edit to change your feeds. **1** On the screen that opens, tap an item to remove it, then tap 'Add interests' to include more categories and content that interest you. Tap the settings cog to switch BBC+ notifications on or off, change the text size and set or cancel your location. **2**

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

TEXT SCANNER

Ctrl-F

NEW

bit.ly/ctrl403
Min requirements: Android 4.0.3
Size: 37MB

"Take a picture of the document you want to search – the app will automagically process it," says Ctrl-F, whose name comes from the PC shortcut for searching within a text document. "Automagically" is bang on, too, because Ctrl-F is supernaturally helpful. Use the in-app camera to photograph a paper document, then export any typed text as a searchable PDF (handwriting isn't supported). There are no sneaky in-app purchases for exporting or searching, and it's coming soon to iOS – see www.ctrlf.io for news.

Our rating ★★★★★

MESSAGING

Mirrordrin

NEW

bit.ly/mirrdroid403
bit.ly/mirrios403
Min requirements: Android 5, iOS 8
Size: 1.7MB (Android), 5.7MB (iOS)

Get app notifications across all your devices, including your PC and laptop (via Chrome) as well as your Android phone or tablet, iPhone or iPad. Clicking or tapping a notification on one device dismisses it from all of them, so you no longer have to bat away the same old Facebook notification every time you fire up a new device. It supports Gmail, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Telegram and more. Note that the Android version is still in beta at the time of writing.

Our rating ★★★★☆

PHOTOGRAPHY

Adobe Lightroom

UPDATED

bit.ly/lightroom403
Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 8.1
Size: 37MB (Android), 72.4MB (iPhone), 75.6 (iPad)

There's no substitute for Adobe's Desktop programs Lightroom and Photoshop if you want professional results, but this app is as close as you'll get on your phone or tablet. The in-app camera lets you control shutter speed, ISO, white balance and focus when shooting, and supports raw image formats for powerful tone and colour adjustment when editing. You can export photos at full resolution and it integrates with Adobe Creative Cloud if you're a member (bit.ly/adobecc403).

Our rating ★★★★★

BROWSER

Firefox for iOS

UPDATED

bit.ly/firefox403
Min requirements: iOS 8.2
Size: 36.4MB

Version 5.0 of Firefox for iPhone and iPad uses 30% less memory and 40% less processor power than its predecessor – thanks to the work of one engineering intern, the fabulously named Tyler Lacroix. The app now lets you use the address bar to search within sites such as eBay, YouTube and Wikipedia: just go to any site with a search box and tap the magnifying glass to add it to Firefox. There's a new menu for quick access to frequently used features such as New Private Tab and Settings (see screenshot, above), and you can now set a favourite site as your homepage. The update also makes it much easier to navigate open tabs, which is especially welcome on a tiny iPhone screen.

Our rating ★★★★★

+ Recommend free phone apps at www.facebook.com/webusermagazine

📱 Best Free Apps

MUSIC

NEW

Sainsbury's Entertainment Music

bit.ly/saindroid403
bit.ly/sainios403

Min requirements: Android 4.4, iOS 8.2 **Size:** 39.2MB (Android), 27.1MB (iOS)

Sainsbury's is expanding into digital services with a new music-player app that integrates with your existing iTunes library and Sainsbury's Entertainment account (www .sainsburysentertainment.co.uk). The app adds features such as playlists and cross-device syncing, and you can even use it to collect Nectar points. However you can't create an account or buy music through the app; that's all done through the site. Same goes for other Sainsbury's Entertainment apps such as Sainsbury's Movies & TV (bit.ly/saintv403).

Our rating	★★★★☆

CALLS & MESSAGING

NEW

Viber for Windows

bit.ly/viber403

Min requirements: Windows Phone 8, Windows 10 Mobile **Size:** From 21.36MB

Viber, which is now out of beta for all Windows 10 devices, is essentially a cross between WhatsApp and Skype. Like WhatsApp, it lets you send text messages, photos and videos and make calls via Wi-Fi or mobile data, so you never have to pay SMS or call charges again; and, like Skype, it also now includes free HD-video calling. There's also group chat for up to 200 people at once (quite a party); drag-and-drop support for adding photos, links and other files to messages; and integration with Windows 10's voice assistant Cortana, so you can launch calls or write texts, simply by speaking.

Our rating	★★★★☆

5 NEW APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

NOTES

Notepad Pro

bit.ly/notepad403

Min requirements: Android 2.3
Size: 80KB **Price**: 89p

One of the smallest and most useful apps in the Google Play Store, Notepad Pro lets you keep unlimited notes in 'slots' for easy sorting; save automatically as you type; import and export text, and search for words and phrases in notes.

SYSTEM TOOL

Bluetooth Pair Pro

bit.ly/bluetooth403

Min requirements: Android 4.1
Size: 2.7MB **Price:** 89p

This app lets you save frequently connected Bluetooth devices so that you can pair them with your phone or tablet much more quickly.

GAME

Klocki

klockigame.com

Min requirements: Android 4, iOS 8
Size: 33MB (Android), 51.4MB (iOS)

Price: 50p (Android), 79p (iOS)

In this relaxing puzzle game from Wojciech Wasiak, creator of the equally calming Hook (bit.ly/hook403), you connect lines, blocks and patterns, then advance through the levels.

FILES

iFiles 2

bit.ly/ifiles403

Min requirements: iOS 9
Size: 49.6MB **Price:** £2.29

Manage all your cloud-storage accounts in one place, so you no longer have to rummage through Dropbox, Google Drive and OneDrive to find the files you're looking for. The app can also play music and video, unzip compressed files, read PDFs and record audio.

SYSTEM TOOL

Battery Go

bit.ly/batterygo403

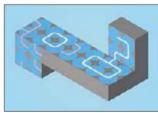**Min requirements:** Android 4.4
Size: 1.3MB **Price:** 69p

If you're already hooked on Pokémon Go (see page 36), you'll know it's a real sap on your battery. Equip yourself with Battery Go and you can use it to lock and black out your screen and other apps while hunting for augmented-reality critters.

Notepad Pro	Bluetooth Pair Pro	Klocki	iFiles 2	Battery Go

Best New TV Apps

TV & FILM
Roku
bit.ly/roku403

Min requirements: Windows Phone 8.1, Windows 10 mobile, Roku TV or player
Size: 21MB

Roku, the winner of our media streamers Group Test on page 20, has finally launched its app for Windows 10 tablets, putting an amazing choice of viewing at your fingertips. The app lets you search for TV shows and films across more than 1,800 channels including Amazon Video, Now TV, Netflix and Google Play, and easily launch the content on your Roku TV or player. It features Cortana integration, so you can look for something to watch using your voice, and lets you save your favourite channels for instant access. You can also stream photos from your tablet to your Roku device.

MUSIC
Vevo
bit.ly/vevo403

Min requirements: Android 4.2, iOS 8
Size: 52.7MB

Vevo is best known for the official, high-quality music videos that it hosts on YouTube, but the latest updates to its mobile app suggest it's keen to be seen as a music service in its own right. Your Vevo profile can now be personalised to get you recommendations and curated playlists based on your favourite artists and genres, with new songs to discover every day. There's also an improved video player that works in both landscape and portrait modes, and you can easily create your own playlists and keep track of all the videos you've watched. Additionally, Vevo plans to add an offline mode soon.

TV
My5
bit.ly/myfive403

Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 7
Size: 28.8MB

With thousands of one-star ratings on Google Play and iTunes, Channel 5's mobile app hasn't been a big hit with viewers, but at least it's now admitting that: "users have been experiencing problems and that your experience has been very frustrating". My5 has now been updated to fix known bugs and add some new features, including an improved video player and a more accurate search facility. You can now sync your favourite shows – and audio description and subtitle settings – across devices, and better organisation places the most recent seasons of a series first, and presents catch-up content by date.

✗ Don't install...

UpDownMeter Pro
bit.ly/updown403

This ropey old app is supposed to monitor the amount of data being used by other apps on your phone, so you can identify and stop bandwidth hogs. However, its horrible interface, excess battery usage and lack of features don't make it worth the £2.49 charged by the developer, especially when similar but better apps are available for free. Also, we don't like the look of its permissions, which seem unnecessarily intrusive and even untrustworthy.

...Install this instead ✓

Network Master
bit.ly/network403
Min requirements: Android 4.0.3
Size: 2.6MB
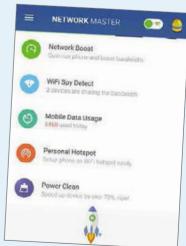
This excellent free app tells you everything you need to know about how your phone connects to the internet, from its current download and upload speeds to whether a nearby, public Wi-Fi network is being used for phishing attacks. Network Master automatically detects and displays information about the amount of data used by individual apps, and offers optimisation tools for boosting your bandwidth, a built-in firewall and a data manager. You can also turn your phone into a portable hotspot in a couple of taps. It's a shame about all the ads, but at least they're easy to identify. ◼

Pokémon Go

Millions of people are now wandering the streets trying to find non-existent creatures. **David Crookes** explains why the world has gone Pokémon mad

Pokémon? That's a blast from the past isn't it?

Indeed. Pokémon made its video-game debut 20 years ago with the release of two versions: Red and Blue. Launching with the catchphrase "Gotta catch 'em all!", the role-playing title became the biggest hit for the Nintendo Game Boy since Tetris. It has now made an incredibly successful leap to Android and iOS, making Pokémon Go (www .pokemongo.com) possibly the biggest mobile-game craze ever seen.

What exactly is Pokémon Go?

Best described as a location-based augmented-reality game, Pokémon Go involves capturing and training virtual cartoon creatures that can then be put into battle against other players. It's a similar concept to the previous Pokémon titles, but this time the action takes place in the real world.

The game displays a map of your current area and uses your phone's GPS location data to direct you to the Pokémon, which are superimposed on the

Explore a map of your area to find Pokémon

real world using augmented reality. The creatures can appear on your street, in your garden or in front of a monument, and the more you catch, the quicker you progress through the levels and open new possibilities.

Just how big a deal is Pokémon Go?

Within three days of being released in the US, Pokémon Go became the biggest mobile game in US history, attracting 21 million daily active users. Many more millions have since flocked to play the game – not just in America but in Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Canada and, of course, the UK, where it was released on 14 July. Thousands of Android and iOS users can currently be seen scouring their neighbourhoods in search of Pokémon. The fact that it's free (albeit with optional in-app purchases) has attracted the casually curious and

We've spotted a Pokémon in the Web User office!

it has the perfect ingredients to become a smash-hit with obsessive fans.

What ingredients, exactly?

The first is perhaps the familiarity of the franchise which, by February this year, had achieved sales of more than 279 million units. The second is its widespread availability on phones and tablets. But it also seems people have taken well to the fun of exploring the world around them, with the incentive of collecting items and competing against others. Indeed, demand has been so high that the servers have frequently been overloaded.

How do I start playing?

Download the game from the App Store or Google Play, then create an account and customise your trainer character. Choose either Charmander, Squirtle or Bulbasaur as your starter Pokémon, catch it by flicking a Poké Ball in its direction and you're ready to venture outdoors. You'll see

Each breed of Pokémon has different attributes

the trainer moving around the in-game map, matching where you are in the real world, and your phone will vibrate whenever you encounter a Pokémon.

But why are people hanging around the streets?

You can battle other players at a Pokémon gym

Certain areas called PokéStops, based at places of interest such as museums, shops and pubs, contain random collectible items. You may even get Pokémon Eggs that hatch into creatures you've never seen before – as long as you've incubated them by walking enough steps first. There are also gyms where your Pokémon are trained and you can battle other players.

Bet there's a bit of cheating, eh?

Oh yes, there's plenty of that. Some players have tried to hack the game and others have used drones to make speedier progress. We've seen a level 23

You can buy Pokémon cheats on eBay

account containing 119 creatures being sold for £500 and you can also buy rare Pokémon that only reside in specific locations, such as by rivers or in densely populated cities. But, as the saying goes, you're only cheating yourself.

Still, at least it gets people out and about, right?

Yes, just as Nintendo Wii saw players leaping around their living rooms, so Pokémon Go is encouraging gamers to get out of the house. It's having some health benefits – people are spending an average of 43 minutes walking around and it's been said that it will burn 1,500 calories in women and 1,800 in men each week if played daily. But it's also making for the ultimate in social gaming.

Has the game had any problems?

It has, yes. Quite apart from hackers carrying out a Distributed Denial of Service attack on the Pokémon servers, there have been reports of someone dialling 999 to report a "stolen" Pokémon, teens in Florida being shot at after being mistaken for thieves, people being robbed at knifepoint for their phones, children becoming stuck in caves and people walking off cliffs and wandering into roads. There have also been warnings from child-protection agencies and the police.

Should I steer clear of it, then?

Oh no, not at all. On the plus side, the game has even led to some crime-fighting –

Pokémon Go has revived Nintendo's fortunes

Pokémon Go players stopped a burglary in its tracks near Doncaster and there have been some startling discoveries, not least a body found in a Wyoming river. But ultimately, Pokémon Go is great fun and, far from being just a summer craze, it has the potential to change the way we use the mobile web. It has already beaten Twitter's number of daily users, has more downloads than the dating 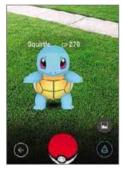app Tinder and users are spending more time on it than on Facebook. So it's being watched very carefully by many people.

Try not to walk off a cliff as you hunt for Pokémon

So what's the future for Pokémon Go?

It's too early to predict the long-term impact of Pokémon Go but there is certainly potential for developers to make their fortunes. Players are allowing the game to learn their locations and movement, which means it could become a valuable database for advertisers and marketers, and it marks a triumphant comeback for Nintendo, which was suffering poor sales of the Wii U console. The company's share price rocketed by 86% on the back of the game and pundits believe there will be many more successes to come.

POKÉMON GO CONQUERS THE WORLD

Since Pokémon Go launched, not a day has gone by without the game hitting the headlines or being referenced in some way. Here are some highlights

The Simpsons
bit.ly/simpsons403
Pokémon Go isn't referenced by name in this redubbed advertising clip for *The Simpsons* but it shows Homer tapping his phone, trying to catch various creatures, oblivious to the dangers that the real-life animals in the zoo are posing to his children.

