Access The Web



The **20** most surprising things you can do WITHOUT a connection p38

- Visit any site in Chrome
- Open saved sites in Firefox
- Read any Wikipedia page
- Visit sites on your phone
- Access Amazon Video 24/7 5
- Watch YouTube anywhere
- Play music without the web
- Use Opera Mini browser
- Learn new PC skills 9
- Play phone games anywhere

- Play 3,333 Spotify songs
- 12 Access Amazon Prime tracks
- Listen to Apple Music
- 14 Scan for malware at start-up
- **Open all your Google Docs**
- 16 Access OneDrive files
- 17 Share any file on Skype
- 18 Use Dropbox on your tablet
- 19 Get instant translations
- 20 Use Google Maps anywhere

PLUS

TORRENT FILES Find what you want **EVERY time p44**

WINDOWS 10

THE SEVEN WAYS YOU'RE **BREAKING THE LAW ONLINE**

Go on, have a Bash p54 | And the FOUR that'll get you into trouble p48



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hen I was young, a favourite prank was to dial the telephone switchboard and ask innocently: "Is that the operator on the line?". When the nice lady replied in the affirmative, we'd shout: "Well you'd better get off, there's a train coming!", then hang up, laughing. This shameful harassment of BT came to mind recently when I was browsing the web on a train and suddenly found myself distinctly off (the) line and reduced to reading a card about upcoming engineering works.

If only I'd read this issue's cover feature (page 38) beforehand, then I would have

been prepared for this breakdown in communications. We've rounded up 20 of the best ways to keep using your favourite sites, services and apps even when your connection has gone - or been severed by a vengeful operator with a long memory.

Also, eagle-eyed readers may have noticed that this is Issue 404 of Web User. so on page 50 you'll find some of our favourite 404 error messages.

Robert Irvine

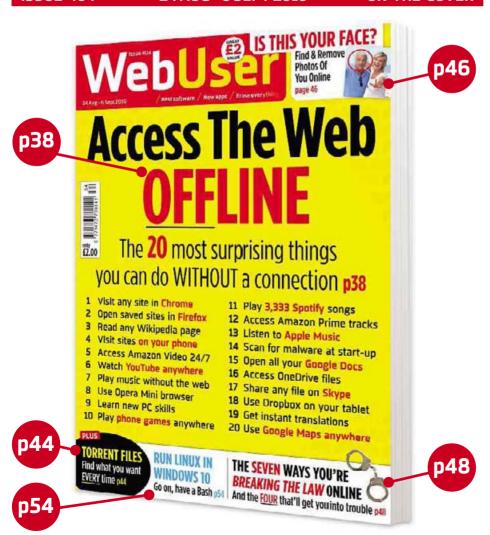
robert irvine@dennis.co.uk #webuser



ISSUE 404

24 AUG - 6 SEPT 2016

ON THE COVER



Things you'll learn this issue

How to mute and unmute noisy browser tabs in Chrome in one click

page 30

How to play YouTube videos on your phone while using other apps

How to customise your Desktop with colourful themes and useful widgets

page 52

How to securely erase everything from an old hard drive before you sell it

page 58

How to turn off Cortana in the new Windows 10 **Anniversary Update**

page 69

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SUBSCRIPTIONS
Turn to page 62 for special subsoffers

ISSUE 404

24 AUG - 6 SEPT 2016

Access The Web OFFLINE

Download and enjoy websites, music, films and more

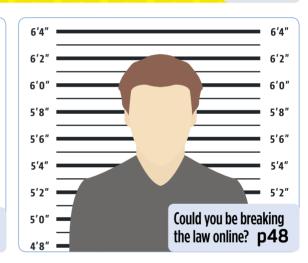
– whenever and wherever you want

p38









IN DEPTH Articles or

Articles on the latest tech topics

- 36 FAQ New TV licence rules
- **38 COVER FEATURE: ACCESS THE WEB OFFLINE**Enjoy favourite sites and services at all times
- 44 Torrent downloaders

The best software for downloading content

- **46 Keep your face off the web**How to regain control of your public image
- **48** Are you breaking the law online?
 Seven ways in which you may be acting illegally
- 50 Error pages Eight amusing error pages

REVIEWS Apps, site

Apps, sites and products on test

14 Best New Websites

We review the best new and relaunched sites

20 Product Test

- Motorola Moto G4
- AOC Q2781PQ monitor

26 Best Free Software

This fortnight's most useful free downloads

30 Best New Browser Tools

Get more from Chrome, Firefox and Opera

32 Best Free Apps

Our favourite new phone and tablet apps









FAVOURITES Must-read regulars

What's New Online 10 brilliant things to do on the web

Need to Know This fortnight's top tech news stories

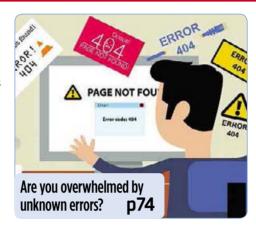
12 Stay Safe Online Security advice for PC and mobile

18 Build a Better Site Expert tips, tools and practical help

24 Best Buys Our pick of the best new products

51 Take a Screen Break Find the apps in our wordsearch

70 Broadband Deals Find the best-value package for you



72 Inbox

Tell us your views and opinions

74 Page 404

Barry is baffled by error messages

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Practical WebUser

Workshops, tips, projects and problem solving

52 Workshop 1

Give your Desktop a stylish makeover with Rainmeter 4

54 Workshop 2

Run Linux software in Windows 10

56 Workshop 3

Scan photos in Android

57 Workshop 4

Chat to anyone in Chrome

58 Weekend Project

Erase everything from an old PC

64 Web User's Top Tips

Windows troubleshooters

66 Ask the Expert

All your technical questions answered

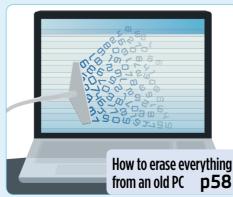
68 Readers' Tips

The best tips from our readers

71 Readers' Helpdesk

Answers from our reader forums







Explore Indonesia underwater



hese jaw-dropping underwater images give you a stunning glimpse of life around the Indonesian island of Komodo. They have been taken using Google's cutting-edge Street View panoramic camera system, which snaps 360-degree photos every three seconds while travelling at about 2.5 miles per hour.

Operated by a single diver, the

flexible camera was able to get up close to scores of vividly coloured reef fish, giant trevally, yellowstripe scad, garden eels and resting turtles. You can also view gorgeous coral gardens and wonderful reefs, and the high-resolution images have been seamlessly stitched together.

There is a serious side to the photos. By noting the geo-location of each image and the direction of the camera, Google hopes to go back and retake the pictures so they can be compared for changes. It's a mammoth, long-term monitoring project but it gives you a chance to take the plunge without the inconvenience of getting wet. If you want to take a virtual breather, you can also stroll around the dry land of Komodo village and search for the famous dragons. bit.ly/indo404

Have a Vulcan chat with Spock in Skype

www.skype.com

Bots are continuing to take over the web, and Skype is ensuring that its service is out-of-this-world by letting you talk to *Star Trek* character Spock and learn about the rational ways of his people.

Although you'll find the chats are rather stilted and led by pre-scripted responses, they give you an idea of what many believe is the future of online interaction. Spock is not alone, though: Skype also has a new IFTTT bot that sends messages based on the triggers of your choice, and you can also book a late-summer holiday via the Skyscanner bot.



Run classic Mac OS in a browser

jamesfriend.com.

You're no doubt familiar with previous incarnations of Windows, but may not have had the pleasure of dabbling with classic versions of the Mac. This



new online tool from James Friend changes that by letting you run System 7.0.1 directly in your browser, to get a feel for Apple life circa 1991 in all of its monochrome glory. The JavaScript demo allows you to click around the icons and open various programs, including Puzzle, Note Pad and Calculator. You can also select the Macintosh HD icon to try MacPaint, MacDraw and KidPix.

It's a brilliant piece of emulation steeped in nostalgia, but if you are new to the interface and want some on-screen guidance, just click the question mark icon and select Show Balloons. You can also try a Mac Plus emulator at bit.ly/macplus404 and play some games.

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

Use Google Maps' Wi-Fi-only mode

bit.ly/googlemaps404

Google Maps has added a Wi-Fi-only mode to its Android app to save you wasting data while you're travelling. This switches to using offline maps until you connect to a Wi-Fi network. You can also download maps to your memory card. See page 38 for more tips about accessing the web offline.



Learn to use a drum machine



io808.com

Anyone with a sense of rhythm will find this online drum machine impossible to beat. It reproduces the Roland TR-808, which was a programmable drum machine launched in 1980. Packed with knobs, controls and pads it certainly looks the business. But don't let that put you off if you've never used one before designer Vincent Riemer is well aware that the TR-808 looks overwhelming, so has put together an easy-to-follow tutorial. This takes you through the steps needed to produce your first beats and is both educational and fun.

Build castles in the cloud

sciencevsmagic.net/castles

In medieval times, it would typically take more than a decade to construct a castle, but with this fun tool you can knock one up in seconds. Starting with a large cube, Castles Made Of Castles lets you lay down a series of blocks, the twist being that each piece is the same as the whole. This lets you produce some complex-looking structures that you can bring to life through a range of random neon colours. Once you've finished your castle, you can share the structure online by simply copying the link.



Explore the Himalayas

bit.ly/him404

The adventures of Verne, a 500-foot cartoon yeti, across a 3D Google Map of the Himalayas are likely to warm your heart. Allowing you to explore the world's largest mountain range, this amazing game from Google's Creative Lab is a true voyage of



discovery and will have you running, skating, hang-gliding and jet-packing amid breathtaking scenery, while learning many fun facts.

TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

@evleaks

Evan Blass tends to be spot on in his reporting on the latest smartphone leaks

@girlswhocode

See how women are using technology to make the world a better place

@thingswork

An amazing series of GIFs and videos showing how things work

@wellerstein

Academic Alex Wellerstein posts about the history of nuclear weaponry

@deepseanews

Delve deep into the ocean and view close-ups of sea life

Listen to music from

www.spotify-gaming.com

Spotify's new gaming portal is full of original tunes from the latest video games, making it perfect for chilling to the stirring music of Uncharted 4 or the drama of Call of Duty III. Curated playlists are also available.

See Instagram for Windows 95

bit.ly/insta404

There's currently a trend for reimagining new apps on old tech. This series of GIFs is Russian graphic designer Misha Petrick's take on how Instagram would look it if was released for Windows 95.

Design a football shirt

bit.ly/adidas404

Adidas is asking fans of Manchester United to come up with designs for their third kit next season. Betting site Paddy Power has already come up with some ideas and we reckon rival fans will do so, too.

Need to Know

Facebook faces off against ad blockers

What happened?

Facebook and ad blockers are locked in an arms race over advertising on the social network. The battle between publishers and ad blockers is focused on Facebook's News Feed, with the social network trying to stop people using blocking tools by offering them greater choice over what they see on the site. The skirmish comes amid a host of publishers forcing visitors on their sites to turn off ad-blocking tools before they can browse content.

The latest round in the war started when Facebook rolled out more controls for the way that its ads are displayed, saying that some advertisements are actually useful but others "obscure the content we're trying to read" or slow page-loading times. To address that, the site will offer more granular adpreference settings, so users can say they don't want to see ads on certain topics or specific businesses.

There's a trade-off, though. Alongside the enhanced ad controls, Facebook said it would start forcing adverts to display to people using blocking tools on its website, effectively ignoring users who don't want to see any ads.

The most popular ad-blocking tool, Adblock Plus, quickly retaliated. Within days, the company issued a workaround for Facebook's ad-blocker ban (bit.ly/adblockplus404), meaning users could once again avoid seeing ads on the site.

Of course, Facebook's coders didn't sit by idly but worked to disable the latest ad-blocker efforts, saying the ad-blocker trick was removing posts



You can tell Facebook the type of adverts that you want to see



from users' friends and families as well as ads. Adblock Plus responded with another workaround and - no surprise - Facebook broke it.

If all that's too much to get your head around, here's the short version: ad blockers want to remove ads from Facebook; Facebook doesn't want to let them. Expect this battle to rumble on.

How will it affect you?

If you use Adblock Plus and you're a Facebook fan, you may notice that what you see daily changes on the site as the tit-for-tat battle continues. Ads may show sometimes but not always, and posts you'd normally see might not appear. That should settle down as the two companies run out of ammunition – there are only so many ways to block ads, and Facebook can reduce the effectiveness of those methods with simple tweaks to its code.

That suggests that ad blockers may not work on Facebook in future. With that in mind, it's worth editing your ad preferences so you don't see topics that irritate or bore you – head to www.facebook.com/ads/preferences when you're logged in. Even if you're not bothered about ads – or your ad-block tools continue to work – it's interesting to see what Facebook thinks you want

to see, and amusing to observe how wide of the mark its assumptions are.

What do we think?

It's hard not to be cynical about this. If Facebook wants to give users choices about advertising, then why is it blocking tools that remove ads? That said, Facebook is a free service and some 96% of the social network's \$6.2bn revenue in the second quarter of this year came via advertising – according to eMarketer – so no wonder it wants to keep them.

This problem isn't exclusive to Facebook - it's being faced by the entire web. All that 'free' content needs to be paid for somehow, but ads designed to generate revenue from websites have become unwieldy and irritating. Some ads can block content, crash pages, slow loading times, burn through mobile download caps and even deliver malware, so it's no wonder people want to block them.

Redressing that balance may not be as easy as Facebook thinks; stepping back from bad ads won't be enough to get people to turn off their ad blockers. New funding models need to be created. What that means for Facebook remains to be seen, but it could herald the end of the 'free' web.

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

Chrome finally says goodbye to Flash

What happened?

Google's Chrome browser will start blocking most Flash content from next month as it shifts away from the out-of-date multimedia standard to the more modern HTML5. As of Chrome 53, around 90% of Flash content will no longer work. Two versions later, when Chrome 55 is released in December, Flash will be blocked completely.

The only exception is websites that have been designed using Flash. In such cases, visitors will have to click to play Flash content - it won't run automatically. Mozilla has already taken a similar stance in its Firefox browser.

How will it affect you?

Most web pages already use HTML5 or offer both Flash and HTML5 versions, so hopefully you shouldn't be left with unplayable videos or broken ads.

For sites that depend solely on Flash, you'll see

a message saying that you need to click to affirm you want the Flash content to play, so you can choose whether or not to run the plugin. Google's head of Flash in Chrome. Anthony LaForge, said ditching Flash would improve

site responsiveness, cut page-load times and help save battery power on mobile devices. It will also increase security because vulnerabilities are often found in Adobe Flash and users often fail to keep it patched and up to date.

What do we think?

Flash's death throes are as strung out and melodramatic as a B-list actor in a cheesy Hollywood thriller somebody just needs to put it out of its misery. Most video and other multimedia content we see online is already HTML5, and any that isn't needs to get with the times as it's now years out of date.

We applaud Google's move to block Flash by default and only allow it if there's no other option, because it means you can still see content, even if it's in old-fashioned Flash. But we'd prefer to see such sites modernise their systems and upgrade to the newer standard.



QuadRooter bug hits **Android phones**

What happened?

Android was hit by yet another zero-day bug, with researchers from security firm Check Point (www.

checkpoint.com)

highlighting a flaw in phones that run chipsets made by Qualcomm.

The vulnerability could give hackers the ability to access vour phone and steal data, and even take control of the device.

How will it affect you?

Don't panic: although the bug is theoretically present in 900 million handsets, as yet no criminal hackers are making use of the flaw - though Check Point experts predicted that may happen within the next few months.

To affect you, hackers would need to write an exploit and trick you into running it on your phone. Although 900 million phones use the vulnerable chipset, many of those are older and out of use, though some are newer models. Those with the flaw include the HTC One. M9 and 10; Blackphone 1 and 2; LG G4, G5 and V10; Google Nexus 5X, 6 and 6P; Motorola Moto X; BlackBerry Priv and Dtek50, among others

Qualcomm has already set to work creating patches for the flaw, but

.....



updates don't always reach phones that are already with customers. You can check if your phone is vulnerable or if the patch has been installed using Check Point's QuadRooter Scanner app (bit.ly/ quad404).

If your phone is affected, it doesn't mean you've been hacked, it simply means you need to be extra careful online and avoid downloading apps that aren't from the official Google Play store.

What do we think?