Space X
bit.ly/spacex403
Having completed the serious business of launching another Falcon 9 rocket, Space X's broadcast couldn't resist a little joke. Towards the end of the show, a virtual cartoon Space X Dragon capsule is overlaid on screen and the presenters jokily try to capture it.

Jeremy Corbyn
bit.ly/corbyn403
Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was given a lesson in Pokémon Go by BBC reporter Adam Fleming. The *Telegraph* was less enthusiastic, with reporter Alex Proud saying such apps were "hastening the downfall of mankind" (bit.ly/downfall403).

Best free clipboard managers

The Windows Clipboard only lets you copy and paste one item at a time. **Andy Shaw** checks out six sophisticated clipboard managers that save all your copies and cuts, so you can browse and paste them over and over again

CopyQ | bit.ly/copyq403 | ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★   **PERFORMANCE** ★★★★★   **EASE OF USE** ★★★★☆

What we liked:
CopyQ is a relatively new clipboard manager that's free to use and comes with a ton of advanced features. One of its most useful assets is that it lets you edit items while they're sitting in the clipboard. Just copy some text and you can view it in the main CopyQ window by left-clicking the icon in the taskbar's notification area. Highlight the clipboard item you want to edit, then press F2 or click the Edit icon in the toolbar on the right. You can make any changes you like to your highlighted text, then click the Save icon to return it to the same location in the clipboard. If you want to do a bit more with it, the 'Edit with editor' button brings up Notepad, so you can make changes in a more familiar setting.

CopyQ's interface is refreshingly modern and includes some impressive tricks that are missing from the somewhat old-fashioned presentation of our other two award winners. For example, CopyQ applies the relatively modern concept of browser tabs to its software, so you can take saved clipboard items from the main tab and store them in another, to efficiently organise your saved items and make them easier to find.

Once you start fully exploring the software, you'll find all manner of advanced options, such as scripting, to bring a whole new level of sophistication to your cutting and pasting.

How it can be improved:
Although its modern look is leagues ahead of the other award-winning clipboard managers in this group, CopyQ's interface is actually quite clunky and looks a bit cobbled together. The internet-editing option is brilliant but it only works with text, so you can't yet carry copied images through to your preferred image editor, which would be a nice touch.

OUR VERDICT
CopyQ has come out of nowhere to snatch our Gold Award from previous winner, Ditto. Its modern interface and wealth of options offer an impressive array of tools if you want a bit more from copy and paste than what you get from the standard Windows Clipboard.

Ditto | bit.ly/ditto403 | ★★★★☆
FEATURES ★★★★☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★☆

WebUser SILVER AWARD

What we liked: Ditto is a well-established program that won our Gold Award in our last testing of clipboard managers in Issue 363 (bit.ly/webuser363). Nothing has changed with the software in that time and we still love this small and compact program, with its tiny interface that loads instantly and needs very little space to work. It might look a bit too small on modern high-resolution screens, but it's a trade-off we were happy to accept for a clipboard manager that doesn't infringe on the rest of the Desktop.

Despite its small size, Ditto manages to include some handy, well thought-out tools. Best of these is the humble search box that sits at the bottom of its Quick Paste interface. This is brilliant for tracking down a specific section of text when you've got a whole collection of copied snippets sitting in its various clipboard slots.

How it can be improved: Things have moved on since we last looked at Ditto and its Windows XP-style interface looks more dated than ever. If you suffer from eye strain, you may struggle with the interface, which uses tiny fonts and thumbnail icons that are more little-finger than thumb-sized.

OUR VERDICT
This previous Gold Award winner is still among the best but some stiff competition has pushed it into second place. Newer clipboard managers have more sophisticated tools but Ditto's lightweight speedy interface and simplicity mean it's still a great choice.

Save.Me | www.aiclipboard.com | ★★★★☆
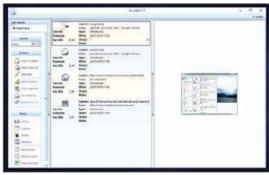FEATURES ★★★★☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★☆☆

WebUser BRONZE AWARD

What we liked: Like Ditto, Save.Me has been pushed down a ranking since our last look at clipboard managers. This portable, single-file program saves everything you copy to the clipboard, as long as you have the software running. Like our other award-winners, it places an icon in the notification area of the taskbar so you can launch it easily and see that it's running.

The main interface is split into three columns: menu options on the left; the list of copied items in the middle; and a preview pane on the right. This latter is particularly useful for images, which display better than in the smaller viewers of the other programs.

If you prefer a more compact view, Save.Me also provides a small window with icons, rather than a list of contents, which looks a bit like an Explorer window. Double-click an icon and it opens in a separate window.

How it can be improved: Save.Me works well but, like Ditto, its interface hasn't had a refresh since Windows XP, which makes it look spectacularly dated. It also isn't particularly intuitive to use.

OUR VERDICT
Save.Me's previews and thumbnails make it particularly good for copying and pasting images. However, its interface looks very old-fashioned and isn't straightforward enough to use.

BEST OF THE REST

Clipdiary Free
clipdiary.com
Clipdiary is the newest of all the products we tested and its features look comprehensive and promising. However, it's so new that, during our testing, Norton Internet Security didn't want us to install it. Scanning it on VirusTotal, only one of the 52 scanners flagged it up as dangerous, which looks like a false positive, but we can't guarantee this. Keep your eye on this one though, as it could be big news in the future.

ArsClip
bit.ly/arsclip403
ArsClip made a promising start during our testing but we ran into a few difficulties when trying to copy images to its clipboard. It claimed one of our images was too big the first time we tried, but accepted it on a subsequent attempt. With other clipboard managers working without a single fault, this unpredictable behaviour pushed ArsClip out of the running.

Shapeshifter
bit.ly/shape403
Shapeshifter won a Bronze Award in Issue 363's round-up but the developer's website is no longer online, which doesn't bode well for future updates. You can still download the software from other sources but, with its developer gone, we'd recommend sticking with one of our award-winners.

Stop strangers contacting you online

The web makes it easy to contact people, but this can lead to unwanted attention. **Edward Munn** explains how to block strangers on five popular services

Facebook

Facebook's privacy settings make it easy to control who can look you up and add you on the social network. Just click the drop-down menu in the top-right corner of the site and select Settings, Privacy. You can stop anyone who's not on your Friends list looking you up using your phone number or email address by clicking Edit next to the appropriate options and choosing 'Friends' from their respective menus. You can also prevent your profile from appearing in Google and other search engines by selecting Edit for the last option under 'Who can look me up?' and unticking the box to 'Allow search engines outside of Facebook to link to your Profile'.

People can still look for you by name using Facebook's search tool and, by default, anyone can send you a friend request. To stop strangers trying to befriend you, click Edit alongside 'Who can contact me?' and select 'Friend of friends' from the drop-down menu. Unfortunately, you can't block people from trying to contact you, but

Facebook only lets you see messages from people it thinks you might know. These are filtered to the Message Requests section of your inbox, so that you're not disturbed unnecessarily. To check if you have messages in this folder, simply click the Messages button in Facebook's toolbar and a number in brackets alongside 'Message Requests' will indicate if you have any unread messages. Select the message to open it and either click Accept to accept future communication or Ignore to move the message to 'Filtered requests'.
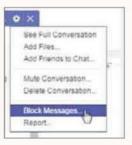
Twitter

Being able to interact with people you don't know is one of the best things about Twitter, but if you'd prefer to control who follows you and responds to your tweets, there's a simple fix. Click your profile-picture thumbnail, select Settings and 'Security and privacy', then, under Privacy, tick

REPORT ABUSIVE USERS ON FACEBOOK

If you receive messages on Facebook that make you feel uncomfortable, you can block the user from contacting you again by opening the conversation, clicking the settings cog and selecting Block Messages, then Block Messages again. You can then delete the conversation by selecting Delete Conversation in the same menu. Bear in mind that if

you want to report abuse, it's best to keep a copy of the conversation, which you can do by taking a screenshot. To block someone completely on Facebook, so you don't even see their profile, click the padlock symbol in the toolbar, select 'How do I stop someone bothering me?' and then enter the name or email address of the individual you want to block.

the box to 'Protect my Tweets'. This stops your future tweets being publicly visible and any new followers will have to send you a request that you can either accept or reject. Remember to click 'Save changes' before leaving the page, or your new tweets will remain public.
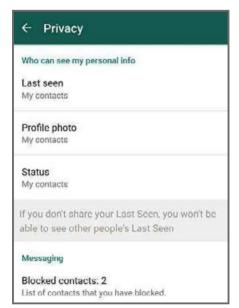

If you want to stop an existing follower from seeing and replying to tweets you post, you'll have to block them. To do this, visit their profile, click the Settings cog and select Block. Bear in mind that blocking someone means you'll no longer be able to see anything they post. A sneaky trick to get around this is to block the person and then unblock them immediately. They will have to request to follow you again to see your tweets, but you are still free to view theirs. However, you probably won't be very popular if someone notices that you've done this and they may well decide to block you anyway!

Only users who you follow can send you direct messages on Twitter, so if you want to stop someone from messaging you privately, all you need to do is unfollow them – you don't have to block them.

WhatsApp

WhatsApp owes much of its success to the ease with which it lets you contact your friends and family. Unlike other messaging apps,

there's no need to send a friend request because simply having someone's number in your phone's Contacts app is all you need to start a chat with them. But what if you've had the same phone number for years and don't want old friends (or old flames!) to see what you're doing these days? Thankfully, there's an easy method to stop just anyone from viewing this information. Open the app's Settings menu, then tap Account, Privacy and you can choose who can view your 'Last seen', 'Profile photo' and 'Status'. By default, they're all set to Everyone, but you can change this to only your contacts or to nobody at all. If they can't see this information, people who you've not spoken to for years will have no way of knowing if the phone number still belongs to you.
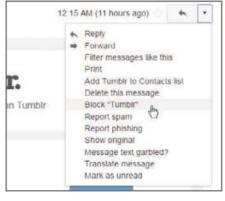
Alternatively, if you need to block a specific individual from getting in touch with you, simply find them on the app's Contacts screen, select the three-dot button and choose More, Block. You can use the same method to block unknown senders when you receive a message from someone who isn't in your Contacts list.

Gmail

Gmail is normally pretty reliable at spotting spam messages, but if the same persistent and unwelcome senders keep getting past its filters, there are some simple ways to stop them in their tracks. If the messages are from a newsletter or mailing list that you signed up to, try opening one of the messages, then scroll to the bottom to use the 'unsubscribe' or 'change email preferences' links within the email. If these don't exist, Gmail often includes its own 'Unsubscribe' button next to the sender's email address at the top of the message. On the other hand, if the message is clearly spam, you can report it as such without even opening the

email. To do this, select it from your Inbox and click the 'Report spam' button. If these methods fail, you can block a sender manually by opening an email, clicking its drop-down menu and selecting Block "sender" (where "sender" is the name of the person or business emailing you). Should you change your mind, you can unblock the sender in the same way.

Google also lets strangers email you via Google+ if they add you to one of their circles – they don't even need to know your email address. To prevent this from happening, log into Gmail, click the cog icon and select Settings. Scroll down to the 'Email via Google+' section and select 'No-one' from the drop-down 'Who can email you via your Google+ profile' menu.
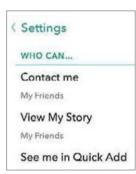
Snapchat

Preventing unwanted attention on Snapchat is quite straightforward. First, tap the ghost icon at the top of the screen, then select the gear icon to open the app's Settings. From this menu, make sure that 'Who can contact me' is set to 'My Friends' and not 'Everyone'. The same setting should also be applied for 'Who can view my story', if you want to stop strangers seeing your past content. Now, when a user tries to send you a snap, you'll receive a notification, but you won't see the snap unless you add them to your Friends list first.

If you receive too many friend requests, you can disable 'See me in Quick Add' from the same menu, which stops you being suggested as a Quick Add to users with whom you share several mutual friends. You can also select Mobile Number from Settings and untick the option to 'Let others find me using my mobile number'.

To block a user who has tried to add you, tap 'Added Me' from the main menu, swipe left on their name and select Block. ∎

Best OLD Free Software

Some free programs haven't been updated for years, but have yet to be surpassed. **Robert Irvine** praises six old tools that are still worth using

VIDEO DOWNLOADER
Get iPlayer
bit.ly/iplayer395

What's so great about it?
Get iPlayer was created to let telly addicts download and keep BBC iPlayer shows for longer than 30 days, but support was abandoned in March 2010 when the Beeb blocked open-source tools from accessing its catch-up service. Fortunately for viewers, the project was continued by other developers, so this unofficial PVR (personal video recorder) still works perfectly for recording iPlayer content to watch for as long as you want. The latest maintenance update was in March this year, but there have been no significant changes to the software for six years.

What to watch out for:
Get iPlayer has a confusing command-line interface that was designed to work across Windows, Linux and OS X. For a friendlier view, launch the Web PRV Manager from the Start menu, then

Get iPlayer looks dated, but still lets you keep BBC shows forever

either search for a programme to download or paste its web address from the iPlayer website. Click Record and the show will be saved in DRM-free MP4 format that you can watch in any media player.

PERSONAL FINANCE
Money Plus Sunset Deluxe
bit.ly/money403

What's so great about it?
Microsoft officially discontinued Money, its popular personal-finance software, in June 2009, but there hadn't been a UK version since 2005. Even so, for people who used Money to view their account balances, create budgets and manage their spending, Microsoft's loss of interest in the program was both inconvenient and irritating.

However, fans of Money received some good news in 2010 when the company released Money Plus Sunset Deluxe (MPSD) – a free, cut-down version of the program with the same simple interface. This doesn't offer any online tools or support, but it lets you import and manually enter financial data; use scheduled transactions to ensure you pay your bills on time; create and track a budget; forecast your personal cash flow; and view and print reports of your income, expenses, savings and investments.