Kudos to Check Point for finding these flaws and for responsibly reporting them to Qualcomm, giving the chip maker time to build a patch before the vulnerability was made public. But that good work could be for nothing, because it's so difficult to get updates onto Android phones. With more hackers targeting smartphones, it's a problem that needs addressing - and soon - if we're to stay safe on our mobiles.

Police slammed for still using Windows XP

What happened?

The Metropolitan police is still running 27.000 out-of-date Windows XP computers, more than two years after official support ended for the operating system. Microsoft stopped issuing patches for Windows XP in April 2014, meaning newly discovered bugs or flaws are open for hackers to exploit.

The figures were revealed by Conservative Greater London Assembly member Andrew Boff, who said: "The Met should have stopped using Windows XP in 2014 when extended support ended and to hear that 27,000 computers are still using it is worrying.

"My major concern is the security of Londoners' information on this dangerously out-of-date system, but I would also like to know how much money the Met has wasted on bespoke security updates."

Public organisations who did not complete a migration from XP by the time support expired in April 2014 were able to arrange custom support deals with Microsoft, but at a high cost. The UK government paid £5.5m to do this as the cut-off date approached, but that arrangement ended in April 2015.

Boff has called on Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to re-evaluate the Met's upgrade schedule, and wants reassurance that a better plan will be put in place for future updates.



How will it affect you?

If you live in London, you'd be right to worry about the Met police storing your details on an unsafe PC. After all, the police are supposed to protect us from criminals, not make it easier for them to get hold of our personal data. Sadly, we wouldn't be surprised if other police forces throughout the UK are also still running Windows XP without much thought for the consequences - not to mention many hospitals and doctors' surgeries. It's true that newer operating systems are also at risk of data theft, but at least they support up-to-date and reliable security software.

What do we think?

Considering that Microsoft offered Windows 10 free for a whole year, the Met police has no excuse for continuing to use the out-of-date and unsecure Windows XP operating system. We can only assume its hardware can't cope with anything more modern, which is a worrying thought when you consider the sensitive nature of information stored on and shared by police machines. Hopefully, now the story is out in the open, steps will be taken to remedy the situation as soon as possible and reassure the public that such sensitive data is safe.

FIRST LOOK

Samsung Galaxy Note 7

www.samsung.com/note7

Back in 2011, Samsung looked at the mobile phone landscape and decided that devices were too small and fiddly. The result was the Samsung Galaxy Note: a handset that almost single-handedly started the phablet boom. Now, five years on, we have the Note 7 and it's still a huge phone, sporting a whopping 5.7in, 2560 x 1440 AMOLED screen.

Despite packing a larger display, it's actually smaller overall than the iPhone 6s Plus and looks extremely sleek. Although the stylus has gone out of fashion since the decline of PDAs, the fourth iteration of the Note's 'S Pen' makes a compelling case for their return. Indeed, it's more of a pleasure to use than ever before

and for the first time feels like you're writing on a page rather than dragging plastic across glass.

Bringing the Note series in line with the S7 (there was no Note 6) means the phablet also gains some of the established features of its flagship stablemate. Most eye-catchingly, despite having to include a hole to store the S Pen, it gets an IP68 rating, meaning that it can be submerged in 1.5m of water for half an hour.

Elsewhere, security gets a boost the fingerprint scanner made its debut in the Note 4, but this time it's accompanied by iris scanning, too.

Note phones have always been

beasts when it comes to specifications and the Note 7 keeps this trend going. Like the S7, the Note 7 uses the 2.3GHz quad-core Exynos 8890 SoC in the UK, backed up with 4GB of RAM, meaning it's likely to be among the fastest handsets around. What's more, the larger frame means there's space for a bigger 3,600mAh battery.

As standard, it comes with 64GB of storage built in and you can also expand it with a microSD card. It all sounds very impressive on paper, but unfortunately you'll have to part with a whopping £750 if you want to be the proud owner of a Note 7.



WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

Will Mozilla wipe out 404 error pages?

Sick of stumbling across pointless 404 pages when looking for something online? Mozilla's got it covered with the help of the Wayback Machine (archive.org/web).

The Firefox maker is testing an add-on that shows an archived version of a web page rather than a 404 error. which is the message

shown if a page has been deleted or is otherwise no longer available, but is still being linked to from other sites or search engines. The archived pages will be sourced from the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, which takes and saves snapshots of websites.

"Tired of dead ends on the web?" Mozilla asked. "We'll let you know when there's a saved version of what vou're looking for on the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine." If there's an archived page available, Firefox will flag up the option to view it, so you'll be aware that it's an old page that isn't showing up-to-date information. However, not all websites are archived by the Wayback Machine so you'll still see some 404 pages.

The system works via a Firefox add-on called 404 No More which scans the text on the page to see if it's showing a 404, then checks if the



Internet Archive has a version to display. To test the system, you'll need to be running Mozilla's Test Pilot version of Firefox, which trials experimental new features in the browser before deciding whether they should be rolled out to everyone else. To use the add-on, you'll need to install the Test Pilot extension, and then install the 404 No More trial.

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LIKELIHOOD RATING 11111

Although some sites make their 404 errors fun and creative - see our feature on page 50 - they're mostly annoying, so we welcome Mozilla's idea to do something useful with them. It's far better to see some content, even if it's old. rather than face a dead end.

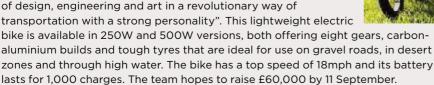
What's new on Kickstarter

Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

Carbon SUV e-bike

bit.ly/ebike404 | From £600

Sturdier than a standard bike and more eco-friendly than a motorbike, the Carbon SUV is described as the "perfect package of design, engineering and art in a revolutionary way of transportation with a strong personality". This lightweight electric





WEBOMETER

WE LIKE...

Google launches free video-calling app

Google Duo (duo.google.com)

has launched on iOS and Android and, like WhatsApp, it ties to your phone number and accesses your contacts list, meaning there's no need for users to set up accounts.



Pokémon Go developer bans cheats

Niantic, the developer of hit mobile game Pokémon Go, has started issuing lifetime bans to users who exploit bots to unfairly gain an



advantage over other users. The company is also pursuing legal action against bot developers.

WE DON'T LIKE...

Snapchat "racist" filter upsets users

Snapchat was criticised for introducing a controversial photo filter that promoted stereotypes about



people of East Asian origin. The filter, dubbed "yellowface" by angry users, was quickly removed by the social network.

Android apps used to secretly track users

Android apps can access your phone's accelerometer. gyroscrope and compass without explicitly asking for permission, according to



researchers who were able to use data from these sensors to infer the possible routes taken between two points.

Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

Volkswagen vehicles hit by security flaw

Millions of Volkswagen cars manufactured hetween 1995 and 2016 can be unlocked by hackers owing to a vulnerability in their keyless entry systems, according to security researchers from Birmingham University and German security firm Kaspar and Oswald. In a recently published paper, Flavio D Garcia and his team revealed that most cars manufactured by the VW Group (including models from the Audi, Skoda and Seat brands) during this period used the same few global master keys. By recovering the algorithms and keys for the electronic control units. the researchers were then able

to clone VW Group remote controls after eavesdropping single signals sent by the originals. A spokesperson from Volkswagen told the BBC, "The responsible department at Volkswagen Group is in contact with the academics mentioned and a constructive exchange is taking place." He added that several current-generation vehicles, including the Golf, Tiguan. Touran and Passat were not affected by the problem.

bit.ly/vwgroup404

Hackers steal gamers' data from forum

Nearly two million fans of online multi-player game Dota 2 were victims of a large-scale online hack, with email and IP addresses, usernames and passwords all being exposed.

The attack, which affects the Dota 2 message board, rather than the game itself, was reported by breach-notification site LeakedSource. According to a post on LeakedSource's blog, 1,923,972 records were stolen from the official Dota 2 forum, which is run by gaming firm and Dota 2 creator Valve

The attack occurred at the beginning of July, although it has only just been disclosed. According to LeakedSource, the forum passwords were stored in Valve's servers using MD5 hashing to encrypt them. However, while use of MD5 is still quite common, it is also considered to be severely compromised and vulnerable to myriad attacks. This allowed LeakedSource to decrypt roughly 80% of the information stored in the leaked database.

bit.ly/hack404

Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: Mark James, Security **Specialist at ESET** (www.eset.co.uk)



How worried should Android users be about the threat of QuadRooter attacks (see story on page 9)? Joel Bray, Twitter

While the vulnerabilities are quite bad, the chances of it actually affecting you are currently very slim, and even less if you only download apps

from the Google Play store. Phones running versions of Android from 4.2 onwards (Jelly Bean) have a feature called Verify Apps, which scans apps from third-party sources for known malware and notifies you before installation if a problem is found. If you're still worried, then download and install the Check Point QuadRooter Scanner app from the Play store (bit.ly/quad404) and run it on your own device.

This will tell you if you could be affected by the vulnerabilities but even if you are safe, you should always make sure you have installed a good, regularly updating internet security product.

Now that Windows Defender has been improved, do we really need other antivirus software in Windows 10? Louise Jameson, Facebook

Yes. While Microsoft

offers a free option for scanning for malware, you should consider what paid-for programs offer you. If something goes wrong, who can you turn to? Do you have access to good technical support and timely product updates? With so much malware doing the rounds, some of which is very destructive, you should evaluate a number of security products before you commit to one. Don't assume that

because it's free or 'already installed' that it's going to give you good protection.

Are police departments putting our data at risk by continuing to use Windows XP?

Ed Wright, via email

The problem is that when you place critical data on an infrastructure that is not being updated, then any currently known malware is not blocked. That means the bad guys can do as they please. The operating system and your software should be updated and patched. Windows XP

should not be used.





Best New Websites

Site of the Fortnight

PHOTOGRAPHY

RELAUNCH

Getty Images

www.gettyimages.co.uk

If a picture is worth a thousand words then the 200 million photos on view at Getty Images certainly have some stories to tell. Acknowledging this, the stockphoto site has been revamped to appeal to consumers rather than just businesses that want to license its pictures. As such many beautiful photos have been curated into eve-catching galleries, ranging from celebrity portraits and underwater selfies to landscapes and optical illusions. It's now easier to explore Getty's vast library and we love the extra effort to reflect current events. The constant stream of images from the Rio Olympics has been particularly outstanding.

Our rating









GALLERIES

Browse galleries of stunning photos on topical, historical and timeless themes







Aimed at women aged 50 and over, Victoria is an online community and magazine created by consumer-goods company Procter & Gamble. Amid the many articles about fashion, culture, home, family and health are details of the company's products such as Fairy Non Bio and Lenor, complete with discount vouchers. Yet, for a corporate site, it's head and shoulders above standard fare. Its editors include TV's Carol Vorderman and there are some top journalists on board writing fresh lifestyle pieces. Sure, it falls into cliché - it's all very pink and there's an underlying suggestion that women thrive on cooking and cleaning - but it's still fun and often inspiring.

Our rating





Too Good To Go

toogoodtogo.co.uk

Too Good To Go hopes to reduce the 600,000 tonnes of food wasted each year in the UK by letting you gorge on leftovers from local restaurants, cafés and bakeries at knockdown prices. Once it detects your location, it suggests nearby eateries or you can use the map to find them manually - currently, the site covers London, Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds. Simply select the number of portions you want, enter your mobile number and visit between the designated times. If you're not peckish yourself, you can donate £1 to buy food for those in need instead.

Our rating



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





360 **DEGREES Enjoy** 360-degree photography on the site or the new iOS and Android apps

EMBED Share images on social media or embed them on noncommercial sites and blogs





CHARITY

NEW

TECHNOLOGY



TRAVEL

Childline

www.childline.org.uk

With more than 71% of young people now accessing Childline online rather than over the phone, it's essential that the charity's website is as user-friendly as possible. Thankfully, this overhaul is not only welcoming but puts the most important services at a child's fingertips, letting them chat instantly with an online counsellor, access message boards and get advice about problems such as bullying, relationships, sexuality and home life. Useful features include an art box that can be used to jot emotions down in pictures and a mood journal for logging daily feelings.

Our rating



Hey Siri

hey-siri.io

Want to talk to Siri but not sure what to ask her? This handy guide lists an impressive 646 commands for Apple's personal digital assistant, giving you a good idea of how complex the service has become. Covering both iOS and the forthcoming macOS Sierra, you simply select one of the category icons at the top of the screen, such as Contacts & Calls and Maps & Navigation, to view examples and variations of commands. Clean styling makes the site easy to use, but although the dozens of icons scroll well on an iPhone or iPad, they're fiddly to navigate in your browser.

Our rating



Tripable

tripable.org

For some holidaymakers, a comfortable bed, hot water and a kettle is all that's needed from a hotel, but disabled travellers have more pressing requirements - such as whether they can get into the shower and easily move around the room. Tripable lets visitors give star-ratings and reviews to hotels based on their accessibility and facilities for disabled people. It's a brilliant idea and executed extremely well, with a clean design and clear information. Although ratings are thin on the ground right now, we expect it will become a useful resource as contributions grow.

Our rating





WebUser

How can I record phone calls I make to estate agents from my mobile phone?

A Page 38, Issue 372



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NEW

NEW

Given that NASA shares hundreds of

hours of raw video footage from space,

it's easy to lose track of all its content.

highlighting the latest additions each

video you want, whether it's a feature

there is a sense that you're stumbling

around in the dark. That's because the

they are many gigabytes in size, they

take a while to download, too. One for

the patient and determined space fan,

then, but a brilliant archive nonetheless.

videos lack explanatory detail and since

about Star Trek or the arrival of a cargo

spacecraft. It's certainly a great idea but

week and letting you download any

To address that, the agency is now

SPACE NASA JSC

bit.ly/nasajsc404



FOOTBALL

Qatar World Cup

www.sc.ga/en

The decision to award the 2022 football World Cup to Qatar was mired in controversy, so the first Arab country to host the event is doing all it can to promote itself. This site is part of those efforts and it's packed with positive news and information. Aside from a look at Qatar's proposed stadia, complete with videos of the construction in progress. there's a page about how the World Cup bid came to fruition and a strawclutching history of football in the country. More helpfully, there are ideas for things to do in Qatar complete with stunning photography and even details of baking-hot career opportunities.

Our rating



Sun Bets

www.sunbets.co.uk

If you fancy a flutter on the football or other pursuits ranging from cricket and racing to basketball and e-sports, this betting service from The Sun newspaper looks set to deliver. Effectively splitting the screen in two - with sports to the left and the betting slip to the right - the site may not look pretty but the design makes it easy to find a host of forthcoming events while seeing how your bets stack up as you go along. We particularly like how it clearly displays the number of associated markets, the betting odds and the potential for in-play bets, and we love that the responsive design works a treat on mobile, too.

Our rating









PHOTOGRAPHY

Phototees

www.phototees.co.uk

There's nothing like social media for advertising the fact you've been somewhere and done something, so you may as well wear the T-shirt. Phototees lets you select one of your uploaded Instagram images and plaster it across the front of a garment of your choice. It's a simple four-step creation process that includes asking for your size, colour preference and image. You can also position your photo to the left, right, centre or back of your T-shirt, sweater or hoodie, with prices starting at a reasonable £12.99. We can't vouch for the quality but Phototees is very straightforward to use, the clothes are made in the UK and delivery is free.

Our rating





FOOTBALL

Scotzine

www.scotzine.com

Coinciding with Glasgow Rangers' return to the Scottish Premiership after a four-year absence, this site has kicked off the new season with a refresh. It now features more prominent headlines overlaid on pictorial blocks, but unfortunately a lot of scrolling, not to mention some colour clashes, makes the text hard to read. But we like the Flickr gallery, the effective use of video and the section written in Gaelic. There's also a promise of regular podcasts and a fanzine written by Scottish football supporters. Indeed, there's a real effort to get fans involved, which should help the site up its game further.

Our rating



Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

Top Tips of the Fortnight

WordPress 4.6 now available

The new version of WordPress will be here by the time you read this, although it is still in beta at the time of writing. There are several welcome tweaks such as using system font in the admin interface, which makes it look smarter. It will also look different if you switch between Windows and Linux, or even Mac OS X. because they all have different system fonts. Another handy new feature checks any links inserted in your posts to make sure they work. You will be notified if a link is broken or you have made a typing error. The autosave feature, which saves as you type, has also been improved.

Become a beta tester

Talking of beta builds, if you want to be at the cutting edge of development and see new versions of WordPress before



they are released to the public, install the WordPress Beta Tester plugin (bit.lv/wpbeta404). It is not recommended for a live site that contains valuable information. and should be used only in a test environment. The plugin adds you to the beta channel, which means it automatically installs new beta updates as they become available.

Deal of the Fortnight

Leeds-based eUKhost (www.eukhost.com) is offering double the amount of disk space for free on many of its hosting plans. Prices start from just £3.33 a month.

Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: Russell Hogg, Managing **Director of Hogtronix** (www.hogtronix.com)



My '.co.uk' domain comes up on the first page of google.co.uk for my main keyword. How do I get it on the first page of google.com? Colin Wallace, via Facebook

According to Google, if you use a country-specific domain such as like.co.uk, you can't specify

a geographic location and will automatically be associated with the UK. We'd recommend moving your website to a '.com' domain and using Google Search Console to specify your target countries. You can point your existing '.co.uk' to the new '.com' using a 301 redirect. You should try to gain links to your site from other sites in your chosen destination(s), but if your intended audience is mainly UKbased, you're best off keeping your current set-up as most Brits use google.co.uk.

MINI WORKSHOP | Try a different content-management system Bitnami: bitnami.com | (1) 1 hour | Any browser

WordPress is the most popular content-management system (CMS), but there are many others worth exploring. Bitnami has a brilliant feature that lets you try another CMS online for free



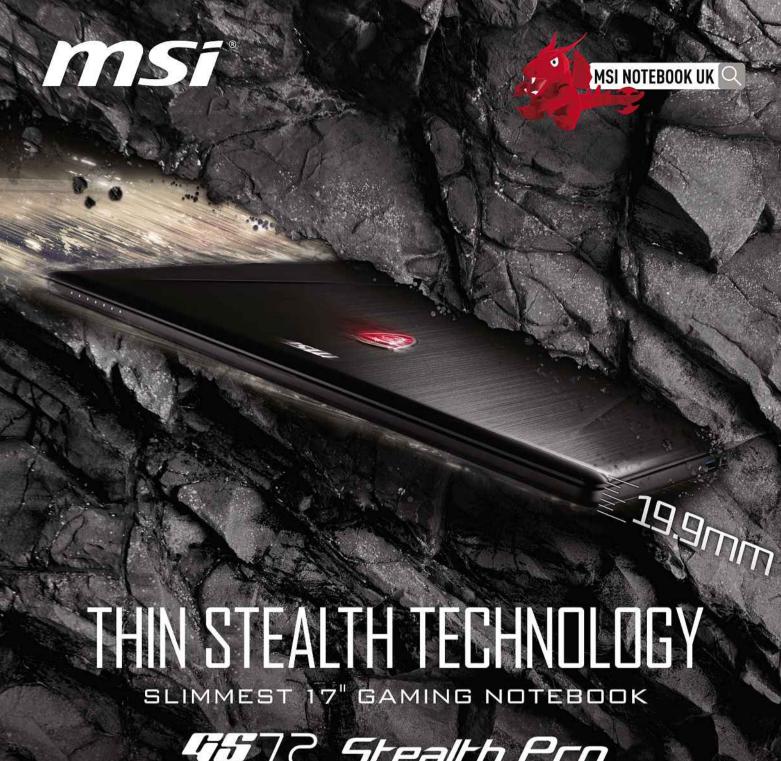
Go to bitnami.com and you'll find a row of icons 🛭 a little way down the page representing contentmanagement system including WordPress, Drupal and Joomla. Hover your mouse over an icon to see what it is. In the menu that appears above it, click the Launch Now button.



You are asked to create an account. It's free and you can sign up in a couple of mouse clicks by choosing the Google+ or Facebook options. Wait 5 to 10 minutes until a launch screen appears. Make a note of your username and password, 11 then click the Go To Application button. 2



When the content-management system opens, find the login link and enter your details from step 2. You can then access the admin pages. Here, we are using Joomla. Click System 1 to configure the CMS; Menus 2 to create menus; and Content 1 to create and post articles.





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We test and compare the latest products

Motorola Moto G4

Jonathan Bray tests the latest budget phone from Motorola and compares it with the best on the market

he Moto G is king of the budget smartphones. Other pretenders have tried and failed to take its crown, but few have even come close to claiming its position at the top.

The question is: Could it happen this year? The latest model is the Motorola Moto G4 – it's £20 more expensive than last year's phone, so it's less of a bargain than it used to be, but despite the price hike, the supremacy of Motorola's budget smartphone has never felt more unassailable.

Features and specifications

The most noticeable gain from the higher price is a larger screen. The Motorola Moto G4 has a 5.5in display, making it a whole half-inch bigger than last year's Moto G (3rd gen). Size-wise, it's now up there with the giants of the smartphone world, such as the OnePlus 2 and the iPhone 6S Plus. But Motorola hasn't simply increased the screen size without considering the consequences: it's also slimmed down the case, which is now 2mm thinner than the previous model, and

its softly curved metal frame feels sturdy and looks classy. It's appearance is a little more staid than in previous years, but if the plain black and silver finish you see in the photos here doesn't float your boat, you can customise the phone's appearance via the Motorola Moto Maker website, which offers a selection of alternative colours.

There are some negatives. It's no longer water-resistant, as the Moto G (3rd gen) was, and although it's still splash-proof – courtesy of a special chemical coating – it won't survive a sustained dunking. The phone also has no NFC or fingerprint reader, so you won't be able to use Android Pay at contactless payment terminals.

Still, these are small complaints and, as ever with Motorola, the Moto G4's specification is impressive for the money. Inside it contains an octa-core

Qualcomm Snapdragon 617 running at 1.5GHz, backed by 2GB of RAM and either 16GB or 32GB of storage, depending on how much you're prepared to spend.

The most noticeable gain is a larger screen. The Moto G4's 5.5in display is a whole half-inch bigger than last year's model

Performance and battery life

This is a responsive smartphone, but we came across the occasional glitch. We found some lag while zooming in and out of images in Google Photos, and scrolling quickly through image-heavy websites isn't ultra-smooth. In the benchmarks, however, the Moto G4 is significantly faster than last year's model, gaining

a score of 3.107 in the multicore GeekBench test and an average of 7fps (frames per second) in the games-based GFXBench Manhattan 3 test. Of its budget smartphone rivals, only the Honor 5X and the £189 OnePlus X come close.

Battery life is even better. When we ran the phone through our standard video-rundown test, the Moto G4 lasted 13hrs 39mins, which is above average and almost three hours longer than the Honor 5X.

Display and camera quality

The Moto G4's display is, quite simply, magnificent. It measures 5.5in across the diagonal, with a perfectly sharp resolution of 1,920 x 1,080, and its performance is impeccable.

Maximum brightness reaches 540cd/m², which is nearly twice as bright as its predecessor. The contrast ratio is impressive, too, and although the colours don't look as vivid as on phones with AMOLED displays, it's good enough to make graphics and photos appear vibrant and easy on the eye.

Even the camera - so often a weak point in cheaper smartphones - is excellent. The Moto G4 has a 13-megapixel rear camera with an f/2 aperture and a dual-LED flash for low-light indoor shots. There's no laser or phase-detect autofocus, and you don't get optical image stabilisation, but the picture quality doesn't suffer and photos are packed with detail and well exposed.

Noise is kept under control in all but the darkest of scenes and the HDR mode works well to equalise extremes of shadow and highlight (as long as you hold the phone steady). The only problem we encountered was that autofocus was sometimes a little slow to lock on a subject and, occasionally, somewhat jumpy and erratic.

Even the front camera is accomplished. It has a resolution of 5 megapixels



f The Moto G4 runs on a base of Android 6 Marshmallow, and it looks, largely, as Google originally intended

and a wide-angle lens, which means you don't have to stretch out your arm to accommodate a decent chunk of background or fit a group of friends into a photo.

Operating system and gestures

Another bonus is that Motorola doesn't tinker too much with Android's operating system. The Moto G4 runs on a base of Android 6 Marshmallow, and it looks, largely, as Google intended.

There are, naturally, some of Motorola's own features. but they're unobtrusive and

most of them are actually pretty useful. Our favourite of these is Moto G4's gestures, which let you access basic functions by waving or waggling the phone around in a specific way. For example, simply placing the phone face down on a flat surface triggers a 'do not disturb' mode, while a karate chop illuminates the torch function. To launch the camera, you can give the device a couple of twists and, if you get a call you don't want to answer, you can just pick up the phone and place it back down again to silence the ringer.

OUR VERDICT

As an all-round package, it's very hard to find fault with the Motorola Moto G4. It may be a touch more expensive than last year's Moto G, but its numerous improvements make it worth the extra cost.

There may be some who complain that the Moto G is now too big, and for those with smaller hands and pockets, a 5.5in phone may indeed be a stretch too far,

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

no matter how slim.

But let's not get too hung up about what the Moto G4 isn't and celebrate what it is: a fantastic smartphone that delivers more bang for its buck than any other device to date.

PRODUCT INFO

Motorola Moto G4

www.motorola.co.uk PRICE: £169 SIM-free; £12 per month

SPECIFICATIONS

- Octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 617 processor, running at 1.5GHz and 1.2GHz
- = 5.5in display
- Full HD resolution
- 16GB storage
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- microSD slot
- 13-megapixel rear camera
- 3,000mAh battery

FOR

- ✓ Low price
- ✓ Great screen and camera
- ✓ Excellent battery life

AGAINST

X Can be slow to respond

THE BUDGET RIVAL

Huawei Honor 5X, from £170 www.vmall.eu/uk



A LITTLE MORE **EXPENSIVE**

OnePlus 2, from £249 oneplus.net/uk



AOC Q2781PQ

Chris Finnamore enjoys the aesthetically impressive design

of AOC's latest monitor

he width of a screen's bezels may seem like an insignificant detail, but the 27in AOC Q2781PQ's slim borders make the screen feel much larger than its actual size. They're also flush against the panel. which creates the pleasing sensation that your Desktop is floating in the air.

This mid-priced monitor feels like something special. It's only 15mm thick, and the compact metal stand adds an extra touch of class. What's more, it's practical; the stand's U-shaped foot leaves space for a phone or notepad, and you can slide your keyboard over the top

of it to create some extra room on your desk, which is a boon if you are working in cramped conditions.

The monitor has an adequate number of connections: two HDMI inputs plus DisplayPort and VGA, and a headphone output. There's no USB hub or speakers, but these are reasonable omissions considering the price. What's more disappointing is the lack of adjustability; you can only tilt the Q2781PQ, not rotate it or adjust the height.



The monitor's interface pops up from the bottom of the screen and is organised into clear categories such as Color Setup and Luminance. The button icons on the front

displaying 97% of the colours from the sRGB colour standard at default settings, which means photos and

Colours are saturated and vibrant, and

there was no trace of grainy texture

as a semicircle of whitish-grey.

The Q2781PQ isn't ideal for games, either, because it doesn't have a particularly fast pixel-response time. We experienced noticeable blurring during fast panning motions, both in the Ghosting test at testufo.com and in the game Dirt Rally. You can reduce this a little by using the monitor's 'pixel overdrive' setting, but if gaming is your thing, you're better off buying a monitor that's designed for that purpose and has a faster response time.

PRODUCT INFO

AOC Q2781PQ

Buy from: www.amazon.co.uk £300 inc VAT

SPECIFICATIONS

- = 27in AH-IPS panel
- = 2,560 x 1,440 resolution
- 60Hz refresh rate
- 1.000:1 claimed contrast
- 350cd/m2 claimed brightness
- 2 x HDMI, DisplayPort, VGA video inputs
- 3.5mm headphone output
- 4ms grey-to-grey response time
- 15mm screen depth
- 642 x 449 x 180mm overall dimensions

FOR

- ✓ Amazingly narrow bezels
- Excellent image quality
- Reasonable price

AGAINST

X Lacks height adjustment X Some backlight leakage

aren't backlit, which makes them hard to see, but this was our only gripe and in any case, you're best off leaving the settings alone. The monitor's solid colours are saturated and vibrant, and there was no trace of the grainy texture you so often see on monitors of all prices. This means large blocks of white, such as the background to a Word document, are particularly pleasing to behold.

The screen's 2,560 x 1,440 resolution leaves plenty of room for multitasking, and although text isn't quite as sharp as on a 4K screen, it's still perfectly easy to read.

The monitor is capable of

video look great on it. There was, however, some backlight leakage at the top-left of the panel. When we filled the screen with a black test image, this manifested itself

OUR VERDICT

The AOC Q2781PQ is a great value monitor with impressive image quality and a lovely design, and it doesn't cost the earth, either. You may find the backlight bleed and relatively slow pixelresponse time distracting when playing games, but

FEATURES

VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★

if you're after a 2,560 x 1,440 monitor for work more than play, this is the screen to buy.

PERFORMANCE

EASE OF USE

SAFEST OF THE



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NEW

HARDWARE

BUDGET SMARTPHONE

Motorola Moto G4

£159 from www.amazon.co.uk Date tested: August 2016

This fantastic smartphone offers better features and performance than any other phone of this price. Its screen is sharp and bright, and its cameras are excellent. Battery life is well above average, too.

KEY SPECS

5.5in screen ■ Octa-core 1.5GHz processor ■ 16GB of storage. expandable by 128GB ■ Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow ■ 13-megapixel rear camera, 5-megapixel front camera ■ 1,980 x 1,080 pixels resolution = 3,000mAh battery = 155g

MEDIA STREAMER

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 mediumsized case still provides plenty of room to upgrade. Its carefully chosen components provide good performance, especially when playing games.



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 ■ Threeyears return-to-base warranty

MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER

Canon Pixma MG5750

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



The MG5750 is an excellent all-rounder, producing topquality 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.

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.

Dual-band 2.4GHz, 5GHz ■ 802.11ac ■ 2.53Gbps theoretical max speed **a** ADSL2+ and VDSL **b** 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

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

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



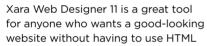
KEY FEATURES

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

WEB DESIGN

Xara Web Designer 11 **Premium**

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



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.



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

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

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

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

UNINSTALLER

Revo Uninstaller Free 2

bit.ly/revo404

Min requirements: Windows XP/

Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 6.8MB

When you uninstall a program in Windows, certain items such as folders, configuration and temporary files, shell extensions, installer components and Registry entries often get left behind, cluttering up your PC. Revo Uninstaller does a more thorough job of removing unwanted software, scanning for leftovers afterwards and deleting

This excellent software is very quick and offers a choice of removal methods. For example, the Hunter Mode lets you simply drag a program shortcut to the target icon to begin the uninstallation process. Or, if you prefer, you can drag the target onto an unwanted program's icon or title bar. Or you can simply uninstall software in the usual way by browsing a list of installed programs and selecting any you don't require.

Revo Uninstaller comes with a range of useful tools that let you manage the applications starting alongside



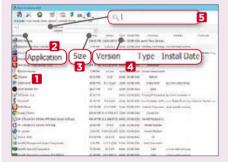
Windows, clean up junk, remove all traces of your internet activity and shred files you want permanently deleted. It also provides direct access to Windows tools such as System Restore. Disk Defragmenter and Check Disk.

Version 2 introduces full 64-bit support, which means the program can fully remove and clean up after 64-bit applications; and there's a new Details panel in the Icon view that provides

information about the currently selected item. The new Export command lets you save a list of installed programs and leftovers, and numerous changes and improvements have been made throughout the interface and 'under the bonnet'.

Make sure you download the free version of Revo Uninstaller from the website, unless you want to pay \$27.47 (around £21) for the Pro edition.