What to watch out for:
Money Plus Sunset Deluxe isn't compatible with data files created using old, non-US editions of Microsoft Money. You'll need to export these to Quicken (QIF) format to open them in MPSD. Also, be aware that MPSD will

overwrite any existing versions of Microsoft Money installed on your PC.

Manage your budget and bills using Money Plus Sunset Deluxe

FILE MANAGER
Total Commander
www.ghisler.com

What's so great about it?
Now approaching its 23rd birthday, software veteran Total Commander (which was called Windows Commander until 2002) is widely acclaimed as one of the best file managers that ever existed. Its interface is showing its age, but it's packed with useful features including side-by-side windows for copying files and comparing folders; a speedy and sophisticated search function; a built-in compression tool that supports ZIP, RAR, TAR and many other formats (although some require plugins); an FTP client for uploading files to the internet; and much more.

Total Commander is the tool that Windows Explorer should have been, and it's compatible with all versions of the operating system, even providing a 16-bit download for ancient machines running Windows 3.1. There are also apps for Android and Windows Phone.

Total Commander is packed with useful features and is free to use

What to watch out for:
Total Commander is classified as shareware, which means you get a nag screen each time you open the program until you register it. Unlike other shareware, however, this is free to do, and even if you don't register, you can still use the software for free forever (albeit with a nag).

DISC BURNER
CDBurnerXP
cdburnerxp.se
What's so great about it?
Although CDBurnerXP's name suggests that it only works with Windows XP (it works with all other versions of Windows but was originally designed for XP when it was released 12 years ago), it's still one the best disc-burning tools around, and is much faster and easier to use than similar commercial software. As well as writing data discs (CD, DVD or Blu-ray), audio discs and ISO image files, it lets you create bootable discs, design and print covers, and split content across multiple CDs or DVDs.

CDBurnerXP is completely free to use, with no bundled junk, and is updated several times a year to add new features and fix bugs, although there hasn't been a 'full' release since version 4 in 2007.

CDBurnerXP is a brilliant free tool for copying and creating discs

What to watch out for:
Some users have reported problems when running CDBurnerXP in Windows 10, particularly the 64-bit version of the operating system. However, the developers seem happy to help, if you

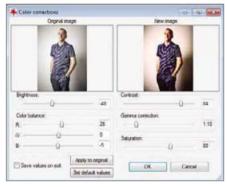post details of your problem in the forums (forum.cdburnerxp.se).

IMAGE VIEWER
IrfanView
www.irfanview.com
What's so great about it?
IrfanView celebrated its 20th anniversary in June and we still use it to take most of the screen grabs you see in each issue of *Web User*. Although it hasn't changed a great deal in recent years, it's updated at least once annually to introduce new options, fix bugs and add support for further image formats.

IrfanView's popularity and longevity can be attributed to its speed and simplicity, giving you a quick and easy way to view, edit, capture and convert images, without unnecessary frills. Although the program's range of effects and enhancement tools pale in comparison to 'proper' image editors, IrfanView is the perfect lightweight tool if you just want to lighten a photo, blur a confidential name or address, or crop surplus elements from a picture. There are plugins available if you need extra features.

IrfanView is a simple, speedy and extremely useful image viewer

What to watch out for:
The 'recommended' download link for the software on the IrfanView website takes you to CNET Download.com, which – as we highlighted in last issue's feature on safe download sites – is plagued by deceptive ads and bundled junk. We suggest you get the program from one of the alternative sources, such as FossHub (bit.ly/foss403).

MEDIA PLAYER
Winamp
www.winamp.com
What's so great about it?
Since its release 19 years ago, Winamp has been through three owners, was for a time bundled with junk (including the notorious OpenCandy) and got shut down by an uncaring AOL. And yet, it's still a darn good media player, with a thriving online community (forums

.winamp.com) and its current owner, Radionomy, promises that Winamp will be "re-energised" very soon. True, the most recent version – v5.666 (bit.ly/winamp403) feels very old-fashioned, with its widget-based interface, graphic equalizer and blocky controls, but as a lightweight way to enjoy your music collection, Winamp beats iTunes hands-down. For a bit of fun, try clicking the llama's bottom on the homepage for an audio surprise.

What to watch out for:
Winamp no longer tags audio files with track data from the Gracenote online database and it can't generate playlists automatically. Although the download is free of junk and malware, it's always risky to use a program that connects to the web if it hasn't been updated in some time – see the 'Use old software safely' box – so you may prefer to wait for the forthcoming relaunch. Or just use it to listen to music stored offline. ■

Winamp is currently in limbo, but it's still a great music player

50 BEST FR

The best mobile apps aren't the most
Jane Hoskyn reveals the 50 apps that

There's been a lot of big news this summer: Brexit, the Olympics, people running around with their phones in pursuit of Pikachu. But while Pokémon Go is fun – and goodness knows we've needed a bit of that in 2016 – we wouldn't exactly call it our favourite mobile app of all time, or even of the month.

You can read more about Pokémon Go in our FAQ on page 36 and check out our fortnightly round-up of other new apps on page 32. Our Best New Apps selection never

includes complete duds, but we suspect (okay, we know) they're not all 'keepers' either. This week's Pokémon Go is often next week's Pokémon Go Away.

So we decided to go back over the last year or two and pick out 50 apps that never did go away. We've omitted the obvious names such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (which now has a ludicrous half a billion users). Instead, we've filled our eight categories with esoteric but essential and entertaining tools you'll keep using forever.

NEWS & WEATHER
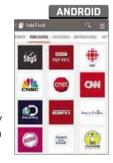
PODCASTS
`ANDROID`
BeyondPod
www.beyondpod
.mobi

Search for podcasts from this app's huge directory or import them from sites such as Feedly. There are oodles of ingenious settings: you can have podcasts deleted automatically after playing; get Smart Playlists based on your preferences; and choose different playback speed, volume boost and sleep settings for different podcasts.

NEWS MAGAZINE
`iOS` `ANDROID`
Flipboard
bit.ly/flipdroid403
bit.ly/flipios403

Tell Flipboard your interests and it'll keep your news feed brimming with stories that other users recommend, sourced from all over the web. You can organise content into a digital magazine and save it for reading offline.

TECH NEWS
`iOS` `ANDROID`
Drippler
drippler.com

Drippler is similar to Flipboard, but it's restricted to collecting articles, videos, tips and app recommendations for your device. You'll be amazed by how much useful content there is.

WEATHER
`iOS` `ANDROID`
Weather Underground
www.wunderground
.com/download

This app shows at-a-glance 10-day forecasts and lets you customise a weather map to show only the data you want, including moon phases and sunset times. You can even contribute to its accuracy by reporting your own observations.

WEATHER
`WINDOWS` `iOS` `ANDROID`
WeatherBug
bit.ly/weatherbug403

WeatherBug lets you view precise and detailed forecasts by overlaying multiple weather layers on a map. Options include Storm Tracker, Pressure, Wind Chill and Pollen – it's a must for weather obsessives.

READING
`iOS` `ANDROID`
Pocket
getpocket.com

Save unlimited numbers of web articles and videos to return to when you have the leisure time to peruse them. It's easily the best offline reading app – just make sure you delete articles after you've read them, otherwise you're going to need a bigger SD card.

EE APPS *EVER!*

famous or even the most downloaded.
your phone or tablet can't do without

SOCIAL & COMMUNICATION

SOCIAL
iOS *ANDROID*
Garden Tags
www.gardentags.com

Join a community of thousands of gardeners, ranging from novices to green-fingered experts. The app gets its name from the plant encyclopaedia that members are helping to build by contributing tagged photos of their gardens. Share your progress, get advice and find out the names of all those mystery plants and insects in your garden.

FAMILY
iOS *ANDROID*
Ancestry
bit.ly/ancestrydroid403
bit.ly/ancestryios403

You can create and manage your family tree entirely within this app. It integrates with both the US and UK sites (Ancestry.com and Ancestry. co.uk) – we recommend creating an account using the UK site rather than the app. For app advice targeted to a UK audience, explore these articles on Ancestry.co.uk: **bit.ly/ ancestry403**.

FILE SHARING
iOS *ANDROID*
Pushbullet
www.pushbullet.com/apps

Send whatever you want – photos, documents, text messages, web links, enormous video files – to whoever you want, and between all your devices. Pushbullet makes Dropbox and Google Drive look about as good for file-sharing as carrier pigeons. However you can't send a batch of files in one go.

FILE SHARING
iOS *ANDROID*
Send Anywhere
send-anywhere .com

Send Anywhere lacks Pushbullet's friendly interface but it adds useful functions such as multiple file sharing and QR-code support.

PRIVATE MESSAGING
iOS *ANDROID*
Wickr
bit.ly/wickr403

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to send texts and attachments with end-to-end encryption and an expiry date. Once your message has expired, it's blitzed to smithereens and no-one, including you, will ever be able to recover it.

OFFLINE MESSAGING
iOS *ANDROID*
FireChat
firech.at

Send messages without a network connection using near-field communication (NFC) and peer-to-peer technology. FireChat is no WhatsApp, but it has allowed people to contact loved ones from planes, remote areas and even natural disasters.

KEYBOARD
iOS *ANDROID*
SwiftKey
swiftkey.com

Take the sting out of texting with a keyboard that learns how you type and includes multi-lingual autocorrect that actually works. SwiftKey's Flow feature lets you swipe between letters rather than tapping the keys, so you can use your phone one-handed.

MEASUREMENTS

ANDROID **iOS**

Multi Measures 2
bit.ly/measures403

Spin the wheel to select one of 14 measuring tools: a barometer for air pressure, a sound meter for volume in decibels and even a seismometer to measure underground seismic waves. Plus an altimeter for altitude, a metronome to count beats, a teslameter to measure magnetic waves and a good old-fashioned ruler.

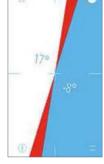## DIY

ANDROID

Bubble Level
bit.ly/bubble403

Bubble Level doesn't use fancy augmented reality like the popular app 'Measure in 3D Plumb-bob' (bit.ly/plumb403) but it's more accurate and easier to use – just lay your Android device on a surface to see how flat it is, or isn't.

Convert between any units using ConvertPad

ANDROID

bit.ly/convert403

The amazing ConvertPad lets you convert any unit of measurement to anything else that measures the same thing. The first time you launch the app, it appears to show a full list of units, but then you realise you're only seeing the Length/Distance category. Dozens more categories cover clothing sizes, image resolution, exchange rates and even exam scores. Narrow them down to Favourite Categories and Favourite Units, then use the lists and calculator to get quick, accurate conversions using up-to-date info.

HOME PLANNING

iOS **ANDROID**

MagicPlan
www.sensopia.com

This app lets you overlay objects on your camera's view to see how furniture and renovations would fit and look in your living space. MagicPlan also lets you create room maps, but downloading them requires an in-app purchase so it's best to take screenshots as you go along.

HOME PLANNING

ANDROID

Floor Plan Creator
floorplancreator.net

Create detailed floor plans and download the finished map for free, albeit with a watermark. The drawing tool is flexible enough to suit odd-shaped rooms, and items such as cupboards and windows 'snap' into place for accuracy.

HOME SECURITY

ANDROID

Perch
getperch.com

If you have an old or spare Android device or laptop gathering dust, this app lets you turn it into a security camera. Install Perch on your current Android device, then pair it with the old one. You now have CCTV to keep an eye on your home while you're away.

SYSTEM & SECURITY

SYSTEM TOOL
ANDROID

Boost+
bit.ly/boost403

Use this recent newcomer from mobile maker HTC to speed up your Android device by removing hidden junk and killing pointless processes. For tips, see our Mini Workshop on page 32 of Issue 396.

SYSTEM TOOL
ANDROID

Droid Optimizer
bit.ly/optimizer403

This Ashampoo app sounds like the Mary Poppins of Android cleaning: "fun and motivation… achievements and funny pictures". Happily, we found nothing of the sort – just a great all-rounder that lets you uninstall multiple apps, clear caches and delete massive files. The only reward we're after is a smoother, faster device.

BATTERY TOOL
ANDROID

Battery Doctor
bit.ly/batt403

Which apps are killing your battery? Yes, Facebook Messenger – but what else? This app from the maker of QuickPic exposes the culprits, along with information on your battery's temperature and health (ours: 'unhealthy'). You can kill all running apps with one tap (you'll be amazed at how many are running, even ones you haven't opened for months) and set up a battery profile to eke out its life when, say, you're away for the weekend.

Use Adblock Browser to stop ads taking over your screen
iOS **ANDROID**

adblockbrowser.org

Most system and security apps are Android only, because iOS (like Mac OS) is a sealed operating system. However an advert-blocker doesn't need system access, so this mobile browser – from the maker of Adblock Plus (adblockplus.org) – works on iPhones and iPads, too, and is deservedly popular.

By blocking ads on websites, it helps pages load faster, blocks many phishing traps and trackers, and prevents adverts hogging your screen. And by making your phone work less hard, it also saves battery and data. That's what you call a win-win-win.

PRIVACY
iOS

Opera VPN
bit.ly/opera403

Opera VPN isn't a browser (though Opera itself is). Instead it integrates with your installed browsers, including Chrome and Safari, to let you switch your virtual location so you can access blocked content. It also blocks adverts and trackers.

WI-FI & MOBILE DATA
iOS **ANDROID**

3G 4G WiFi Maps
http://opensignal.com

How strong is your mobile signal? Would it improve if you moved left a bit? Find out with this beautifully designed app that reveals the strength of all available mobile and Wi-Fi signals.

WI-FI
ANDROID

Wifi Analyzer
wifianalyzer.mobi

This app has more data-signal graphs, but focuses on Wi-Fi only. Test the strength of all open Wi-Fi networks around you, and connect to the strongest one. You can also use it to find the best Wi-Fi channel for your router.

WI-FI
iOS **ANDROID**

WifiMapper
www.wifimapper.com

Find free Wi-Fi hotspots nearby, using crowdsourced data from users around the world, covering two million free hotspots. The data is sourced from real people so you get helpful qualitative info – you can even find out if the hotspot serves decent coffee.

ANTIVIRUS
ANDROID

Avast Antivirus & Security
bit.ly/avast403

Avast has for a long time made the most powerful free antivirus for PC, and now its Android app is our top choice for mobile antivirus – mainly because the latest free version includes features that were previously limited to paying subscribers. It's now free to set up call blocking, app locking and scanning for dodgy app permissions, along with malware scanning and Trojan removal. Avast throws in a few system-boosting tools, too, including a battery saver and clipboard cleaner.

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

COMPASS

Smart Compass
ANDROID
bit.ly/compass403

If you ever find us wandering the streets gazing at our phones, chances are we're looking at Smart Compass not Pokémon Go. This fascinating app uses magnetic sensors and GPS to overlay a compass on your camera view or Google Maps (satellite included). It could save your bacon if you ever need to text someone your coordinates.

LANGUAGES

Duolingo
WINDOWS **iOS** **ANDROID**
duolingo.com

French and German lessons may have been time for a nap at school, but this ingenious app brings languages to life by turning them into games. Advance through bite-size challenges to learn Spanish, Irish, Hebrew and dozens more languages.

OFFLINE MAPS

Maps.me
iOS **ANDROID**
maps.me

Download detailed open-source maps of 345 countries (though possibly not all at once), then use them for interactive journey planning when you're offline. We particularly like the auto-follow mode that orientates your map to match your direction, which makes it an excellent navigation tool for hiking.

TRAVEL PLANNING

Tripit
iOS **ANDROID**
tripit.com

Going on holiday – what fun! Actually it's a right old hassle until you're on the beach or in the bar. Forward your booking emails and travel documents to plans@tripit.com, and Tripit automatically consolidates them into a streamlined itinerary for sharing with family and fellow travellers. It sounds bonkers, but it's secure and works a treat.

TOILETS

Toilocator
iOS **ANDROID**
www.toilocator.com

Toilocator's database of more than 2.9 million public lavatories is significantly larger than its rivals' (you'd be surprised how many there are). Simply launch the app to find nearby loos, complete with details of whether they're free and offer disabled access. It works globally and requires internet and GPS.

NAVIGATION

Here WeGo
iOS **ANDROID**
here.com/app

More downloadable maps covering hundreds of countries, but this time it's all about getting from A to B. Download a map, then use it to navigate offline using GPS and turn-by-turn voice commands. It's especially good for driving abroad and even helps you find your way around shopping centres (see screen grab).

DRIVING

Waze
iOS **ANDROID**
www.waze.com

Waze talks to you about your destination and offers real-time warnings of accidents, diversions and other hazards using data crowdsourced from other users on the road. Its live maps are constantly updated and offer automatic rerouting as driving conditions change.

Explore a foreign city using Citymapper
iOS **ANDROID**

citymapper.com

With information for only 32 cities, Citymapper's coverage is no match for Here or Maps.me (see above), but this wonderful app trumps its rivals' quantity with quality.

It opens on your location but the magic begins when you choose a city to visit, from Barcelona or Birmingham to Tokyo or Vancouver. You can bookmark public transport routes using whatever modes are available, including cycle hire and Uber taxi. Once you're there, you'll get real-time updates when, say, your S-Bahn train to Hamburg is delayed or your San Francisco streetcar is about to reach its stop – no internet required.

If your favourite destination isn't Citymapped yet, tap 'Vote for Next City' to have your say.

HEALTH & FITNESS

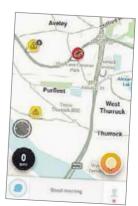### FIRST AID
WINDOWS | **iOS** | **ANDROID**

First Aid by British Red Cross
bit.ly/redcross403

Accidents will happen, and this superb tool from the Red Cross could be a life-saver. Tap 'Emergency section' to go straight to step-by-step guides and videos, or use interactive quizzes in the Learn and Prepare sections to become an expert first aider.
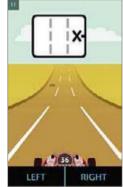
BRAIN TRAINING
iOS | **ANDROID**

Lumosity
bit.ly/lumdroid403
bit.ly/lumios403

Cognitive scientists have teamed up with game designers to create dozens of brain-boosting challenges, with more to unlock as you progress. There's a pinball

game to test your working memory, a driving game to brush up your mental agility and even a beer-brewing game to focus your attention... sorry, did someone just say "beer"?

FITNESS
iOS | **ANDROID**

RunKeeper
bit.ly/runkeeper403

This app packs in all the tricks to keep you active: GPS to track your route and distance when walking, running or cycling; a training calendar to monitor progress or lack of it; music integration and audio updates to offer encouragement; and calorie-burning data so you know how many ice creams you can have afterwards.

Get a good night's sleep with Calm
iOS | **ANDROID**

bit.ly/calmdroid403
bit/ly/calmios403

Our phones and tablets are enemies to enjoying a good night's sleep, but meditation app Calm promises to offset the damage by guiding you through '7 Days of Calm' and '7 Days of Sleep' (21 days, if you're feeling really stressed). The companion website (www.calm.com) will soon have you dropping off at your desk.

ENTERTAINMENT

BOOKS
WINDOWS | **iOS** | **ANDROID**

Wattpad
www.wattpad.com

Wattpad is a kind of People's Kindle – a huge community of readers and writers built on a library of more than 40 million free ebooks. If you're feeling inspired, you can even use Wattpad to share your own ebook with other users.

SIMULATOR
iOS | **ANDROID**

Train Driver 15
bit.ly/train403

Most online simulators are too resource-hungry for mobile browsers, so their creators are racing to resize them to fit. Train Driver 15 is the best of the bunch, with realistic locations, custom weather conditions, a wide choice of trains and fabulous graphics. It's far from perfect – there are

too many adverts and permissions – but this is currently as good as free mobile simulators get.

MUSIC & FILM
iOS | **ANDROID**

Dubsmash
www.dubsmash.com

Choose a song or film clip, video yourself lip-syncing to it and then share the resulting clip in a message or online. Easy, uplifting and surprisingly addictive.

CAMERA & EDITOR

`iOS` `ANDROID`

Pixlr
pixlr.com/mobile

The "if you only download one" of photography apps. Actually, Pixlr is three apps in one: a high-quality camera tool; a photo editor for adjusting snaps you've just shot or photos stored on your device; and a versatile collage maker. Adobe's Lightroom camera/editor app, reviewed on page 33, is also great, but Pixlr is easier to use.

FUN CAMERA

`WINDOWS` `iOS` `ANDROID`

Camera360
www.camera360.com

Camera360 launches in front-camera mode and lets you apply effects before or after shooting (indeed, it calls itself a "beauty camera"). Tap the arrows to flip to the back camera. Modest types may prefer its more sober sibling HelloCamera (iOS only, same URL).

GALLERY

`ANDROID`

QuickPic Gallery
bit.ly/quick403

Get the Android gallery you always wanted with this lightweight but powerful alternative. It includes a basic photo editor for rotating, cropping and shrinking images, plus a file manager for sorting, renaming, copying and moving photos on your device.

DOCUMENT SCANNER

`iOS` `ANDROID`

Office Lens
bit.ly/lensdroid403
bit.ly/lensios403

Turn your phone or tablet into a scanner, then turn your messy paper documents into perfectly presented PDFs or photos. Microsoft's app has OCR (optical character recognition) built in, so you can search for text in your saved scans, as well as in scanned photos.

VIDEO

`iOS` `ANDROID`

VivaVideo
www.vivavideo.tv

Shoot, edit and share videos with this excellent all-rounder that provides plenty of

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`iOS` `ANDROID`

Get professional-looking photos with Snapseed

bit.ly/snapdroid403
bit.ly/snapios403

There's no built-in camera tool or collage maker here. Instead, Google's Snapseed focuses on pro-style editing tools including a RAW develop mode, clarity and sharpening, Spot Repair and a fantastic Transform tool that lets you adjust a photo's perspective before cropping. There are preset filters with names like Lens Blur and Glamour Glow, and you can apply a 'stack' of them at once for a really dramatic look.

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gimmickry – slow motion, lip-syncing and "FX" – but is also a serious editing tool that uses a WSYWIG ('what you see is what you get') layout similar to Apple's iMovie. You can also add subtitles and dubbing, create slideshows from photos, import music and create video collages.

ANIMATION

`WINDOWS` `iOS` `ANDROID`

Stop Motion Studio
bit.ly/stop403

There are lots of stop-motion apps that let you create the new *Wallace & Gromit* or *The Clangers*, but this is the most versatile. Import existing photos or shoot a new series of frames, then compose and edit videos before sharing them online.

☕ Take a Screen Break

Give your eyes a rest from your computer by taking our fiendish fortnightly challenges. Can you unravel our file-format word search and guess our Eighties-song emoji?

WEB USER WORD SEARCH

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

BMP
DOCX
FLV
JPEG
MPEG
OGG VORBIS
PDF
TIFF
WAV
ZIP

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

CAN YOU GUESS THE EIGHTIES SONG TITLES FROM THE EMOJI?

1. ↩️ 👫 (emoji puzzle)
2. 📸 🕺 (emoji puzzle)
3. 🦁 💤 🌃 (emoji puzzle)
4. ⚱️ 2️⃣ ⚱️ (emoji puzzle)

Get the answers online at bit.ly/quiz403

COMPETITIONS

WIN 1 OF 5
Penclic Mouse R3

WORTH £59.99 EACH

The Penclic Mouse R3 is ergonomically designed to make computer use easier on your wrists and hands. Its pen-grip design provides a relaxed working position that helps reduce the symptoms of RSI. Ideal for both left- and right-handed users, it lets your forearm rest on the work surface, aligning your posture. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'penclic' in the subject line. For more information visit www.posturite.co.uk and follow @Penclic on Twitter.

WIN 1 OF 4
Speedlink's DRIFT OZ PC Racing Wheel

WORTH £49.99 EACH

The DRIFT O.Z. PC Racing Wheel from Speedlink gives you perfect control over virtual driving. It has a professional gear stick and precise pedals, along with a rubberised racing-wheel rim for ultimate grip and strong suction cups for the best possible hold, even during extreme manoeuvres. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'drift' in the subject line. For more information, visit www.speedlink.com.

Never forget to perform a backup | **www.aomeitech.com**

AOMEI Backupper Standard backs up your PC automatically and now offers additional scheduling options. Here's how to use it

We all know it's important to back up our PCs on a regular basis to protect important personal data in case of a malware attack or hard-drive failure. The trouble is, few of us actually bother to put a backup plan in place. Recent figures from a survey by Backblaze (**bit.ly/ backupsurvey403**) show 25% of people back up their systems just once a year,

17% back them up even less frequently, and 24% never back them up at all.

AOMEI Backupper Standard is a free tool that's very easy to use. You can set it to back up your PC at a time and frequency that suits you, and this latest version gains some new scheduling options – so it can automatically run backups when you start up or shut down your PC.

1 Getting started with the program is very straightforward. Just click Create New Backup **1** in the main window. This opens the Backup tab **2** where you can choose the type of backup you want to run. You can open the Backup tab, or any of the other options on the left, at any time.

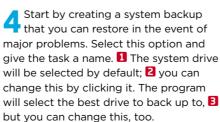**2** A System Backup **1** backs up Windows and creates an image of the system partition. A Disk Backup **2** backs up any drive to an image file. You can also run a Partition Backup **3** or a File Backup, **4** which makes copies of your chosen files or folders – such as Photos, for example.

3 Scroll down to access the File Sync option. **1** This backs up folders using file synchronisation, rather than creating a disk image. You just select the source files and folders to back up, and a destination to store the copy. Any changes you make in the source folder are mirrored automatically in the destination.
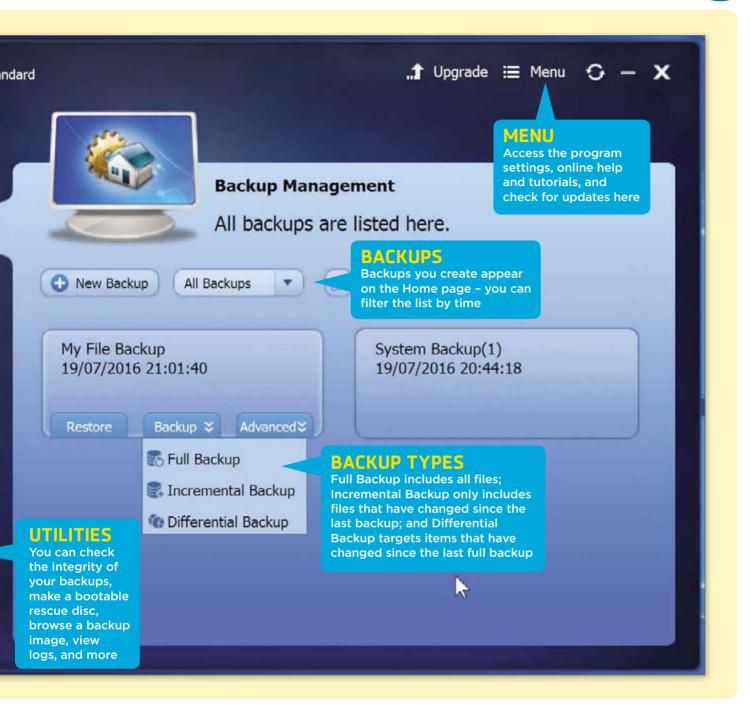
4 Start by creating a system backup that you can restore in the event of major problems. Select this option and give the task a name. **1** The system drive will be selected by default; **2** you can change this by clicking it. The program will select the best drive to back up to, **3** but you can change this, too.

5 Click the Backup Options cog **1** to access the settings. You can add a comment to the backup, and enable encryption and email notifications. You can also manage the level of data compression and split backups into several smaller image files. Tick Schedule **2** to choose when backups should run.

Backup Management

All backups are listed here.