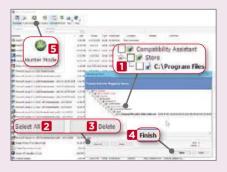
MINI WORKSHOP | Remove software completely using Revo Uninstaller Free 2



1 Launch Revo Olimber 1 Launch Revo Uninstaller Free 2 and applications installed on your PC. 1 You can sort the selection by name, 2 size, 3 version, type, install date, 4 company and other criteria, by clicking the relevant heading. You can also search for an application by name. 5

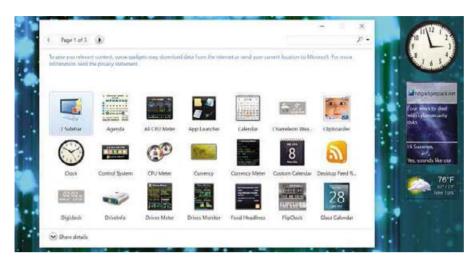


Select a program and click Uninstall to begin the removal process. You'll be asked if you want to completely remove that program and all its components. 2 Click Yes. Once the program has been uninstalled, select a mode - Safe, Moderate or Advanced 5 - for scanning your system for leftovers. Click Scan. 4



Revo Uninstaller w.... system restore point (in case you run into problems and need to roll back to before you removed the software), and then scan your system. If it finds leftover items, you'll be able to select them manually 11 or select them all 2 and delete them. 3 Click Finish 4 when done. You can activate Hunter Mode from the bar at the top. 5

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



WINDOWS CUSTOMISER

8GadgetPack 20

8gadgetpack.net

Min requirements: Windows 8+/10 File size: 19.7MB

Windows 7 lets you add floating gadgets such as clocks, calendars and system monitors to your Desktop. This feature was removed from Windows 8 onwards, but 8GadgetPack restores it. There are more than 50 gadgets to choose from and a sidebar for keeping everything tidy. The latest version ensures that many of the gadgets work in the Windows 10 Anniversary Update, and it also fixes a bug that stopped you dragging and dropping files to the Clipboarder gadget in Windows 10.



BROWSER TOOL Browser Chooser 2

browserchooser2.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 5.1MB

Many people use different browsers for different situations. Chrome works best with Google Drive, for example, while Edge is the default PDF reader in Windows 10. Browser Chooser lets you assign specific tasks to the browser of your choice. As well as letting you pick which browser to use when you click links in documents, you can designate certain sites to always open in a particular browser.



WEB BROWSER

Opera 39

www.opera.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 940KB (installer-only)

Opera doesn't get as much attention as Chrome or Firefox, but it's an excellent browser that's packed with useful features. The latest stable release reduces the memory used by each tab, and adds customisable block lists to its new built-in ad blocker. It also introduces a revamped video pop-out - see page 31 for more about this. There's a new personalised newsreader and improved search feature, too.

New Windows Apps

Photo Scan

bit.lv/photoscan404

Min requirements: Windows 8+/10

File size: 3.2MB

Photo Scan is a free OCR (Optical Character Recognition) app that pulls text from photos. Load an image and the app will present you with text to edit or copy.



Cubiline

bit.ly/cubiline404

Min requirements: Windows 8+/10

File size: 90.9MB

Cubiline is like a game of Snake, except it takes place on a 3D cube. You have to guide your growing creature across the six sides, eating coloured blocks and avoiding your own tail.



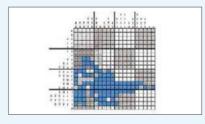
Nonogram2

bit.ly/nono404

Min requirements: Windows 8+/10

File size: 6.2MB

A nonogram is a picture-based puzzle. Use the numbers at the side of the grid to reveal a hidden image, either by colouring in cells or leaving them blank. This app offers more than 500 puzzles.



Best Free Software

DEFRAG TOOL

Vopt

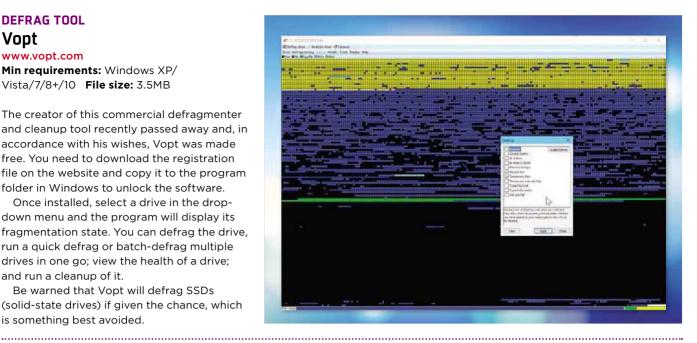
www.vopt.com

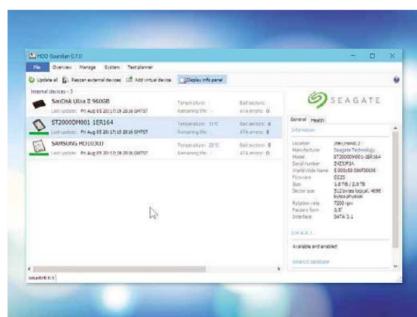
Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 3.5MB

The creator of this commercial defragmenter and cleanup tool recently passed away and, in accordance with his wishes, Vopt was made free. You need to download the registration file on the website and copy it to the program folder in Windows to unlock the software.

Once installed, select a drive in the dropdown menu and the program will display its fragmentation state. You can defrag the drive, run a quick defrag or batch-defrag multiple drives in one go; view the health of a drive; and run a cleanup of it.

Be warned that Vopt will defrag SSDs (solid-state drives) if given the chance, which is something best avoided.





HARD-DRIVE MONITOR HDD Guardian

bit.ly/hddg404

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 2.7MB

When your hard drive starts to fail, it can have catastrophic consequences. You might not be able to boot into Windows and you risk losing important personal data. HDD Guardian monitors your hard drives and SSDs by using their built-in SMART (Self-Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology) information, and will alert you at the first signs of trouble, from impending failure to overheating components.

Select a drive in the main left-hand panel of the interface to view details about it on the right. You can also run a selection of tests to check for potential problems. To alert you to any problems, HDD changes its system-tray icon to red if a device is failing.

BACKUP TOOL Duplicacy

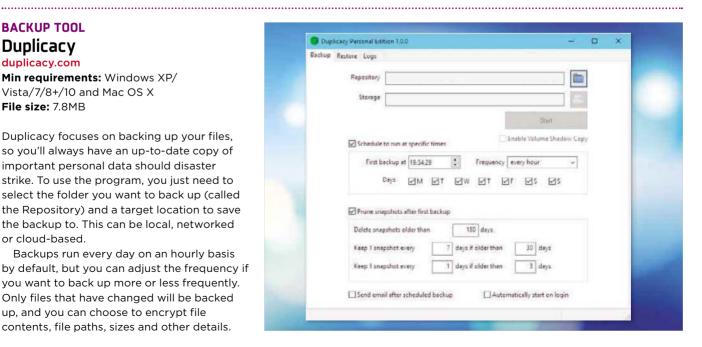
duplicacy.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 and Mac OS X

File size: 7.8MB

Duplicacy focuses on backing up your files, so you'll always have an up-to-date copy of important personal data should disaster strike. To use the program, you just need to select the folder you want to back up (called the Repository) and a target location to save the backup to. This can be local, networked or cloud-based.

Backups run every day on an hourly basis by default, but you can adjust the frequency if you want to back up more or less frequently. Only files that have changed will be backed up, and you can choose to encrypt file contents, file paths, sizes and other details.





GAME Sacramento

bit.ly/sacra404

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 or Mac OS X

File size: 128MB

Sacramento is a gentle and very short first-person exploration game that is all about capturing fleeting memories before they fade. It's a calming experience with some stunning watercolour-style graphics and a relaxing soundtrack. But don't get too relaxed - you only have a short time to explore before you get pulled back to the start of the game again.

Don't install...

AkelPad

akelpad.sourceforge.net

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 1.2MB

AkelPad is a simple Notepad replacement but its features are very limited. It can open more than one document at a time, but only in a separate window. Unlike other, similar tools, it doesn't have a tabbed interface so it feels old-fashioned in comparison. It has a good selection of useful add-ons but the software is very basic without them.



...Install this instead

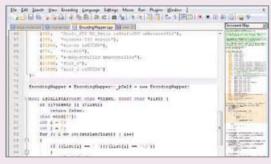
Notepad++

notepad-plus-plus-org

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

File size: 4MB

Notepad++ is a far superior alternative to the standard Windows Notepad, and the ideal tool for writing code for a web page or more complex programming. Its tabbed interface works just like a web browser, so you can have several text files open at once and switch easily between them for cutting, pasting and comparing. It's packed with useful tools including word count, auto-complete and document maps, and can be expanded via optional add-ons, which can be downloaded for free from bit.ly/npadd393 and installed using the program's built-in plugin manager.





UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs



SYSTEM TOOL

Windows Repair 3.9.7

www.tweaking.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+

File size: 27.6MB

Windows Repair can help you fix all manner of PC problems. The latest version focuses on improving stability and irons out a bug that prevented the program from being run from a networked drive. It also fixes a problem with the Windows drive checker.



DISC-AUTHORING SOFTWARE

BurnAware Free 9.3

www.burnaware.com

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

File size: 9.4MB

BurnAware Free writes to all optical discs, including Blu-rays. This update improves the way the program reads MP3 tags and CD text, and reduces processor usage during track extraction. Be sure to choose the Custom installation to decline the bundled junk.



WINDOWS CUSTOMISER Classic Shell 4.3

www.classicshell.net

Min requirements: Windows

8+/10

File size: 6.9MB

Classic Shell gives Windows 8+ and Windows 10 a traditional Start menu and adds a more familiar toolbar and a status bar to Windows Explorer. This new release officially supports the Windows 10 Anniversary Update and fixes problems that were reported in the 4.2.7 beta.



SYSTEM CLEANER

Wise Disk Cleaner Free 9.27

www.wisecleaner.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 4.8MB

Wise Disk Cleaner cleans up after Windows and internet use and removes unwanted features. This update improves cache cleaning in Chrome and Opera, and gains minor interface improvements. Decline the bundled junk during installation.

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



Best New Browser Tools



CHROME

Silence noisy websites by default

Mute Tab

If you've ever jumped out of your skin when a loud online video started playing in the background, you'll appreciate the latest improvements to the Chrome extension MuteTab (bit.ly/mute404). Previously, the add-on showed you which tab was making a noise so you could silence it, but it now goes further by letting you mute and unmute all tabs (or just background ones) with a single click. You can create a blacklist of noisy sites, so they're muted by default; add other sites, such as music-streaming services, to a whitelist, so they're never muted: and ensure that all tabs stay silent when you're browsing in incognito mode. MuteTab can also be controlled using keyboard shortcuts - go to chrome://extensions, click 'Keyboard shortcuts' at the bottom of the page, scroll

Current tab app.bitty.com Bitty | Bitlink Management Noisy or playing tabs www.youtube.com Top 10 Insane Bear Grylis Moments - YouTube www.youtube.com Pokemon Blue Finished in 25 Minutes - YouTube 41 www.digitalspy.com Watch the evolution of Matt Damon in 25 years of. Recently noisy or playing tabs m www.dailymail.co.uk Video | Daily Mail Toggle privacy mode Alt+Shift+ In Chrome * 16 Disome .* Toggle myted for a hichiana down to the MuteTab section and choose which keys you Unmute all tabs want to activate the extension and mute and unmute tabs.

Go incognito in one tab only

Switching to incognito mode in Chrome usually means launching a separate private-browsing session that doesn't store details of the sites you visit. But you might only want to conceal details of a specific page - if, for example, you're looking for a present for someone or watching an embarrassing video - which is where Go Incognito (bit.ly/incognito404) comes in. This new Chrome extension lets you open the current tab in an incognito window and deletes all record of the page from your browsing history. To use Go Incognito, either click the mask icon on the toolbar to switch instantly to incognito mode or right-click the page and choose Go Incognito. Note that if you have the History option selected in your Chrome Sync settings, the page will remain visible in your history.



Automatically hide online comments

Sometimes online comments are more interesting than the articles above them. but they can also be offensive, idiotic and distracting. NoComment (bit.ly/ nocomment404) is a clever new



Chrome extension that automatically hides the comments sections on news websites, blogs and social-media sites including YouTube, Facebook and Reddit. You don't need to configure anything, but you'll instantly notice that the web seems a lot more peaceful. If there are specific sites on which you want to see comments - perhaps you enjoy clicking the green and red arrows below Mail Online stories - you can add them to NoComment's Allow List. Likewise, if unwanted comments continue to appear on a particular site, you can place it on your Block List.

Speed up and simplify Twitter

The mobile version of Twitter is not as cramped and fiddly to use as the Desktop site, and - as we reported in last issue's What's New Online - it has a new, dark 'night mode' that's much easier on the eye. Refined Twitter (bit.ly/refined404) brings the best elements of Twitter from your phone or tablet to your PC or Mac, for a smoother, simpler experience. When you visit the social network in Chrome, it forces Twitter to switch to its streamlined mobile version, without losing essential features such as notifications. messages and search. Best of all, you can use keyboard shortcuts to perform common tasks - press N to compose a new tweet, Ctrl+Enter to post it and use D to toggle night mode on and off.





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



FIREFOX

Find out what's draining your memory

One of Chrome's most useful tools is its Task Manager, which shows you at a glance which tabs are using the most memory and processor power, so you can close the biggest resource hogs. Firefox doesn't offer an equivalent tool, other than its baffling 'about:memory' and 'about:performance' pages, but you can find out which tabs are draining your memory by installing Tab Memory Usage (bit.ly/



tabmemory404). Click a tab and the add-on displays a figure next to its toolbar button that tells you how much memory that page is consuming. Switch to another tab and the memory figure will update accordingly. It's not particularly sophisticated, but you can combine it with the excellent About:addons-memory 2016 (bit.ly/addons404) to see how much memory your add-ons are using, too.

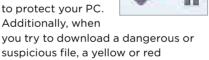
Control your download security settings

Firefox 48, the latest version of the browser, has beefed up its security settings in response to the fact that most malware is spread through dodgy downloads and infected websites. It adds three new options to the Security section of the Options panel to protect you from harmful content. The first, 'Block dangerous and deceptive content', warns you that the site you're visiting may contain malware, try to 'phish' your details or feature Download buttons that trick you into installing unwanted software. The second, 'Block dangerous downloads', intervenes when you click a link to a file that contains a virus or other malware, although you can override it by clicking 'Allow download'. The third and most interesting option is 'Warn me about unwanted and uncommon software', which tells you if a program you're trying to download isn't recognised by Mozilla and could therefore contain malware or make unwanted changes to your settings.

Security ✓ Block dangerous and deceptive corn √ Itinck glangemus downle

All three options are turned on by default, but you can turn them off if you find them

over-zealous or if you trust your antivirus software to protect your PC.



exclamation mark appears next to the

Block adverts on video websites

download arrow on your toolbar.

Nobody likes having their video viewing ruined by annoving ads that flash in the corner of the



page. Video AdBlocker (bit.ly/ video404) solves this problem by filtering ads from popular video sites including YouTube and Dailymotion, but not other websites. This speeds up loading times, reduces data usage and eliminates distractions.

The add-on gets rid of banners, overlays and pop-ups, and can be turned off using a slider when you want to allow ads on a video page. Video AdBlocker is also available for Chrome (www.videoadblocker.net) and is updated frequently to combat new forms of annoying ad.

OTHER BROWSERS

Watch pop-out videos in Opera Opera 39 improves the browser's 'picture-in-picture' feature to make it even more useful for watching videos as you browse the web. You can now 'pop out' videos from more websites into a detached window, which can be moved around your screen so you can carry on reading, working or shopping without interrupting

playback. Videos can now be paused and resumed with a single click, and you can disable the



feature if you don't want it. Opera claims that its users already watch 842,000 hours of pop-out videos every month.



welcome improvements in the Windows 10 Anniversary Update is the long-awaited introduction of extensions to the Edge browser. We suspect that the most popular of these will be Adblock Plus for Edge (bit.ly/ adblock404), which is already one of the most installed add-ons for Chrome and Firefox. As with the version for those browsers, it blocks annoying adverts, intrusive trackers and malware domains to give you a smoother, cleaner and safer online experience. Adblock Plus allows through acceptable, unobtrusive advertising to help support websites, unless you choose to block everything.





Best Free Apps

App of the Fortnight

MUSIC

Apple Music for Android

bit.ly/apple404

Min requirements: Android 4.3

Size: 33MB

We know what you're thinking: What's the point? There are plenty of excellent free Android apps that let you juggle music between your PC, phone, tablet and online accounts. Android users haven't exactly been twiddling their thumbs in anticipation of Apple Music.

But Apple needs Android - iTunes is no longer king and Apple doesn't want to be left behind. So Apple Music, which is built into iOS and

is finally out of beta for Android, combines the best of its rivals - with great success.

Like Spotify, it focuses on 'curated' streaming and the choice in content is vast. There are more than 30 million songs, exclusive albums and videos, hand-picked playlists, on-demand content and radio stations. Teach it your taste in music, and it'll offer tunes drawn from decades of chart and archive recordings. It's like drowning in a record shop, and we mean that as high praise. You get three months of unlimited streaming completely free; after that it's £9.99 per month.