MENU
Access the program settings, online help and tutorials, and check for updates here

BACKUPS
Backups you create appear on the Home page – you can filter the list by time

New Backup | All Backups

My File Backup
19/07/2016 21:01:40

System Backup(1)
19/07/2016 20:44:18

Restore | Backup | Advanced

Full Backup
Incremental Backup
Differential Backup

BACKUP TYPES
Full Backup includes all files; Incremental Backup only includes files that have changed since the last backup; and Differential Backup targets items that have changed since the last full backup

UTILITIES
You can check the integrity of your backups, make a bootable rescue disc, browse a backup image, view logs, and more

6 The Schedule Settings screen lets you set the frequency, **1** date and time. You can also set Event Triggers, which run backups when you log on or off, or start or shut down your PC. Backups can be restricted to once a day. **2** The Advanced tab **3** lets you choose the type of backup to run.

7 As well as creating a drive backup, you can choose to clone **1** your hard drive, **2** system **3** or partition. **4** This will be an exact copy that you can write to a new or formatted drive. You need to share a message about the software via social media in order to unlock System Clone.

8 If you experience problems with your PC, you can load a backup. Click Restore **1** and choose the backup you want to use. Click Path **2** and navigate to the saved image file, then click Next to start the process. If it's a system image, you'll be asked if you want to carry out a full system restore.

Fix all your Android security problems with one app

BullGuard Mobile Security and Antivirus: bit.ly/mobile403 | ⏱ 10 mins | 🤖 Android 2.3.3

BullGuard Mobile Security and Antivirus is a one-stop security app. Many of its best features, which you previously had to pay for, are now free, including its excellent cloud-based virus scanner, which offers up-to-the-minute protection against malware and spyware while putting a minimum of strain on your phone's processor and battery. The app's excellent anti-theft features let you locate, lock and wipe your device remotely, and even prompt it to 'scream' so you can find it if you're within earshot.

BullGuard's Call Manager lets you blacklist numbers to block nuisance calls and texts, and the app can be set to auto-block short phone numbers, so you're spared promotional text messages selling gym memberships or payday loans. BullGuard also offers cloud backups for your contacts, calendar and messages, but you need to pay an annual subscription to back up photos and videos.
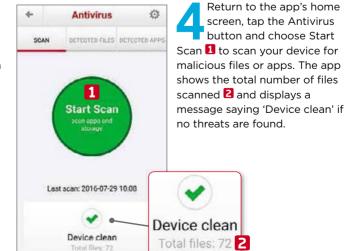
1 Run BullGuard Mobile Security and sign up or log in. A banner loads showing that your 'Device is at risk'. **1** Select Antitheft, **2** tap the switch to enable 'Antitheft features' and select OK, Activate and OK. Doing this will let you locate your device, lock it and wipe it remotely.

2 To use any of these features (or the app's 'scream' function) visit msm.bullguard.com in your browser and log in using your BullGuard credentials. **1** Note that once Antitheft has been activated, you'll need to disable the app's Device Administrator permissions (via Settings, Security, Device Administrators) if you want to uninstall BullGuard.

3 From the Antitheft screen, you can turn on the option to send commands from other phones to your missing phone via SMS. **1** Tap the switch to activate this feature **2** and you'll be asked to create a PIN. Next, a page loads showing you how to create these commands using your PIN.

4 Return to the app's home screen, tap the Antivirus button and choose Start Scan **1** to scan your device for malicious files or apps. The app shows the total number of files scanned **2** and displays a message saying 'Device clean' if no threats are found.
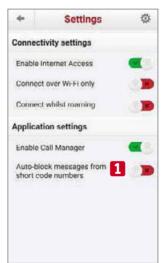
5 If the scan finds any malware, details will appear in either the 'Detected files' or 'Detected apps' tabs. You can tap 'Remove all' to delete all the detected files, but mailcious apps need to be removed one by one, by tapping them and selecting the Uninstall **1** button.

6 Tap Call Manager on the app's home screen to open BullGuard's tool for blocking calls and SMS. Select Blacklist **1** and 'Add to Blacklist', then either enter a number manually, **2** select one from your contacts **3** or add one from your call history. **4**

7 For each number, you can choose whether to block incoming and outgoing calls **1** and incoming messages **2** before clicking Block to confirm your choice. **3** You can change your settings at any time by tapping the name or contact; or unblock it completely by selecting 'Remove selected'.

8 Tap the cog and select Settings. Here, you can opt to block messages from all short code numbers. **1** Blocked calls and texts can be reviewed from the Blocked section. If you see a short number you didn't mean to block, tap Whitelist and 'Add Number' to stop it being blocked again.

9 From BullGuard's home screen, tap Backup and 'Choose What to Backup'. You can save Contacts, Events and Messages to the cloud, **1** but Images, Videos and Sounds **2** require you to pay for extra Backup drive space (subscriptions cost £16.95 a year). Tap Start Backup **3** to sync your data.

10 A tick appears next to each item once it's been backed up **1** and you can then access this data from msm.bullguard.com. If you need to restore a backup to your phone, select the Restore tab, **2** tap the device name and select 'Choose what to restore'.

Surf privately using a free Chrome add-on

SaferVPN is a Virtual Private Network that disguises your browsing to make it appear as if you're based in a different location. It's now available as a free Chrome add-on that provides you with 500MB of traffic per month.
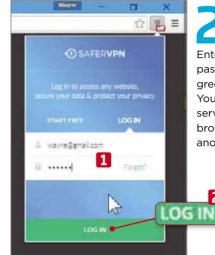
You can get more bandwidth by subscribing to a paid-for account at a cost of £6 a month or £47.96 for a full year.

SaferVPN: www.safervpn.com | ⏱ **5 mins** | 🌐 **Chrome**

1 When you install the add-on in Chrome, a button **1** is added to the top-right corner of the browser. Click this to open the SaferVPN homepage, then click the Start Free link. **2** In the website that opens, sign up for a free account.

2 Verify your email address, then click the browser button again. Enter your username and password, **1** then click the green Log In button. **2** You'll be signed into the service and can begin browsing the web anonymously.

3 The VPN is initially disconnected. To start using it, switch the button to On. **1** Your traffic will be routed through SaferVPN's servers, so you appear to be browsing from a different location. In this case, we are based in France. A map and flag **2** show the current location.

4 If you want to change to another location – to access websites restricted to a particular country, such as the US – click the arrow next to the country name, **1** and choose a different option. As well as France, SaferVPN offers Germany, Russia and USA East Coast.

5 Once you've switched locations, the flag and map marker will change accordingly. You can see how much of your free traffic data is remaining, **1** and how long until the data renews. **2** Click Get Unlimited Data **3** if you want to upgrade to the paid-for service.

6 Click the three-line menu button to access the add-on's settings. Home **1** takes you back to the main screen; Locations **2** lets you choose a new country; Support **3** takes you to the website; and Review Us **4** lets you review SaferVPN in the Chrome Web Store.
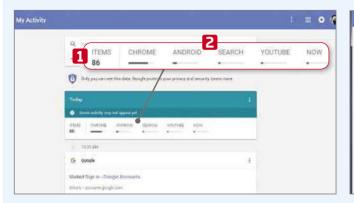
Control what Google knows about you

Google automatically stores information about your online activity to tailor its products and services to your preferences – but what if you don't want it to keep a record of every sear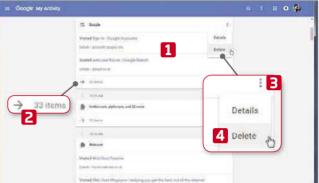ch you make, video you watch and place you visit? Thanks to Google's new My Activity hub, it's easier than ever to find out exactly what data the company stores and stop it tracking specific types of activity.

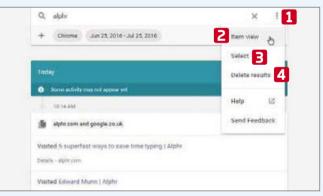**My Activity: myactivity.google.com** | 🕐 **5 mins** | **Any browser**

1 Visit myactivity.google.com and skip the intro. A timeline of your activity appears, showing a total number of items for each day **1** and the products (Chrome, Search, Android, YouTube) they're associated with. **2** Scroll down to view the items or click a product to narrow the results.
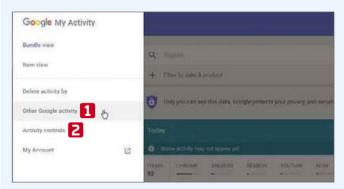
2 The default 'Bundle view' shows items associated with the same product condensed into a single window. **1** Click the number of additional items **2** to show them all or click the three-dot button, **3** then Delete **4** to delete the group. Once expanded, you can delete items individually.

3 To delete all your recorded activity for the entire day, select its three-dot button **1** and click Delete. You can use the search box **2** to find older, specific entries or click the plus button **3** to filter the results by product or date.

4 To view the results of your search as a list (rather than Bundle view), click the three-dot button **1** and choose 'Item view'. **2** To delete items individually, choose Select from the same menu; **3** to delete everything that matches the filter or search term, select 'Delete results'. **4**

5 Location History activity is not shown on the My Activity page, but you can view and manage this data by selecting 'Other Google activity' **1** from the menu, then selecting Visit Timeline. To choose what activity is stored by Google, click 'Activity controls' **2** in the main menu.

6 From this page, you can stop Google saving Web & App Activity, **1** Location History, Device Information, Voice & Audio Activity, YouTube Search History and YouTube Watch History. Any activity tracking you disable **2** produces a notification saying how this might affect specific services.
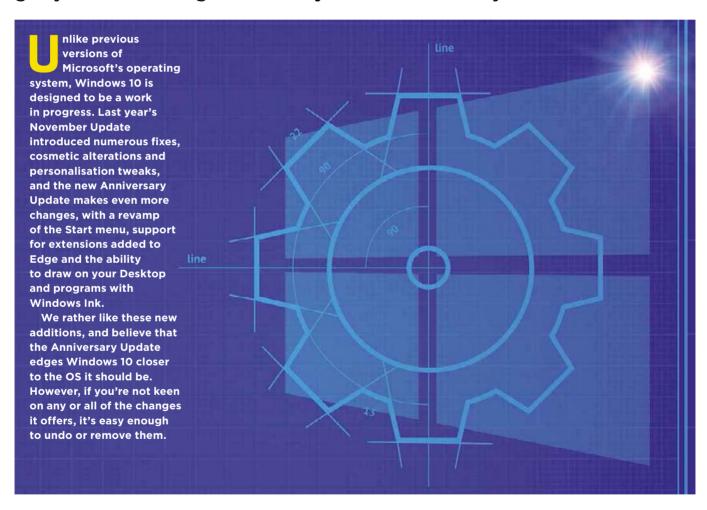
How to...

Take control of Windows 10 Anniversary Update

If you don't like the changes in the latest Windows update, you can get your old settings back. **Wayne Williams** tells you how

Unlike previous versions of Microsoft's operating system, Windows 10 is designed to be a work in progress. Last year's November Update introduced numerous fixes, cosmetic alterations and personalisation tweaks, and the new Anniversary Update makes even more changes, with a revamp of the Start menu, support for extensions added to Edge and the ability to draw on your Desktop and programs with Windows Ink.

We rather like these new additions, and believe that the Anniversary Update edges Windows 10 closer to the OS it should be. However, if you're not keen on any or all of the changes it offers, it's easy enough to undo or remove them.

Customise the improved Start menu

The Anniversary Update makes a fundamental change to the Start menu. The All Apps list is now permanently on display and a small sidebar provides direct links to Power, File Explorer and Settings. You can customise this sidebar through the Settings screen: go to Start, Settings, Personalisation, then Start. Scroll down to the bottom and click 'Choose which folders appear on Start'. You can add Documents, Downloads, Music, Pictures, Videos, HomeGroup, Network and Personal folders.

You can make other changes in the Settings menu, too, such as showing more or fewer tiles, and your most used and recently added apps. You can even replace the Start menu with Windows 8's Start screen, if you're one of those rare people who miss it.

The Settings app can make all sorts of changes to the Start menu, including adjusting most of the changes made during the update

The Anniversary Update also displays more adverts – or 'app suggestions', as Microsoft prefers to call them – in the Start menu, but you can change this by flicking the 'Occasionally show suggestions in Start' option to Off.

Swap the Start menu for a different one

If you don't like having tiles on your Start menu at all, you can get a different one by using Classic Shell (www.classicshell .net). This entirely replaces the default Start menu and offers a choice of three different menu styles – Classic, Two Columns and Windows 7 – all of which can be customised to suit your preferences. It offers lots of extra options, too, such as transparency settings for skins, the ability to uninstall Windows Store apps directly from the menu, a dedicated shutdown button and an enhanced Windows Search function. It can also replace the default File Explorer with a different version.

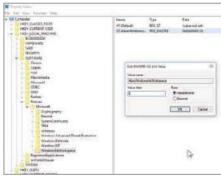*Classic Shell is a great tool for getting the Start menu exactly how you want it*

The Windows Ink menu shows all the drawing options available in the update

Enable or disable Windows Ink

Windows Ink lets you scribble on your Desktop and browser, and is particularly useful if you have a Windows tablet or a touchscreen PC. If you have a connected pen (stylus), then Windows Ink will appear automatically. If you don't, you can open it by right-clicking the taskbar and selecting 'Show Windows Ink Workspace button'. This adds a Windows Ink button to the notification area of the taskbar, and clicking this displays the available options, such as Sticky Notes, Sketchpad, and 'Screen sketch'. You can hide the button by right-clicking it and unticking its option in the taskbar menu.

If you don't want Windows Ink, you can disable it via the Group Policy Editor (see our Mini Workshop, below) or by using a registry tweak.

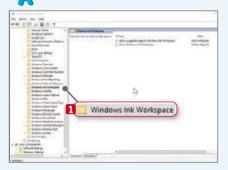*Turn Windows Ink off completely from the Registry Editor*

For the latter, click Start, type `regedit` and press enter. Navigate to:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\
Right-click 'Microsoft' and select New, Key. Call this `WindowsInkWorkspace`. Select it and, in the right-hand pane, right-click and select New, then DWORD (32-bit) Value. Give this the name `AllowWindowsInkWorkspace`. Exit Regedit and log off. When you log back in, the icon will be gone and right-clicking the taskbar will show the menu entry greyed out.

Cortana on the lock screen

Cortana has been made more useful in the Anniversary Update and, provided the digital assistant is active and you have the lock-screen image set to picture or slideshow, she'll be ready to use even before you log in. If you don't want this, you can remove Cortana from the lock screen. Open Cortana and click the menu button in the top-left corner. Select Settings and flick the switch that says 'Use Cortana even when my device is locked' to Off.

⚙ MINI WORKSHOP | Disable Windows Ink Workspace using the Group Policy Editor

1 The Group Policy Editor is available in most versions of Windows 10, including Pro, but not in Home. Click Start and type gpe. Press Enter to open the 'Edit group policy' app. In the left-hand pane, navigate to Computer Configuration, Administrative Templates, Windows Components, Windows Ink Workspace. **1**

2 In the right-hand pane, you'll find two entries – 'Allow suggested apps in Windows Ink Workspace' **1** and Allow Windows Ink Workspace. **2** Double-click the latter entry, or right-click it and select Edit. **3** A new window opens where you can make changes to the Windows Ink Workspace settings.

3 Ignore the Disabled **1** option on the left and select Enabled **2** instead. Click the drop-down box below and select Disabled there. **3** Click Apply, then click OK. **4** Close the Group Policy Editor, then log off and back on again. To re-enable Windows Ink, repeat the process but change the drop-down to On.

WebUser

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MAGBOOK

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Unlock the full potential of your **tablet** and **phone**

PROTECT YOUR DEVICE
From 2016's deadly new malware

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For Lollipop & Marshmallow

NEVER RUN OUT OF BATTERY
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THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO FREE SOFTWARE

Free software can be a worry. Is it as good as a paid-for package? Will it sneak junk on to your PC? Does it nag you to update to a premium version? In our new 148-page book *The Definitive Guide to Free Software*, we recommend only the best free programs that deliver high-quality features and no nasty surprises.

BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON
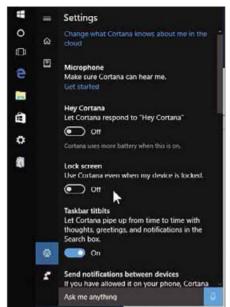at bit.ly/guidetosoftware

RASPBERRY PI FOR KIDS

The Raspberry Pi is the incredible £20 British computer that's taking the world by storm. It's ideal for children of all ages to experiment with, play games and learn valuable skills. We've updated this 148-page book to include instructions on mastering the new Pi models (A+ and B+).

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Make changes to Cortana by choosing Settings from its menu button

The Action Centre is configured from the Settings app

If you don't use Microsoft's pre-installed apps, you can uninstall them

Action Centre changes

The action centre has been updated to offer notifications for more apps. Alerts are now grouped by source, rather than chronologically. This makes it easier to dismiss all notifications from a particular app, such as Skype. We think the changes to the Action centre are for the better, but they can also be customised.

Go to Settings, System, 'Notifications & actions'. Here, you can choose which apps you want to see notifications from. Clicking an app opens its settings screen and lets you set a priority for it. Set an app to 'Top' and notifications from it will

appear at the top of the Action screen. You can also set the number of notifications you want displayed in the Action Centre.

The 'Notifications & actions' settings screen also lets you choose which Quick Actions appear in the Action Centre, and whether or not alerts are displayed on the lock screen. If you have no use for the Action Centre, you can disable it. To do this, click Start, type `regedit` and press Enter to launch the Registry Editor. Navigate to:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows\Explorer

Right-click in the right-hand pane and select New > DWORD (32-bit) Value. Call it `DisableNotificationCenter`. Double-click it and change the Value data to 1. Click OK and exit the Registry Editor. Restart your PC and you'll see that the Action Center has been removed from the taskbar.

Remove unwanted apps

Windows 10 Anniversary Update comes with lots of apps you may have no use for, such as Candy Crush Soda Saga, Get Office, Groove Music, 3D Builder and Messaging. To remove the ones you don't want, go to Start, Settings, System and select 'Apps & features'. Select an app you want to get rid of and click the Uninstall button for it. ∎
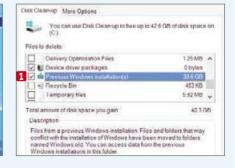

MINI WORKSHOP | Reclaim space wasted by the Anniversary Update

1 The Anniversary Update is a sizeable download and it takes up a lot of space on the hard drive. Once it's installed, you can clean up after it and regain a lot of space. Click Start and type `Disk Cleanup`. Launch the Disk Clean-up app, then make sure your main hard drive is selected **1** and click OK.

2 The app will calculate how much space can be regained by removing junk files, emptying the Recycle Bin and so on. **1** Ignore this for now and click 'Clean up system files'. **2** Select your system drive again and click the OK button. Disk Cleanup will recalculate your space savings but include 'Previous Windows installation(s)'.

3 Tick that entry **1** and the one for Temporary Windows installation files, then click OK. The app will go to work and remove these backed-up files to free up hard-drive space. Be aware, though, that doing this will remove the option to roll back your PC to a previous installation.

NEXT ISSUE **How To...** Erase everything from an old PC

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Web User's Top Tips

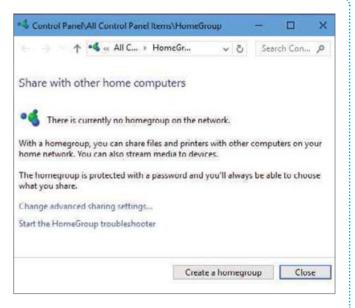Our experts offer tips for getting more out of your networked PCs

TOP TIPS FOR NETWORKED PCs

Create a HomeGroup

Computers on the same network can share files, folders, printers, music, photos and videos. Networking PCs can be quite complicated, so HomeGroup was introduced with Windows 7 to make it easier to set up the sharing options. Open the Control Panel and click HomeGroup. Click the 'Create a HomeGroup' button and you are asked what you want to share, such as documents or media files. It's up to you what you share and HomeGroups are password protected, so you can choose who has access. Afterwards, you'll see the password displayed on your screen. When someone on another PC opens HomeGroup in the Control Panel, they will be able to join the HomeGroup if you give them the password. This makes it easy to share files between your PCs.

Open HomeGroup in the Control Panel and create a group for your networked PCs

Access shared resources

Once you have created or joined a HomeGroup, you can explore and use the shared content of the other computers. Open Explorer and, in the left-hand panel, expand HomeGroup and select the HomeGroup below. On the right, in the main part of the Explorer window, you'll find the shared items, such as Music, Pictures, Videos, Camera Roll and whatever else has been shared. Each computer has its own section because different PCs may share different things.

The shared items are just like the folders on your PC, so you can open the Pictures folder and double-click photos to view or edit them; open the Music folder and double-click a music file to play it; and so on. The computer that

holds the files has to be turned on for you to access its contents.

Modify your shares

When setting up a HomeGroup, you choose what you want to share. If you decide you no longer want to share the files on your computer, return to HomeGroup in the Control Panel, which

Select the HomeGroup in Explorer to access the shared files on another PC

displays the libraries and devices you are sharing. There is a link near the bottom which lets you leave the HomeGroup and stop sharing. However, this also prevents you from accessing the shared items on the network's other computers.

If you still want to access the other devices in the HomeGroup, just change the shared items instead. Click 'Change what you're sharing with the HomeGroup' to see the Pictures, Videos, Music, Documents, and Printers. You can now set the items you want to share.
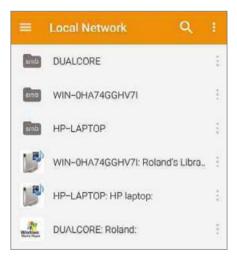
Share with everyone

It is possible for TVs, games consoles, tablets and phones to access shared items such as music, photos and movies. Whether this works or not depends

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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.

on the device, but it's worth trying.

Open HomeGroup in the Control Panel and click the link 'Allow all devices on this network such as TVs and game consoles to play my shared content'. You'll be asked to name your media library to enable it.

If you have an Android phone or tablet, download the VLC app from the Google Play Store. Open it, tap the menu button in the top-left corner and select Network. The computers on your network are listed along with the PC's shared media library. Press it, then press an item – Music, for example – and browse the contents. Press a music file to play it on your Android phone or tablet. This is a useful way to turn a PC into a media server that everyone can access.

Allowing all devices on your network means sharing without passwords or logging in, so don't put anything in the shared folders that you don't want other people to access.

Share your media library on the network and use VLC on Android to access it

Wired vs wireless

A computer can connect to your router using wireless networking or via an Ethernet cable. Most routers have two Ethernet sockets on them and some have four. The same features will be available whether you use an Ethernet cable or a wireless connection, but the latter will be slower and less reliable. Connecting both computers to the router using Ethernet usually results in the fastest connection. If the router supports Gigabit Ethernet, then the connection is super fast. This is the best option if you are transferring or working with large files such as videos, or if you are transferring a lot of files from one computer to another.

If you plug an Ethernet cable into your PC, it will automatically use it in preference to Wi-Fi and you don't have to configure it in any way. It just works.

TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL
More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

Traditional networking
HomeGroup is a convenient way to share files with other computers, but you can connect to other computers without it. Networked computers appear in the Network section of the left-hand panel in Explorer. When you select and access a computer, you are asked for a username and password. Enter the credentials you would use to log in to that computer. This is useful when sharing documents and media files with old computers running Windows XP, for example, which doesn't have HomeGroup networking.

Discover network devices
Every device on a network has a unique IP address. It can sometimes be helpful to know a device's IP so you can check it is working and can be seen on the network. Wireless Network Watcher (search for it at www.nirsoft.net) scans your network for devices and lists their names and IP addresses.

If you can't connect to a computer or printer, use Wireless Network Watcher to check that it can be seen on your network. It can also be used to check whether someone else is using your network. Network information is sometimes complicated but you can usually work out what something is between the Device name and Network Adapter Company columns.

For another way to view the computers on a network, press Windows+R, type `cmd` and press Enter to open a command prompt window. Type `net view` and press Enter to see all the computers listed.

Ping devices
Is a computer or device on the network working? Is it powered up?

Has it crashed and become unresponsive? Ping can answer all these questions. It sends messages to the computer or device and listens for a response. If nothing comes back, then the computer or device is faulty or powered off. Turn it on or restart it.

Press Windows+R, type `cmd` and press Enter to open a command prompt window. Type `ping`, then the IP address of the computer or device, then press Enter. If you don't know what the IP address is, use Wireless Network Watcher to find out.

Remote shutdown
Depending on how your PC is configured, it may be possible to shut down or restart other computers on your network. So, for example, you could shut down your child's computer if they have left it on at night.

To set up the other computer, press Windows+R, type `services.msc` and press Enter. Double-click Remote Registry and set the Startup type to Automatic, then click Apply and Start. Close the window, then close the services window. Open Windows Firewall in the Control Panel and click 'Allow an app or feature through Windows Firewall'. Click 'Change settings', then tick 'Remote shutdown' and 'Windows Management Instrumentation'.

You can now turn off the remote PC by pressing Windows+R and typing `cmd`. Type `shutdown -i` and press Enter. Click the Add button and type in the remote computer's name as it appears in Explorer. Select either Shutdown or Restart, then click OK.

Remote Shutdown (lizardsystems .com) is a free tool that makes this task easier. Run the software and add the computers on your network.

Select a computer, then select Shutdown or Restart and click Execute. This saves you having to fiddle with the command line.

Remote Shutdown doesn't always work – it depends on your PC and network configuration.

Discover all the devices that are on your network by using Wireless Network Watcher

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

NETWORKING

Extend the reach of a HomePlug network

Q Our HomePlug system works well in some rooms but not in the new extension, which is powered by a secondary fuse box fed from the main one. As far as I'm aware, each fuse box is the simple type, with breakers fed from a common busbar. Why is it not working and can you suggest a fix?

Ralph Taylor, via email

A Your home's electrical wiring forms a loop that passes from socket to socket, which HomePlugs use to create a network. Any sockets not in the loop, such as those in your

A Wi-Fi extender like this Devolo model can bridge the gap between circuits

extension, can't be included. If they could, you would risk sharing your network with other homes, particularly if you live in a flat. Try using a HomePlug Wi-Fi extender in the room nearest the extension to provide internet access to that area.

SECURITY

Remove discussion forum blocks

Q I regularly contributed to the ABC news discussion (abcnews.go.com) until I was suddenly informed that I was blocked, but I haven't been able to find out why. I tried using CyberGhost (www.cyberghostvpn.com) and changing my email address, but I'm blocked from my PC every time. Changing my email and IP addresses doesn't work, either. My IP is in Ireland, and CyberGhost used a new IP in Ireland, which may be relevant.

Ray Monahan, via email

A There are several ways to block someone from discussion forums and website comments. If you have to log in to comment, your account may be blocked, in which case you need to create a new account with a new username, password and email address.

If your IP address is blocked, use a different one. CyberGhost provides this service and it doesn't matter that the location is still in Ireland because the whole country won't be blocked – just one IP address.

It may be a cookie setting that's blocking you. Websites store cookies

when you visit and, when you return, they read the cookie to see when you last visited, get account information, apply settings and so on. Enable CyberGhost, open a Private Browsing or Incognito window, log in with a new account and see if you can comment.

This procedure varies according to the web browser you use. To access cookies in Chrome, go to the menu, Settings, then 'Show advanced settings'. Click 'Content settings' in the Privacy section, then click 'All cookies and site data' in the Cookies section. Use the search box to search for a website and delete its cookies by moving the mouse over them and clicking the cross icon that appears.

GENERAL PC

Improve your backups

Q In a previous issue of *Web User*, you provided excellent instructions for backing up everything in Windows 10 to a hard drive. I bought a WD My Passport portable hard drive and was surprised at how easy the process was. I used the default setting of hourly checks.

However, Windows 10 backup seems to leave out many files, apparently at random, and never backs them up, even after several weeks. Last Friday,

for example, I saved two PDF files to the same location in my regular documents folder, but the backup only found one of them. Most files are backed up, but the ones it misses are of all different types (Word, PowerPoint, PDF). A backup is of limited use if it's only 90% reliable. What might be causing this?

Stephen Moss, via email

A Corruption or other file problems can interfere with File History backup in Windows 10. Go to Start, 'All apps', Windows System, then right-click Command Prompt and select More, 'Run as administrator'. Type `sfc /scannow` to check that your Windows files are okay. When it has finished, type `chkdsk c: /f` and press `Y` in reply to the question. Type `exit` and restart Windows to check that the drive is okay.