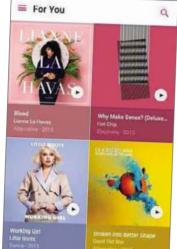
Like Google Play Music, Apple Music also lets you access your music library across your devices for free. It has

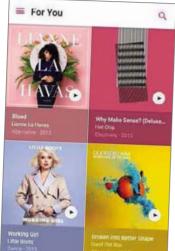
playback settings that Google Play Music is crying out for, such as an equaliser and repeat button, but no pay-per-download option.

This app deserves five stars, but its sign-up process is a quagmire that could cost you dear. You have to create an Apple ID, hand over your payment details and then disable automatic renewal in your settings to avoid being charged after three months. As with iTunes,

it's a decent tool blighted by Apple's heavyhandedness.



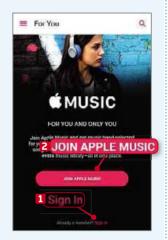




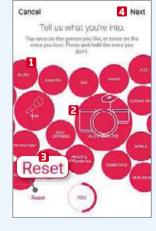
UPDATED

MINI WORKSHOP Discover new music using Apple Music

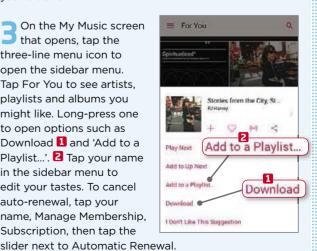
Install and launch Apple Music. Tap Don't Send to block tracking, then tap Sign In if you're an Apple Music member 1 or Join Apple Music to create an account. 2 Tap the £9.99 plan, then enter your Apple ID or create one for free. You have to enter payment details and verify two email addresses. Finally, sign into Apple Music to discover some groovy tunes.



On the screen that opens, build your taste profile using blobs that represent music styles such as Blues 11 and 80s. Tap the ones you like to make them bigger, and double-tap those you "love" to make them really big. 2 Long-tap those you dislike until they disappear, and tap Reset if you want to start again. 🖪 Tap Next 🛂 to select artists in a similar way, then tap Next when you're done.



On the My Music screen that opens, tap the three-line menu icon to open the sidebar menu. Tap For You to see artists, playlists and albums you might like. Long-press one to open options such as Download 11 and 'Add to a Playlist...'. 2 Tap your name in the sidebar menu to edit your tastes. To cancel auto-renewal, tap your name, Manage Membership, Subscription, then tap the





Our rating



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

TRAVEL

Sidekix

www.getside kix.com

Min requirements: iOS 7

Size: 26.1MB

City-hopping becomes a pleasure with Sidekix, the urban-navigation

app that's been updated to let you create itineraries in advance. Forget it if you're off to the beach - Sidekix focuses on municipal hotspots, with a refreshing emphasis on getting around by foot rather than car, and is continually expanding its database of more than 50 cities worldwide. You can also use it to discover places

distance of your current location, then navigate to your destination via the most 'interesting' route.

and events within walking



Our rating



SOCIAL

UPDATED

Thinga.me

thinga.me

Min requirements: iOS 9

Size: 50MB

Create a digital scrapbook using the latest free tool from Microsoft Garage. Thinga.me is a little like Pinterest, but it's

for archiving items in your life instead of photos: your garden plants, your collection of Star Wars tovs, your kids' or grandkids' artwork, even the junk in your loft - it's totally up to you. You can use a variety of fun backgrounds and labels to mount your collection, and have them displayed on Thinga.me's Showcase page. At the time of writing, the app is in beta, and you need to sign up for free before downloading. Get inspiration from



.

Our rating



NEW

VIDEO

NEW



Flytube

bit.ly/fly404

Min requirements: Android 4

Size: 3.6MB

Flytube lets you play YouTube videos in the corner of your Android screen while you're using another app, so you can check Facebook while you're playing a music video or write a WhatsApp message about a clip you're watching in the YouTube app (which you'll need to download separately: bit.ly/tube404). It's a lightweight and efficient thirdparty app that complies

with YouTube's T&Cs, notably the rule that the video window must always be on top.



Our rating



EDUCATION

TinyCards

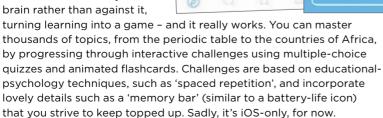
bit.ly/tiny404

Min requirements: iOS 8.2

Size: 17.6MB

Like any self-respecting pop-culture classic, languages app Duolingo now has a spin-off. TinyCards is a kind of pan-learning version of Duolingo, which featured in last issue's round-up of the 50 best free apps ever.

Like its older sibling, TinyCards is the teacher you always wished you had at school. It works with your





tinycards

GET STARTED

GET THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO ANDROID

Our updated Android MagBook is packed with 148 pages of apps, workshops and advice to unlock the full potential of your tablet and phone.



Discover how to:

- Master new tools in Lollipop and Marshmallow
- Stop apps leaking your personal data
- Record anything on your phone and tablet
- Prevent updates from wrecking your device
- Remove hidden junk so it never comes back
- Switch from iOS without

Order it now from Amazon at bit.ly/defguidetoandroid

Our rating



EMAIL

Polymail

polvmail.io

Min requirements: iOS 8.2

Size: 40.3MB

Fans of Dropbox's excellent but defunct Mailbox, rejoice; this thirdparty email app is a worthy replacement, despite lacking an Android version. Link it to your Gmail and iCloud accounts and get all the features you wish they offered

email service (apps.google.co.uk).

natively: email tracking, so you know when a message has been read; scheduled sending; the option to archive a message by pressing Enter; and a snooze button for messages you want to come back to. Like Gmail, it also lets you 'unsend' a message if you have sender's remorse, as long as you're quick. It also supports the business-focused Google Apps





ART

Google Arts & Culture

bit.lv/artsdroid404 bit.ly/artsios404

Min requirements: Android 4.4, iOS 9 Size: Varies by device (Android),

28MB (iOS)

Google's wonderful museum app finally works in landscape format on iPads. With that oversight fixed, it's a musthave for anyone who longs to flit from gallery to gallery across the world. You

More galleries will be added soon.

can virtually explore more than 1,000 museums across 70 countries using 360-degree panoramas, or in VR (virtual reality) if you have a Google Cardboard headset. Search for artefacts, scroll through the history of art and browse by artist or even colour. If you're ever in South London, use the new Art Recogniser tool to identify paintings at Dulwich Picture Gallery.



UPDATED

chnologie

Our rating



Our rating





APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

Serist

bit.ly/serist404

Min requirements: iOS 9.1 Size: 36.2MB Price: £2.49

A TV app that doesn't let you watch TV but still costs over two guid? Actually, this telly to-do tool is great. Build a feed of programmes you want to watch and get notified when new episodes are coming up.



Stream any game from your PC to your Android phone or tablet using this powerful app, which then converts the stream into 3D for the full immersive experience. It's compatible with any PC game and any VR headset, including Google Cardboard.

MEASUREMENTS

VisualRuler

bit.ly/visual404

Min requirements: iOS 9 Size: 7.9MB Price: £1.49

Your bank card and driving licence are the same size - card sized - so this app uses them as a reference. Take a photo of anything next to your card, and this app tells you the object's measurements. No card

details are stored.



GAME

Swift Chess

bit.ly/chess404

Min requirements: Android 4.0.3

Size: 3.5MB Price: £1.99 As classic as Somni VR is futuristic, this excellent new app is packed with more than 17,000 five-minute chess challenges for all abilities, from beginner to grand master. Includes a

10-module course for learning chess.



FOOD

CanlEatThis

bit.ly/cani404

Min requirements: Android 4.4 Size: 4.3MB Price: 59p

Use your device's camera to scan the barcode of a food item, or search for a product, and this app will tell you what ingredients, calories and allergens it contains. It also lets you find shops and

restaurants nearby that sell and serve suitable grub.

GAMES

Somni VR

www.somnivr.com

Min requirements: Android

4.0.3

Size: 8.1MB **Price:** £4.99









Somni VR

VisualRuler



Swift Chess







Best New TV Apps

VIDEO

Vimeo

bit.ly/vimeodroid404 bit.ly/vimeoios404

Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 8 Size: 15MB (Android), 29.8MB (iOS)

The ad-free, HD video-sharing service has updated its mobile apps with some welcome improvements that make it quicker and easier to use. The Android version now displays a search option on every page, not just on the main screens, and there are more filters to help you find the perfect video to watch. You can navigate sections smoothly by swiping between tabs on the home screen, and share your own videos instantly by tapping the new Upload button at the top. On iOS, you can now tap any Vimeo link on a web page to open it in the app, and both versions speed up loading times to make "spinners" a thing of the past.



TV & FILM

Now TV

bit.ly/nowtvdroid404 bit.ly/nowtvios404

Min requirements: Android 4, iOS 8 Size: 21MB (Android), 45.8MB (iOS)



Sky's pay-as-you go entertainment service is getting better and better, with loads of great TV shows and films to watch on demand, as well as live streaming of Sky channels. The latest update to the Now TV mobile apps makes it easier to binge-watch your favourite television series, without needing to go back to the main list to manually select the next episode. As with Netflix, as soon as you've finished watching one episode, the following instalment will start playing automatically. Now TV even tells you how long is left until the next episode 'expires' from the service, so you don't risk missing it. Signing into the app has also been made easier.

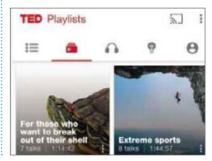
EDUCATION

TED

bit.ly/teddroid404 bit.lv/tedios404

Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 9 Size: 14MB (Android), 61MB (iOS)

If you fancy watching something cerebral on your phone or tablet, the new TED app is your brainy friend. Redesigned and rebuilt "from the ground up", it lets you browse, stream and download more than 2.000 talks from the TFD (Technology, Entertainment, Design) library, either on your mobile device or your TV via a Chromecast. Notable improvements include the ability to watch videos in landscape mode; curated playlists organised by topic; and simpler, faster navigation. As well as talks by "remarkable people", you get episodes of the TED Radio Hour podcast - and all the content is completely free.



X Don't install...

Barking Dog Sounds

bit.ly/barking404

We love dogs, but we're baffled by the attraction of this app, which rounds up the noises they make. There are more than 50 types of dog sounds, including barking, howling, whining and growling, from breeds



such as Doberman, Rottweiler, German Shepherd, Irish Setter and 'small angry dog'. According to the app description, "your dog, cat or other animal will surely react on [sic] some of these sounds", presumably by tearing your phone to shreds.

...Install this instead

Relax Rain

bit.lv/rain404

Min requirements: Android 2.3

Size: 26MB

It's been a pretty dry summer for most of the UK (sorry, Scotland), but if you're missing the relaxing sound of precipitation then this is the perfect app for you. Relax Rain offers more than 30 rain sounds, which you can combine with thunder effects and music to achieve the perfect pitterpatter soundtrack for sleeping, meditation and concentration, or to soothe tinnitus. The app can run in the background and its options include

'rainy night with crickets', 'under the umbrella', 'puddles in the countryside', 'light rain on the windshield' and 'bungalow in the forest'. Best of all, there's no risk of flooding!







PAC Everything you need to know about the most interesting new technology trends and events

TV licence changes

The rules for watching TV shows on BBC iPlayer are changing. David Crookes explains why you now need to cough up for catch-up

What is happening?

From 1 September, anyone who wants to watch BBC programmes on catch-up using the corporation's iPlayer service (www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer) will need to have a TV licence. It's the result of new legislation that will finally close the so-called 'iPlayer loophole', making it a criminal offence to view most television shows being aired by the service if you haven't paid the fee.

Why is this new?

In the past, the TV licence only applied to households that watched or recorded live broadcasts. This became a problem when some people began ditching live broadcasts altogether in favour of viewing everything online later. By extending the reach of the TV licence to include on-demand TV programmes watched on iPlayer, it's hoped that fewer people will get away with not paying.



Previously, you could watch BBC shows on catch-up without needing a TV licence

Does this mean I need to buy a new TV licence?

No. If you are already paying the TV-licence fee then you don't have to do anything - like 25 million UK households, you'll be fully covered to continue using iPlayer as you've always done. The new ruling only affects the 2% of people who watch on-demand only and have stopped paying the annual £145.50 for a standard colour TV Licence. There's



certainly no question of you needing a second licence.

Who will be most affected?

Students are most likely to be hit by the changes. Figures from TV Licensing show that two out of three students watch catch-up TV and that iPlayer is the most popular method of accessing content. The research also shows that just 22% of students now take a TV to university, making online viewing the preferred way to watch television. TV Licensing is making a concerted effort to let students know the situation but Student Money



These students won't be smiling when they're fined £1.000 for TV-licence evasion

Saver (www.studentmoneysaver.co.uk) editor Charlotte Burns has called it a "tax on the young".

So why is this happening now?

The iPlayer has been around for nine years, so this change may feel like a late move of the goalposts, but the way the BBC operates is constantly evolving: BBC Three (www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree)

is now web-only and competition for online viewers has increased hugely in the last decade. The BBC also claims the exemption for catch-up TV was costing it around £150m each year. Since this figure is likely to rise even further in the future, Auntie Beeb has negotiated a deal with former culture



BBC Three shows such as Fleabag are only available online

secretary John Whittingdale, who agreed to end what he called a "free ride".



You'll need a TV licence to watch iPlayer on vour Amazon Fire Stick

Which devices does it affect?

The change in the law is widespread. Whatever device you use to access iPlayer, you will need a TV licence in order to watch its content. So whether you're using a laptop or desktop computer, an Xbox or PlayStation, a streaming device such as Amazon Fire TV or Chromecast, or a phone or tablet, the legislation applies. The same is true if your smart television has an iPlayer app or if you are accessing the service through a set-top box such as Freeview or Sky.

So is iPlayer completely offlimits if I don't pay?

No. The rule change only relates to BBC content, so if you want to download or watch S4C TV using the service, you can continue to do so without a licence. You can also use iPlayer to listen to the radio because only television content is covered by the new legislation.

What if I don't want to use iPlayer?

The new rules only apply to on-demand BBC content watched via iPlayer, so if you're viewing catch-up or on-demand programmes from another provider, you won't be breaking the law. This means you can view ad-supported or subscription services including ITV Hub, All 4, Demand 5, Netflix, Amazon Prime TV, Now TV, Sky Go, BT Vision, Virgin Media, Apple TV and YouTube without needing a licence. However, you still need a TV licence if you watch or record any live broadcasts - whether or not they're from the BBC.



No TV licence is necessary to watch video-on-demand services such as Netflix

Shouldn't the BBC just become a subscription service?

The future of the BBC and how it is funded has long been the subject of heated debate. The BBC has plans to launch a Netflix-style on-demand subscription service in the US but it has always resisted any moves for a similar set-up in the UK. The worry is that axing the licence fee and allowing people to pay to specifically watch BBC services would lead to a drop in revenue. There has also been talk of decriminalising the charge, but the BBC says this would create a further shortfall of £200m.

Are there any legal ways to avoid paying?

Anyone who is over the age of 75 will continue to receive a free TV licence (the £750m cost of this is now the responsibility of the BBC), which will also cover on-demand iPlayer programming. There's another loophole that allows students to watch iPlayer via a laptop or mobile device and be covered by their parents' TV licence. The convoluted stipulations are that the device has to be powered by internal batteries and can't be plugged into the mains while iPlayer is running. Students can also apply for a partial refund of their licence fee if they return home during the summer holidays.

But how will the BBC know if I watch illegally?

The TV Licensing detection team has access to a national database of licensed and unlicensed addresses, which it uses as the first port of call. If you claim you do not watch TV covered by the licence, enforcement officers may visit you to check this. Detector vans are used to locate TV-receiving equipment and the evidence they gather is typically used to apply for a search warrant.

What happens if I don't pay?

You will be fired into the sun. No seriously, it's a criminal offence to watch unlicensed television without having paid the fee and you could be fined

plus any legal costs. In Guernsey, the top amount is double, at £2,000; while in Jersey it's only £500,



TV Licensing detection teams use powerful equipment and cunning disguises

presumably in compensation for Bergerac being filmed there in the Eighties. You can buy a TV licence online at www.tvlicensing.co.uk.

BEAT THE LICENCE FEE

Here are some ways you can legally access BBC content without paying for a TV licence

Subscribe to Netflix

netflix.com

Netflix offers lots of programmes from the BBC's archives



including the popular dramas Call the Midwife and Wolf Hall (from 25 August), and the first series of the brilliant BBC 4 comedy series Detectorists. Sky's Now TV (nowtv .com) also has lots of BBC content that's been screened on channels such as Gold, Drama and Dave.