Deleting your old backups and resetting File History may solve the problem. Right-click Start and select Control Panel. In 'Small icons' view, click File History, then 'Turn off' and Apply. Right-click Start and select System, then click 'System protection'. Select the C: drive, click the Configure button, then 'Disable system protection'. Delete the backups on the external hard drive.

Go to Start, All apps, Windows Administrative Tools, Disk Clean-up. Scan the hard drive, select all the items and click OK to clear out the junk. Restart Windows and turn File History and System Protection back on. A fresh backup will be created.

If you're still having problems with File History backups, turn it off and use a free backup tool such as AOMEI Backupper Standard (www.backup-

File History is a useful backup tool but you should check that it's working properly

utility.com – you'll find a Workshop on using its newest tools on page 52 – or EaseUS Todo Backup (www.easeus.com). Both tools, like File History, can create file backups. They also let you make full backups with a bootable CD, in case your hard drive fails completely.

GENERAL PC
Convert images in Windows 10

Q My Canon printer's useless over-the-top software only saves in PDF, so I use Paint with my printer because it lets me save scans as JPEGs and other files. However, since upgrading to Windows 10, I can no longer use Paint, which apparently won't work on the new operating system.

The scanner tool in Windows 10 doesn't work so I tried to download Fresh Paint (bit.ly/paint403), but there was an error. To make matters worse, to get Fresh Paint from the Microsoft Store, I set up a new Microsoft account with a password, and this has reset how I sign into Windows, which I didn't want.
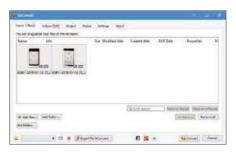
Meanwhile, I have downloaded a file converter, which appears to work. I've seen free online image converters but I'm not keen on sending my files to anyone online who I don't know. I want a program that can save to JPEG at source or convert from PDF. I don't even mind paying a small amount.

Martin Fletcher, via email

A Paint works fine in Windows 10, and there shouldn't be any problem with Fresh Paint, so it sounds as if you may have some bigger issues with Windows. Right-click the Windows menu and choose 'Command Prompt (Admin)'. Type `sfc /scannow` to check that your Windows files are OK

Most PDF-to-JPG converters are online tools but it's understandable that you don't want to upload your PDFs. There are a few tools you can download, though, including PDF Conversion Suite, which is available in the Windows 10 Store. This free app converts PDFs to TIF files, but TIFs are widely supported by image editors and converters, so you can easily open your files in one of those and save them as JPG images.

Pixillion Image Converter Software (bit.ly/nch403) is even better, because it lets you load several PDF files, select any image format and convert the lot with one click. The Premium Edition costs £19.22, but the Standard Edition converts one file at a time for £13.05.

XnConvert is a handy free tool that converts one file format to another

The best option, however, is XnConvert (www.xnview.com). This free tool converts between different file formats, including PDF and JPEG. You can load several PDFs on the Input tab and choose which file format to convert them to on the Output tab. The Actions tab lets you apply filters, resize, crop and apply other effects. It's a useful image-conversion tool.

INTERNET
Uninstall unsafe software

Q Having read Issue 400's warnings about insecure software, I duly removed Adobe Flash and Java. I now find that although Chrome and Internet Explorer are fine, Opera no longer plays the live stream from a website I visit. All I get is a black rectangle with the message: "Problem loading video. (URL_OF_UNKNOWN_OR_UNSUPPORTED-MIME-TYPE)."

I have emailed the website but haven't heard back yet. Is the problem that I no longer have Flash installed? Does Opera have a plugin that gets round this?

I also deleted some Nero software, because it seems to have Java associations. I see that Apache OpenOffice seems to rely on Java, too, although I'm not sure how. Opera on my Android Samsung J5 mobile still plays this particular stream without difficulty. Are there security problems with using Flash and Java on mobile devices?

Mike Cowie, via email

A Some websites and software use Adobe Flash and Java, so if you don't have them installed, those websites won't work – either partially or completely. You have to choose between security and functionality. If you want to use websites and software that require Flash and Java, you'll need to have them installed.

Some browsers, such as Chrome and Internet Explorer, have Flash built in, so they won't have any trouble playing Flash videos, but other browsers rely on external services. Opera doesn't have Flash and relies on you installing the plugin. If you remove it, Opera can't play the streaming video.

There are no mobile versions of Java, and Flash for Android was discontinued several years ago. If these sites work in Opera on your mobile device, it's probably because the site is sending a different, mobile-friendly page when it detects it's being viewed on a phone.

HARDWARE
Cancel pending print jobs

Q I was trying to print a large file from my HP Pavilion laptop to an HP Envy Printer, but I decided to cancel it by pressing Cancel Printing on the printer. Now, every time I switch it on, it starts printing again. I'm sure I can cancel it using my laptop but I don't know how.

Darren, via email

Documents to be printed are stored in a queue. You can cancel them from the right-click menu

A Printers take several minutes to print a long document or photo. For this reason, print jobs are stored in a queue. There is one on the printer and one on the computer. You can stop the current print job by taking the printer offline or pressing the Cancel button, but it might start printing again if there is another job in the queue. To stop the printer, switch it off and unplug it from the mains.

There may also be a queue of print jobs on the PC, so look for the printer queue icon in the notification area of the taskbar. Right-click it and select the printer to open a window listing anything that's waiting to be printed. Right-click each document and select Cancel to delete it. Deleting a print job takes several seconds, so wait until it has finished. Switch the printer back on when the queue is clear.

This fortnight Roland is checking his drives and backing up in preparation for the Windows 10 Anniversary Update
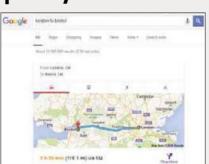
Your Top Tips

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

TOP TIP

BROWSER

Get directions more quickly

In the past, when I needed directions in Google Maps, I would visit maps .google.com, enter the destination, press Enter, click the directions button and then type in my starting point. I've since discovered a much quicker way of doing the same thing, which can be done from any web page in Chrome. Simply type `START to END` into the search bar, where START is your starting location and END is the end location. Press Enter, and Google shows a journey summary and lets you choose from four different methods of travel including car, bicycle, walking and public transport. For full step-by-step instructions, rather than a simple

Google shows journey information in its search results

image of the route and duration, click the Directions buttons.

Will, via email

CLOUD
Share direct links from Google Drive

When you share a link in Google Drive, your recipient needs to visit the URL and click a Download button to save a copy of the file. There's no option to share direct download links, but you can fix this by visiting Direct Link Creator (directlink.booogle.net) and granting the website access to your Google Drive. When you pick a file from the top dialogue box, simply click 'Share All and Get Direct Links' and it will generate direct URLs for all the files you selected.

Direct download links have all kinds of advantages, particularly if you want to

Direct Link Creator lets you generate direct links to Google Drive files

add Drive files to a web page or forum. If you want to stop sharing any of the files, simply select them again and click UnShare All.

Jack Gold, Web User Forums

SECURITY
Stop Avast pop-ups

The latest issue of *Computeractive* includes a letter from Garry Adamson, offering advice on stopping Avast's (www.avast.com) annoying pop-ups. I wouldn't normally pass on another person's tip without adding to it, but I've been so frustrated by this problem that I thought *Web User* readers might also benefit from it.

To stop Avast pop-ups, right-click the Avast logo in the notification area and select 'Silent / gaming mode'. You'll no longer see alerts about outdated software but you can easily check for this manually by running a scan.

FratPark, Web User Forums

GENERAL PC
Benchmark your PC

Windows Experience Index, sometimes known as the Windows Systems Assessment Tool, is missing from

Windows 8.1 and Windows 10. However, a tool called ChrisPC Win Experience Index (bit.ly/wei403) lets you get the index back. It's a small download but be careful to decline the offer of 'Relevant Knowledge' because Unchecky (unchecky.com) let me down.

Novabench (novabench.com) is a more sophisticated benchmarking tool that's also free. It runs a series of tests on your CPU, GPU and other hardware, then offers a score for your computer that you can compare with others.

FratPark and Cantrel, Web User Forums

Restore the Windows Experience Index with ChrisPC Win Experience Index

BROWSERS
Double-up Chrome's search engines

You can set up the Chrome browser to have two search engines available at the same time, so you can easily switch between them.

To do this, go to the menu in Chrome and click Settings. In the 'On start-up' section, select 'Open a specific page or set of pages' and click the 'Set pages' link. Type `https://www.google .co.uk/` to make Google your homepage. Back in the Settings menu, Go to the Search section and use the drop-down menu to select Bing as the search engine for the omnibox.
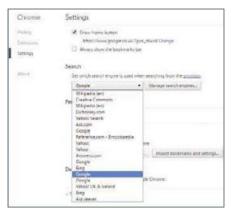
Now, when you launch the Chrome browser, it displays the Google homepage with a box you can use to search Google. But if you type your search query into the URL box at the top,

it will use Bing to search instead. Two search engines on one page!

If you'd rather have them the other way around, just set Google to search in the URL box and make Bing the homepage.

Dave Kennedy, via email

Choose which search engine to use when typing into Chrome's URL box

SOFTWARE
Keep OneNote organised

I love Microsoft OneNote (www.onenote .com) and use it to store all sorts of things but it often gets a bit messy. A good tip for keeping it organised is to sort your notes into a logical order, rather than the order in which you saved them. The Windows 10 app lets you add a section to display your notess and you can then click and drag sections up or down the list. Unfortunately, you can't do this in the web version.

You can also create sub-pages, which are displayed indented in the list. Right-click a note for the option to make it a sub-page. This helps to group together notes on a similar topic, with a main note at the top and sub-pages below it.

Mike Bowes, via email

ANDROID
Contactless payments with Barclays app

I was excited about trying Android Pay after it recently launched in the UK. Unfortunately, Barclays was not one of the participating banks, so I was unable to use it. However, when I recently opened the Barclays Mobile Banking app, I discovered I could still use my Samsung Galaxy S6 to make contactless payments and it was incredibly quick and simple to set up.

After launching the Barclays app and logging in, select Contactless Payments from the side menu, then choose the card you want to use for contactless payments. You'll be prompted to set Barclays as your default 'Tap and Pay' app. Once you've completed this process, a notification is constantly displayed on your lock screen so you can make contactless payments whenever

you like by simply holding your device over a compatible reader, both in shops and on London transport. If you don't like having the notification displayed on your lock screen, you can hide it by opening your application manager and checking the option to 'Hide on lock screen' for Barclays Mobile Banking.

To use the feature, you'll need a smartphone with NFC (near-field communication) and a new enough version of Android. I've already found it really useful and bought a coffee the day after setting it up when I briefly left the house without my wallet.

If you're worried about security, you can set the app to always ask for a PIN, even on payments under £30. Any payments of more than £30 require you to enter your PIN.

Ed Wright, via email

Web User says: Check out Barry's gripes about phone payments on p74.

GAMES
Guess Google Street View locations

I recently discovered an excellent free game called GeoGuessr (geoguessr.com) that requires you to guess the location of different images from Google Street View. There are a number of maps to choose from including World, UK and Famous Places, and you have to guess five different locations in each round. The more accurate your answer, the higher your score. There's no need to set up an account but doing so lets you use Challenge Mode to take on your friends and family. Just be careful when visiting the site that you spell it correctly, because other variations take you to sites that you might not want to visit.

rufford155, Web User Forums

GeoGuessr asks you to identify locations from Google Street View images

SECURITY
Block programs from using your webcam

FratPark recently wrote a helpful tip about disabling your laptop's built-in webcam via Device Manager. However, if you still need to use your webcam sometimes, you can disable it for specific applications by using Kaspersky Antivirus (www.kaspersky.co.uk). Once you've

chosen which applications have access to your webcam, you can also opt to see a notification that asks for permission each time one of these programs tries to access it. It's useful if you're worried about programs using your webcam without your knowledge.

free and TheTechGuy, Web User Forums

GENERAL
Zoom using your mouse's scroll wheel

Did you know that you can zoom in and out of a web page or document by holding down the Ctrl key and scrolling the mouse wheel forwards and back? You can normally set it back to the default zoom level by pressing Ctrl+0.

FratPark and Cantrel, Web User Forums

SOCIAL MEDIA
Check your Facebook activity

Facebook knows what you did last summer, last week and yesterday, which can be very useful. If you want to check or revisit a comment, reply, post or anything else you did on Facebook, but you can't find it (which often happens to me when posting in busy groups with lots of discussions), go to the menu (the last top-right button) and click 'Activity log'. This lists everything you've done in Facebook, and when and where you did it.

Use the Activity Log to check anything you've done on Facebook

Shane Kelly, via email

GOOGLE DOCS
Use advanced clipboard tools

I've been using Google Docs (docs .google.com) for a long time, but I've only just discovered that it has multiple clipboards, so you can copy as many things as you want. It's really useful when writing and editing.

Instead of using the mouse or keyboard to copy text, you use the Edit menu by clicking Edit, 'Web clipboard' and 'Copy selection to web clipboard'. You can copy several items without having to save them and, when you want to paste one of them, you just select it in the 'Web clipboard' menu. It's not quite as convenient as using Ctrl+C and Ctrl+V to copy and paste, but you can use both the normal clipboard and web clipboard at the same time, whichever is best.

Paul Mullins, via email

Broadband Deals

	Provider	Package name	Monthly price	Contract length	Broadband speed	Allowance	First-year cost*
1	EE	EE: Broadband	£10.00 (£1.00 for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited **	**CHEAPEST** £12.00
2	TalkTalk	TalkTalk: Broadband	£7.50 (£3.75 for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	£45.00
3	sky	Sky: Broadband	£10.00 (HALF PRICE for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	£60.00
4	Virgin media	Virgin: Broadband	£24.00 (£10.00 for 9 months)	12 months	50Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited **	£162.00

Terms & Conditions apply - see ISP sites for details

*First-year cost does not include line rental. Cost is calculated at monthly price x12 with all introductory offers subtracted. Additional charges incurred outside of free inclusive calls not included in first-year cost.

** Fair-usage or restriction policy applies.

Data supplied by www.broadbandgenie.co.uk. Correct as of 28 July 2016.

Ofcom

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

Readers' Helpdesk

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

SECURITY
Can I use one extra-secure password for all websites?

Q For the past 20 years, my passwords have been based on family birthdays, car registrations and holiday destinations, among other things. The problem with this is that I've now got a very long list and I have to keep it updated. It was only when I was required to create a password for an insurance site that needed to include at least two capitals, a number and three special characters, that I wondered if I could create a single extra-secure password of 20 or 30 characters, keep it on a USB stick and use it for every site I visit in future?
Privet, Web User Forums

A Using one very secure password for all sites is one of the worst things you could do, because anyone who discovered it would have access to all your accounts. If you only want to remember one, strong master password, the best idea is to use a password manager such as Dashlane (www .dashlane.com), which stores all your separate passwords in an encrypted vault. The program automatically generates secure passwords for any new accounts and it auto-fills them for you when you next need to log in.

If you prefer to store your passwords on a USB, be sure to use a program that encrypts them, such as KeePass (keepass .info). Because USB sticks can fail at any time, make sure you have more than one copy of your password database.
ricky101, Jack Gold and Madeline, Web User Forums

Dashlane stores all your passwords and automatically logs you in to websites

PHOTOS
How do I find duplicate photos?

Q Can anyone recommend software that will find duplicate copies of digital images of all formats, including RAW files, on my hard drives?
boaz, Web User Forums

A CCleaner (www.piriform.com/ ccleaner) is very popular with *Web User* readers, so if you already have it installed and would prefer not to download another program, why not try its built-in duplicate finder?

To do this, run the program and select Tools, then Duplicate Finder. Leave its default settings as they are, select the drive or drives you want to scan and click Search. This shows all manner of duplicate files (not just images) but be careful not to delete anything that you don't recognise, because some duplicates are necessary.

CCleaner only really gives you

CCleaner has a built-in duplicate finder

a quick summary of your duplicates and doesn't have the broad range of tools available in dedicated duplicate finders. If you want something more sophisticated, try Duplicate Cleaner (bit.ly/duplicateclean403), Auslogics Duplicate File Finder (bit.ly/ duplicatefind403) or Free Duplicate File Finder (www.ashisoft.com).

Also, if you still use Picasa, you could try its built-in duplicate finder by clicking Tools, Experimental and Show Duplicate Files.
tornado, Jack Gold, Stewart40 and nothingmrk, Web User Forums

WINDOWS 10
Why is the right-click menu so slow?

Q When I right-click a file, such as when I want to rename something, my PC slows to a halt for about a minute. It rights itself eventually but it's an enormous inconvenience. Can anyone suggest how I might fix this?
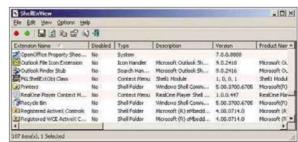**dougle25, Web User Forums**

A The suggestions on a thread at TenForums (bit.ly/wten403) should help you solve this problem. It's often caused by a problematic context menu, so try downloading ShellExView (search for it at www .nirsoft.net) and disable all your context menus, then re-enable them, one-by-one. Before that, try opening Reliability History (type `View reliability history` into the Start menu and click the top result), and look for specific clues. If you recently upgraded to Windows 10, it's worth reinstalling applications, even if they have apparently transferred over properly from the previous Windows version. Prioritise any that have right-click menu additions. Finally, you could try installing a different file manager such as XYplorerFree (bit.ly/ xy403). It's a vast improvement on Windows 10 Explorer and you can use them both together on the same PC.
Cantrel, Helmut and scrimper, Web User Forums

Shell ExView lets you disable all context menus

Inbox

We should embrace the future of driving

What with Barry Collins bashing sat-nav apps and Peter Clements complaining in your Inbox section about self-driving cars, Issue 402 (bit.ly/webuser402) of *Web User* seemed a bit negative about the future of motoring technology. This makes me sad.

It's easy to forget how rubbish our cars were in the Seventies and Eighties – noisy, cold and smelly; constantly breaking down, failing to start and needing a push; and with crappy radios that were forever losing the station. Things thankfully got a lot better in the Nineties – so much so that we take smooth-driving vehicles, with all their comforts and convenience, for granted these days.

It wasn't so long ago that sat-nav devices were luxury items, but now every car has one. Having a free

sat-nav app on your phone is even better, because it saves you hundreds of pounds, so I fail to understand Barry's fears that such apps are "an accident waiting to happen". Most of these apps offer spoken directions so you don't put yourself and other drivers at risk, and

they are surely safer than trying to unfold and read an unwieldy map while you're speeding down a busy dual carriageway. Not to mention that sat-nav apps help you avoid traffic jams, roadworks and other annoyances – I've never known a map that could do that!

As for self-driving cars, these are surely an ingenious invention, not something to be scared of. I only wish I could afford one because I'm sure that when they do go on sale, they'll cost a pretty penny and will mostly end up as 'one more car' in the garages of rich folk.

But we should be embracing these advances in motoring technology, not grumbling like Luddites – otherwise we might as well be riding around in a horse and cart!

Malcolm Wallace, via email

Thanks for a smooth upgrade to Windows 10

I have followed the debate about the pros and cons of Windows 10 with great interest, and have found the various articles that you have published on the subject very helpful and informative.

I decided to go the easy route and let other (more experienced) users iron out the early bugs. I eventually took the plunge and upgraded from Windows 8.1 before the deadline, spurred on by the excellent article in Issue 401 about taking control of the settings ('Beat Windows 10 Restrictions', bit.ly/webuser401). I'm glad to say that the upgrade went smoothly and all is working well. Having worked my way through the various suggested tweaks, I now feel quite happy about using the operating system (with the nosy features turned off!).

So, all in all, I just want to say thank you for such informative articles on the subject, which have been immensely helpful to me – a basically non-tech person – in making me decide

whether and when to upgrade, and explaining the pain-free way to avoid any problems. If I can do it, anyone can!

Helene Zierl, via email

Americanised English drives me crazy

Regarding Betty's letter in Issue 401, 'It's a worldwide web, not a British one'. It appears that when you listen to people from other countries, they have in the main learnt American, not English, but personally I am fed up with Americanisation (or should that be 'Americanization'?).

I first came across this about 30 years ago when my spellchecker was in Yankee mode because I had not changed the English to UK. I am fed up with 'catalogue' missing the 'ue' and the word 'center' misspelt. This is because across the pond they get taught so-called English phonetically rather than the Queen's English. Plus they say 'aluminum' instead of 'aluminium' and, on a cooking programme on the TV the other day,

I heard the word 'or-*egg*-ano'. I said, "What's that?" and my wife said, "She means 'oreg-*aa*no".

I agree with *Web User* that this has spread too far, but it is too late now. Too many American cop shows. I admit that I watch a lot of these shows, but I am too old to change my ways, or even my London accent in Yorkshire!

Martin Fletcher, Thorpe Hesley

I can always bank on Opera

I was interested and surprised to read David Eaglesham's letter in Issue 402 of *Web User*, 'Opera is out of tune with online banks'. Apparently, he couldn't log into his bank (Barclays) while using Opera. I have never had any trouble logging into either of the banks I use – The Co-operative Bank and HSBC – when using Opera, or any other browser for that matter.

Banking (and other) login problems are often caused by cookies not being allowed, but Opera has this setting by default: 'Allow local data to be set (recommended)'. See this Help page for

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

more info about Cookies in Opera: bit.ly/operacookies403. Perhaps David Eaglesham should make Barclays aware of the difficulty he's been experiencing.

Madeline, Web User Forums

Did Microsoft deliberately withhold updates?

I was interested to read the comments from Paul McAlroy in Ask the Expert, Issue 401, regarding the recent lack of updates for Windows 7. I too had not received any updates since 4 April and began to think it might be because I had installed the free program Never10 (www.grc.com) to stop my PC being upgraded to Windows 10. Then, between 3 and 13 July, I received more than 60 updates, all of which installed successfully. Was this Microsoft playing silly 'whatsits' because I was running Never10? Who knows, but my updates seem to be back to normal.

Ted Berry, via email

What's all the fuss about Pokémon Go?

I swear if I read one more thing about Pokémon Go, I will take to the streets myself and start hunting these idiots down with a butterfly net! As far as I know, such games are aimed at children, so why am I unable to catch a bus or walk around the supermarket without grown adults – who should know better – getting in my way because they can't keep their eyes off their phones?

Surely there are better and more constructive ways for people to be spending their time than on this nonsense? Not only are they causing a public nuisance by obstructing public thoroughfares, but they are setting a bad example to children and possibly even causing accidents. The sooner this silly Pokémon Go fad is over, the better, in my opinion!

Catherine Whitehead, via email

Web User says: Turn to page 36 to learn more about the Pokémon Go phenomenon.

What you say...

SHOULD BT BE FORCED TO SPLIT FROM OPENREACH?

Yes. It's the only way to get an even playing field and improve fixes. It cannot serve BT's coffers and also act independently.

Alan McClean

Take it away from BT now! It makes me angry how MPs are now moaning about this. They approved of it even though they know the dangers of one company having a monopoly.

Chris Cole

It should be split. BT won't take responsibility for Openreach failures, while Openreach won't deal with the public, and expects BT to.

Wolf Simpson @Dark_Wolf

I live out in the sticks and I'm used to having slow broadband, so it won't bother me. I don't see that splitting them up will change anything.

Trevor Arbon @trevor_arbon

IS POKÉMON GO A BREAKTHROUGH IN GAMING OR A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME?

A waste of time. Everyone in my office is either playing or talking about it.

Dave McAlister @dpmcalister

Saw someone walk into an iron gate yesterday while playing. Then one idiot crossed in front of me at a junction this morning – they didn't look either way before stepping into the road.

Martin James

It's awesome, and it's got me out of the house.

John Tarbet Walker

I heard that some bloke jacked in his job the other day so he could play it full time. Get a life!

Steve Hamilton

DO YOU AGREE WITH FIREFOX'S DECISION TO BLOCK SOME FLASH CONTENT (bit.ly/flash403)?

It should be up to the user, but if they feel that we shouldn't use it, they should explain the pros and cons.

Paul Emsley

Browser makers would do better to pressure site makers to remove Flash. So many web-industry related sites still use it.

Rich Grove @Rich_Grove

The problem is that the sites I visit many times a day – BBC News and Sports pages – still use Flash. So I've not blocked it completely, but rather set it to 'Ask to Activate', and set the BBC as a trusted site.

Chris Armstrong

Flash is old news now. HTML5 is much faster and better when it comes to watching stuff over the internet. We really don't need Flash anymore.

Michael Bradbrook

WHY DO YOU THINK SALES OF THE APPLE WATCH ARE PLUMMETING?

It's tech for tech's sake. You have a watch and you have a smartphone – who really wants, let alone needs, something between the two?

Keith Pearson

Simple – everyone thinks there will be a new one out in a couple of months' time, so why would they want to buy one now?

Alan Kendle @alan_ken

I don't think many people wear watches anymore. Everyone carries around a device in their pocket that displays the time.

Joanne Evans

⚠ Page 404

Contactless payment is actually more hassle than cash or cards, says **Barry Collins**

The pointlessness of paying by phone

Welcome to the cashless society, good old e-Britain, where you can wander down to the corner shop to get yourself a pint of milk and a loaf of bread armed with nothing more than your mobile phone. No need for those awkward bits of paper with portraits of Her Majesty on the back or your Flexible Friend – we're all contactless now. At least, that's what the idiots behind these dreadful e-payments systems would have you believe.

I've tried several of these electronic payment systems over the past year and they all have one thing in common: they're a damned sight less convenient than the cash and credit cards they purport to replace.

My experiments started with Barclays' bPay, the b standing for "bleeding useless". This bPay comes in various guises: there's a sticker you can attach to the back of your smartphone, a keyring fob and even a wristband, for those who prefer the 'just got back from Glastonbury' look. Each of these has a little chip inside that allows you to make contactless payments, in the same way you do when you slap your bank card on the payment terminal.

However, you can't just register your bank details with bPay and trundle down to Tesco. Oh, no. First you have to register all these devices with the bPay app and then top up each of them individually with credit from your bank account, a bit like a pre-payment gas meter. If you run out of credit, your sticker/key fob/wristband won't work, meaning you constantly have to check how much money you've got left on each of your

> **"** The Catch 22 is that if your phone battery is dead, so is your wallet **"**

devices before you use them, or face the ignominy of explaining to Gladys behind the till why your wrist has been declined.

Android Pay, Google's equivalent to Apple Pay, which lets you pay for goods by touching your smartphone on the payment pad, is marginally better. Once again, you register your bank details with the system, but instead of having to top up your phone with credit, it simply deducts the precise amount from your bank account, which is much cleaner. The bad news is that Android Pay only works with certain banks – customers of Santander, Barclays and other big name banks are currently excluded.

It's not only certain banks it takes exception to, either, but certain smartphones. Your phone needs a Near Field Communications (NFC) chip to make the contactless bit work. But leaving NFC switched on to make contactless payments drains the battery on your phone even more quickly than normal, the Catch 22 being that if your phone battery is dead, so is your wallet. So you've either got to fiddle around with NFC settings every time you make a payment, prompting plenty of tutting from the queue of impatient punters behind you, or take your bank cards and cash as backup.

But you're going to have to take cards or cash anyway, because the contactless payment limit is fixed at £30 and many shops – including my local Tesco – still don't accept contactless payments of any kind at all.

Alternatively, you could ignore all of these ridiculous payment systems and pay for everything, in any shop, using that slim piece of plastic you've been carrying in your wallet or purse for the past 30 years. But that will never catch on.

Illustration: Andrew Torrens

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

WebUser

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Thank you for reading this issue of *Web User* – we hope you found the tips and advice useful. The good news is that you don't have to wait too long for the next issue. If you subscribe to *Web User* by Monday 15 August (8pm)*, you'll receive it through your letterbox before it's available in the shops!

What's inside the next issue:

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