Visit YouTube youtube.com/

user/BBC As well as lots of BBC Three



goodies, the Beeb's YouTube channels contain a mix of full programmes, shorts, comedy shows and trailers (the latter offering a taste of what you'll be missing if you don't have a licence!).

Stream news headlines

bit.ly/bbcvideo404

The audio/ video section of the BBC website provides a news summary that's updated hourly and



includes an assortment of reports and top stories giving you the lowdown on what's happening at home and abroad.

Catch football highlights

premierleague.com/video

You don't have to rely on Match of the Dav for a round-up of **Premier League** action. The



Premier League website has lots of videos while the Sky Sports Football Score Centre app shows clips from the games it has rights to broadcast.

Access The Web



You don't always have to be online to access web content. Wayne Williams explains how to download websites, music, films and more - to browse and enjoy, whenever and wherever you want

i-Fi is now available virtually everywhere and most ISPs offer a reasonably reliable service, so the risk of losing your web connection for hours or even days on end is much less common than it was a few years ago. However, we all occasionally suffer internet downtime or have trouble getting a good signal, and with our desktop and mobile devices so dependent on the web, going offline can prove a massive inconvenience. In this feature, we reveal how you can continue to access your

favourite sites, services and apps even when you've lost your connection.

Over the following six pages, we show you new ways to download songs from your favourite music-streaming services; use Chrome and Firefox offline; browse Wikipedia, Google Maps and other sites without a web connection; and get local copies of files stored in the cloud. We also reveal our offline wish list - services we'd love to be able to use without needing to connect to the internet.

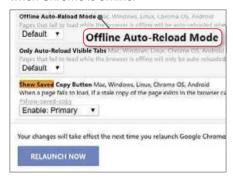
BROWSING

1 Browse the web offline in Chrome

Chrome has a useful offline mode built in, but it's tricky to find if you don't know where to look. To activate it, launch the browser, type chrome:// flags into the address bar and press Enter, Look (or search) for the Show Saved Copy Button entry, select Enable: Primary in the drop-down menu and click Relaunch Now to restart Chrome. The next time you're offline and try to open a website you've visited previously, you'll see a 'Show saved copy' button. Click this and Chrome will load the website using the content that it cached on your previous visits. You should avoid clearing your browser's cache because this will stop the feature from being able to display old pages.

It's also worth enabling the Offline Auto-Reload Mode option in chrome:flags, so that pages you can't access offline load automatically when you reconnect. To prevent being swamped by reloaded pages, select Only Auto-Reload Visible Tabs.

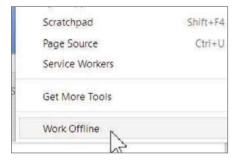
See our boxout on page 43 to discover something fun you can do when Chrome is offline.



Chrome lets you view cached copies of web pages when you're offline

Prowse the web offline in Firefox

As with Chrome, Firefox can show cached versions of web pages, provided you've enabled this feature and have



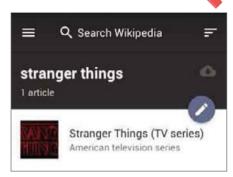
Choose to work offline in Firefox to keep browsing your favourite sites

previously visited the sites you want to access. To turn on the feature, click the three-line hamburger button in the top-right corner of the browser and click the Developer button. At the bottom of the menu that opens, you'll see an option to Work Offline. Select this when you're offline and you visit a website you've been to before, and Firefox will display the saved version.

As in the Chrome tip above, make sure you don't clear your browser cache if you plan to use Firefox's offline mode.

3 Read Wikipedia articles anywhere

Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org) is home to



Save articles from Wikipedia to peruse offline at your leisure

a vast number of in-depth articles, covering almost every topic you can think of. The online encyclopedia's

MINI WORKSHOP | Browse the web offline on Android

Install the Offline Browser app (bit.ly/

offlinebrowser404) on your Android phone or

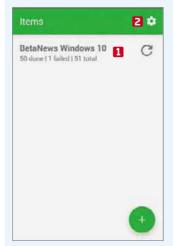
tablet and launch it. You'll be faced with a blank

screen because no items have been saved yet. Tap the green plus symbol 1 to add the first

web page you want to be able to view offline.



Enter the address of the page you'd like to save 1 and give it a title. 2 Choose whether or not you want the images to be included 1 and set the maximum link depth (how many links you want to follow and save) 4 and the number of links to include. 5 Click the green save button.



http://bit.ly/2aNXOJt 1

BetaNews Windows 10 2

Include images 3

Max link depth 4 1 *

Max links per page 5 50 *

The page(s) will start to download. Repeat the process with any other sites. Once all the content is on your phone, tap an item to view it.

The Settings cog lets you adjust the download speed, choose whether new items should download automatically and manage the default images and link settings.

Android app (bit.ly/wikiapp404) was recently redesigned to introduce a handy Save option, which lets you download articles of interest to read offline. You can create reading lists filled with entries on a variety of themes including Technology, Entertainment, History and more - so you'll never be bored when you're stuck in a train tunnel or anywhere else you can't get a mobile signal.

Read websites offline on <mark>Android</mark>

If you want to read web pages on your Android device, but have a poor or non-existent internet connection, Offline Browser (bit.ly/ offlinebrowser404) can help by letting you download web pages in advance for viewing later. It's very easy to use, and the only permissions it requires are

access to your photos, media and files (for saving the online content to your device). You can choose the number of links the app should follow and save. To preserve your data, it doesn't download adverts, videos or social-media widgets from pages, just articles and images.

See our Mini Workshop on page 39 to find out how to use

Offline Browser.

ENTERTAINMENT

Watch Amazon Prime Video offline

If you're an Amazon Prime subscriber, you can enjoy a wide selection of movies and TV shows by streaming them to a variety of different devices. You can also download content to watch directly to your iPhone, iPad or Android device. Just tap the Download button to save a movie or programme and watch it later in your library.

The Amazon Video app for Android (bit.ly/amazon404) was recently

Prime (1) (E) (1) (E)

You can download films and TV shows from Amazon to watch offline

updated to give viewers the option of saving downloads to their device's SD card, rather than to internal storage, which saves a lot of space. Sadly, this

feature can't be enjoyed by iPhone and iPad users because Apple devices don't support storage cards.

Download songs from YouTube

MTV recently celebrated its 35th birthday, but the best place to watch videos these days is YouTube. As mentioned in the previous tip, you can download videos to watch offline, but you can also download the audio on its own and copy it to a mobile device to listen to anywhere. All you need to do is copy the URL of the song you want, go to ListenToYouTube (www .listentoyoutube.com), paste the video address into the box, and click Go.



SaveFrom.net is one of the best tools for downloading YouTube videos

Once the conversion process completes, click the link to save the audio in MP3 format.

Download videos in Opera Mini Watching streaming videos on a

mobile phone can be frustrating if vou're in an area with a patchy mobile connection, and expensive if you have a limited data plan. The Opera Mini

browser for Android (bit.ly/ opmini404) lets you download videos from sites including Facebook and IMDb over a Wi-Fi connection directly to vour device's internal

storage or SD card. You can then watch them

Opera Mini lets you download videos to watch offline

whenever and wherever you like. The feature only works on sites that don't have their own built-in media players, so YouTube is currently not supported.

You can download YouTube videos to Android using an app called TubeMate (tubemate.net), but this can only be installed from outside the Play store. This means you'll need to enable the 'Unknown sources' option in your Security settings.

Watch educational videos offline

The Khan Academy (www .khanacademy.org) provides a wealth of free video-based courses that cover everything from maths, science and engineering to computing, arts and humanities. KA Lite (bit.ly/kalite404)

Save **YouTube** videos to keep forever

YouTube lets you save offline copies of videos you've uploaded yourself, but not videos uploaded by other users, for obvious copyright (and advertising) reasons. However, there are plenty of programs and websites that you can use to download videos from the web. SaveFrom.net (savefrom.net) is a good site

to try. Just copy the video URL from YouTube, paste the address into the box on SaveFrom.net and click the button to start. Choose the video quality you require and hit the Download button. The site also offers a helper add-on for browsers, which you can use to download videos directly from YouTube.

SaveFrom.net and its browser add-on also work with other video-sharing sites, including Facebook, DailyMotion and Vimeo.



Rip the audio from YouTube music videos to listen to wherever you want



Download free courses from Khan Academy to learn new skills offline

is a free tool for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux that lets you download Khan Academy content such as videos and exercises for offline learning. It provides access to more than 7,000 in-depth videos and 20,000 interactive exercises, and allows you to learn at your own pace without being interrupted by ads or subscription nags.

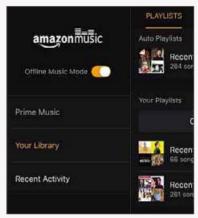
Play mobile games offline
A lot of mobile games only work
properly if you're online, but Google
Play has a dedicated Offline Games
category (bit.ly/offlinegames404) that
lists some of the best games you can
play without a connection. These



Google Play has a big selection of games that don't require a connection

12 Listen to Amazon Prime Music Offline

Amazon Prime Music doesn't offer as much choice as its rivals, but if you're a Prime subscriber then it's included at no extra cost and is definitely worth a look (and a listen). The service lets you download individual songs and complete albums to listen to offline. Just open an album or song and click the download button next to it. The Amazon Music app for iOS (bit.ly/amios404) and Android (bit.ly/amandroid404) includes an Offline Music Mode in its settings, which you can toggle on or off. When activated, it will hide all the online content and only show downloaded and locally stored music.



Use Amazon Music's offline mode to play music without a web connection

include Fruit Ninja, Cut the Rope, Temple Run, Hitman Go and Angry Birds Star Wars. Android Pit also has some suggestions at bit.ly/androidpit404). For iPhone and iPad games that don't require a connection, see GetiOSstuff's recommendations (bit.ly/iosgames404).

11 Listen to Spotify music offline

Spotify (www.spotify.com/uk) is a hugely popular online streaming service and, like its rivals, it lets you listen to your favourite music offline. Naturally, you need to be a Premium subscriber to enjoy this feature, which lets you store up to 3.333 songs offline on up to three different devices. Simply find a song, album or playlist that you want to listen to on the go, then toggle the Available Offline switch to download it. You'll automatically enter Offline Mode whenever you lose your internet connection so your music won't be interrupted. It's one of the biggest benefits of paying £9.99 per month.

13 Listen to Apple Music offline Instead of streaming your

favourite songs and playlists in Apple
Music, you can

download them for offline access. To do this, you need an Apple Music subscription and to have the iCloud Music Library



You can save songs and albums in Apple Music to listen to offline

enabled. If you meet these requirements, simply open the app, go to the song or album you want to listen to from anywhere, tap the ellipsis (...) on the right and choose Make Available Offline. If you want to make a playlist available offline, open it and follow the same instructions as above. To access this saved content, go to My Music, and tap the Artists link (it might say Albums or Songs, depending on your preference) and then flick the Show Music Available Offline switch to On.

WHAT WE WANT TO USE OFFLINE

Wayne Williams says:

Lots of apps and services offer a degree of offline support, but there are some surprising omissions. Netflix, for example, only streams its content and doesn't let you download its movies and TV shows. However, offline viewing on mobile is rumoured to be coming soon, although there was no timeframe at the time of

writing this feature. We'd love
the feature to be added to
Netflix because it would
change the way we use
the service forever.
Google has made it

possible for users in

certain countries to save YouTube videos for watching offline. These are mostly countries with poor or limited mobile internet coverage, such as Ghana, India, Libya and

Nigeria. The option is also available to paying YouTube Red subscribers in Australia, New Zealand, and the US. This feature will be available in the UK when YouTube Red eventually launches over here (rumoured to be later this year), but we don't expect to ever get offline video viewing in the free apps because Google makes its



money by streaming advertising at the start of videos, and it won't want to lose that revenue.

Finally, we'd like to see a proper offline option in Apple Maps. Apple says that its own mapping

application is used 3.5 times more than Google Maps on iPhones and iPads, but the app's offline abilities are woeful compared to what Google offers. Apple's app does cache map content and navigation instructions, but caching is not the same – or anywhere near as good – as downloading full maps.

MINI WORKSHOP Use the new Windows Defender offline



To run a scan of your system you'll first need to make sure that Windows Defender is active (it turns itself off if it detects you're running another anti-malware tool). Click Start, open Settings and click 'Update & security'. Click the Windows Defender link. If the feature is disabled, click the button to turn it on 2

Windows Defender Offline 1				
from your PC, Windows Dafer	he particularly difficult to recove ader Offline can help to fied and threat definitions. This will restart 5 minutes.			
SCAN DITTING				
Version info				
Anti-malware client version:	410.14303.0			
Engine version:	1.1.12095.0			
Anti-virus definition:	1223.1683.0			
Anti-spyware definition:	1229.960.0			
Network inspection system engine version:	2.1.12706.0			
Network inspection system definition version:	115.30.0			

In the window that opens, click the Turn On button. This will enable Limited Periodic Scanning - Windows Defender will scan your PC for threats from time to time, but won't interfere with your existing anti-malware software. Once Windows Defender is active, scroll down to Windows Defender Offline 1 in the Settings window.



Click the Scan Offline button. 1 After a countdown, which you can't skip or stop, your PC will restart and Windows Defender will run a scan upon reboot. This is the best time to scan for malware as it won't have got its hooks into Windows yet. The process should take around 15 minutes to complete.

PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS

Scan for malware without a connection

Windows Defender, Microsoft's free anti-malware program, comes installed as standard in Windows 10 and can keep your computer safe from most threats. If you don't have another anti-malware program installed, Defender will step in to provide protection. In the new Anniversary Update, Defender gains more features, including an offline mode that can scan your PC for threats as soon as your system starts, so you don't have to wait to connect to the net.

See our Mini Workshop on the left to find out how to use Windows Defender offline.



Windows Defender no longer needs to be online to scan for malware

Make Google Drive files available offline

Google Drive can also work offline. Go to Drive (drive.google.com) while connected to the web using Chrome (this won't work if you use another browser, such as Firefox) and click the cog icon in the top-right corner. Open Settings and you'll see an Offline option. Tick the box that says 'Sync Google Docs, Sheets, Slides and Drawings files to this computer so that you can edit offline'. The Google Drive add-on will be installed. Click the 'Add extension' button when it appears, and Drive will begin saving recent content to your computer.



Google Drive offers a handy offline mode, but only if

Make OneDrive 6 files available offline

×

Microsoft changed how OneDrive behaves in Windows 10. When you open your OneDrive folder, you'll see actual full-sized offline versions of your content. That's great, but vou need to make sure vou've set which folders get synced between the online and offline locations. Right-click the OneDrive icon in your system tray and select Settings. Click the 'Choose folders' button under Account. In the window that opens, tick the OneDrive folders you want to sync on your PC and untick any you don't The selected folders will then be made available offline.



You can select specific OneDrive folders to be made accessible offline

Share files offline through Skype

If you want to send a file to a friend or colleague through Skype, you don't need to wait for the recipient to be online. It used to be the case that the only way to send a file to another Skype user was for you both to be logged into the messaging service at the same time, but this has now changed.

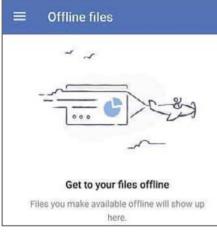
Provided you're using the latest version of Microsoft's messaging service you can share files, photos, documents and videos (up to 300MB in size) with people and groups even if they're offline. When the recipient goes online they'll



You can now send files to Skype contacts even if they're not online

be able to download any items that you've sent to them.

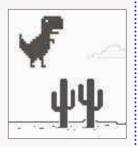
Access Dropbox files offline
Usefully, you can access files stored in Dropbox on any mobile device by marking them for offline access. The process for doing so will vary slightly depending on the make of device you're using. In Android, browse to the file you want to make available offline, then tap the down arrow to the right of the item. You can now tap to make it Available Offline. You'll be able access your items by selecting 'Offline files' in the main menu. Dropbox will update downloaded files automatically whenever you're on Wi-Fi.



Dropbox makes it easy to specify which files you want to access offline

PLAY CHROME'S OFFLINE GAME

When you try to access a web page in Chrome without an internet connection, you'll get an 'Unable to connect' message with a dinosaur above it. Click this - or tap it if you're using a mobile device - to start playing a secret offline game. Pres the Space bar or tap your screen to make the dinosaur leap over the cacti in its path. The longer the dinosaur runs for. the faster it gets and the more points you score, but watch out for the pterodactyl when you reach 500 points!



TRAVEL

Get offline translations Tools such as Google Translate and Microsoft Translator help you understand words and sentences written in different languages, which

makes them a lifesaver when vou're travelling abroad and much more convenient than traditional

phrase



Download language packs to use offline when you go on holiday

books. Although these tools are designed to be used online, they both offer offline support in their mobile apps for iOS and Android. Google's app (bit.ly/translate404) can translate between 52 languages in offline mode (compared to 103 when online), and Microsoft Translator (bit.ly/

translator404), which is also available for Windows Phone, lets you download the required offline pack(s) before you set off on your travels. There are 44 packs to choose from, including Croatian, Japanese and Urdu.

Explore Google **Maps** offline

If you're heading off to a location that has patchy mobile internet (parts of the

Lake District or the wilds of northern Scotland, for example), you should consider downloading maps to your phone in advance while connected to Wi-Fi. Google recently updated its Maps app for Android and iOS (bit.ly/maps404) to provide turn-byturn navigation on

offline maps. When

the app senses

patchy or non-



Download Google Maps to navigate while offline

existent connectivity, it automatically switches to offline mode, then back to full mode when you go online again. To download maps in advance, go to the area you want to explore, open the app menu, go to 'Offline areas' and tap the plus symbol to download the relevant section of the map.

NEXT ISSUE

on sale Wednesday 7 September 2016

Prevent the worst of the web from annoying, obstructing and threatening you



OBEST FREE MOBILE VPNS

Access blocked content on your phone or tablet

• FORGET YOUR PASSWORDS

Log into sites and services without typing anything

O DOWNLOAD ANY VIDEO

Fastest ever way to grab and convert from YouTube

SUBSCRIBE TO WEB USER AT SUBSCRIBE.WEBUSER.CO.UK

Best free torrent tools

BitTorrent has plenty of excellent, legal uses, so don't be put off using it. **Rob Beattie** compares the top torrent software for downloading videos, music and more



uTorrent Free | www.utorrent.com | ★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★

What we liked:

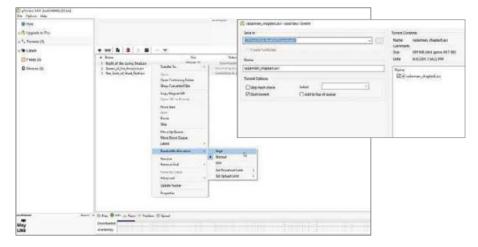
WebUser GOLD AWARD

Despite some recent bumps in the road – such as rumours about Bitcoin mining and being bundled with unwanted extra software – uTorrent rightly remains a firm favourite,

thanks to its handy features, small size (around 13MB compared with 22MB for Deluge and 26MB for qBittorrent), and an interface that looks positively glamorous when compared with the other tools we've reviewed here.

We particularly like the functionality of the Download dialogue box, which lets you rename a torrent, direct it to specific folder, automatically create a subfolder and select specific items inside the torrent to download. Usefully, uTorrent includes a built-in media player; offers encryption so that nobody (not even your ISP) can see what you're downloading; and has the ability to 'force' a torrent to start if it's stuck – Deluge has something similar but it's tucked away. It also has a simple, global scheduler that's similar to Deluge's and much more intuitive than qBittorrent's.

The program is equally competent at downloading 'proper' torrents and magnet links, and it supports RSS subscriptions for automatic downloads.



It also displays a pop-up in the notification area when a torrent has finished downloading, in case you want to manually stop it seeding.

The free version is ad-supported, which you may find annoying, but we think the combination of features and performance makes uTorrent worth a few adverts; and if you really can't stand them, \$4.95 (£3.72) a year is a small price to pay to remove them.

How it can be improved:

You can no longer search from inside the program and, as mentioned above, you have to pay to remove the adverts. More sophisticated scheduling would be welcome, as would the much-promised iOS app for controlling uTorrent from your Apple device.

OUR VERDICT

The features offered by uTorrent aren't that different from the other services in this test, but the software feels more polished and complete. If you're new to torrents, it can be run without any configuration, but advanced users will find plenty of tools to enhance their experience.

•••••

Deluge | dev.deluge-torrent.org | ★★★★☆

FEATURES **** PERFORMANCE **** EASE OF USE ****

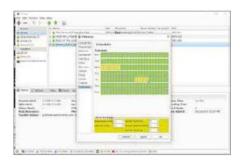
What we liked:

As with uTorrent, a beginner can use Deluge immediately without having to fiddle with settings. But if you're an experienced user, it has

more plugins than any of the other clients reviewed here, so you can transform it into a sophisticated BitTorrent client/manager/library application.

The Plugins manager displays eight extras - including a Scheduler that works like uTorrent's and is more straightforward than qBittorrent's - and there are dozens more available. Of the available plugins, our favourites are Extractor, which extracts many kinds of compressed files: and Label, which lets you assign custom actions to torrents.

Deluge supports the same level of encryption as uTorrent, understands 'magnet links' and isn't encumbered by bloatware or ads, so the interface is refreshingly clean. This extends to the controls in the notification area that let you pause torrents, and even change the upload and download speed limits.



How it can be improved:

The interface could do with a polish and the initial download 'experience' is pretty basic - it's just a directory, with no built-in search. We found the Extractor plugin a bit unpredictable in Windows 10, and Deluge doesn't provide an easy way to control it from a mobile device.

OUR VERDICT

Deluge was pushed into second position because accessing the advanced features meant delving into areas that some users may find overly technical. Close call, though.

BEST OF THE REST

Transmission-Ot Win

www.transmissionbt.com

Beloved by OS X users and now available for Windows, Transmission would easily make the top three for its fast performance and simplicity,

but it struggles with very large files and there have been reports of a worrying memory leak if you leave it running in the background for



a long time. Rumours of an updated version are circulating though, so watch this space.

Tixati

www.tixati.com

There's plenty to like about this lightweight torrent client, including speedy installation and good bandwidth-management features. However, its terrible Eighties-style interface makes it a real eyesore. That said, you may find it looks pleasingly retro, and the software is certainly technically sound and free of adverts and bundled junk.



Frostwire

www.frostwire.com

This torrent client also includes good library features and a sophisticated media player. Unfortunately, all that functionality comes at a price - the software's footprint is a whopping 130MB, even when it's idle, and its startup slows to a crawl as it loads components and 'builds' its interface. It's a decent tool but probably too heavy for most users' requirements.



qBittorrent | www.qbittorrent.org | ★★★☆☆

FEATURES **** PERFORMANCE **** EASE OF USE ***

WebUser BRONZE AWARD

What we liked:

This open-source alternative to uTorrent is ad-free and although it doesn't have a built-in media player, you can preview files using Windows Media Player, which is a step up

from both uTorrent and Deluge.

Like uTorrent and Deluge, qBittorrent has three levels of encryption - 'prefer', 'require' and 'disable'. It offers scheduling of sorts, but this is more to do with throttling upload and download speeds between certain hours of the day. By default, it also supports RSS subs and magnet links - just go to Tools, Options, Behaviour and scroll down to make sure the latter option is turned on.

There are lots of interesting plugins for qBittorrent but these are distributed via Github (a sort of programmer's playground) and can be fiddly to install. The online FAQ, on the other hand, is easy to understand and provides answers to a wealth of torrent-related questions - mostly in jargon-free plain English.



How it can be improved:

Deluge is bigger and slower than uTorrent, its interface is old fashioned - it includes some rather weird 3D icons - and you have to install Python if you want to use the built-in search engine. Also, previewing a torrent with the built-in media player is a bit flaky.

.....

OUR VERDICT

Our top three tools are all excellent, but gBittorrent lags a little behind the others because it's not as lightweight or attractive, and the way some features are implemented is unnecessarily techy.

Keep YOUR FACE off the web

Are you tired of being tagged, identified and gawked at online? Edward Munn reveals how to regain control of your public image



STOP PEOPLE TAGGING YOU IN PHOTOS

Facebook Most of us have experienced a sense of dread after receiving a notification that 'so-and-so has tagged you in a photo on Facebook'. Other than wearing a bag on your head,

the only way to guarantee that your face doesn't appear on the internet is to avoid being photographed. But there are measures you can take to make sure that



still appear elsewhere on Facebook. Further down the page, you'll see the option, 'Who can see posts you've been tagged in on your timeline?' Click Edit and select Only Me if you want to prevent tagged photos appearing here. If you're ever unsure about how your profile appears, you can click 'Review what other people see on your timeline' from this page or select the three-dot

whenever someone tags you in a

or Hide. Note that this only affects

what's allowed on your own timeline

and that posts you're tagged in can

picture, you'll receive a notification and

be given the option to 'Add to timeline'

button and View As from your cover photo. By default, your profile appears as it would to the general public, but you can select 'View as Specific Person' and enter the name of a friend to understand how much they can see.

> If you want to remove a tagged photo from your timeline retrospectively, click Photos then 'Photos of You', select the offending item and

click 'Hidden from timeline' in the drop-down menu. Alternatively, you can remove the tag altogether (so that people who see the photo elsewhere

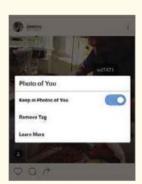
don't know that it's you) by clicking Options and Remove Tag. If the image is offensive and you think it should be removed, you can use the Report Photo option in this menu.

You can also prevent your profile photo from appearing in Google searches, so that people who search for your name can't see what you look like. Go to Settings, Privacy and in the 'Who can look me up?' section, ensure the option 'Do you want other search engines to link to your Timeline?' is set to Off.

Instagram By default, photos you're

tagged in on Instagram appear on your profile, but you can easily change this by selecting 'Photos of You', tapping the three-dot button and Tagging Options and selecting Add Manually. Now, when someone tags

you, you'll receive a notification saying



'X took a photo of you'. Tap the photo and then your username and you can activate the switch for 'Keep in Photos of You' if you want it to appear

on your profile. You can use the same method to remove previously tagged photos from your profile too, obviously turning the switch off instead of on. If you want to remove a tag completely, there's also a Remove Tag button in the same menu.

Twitter

Twitter was the last of the social networks to give users

the option to tag people in a photo, but it's also the most public site, which makes your face being identified a real privacy concern. To stop yourself being tagged by people, click Settings and then 'Security and privacy'. By default, Twitter's settings let anyone tag you in a photo, but you can choose to only allow tagging by people who you follow, or you can stop tagging altogether.



Keep your face off the web



BLUR YOUR FACIAL FEATURES IN PHOTOS

If you're uploading a picture to Twitter or a public forum but don't want to reveal your identity (or the faces of your friends or family), there are several online tools that automatically blur faces in your pictures. Lunapic (bit.ly/lunapic404) is one of the best free options. Simply click Draw and Blur Faces and either upload an image or open it from its URL. The blurring process happens instantly and you can then continue to make tweaks to



the image or export it in a number of formats (including JPEG, TIFF and PDF) by clicking File and Save Image. FacePixelizer (www.facepixelizer.com) is another free tool that gives you more control of the extent of the blurring, but its editing tools aren't as comprehensive as Lunapic's.

CREATE A FAKE PROFILE PICTURE

You can hide almost everything from public view on your Facebook account, with the exception of your profile picture. However, that doesn't mean that your face needs to plastered all over the social network for everyone to see. Instead, why not create an avatar that represents you without explicitly revealing your identity? You could try using a service like Bitmoji (formerly Bitstrips), which was recently acquired by Snapchat, It's available on Android



(bit.ly/bitmojia404) and iOS (bit.ly/bitmojii404), and as an app for Google Chrome (bit.ly/bitmojic404). Once you've created an avatar, you can choose from a number of entertaining and topical Bitmoji to send in Gmail, Messenger and Slack, or use however you like.

If this all sounds like too much effort, you could simply use one of your own photos of a pet, object or landscape as your profile picture to prevent strangers seeing what you look like.

BLUR YOUR FACE IN YOUTUBE VIDEOS

If you want to upload a video to YouTube for the whole world to see but you don't want to reveal your identity, why not use the site's built-in face-blurring tools? Simply upload and open the video that you want to edit (while logged into the appropriate Google account), then click the Enhancements wand below it. On the page that



loads, select 'Blurring effects' and click Apply next to 'Blur faces'. You can watch a preview of the video with the effect applied (move the vertical slider to switch between the original video and the preview) and, once you're happy, click Save to update the video. If you'd rather just control who sees the video, click the Info & Settings tab and choose Unlisted from the drop-down menu so that only people who you share the link with can find the listing.

WILL FACEBOOK OFFER FACIAL RECOGNITION IN THE UK?

Facebook launched its photosharing app Moments (bit.ly/ moments404) in the UK in June, but you'd be forgiven for not having heard about it. Its underwhelming launch can in part be blamed on the fact that the app lacks the groundbreaking facial

recognition technology of its US counterpart. Indeed, in the States, one of the app's main selling points is that it makes it much quicker and easier for you to share your photos with other people at the same



event by automatically identifying and tagging the users in your snaps. Thanks to a long-running argument with the Irish Data **Protection Commissioner about** whether the technology is legal in the EU, however, Moments has not introduced the feature in Europe, meaning you still need to tag everyone manually. This is good news for anyone worried about privacy, but now that the UK has voted to leave the EU, we could see such technology introduced here in the near future.

Are you break the law online?

You're nothing but a common criminal - in the eyes of the web, at least. Robert Irvine reveals seven illegal acts you may unwittingly be committing, and the likelihood of getting caught

Not paying tax on eBav sales

Last year. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) announced "one of the biggest tax crackdowns in history" (bit.ly/ crackdown404) to target individuals and businesses who don't pay tax on sales they make through eBay, Amazon, Etsy, Airbnb and other online marketplaces. New powers allow HMRC to bulk-collect data from these sites to identify users who fail to declare the income they make via the web, which is said to cost the taxman billions of pounds every year. HMRC then compares names, addresses and revenues with tax returns filed, so it can pursue those who haven't paid.



If you earn more than £1,000 per year from eBay, you need to tell the taxman

Before you panic about that tenner you made on a 1968 Beano annual, note that you'll need to earn a significant amount and be suspected of acting as a 'trader' before HMRC comes after you. You only need to pay tax on earnings that exceed your tax-free personal allowance, which is £11,000 for 2016-17. Additionally, in George Osborne's final budget in April, the then-Chancellor announced that from April next year, so-called 'micro-entrepeneurs' won't need to declare or pay tax on the first £1,000 they earn each year from an online source.

Will you get caught?

Yes. If you make a lot of transactions through eBay or another marketplace and don't tell the taxman what you earn, you will land yourself in trouble. Make sure you provide the details in the 'Other income' section of your tax return. If you gross less than £1,000 a year, you don't need to worry.

Sharing your Netflix password

Suppose a friend has heard about a great new series on Netflix, but they don't feel like committing to a monthly subscription to the streaming service. You could just 'lend' them your password, right? Well no, wrong, because such unauthorised login loaning isn't just frowned upon by Netflix, but is strictly forbidden by its terms and conditions (bit.ly/netflix404), which state: "The Account Owner should not reveal the password associated with the account to anyone". Indeed, in July the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that sharing your password for Netflix - or any other subscription service - is now a crime prosecutable under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (bit.ly/ruling404). Although the ruling doesn't apply to the UK, you could still be jeopardising your account.



In the US, it's now illegal to share your Netflix password with other people

Will you get caught?

Possibly. Although Netflix might not question why you've suddenly switched from watching gritty prison dramas to rom-coms, it could detect that someone is accessing your account from a different IP address. Perhaps suggest that your friend sign up for Netflix's free one-month trial instead?

Piggybacking a Wi-Fi

When you discover a nearby Wi-Fi network that doesn't require a password, it's tempting to jump straight on and make the most of a fast, free internet connection that won't eat into your monthly data limit. But 'piggybacking' that unsecured network isn't only dangerous - leaving you open to malware infection and data theft - but also illegal. According to section 125 of the Communications Act 2003 (bit.ly/ wifi404), "a person who dishonestly obtains an electronic communications service, and does so with intent to avoid payment of a charge applicable to the provision of that service, is guilty of an



Connecting to an unsecured Wi-Fi network is both dangerous and illegal



offence" So bear that in mind before you go hopping on a hotspot, you hog!

Will you get caught?

Yes, probably. Free tools such as Wireless Network Watcher (www. nirsoft.net/utils) reveal exactly who's connecting to a Wi-Fi network, along with their IP address. It seems unlikely that someone careless enough to leave their network open would know of such a tool, but don't take the risk!

Creating a fake online identity

There's no harm in using a made-up name and email address to sign up to a website - it's a great way to avoid being pestered by marketing messages. However, if you go further by creating a fake online profile, which you then use to fool websites and other people, then you're stepping into murkier waters and could be accused of committing fraud.

Facebook makes clear in its legal terms (bit.ly/terms404) that "you will not provide any false personal information on Facebook, or create an account for anyone other than yourself", and encourages users to report profiles that pretend to be another individual or company. This is more a breach of terms than a crime, but if you use a socialmedia account to 'troll' someone - that is, deliberately set out to provoke or upset them - then you will be breaking the law. Earlier this year, the BBC reported (bit.ly/trolls404) that lawyers in England and Wales are being advised by the CPS to prosecute trolls who use fake online profiles to harass others. This includes creating fake accounts and websites in their victims' names, which the CPS says "may amount to an offence, such as grossly offensive communication or harassment".



Using a fake online profile to 'troll' someone is now a criminal offence

Will you get caught?

4'8"

Hopefully, yes, if you're going the troll route, although we doubt that applies to many Web User readers. If you provide fake details to procure a product or service, then you're also likely to be nabbed. But registering for a website under a pseudonym will hardly get the rozzers beating down your door.

Using a VPN to watch US TV

Virtual private networks contradict the old maxim (and Bananarama song) that "It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it", because the tools themselves are perfectly legal - it's what you do with them that might land you in trouble. Many businesses insist that their employees use VPNs when working remotely, to prevent data from being stolen, and most security-software firms now offer their own VPN tools. Nonetheless, that doesn't make it legit to use a VPN to access services that aren't supposed to be available in the UK. Fooling a service into believing you're in the US, so you can stream and download films and TV shows that are only licensed to be shown in that country, is a breach of copyright. That's why Netflix recently clamped down on people using VPNs to bypass regional restrictions and why US TV-streaming site Hulu (www.hulu.com) won't let you past when you visit from the UK. Even BBC iPlayer now blocks VPNs, to the dismay of ex-pats who want to catch up on episodes of Bargain Hunt.



It's not illegal to use a VPN but accessing US services may breach copyright

Breaking the law

Will you get caught?

Technically, you could face legal action from the rights holder for trying to access restricted content but in reality, you'll probably just be kicked off the service with a warning. That said, heavy downloading of copyrighted material using a torrent tool, for example, may well attract legal attention.

Uploading copyrighted material

Have you ever used a well-known song as the soundtrack to a home movie? Or found a cute photo of cat that you then shared on Facebook? If so, you may have broken UK copyright law. It's against the law to use copyrightprotected music without permission from the copyright holder and the same rules apply to photos, video and text. Even reusing an image from a Google search could get you in trouble. YouTube tries to dissuade you from using copyrighted music in videos by providing a huge library of licensed songs and sound effects (www.youtube .com/audiolibrary).



Choose from YouTube's audio library rather than using copyrighted songs

Will you get caught?

Yes, it's very likely. Although rights holders are not generally concerned about private use of their work, sharing it online means you are 'making available' copyright-protected content, which then becomes a civil matter and could result in a heavy fine.

Watching iPlayer without a TV licence

As we explain in our FAQ this issue, changes to TV-licensing legislation

mean that from 1 September, you will require a TV licence to watch catch-up shows on BBC



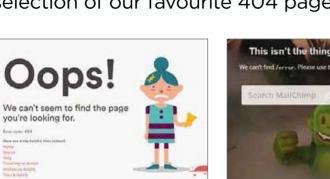
iPlayer. Previously, you only needed one to watch and record live broadcasts through the service.

Will you get caught?

Yes, unless you turn to page 36 right now! If you've already read our FAQ, carry on with the rest of the issue.

Best 404 error pages

To celebrate Issue 404 of Web User, here's a selection of our favourite 404 pages from the web



Airbnb

www.airbnb.co.uk/404 Take a wrong turn at the accommodation-booking site and you'll see an animation of a girl dropping her ice cream.



Emailcenter UK

www.emailcenteruk.com/404

failure" and invites you to fire one of



MailChimp

mailchimp.com/404

The 404 page for the newsletter service features a lurid-green monster version of the company logo emerging from a swamp.



The Huffington Post

www.huffingtonpost.com/404 Dog lovers won't be disappointed when they go astray on the US Huffington Post site, as its 404 page

displays photos of adorable pooches.



This email-marketing company calls its 404 error "an unacceptable its team as punishment.



Google

www.google.co.uk/404

Google's cute 404 page depicts a broken robot attempting to put itself back together from a mess of scattered parts.



Hillary Clinton

www.hillaryclinton.com/404 The Democratic presidential candidate has a GIF of her failing to get through a security gate. So she does have a sense of humour!



GitHub

github.com/404

Move your mouse around the Star Wars-themed error message for the open-source software repository to shift the view's perspective.





Take a Screen Break

Give your eyes a rest from your computer by taking our fiendish fortnightly challenges. Can you unravel our mobile app-themed word search and guess our book-title emoii?

WEB USER WORD SEARCH

Can you find the following mobile apps in the grid on the right? Words may appear vertically, horizontally and diagonally, and backwards or forwards

CITYMAPPER DUOLINGO FLIPBOARD PUSHBULLET RUNKEEPER SNAPSEED **SWIFTKEY TOILOCATOR WEATHERBUG WIFIMAPPER**

D S G Z B 0 0 K S D B E X

CAN YOU GUESS THE BOOK TITLES FROM THE EMOJI?









Get the answers online at bit.ly/quiz404

COMPETITIONS

WIN 1 OF 6

MAGIX Music Maker 2017 Premium

The Premium version of MAGIX Music Maker 2017 contains more than 8,000 sounds and loops from genres including jazz, rock, dance and hip hop. It also contains instruments, such as a church organ, that you won't find in other

versions, plus cinematic soundscapes and a virtual choir. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis .co.uk with 'magix' in the subject line. For more info, visit www.magix.com/gb and follow @MAGIX_INT on Twitter.

WIN 1 OF 4

Devolo 1200 WiFi ac repeater

Devolo's new 1200 WiFi ac repeater, which offers a maximum speed of 1,200Mbps, connects seamlessly to your Wi-Fi networks, extending coverage where connections were

previously weak. Its built-in strength indicator helps to precisely locate its best position in your home. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'repeater' in the subject line. For more information, visit www.devolo.co.uk and follow @devoloUK on Twitter.





WORTH £49.99



Practical WebUser

16 pages of workshops, tips, projects and problem solving

Give your Desktop a stylish makeover | www.rainmeter.net

The popular free Desktop-customisation tool Rainmeter has been updated with a new look and extra features. Here's how to get started

t's easy to make simple changes to the Windows Desktop, such as replacing the wallpaper and relocating the taskbar, but Rainmeter 4.0 takes things much further. It lets you customise the look of the Desktop with floating applets, sidebars, system monitors, news feeds and more, and if you don't like the program's ready-made theme, there are plenty more available to download from

the web. Each theme can be customised, so you can make as many changes as you want until you get the perfect look, and if you can't find a design you like, you can create your own.

The updated program, which is currently in beta, works with PCs running Windows 7 (with Service Pack 1) or later, so you won't be able to use it if you're still on Vista or XP.



When you first install and run the software, it displays a selection of widgets, including a 'Getting started' window, 11 a clock and calendar, 22 system data 🖪 and disk information. 🖪 You can rearrange these widgets however you like, by clicking and dragging them around the Desktop.



The floating widgets (or 'skins', as Rainmeter calls them) are part of a set called Illustro, and there are plenty more available to choose from. Rightclick a skin, select Illustro in the context menu and pick an item to add. 11 To remove a skin from the Desktop, just select it again.





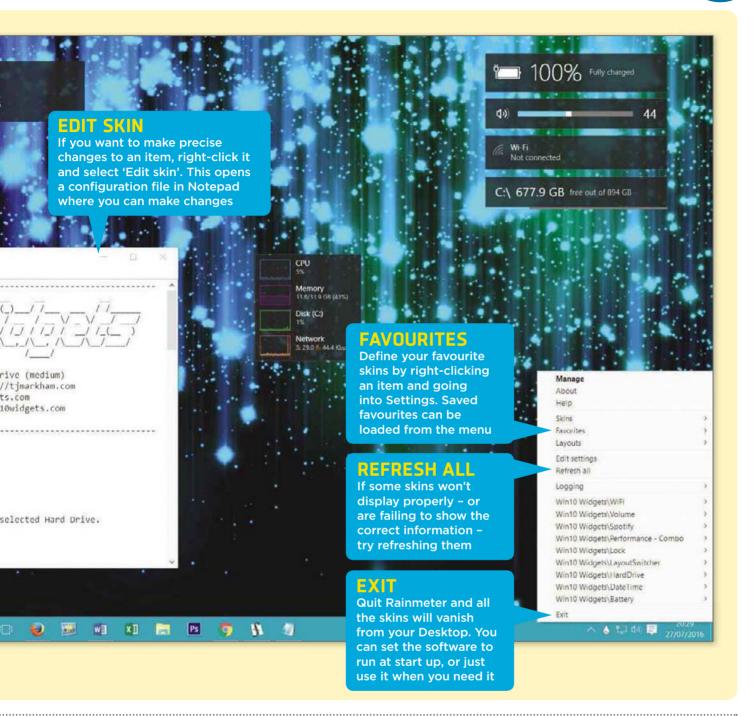
Some skins have more than one design; you can switch between them by right-clicking and choosing Variants. 1 The Settings option 2 lets you configure an item's position and transparency, **B** and change its behaviour. Click 'Manage skin' 4 to open a window **5** where you can make further changes.

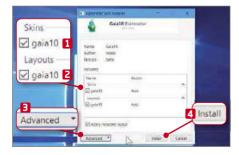


The Layouts tab 🗓 lets you save your current setup, **2** including the position of each skin. To restore a saved layout, select it and click Load. 3 The Settings tab 4 lets you change the program language, pick a different editor (instead of Notepad) and enable or disable the automatic-updates check.



Illustro is a good introduction to Rainmeter, but you should explore other themes. The Discover web page (www.rainmeter.net/discover) suggests places to look. Click a creation you like and download it. 11 You can open it directly in Rainmeter's SkinInstaller window, 2 or save the file 3 and run it.





From the SkinInstaller window, you can choose the skins you want to install 11 along with any layouts you'd like to use. 2 The Advanced drop-down menu **1** provides options to back up your skins and install any fonts your system needs. Click Install 4 and the new skins will appear on your Desktop instantly.



You can install as many skins as you like, then choose the ones you want to display by right-clicking an item and going to Rainmeter, 11 Skins. 22 Open any of the skin folders **3** and choose an item to display. Some skin packs, such as SimplyNova (shown here), come with bars that you can place behind items. 4



Rainmeter adds a button to the system tray. 1 Clicking this opens the Manage Rainmeter window, while right-clicking it brings up a context menu that you can use to open and configure the various skins you have installed. 2 From here, you can also select any layouts you've saved. 🖪

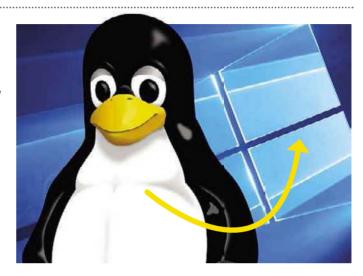


Run Linux software in Windows 10

Bash on Ubuntu on Windows | @ 20+ mins | # Windows 10 (64-bit)

ne of the most exciting new features hidden in Windows 10's Anniversary Update is its Linux-based Bash shell that lets you run a Linux terminal directly within Windows. If you're already familiar with using Bash shell in Linux, you can start taking advantage of its full range of powerful command-line tools right away, to get things done quickly and efficiently. If you only have experience of Windows Command Prompt, we'll show you how to get to grips with some of the most useful Bash commands.

By default, the Windows Bash shell app isn't compatible with graphical Linux Desktop applications, but we explain how to overcome this (in our Expert Tip) so you can run apps such as Firefox, Pidgin and Chromium Browser from a command line. After you've mastered the basics, we recommend visiting the Ubuntu documentation pages (bit. ly/ubuntu404) to learn advanced commands for backing up your files, checking system and network info, and more.

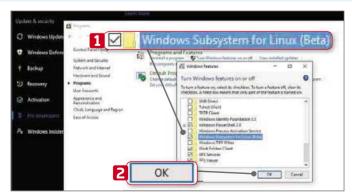




If you don't already have Windows 10 Anniversary Update (build 14316 or later), type Windows Update into the Start menu and select 'Check for updates'. Next, click 'Learn more' under 'Looking for more information about the latest updates?' and click 'Get the Anniversary Update now'.



After installing the Anniversary Update, type Settings into the Start menu and open the app. From here, click 'Update & security' then 'For developers' and select Developer Mode. In the pop-up that appears, click Yes to install and activate the developer mode package.



Now open the Control Panel, click Programs and 'Turn Windows features on or off'. Tick the box to enable 'Windows Subsystem for Linux (Beta)' 1 and click OK. 2 When a pop-up appears saying that Windows needs to be restarted, select 'Restart now'.



After your PC has rebooted, click Start, type bash and select 'bash - Run command'. You'll be asked to press 'y' 1 to install Ubuntu in Windows 10. Do this and press Enter. 'Bash on Ubuntu on Windows 10' begins downloading from the Windows Store.





EXPERT TIP

Edward Munn advises

Bash for Windows 10 doesn't support graphical software, but you can get around this by installing and running an X server such as Xming (bit.ly/xserver404) outside Bash. Once the X server is running, install a new app, such as Firefox, by typing the command sudo apt-get install firefox.

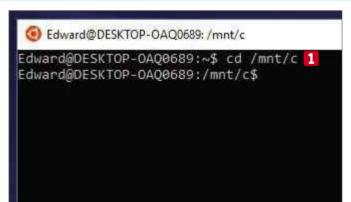
Next, type DISPLAY=: 0 firefox and press Enter, and the browser will launch in a new window.



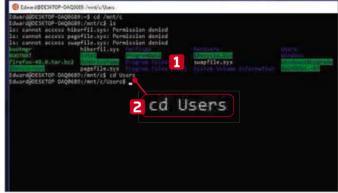
When the app has downloaded and its files have been extracted, enter a UNIX username 1 and press Enter. Next, choose a password 2 and press Enter again. You'll be asked to re-enter your password to confirm it.



Close the console, type Bash into the Start menu and select 'Bash on Ubuntu on Windows'. The Bash shell works in the same way as it does in Ubuntu, but there's no need to use 'sudo' because you're given a 'root' shell with administrator privileges.



You can use all the usual Linux bash commands including cd to change directory, 1s to list the contents of that directory, and mv and cp to move or copy files. To access the Windows file system, type cd /mnt/c 1 and press Enter. Remember that, unlike Windows, Bash is case-sensitive.



Type 1s and press Enter again, and Bash will display the contents of the directory. When you know the name of a sub-directory you want to navigate to – for example Users – type cd Users and press Enter. You can move back a directory by typing cd ...

```
**Edward@DESKTOP-OAQ0689:/mwt/c/Users/edwar/Desktop
Edward@DESKTOP-OAQ0689:/stc//Users/edwar/Desktop
Edward@DESKTOP-OAQ0689:/stc//Users/edwar/Desktop
Edward@DESKTOP-OAQ0689:/stc//Users/edwar/Desktop5 1s
Lpng desktop.ini
Apps 386.docs Godini Lancellation.jng Sputify.ink
Hindows 10 Upgrede Abs
Apps 386.docs Halgdesk 191.docs Talegram.ink
Edward@DESKTOP-OAQ0689:/ant/c/Users/edwar/Desktop5 ns 1.png
Edward@DESKTOP-OAQ0689:/ant/c/Users/edwar/Desktop5 ms 1.png
Edward@DESKTOP-OAQ0689:/ant/c/Users/edwar/Desktop5 ns 1.png
Edward@DESKTOP-OAQ0689:/ant/c/Users/edwar/Desktop5

Tm 1.png

2:op$ mkdir /mnt/c/Users/edwar/Desktop5

1 rm 1.png
```

rm 1 is the command to delete a file while mkdir can be used to create new directories. To use a text editor, simply type vi or nano and press Enter. You get further instructions on how to use both these tools after you run them.

```
### House profest to - Charge the remain of the remain of
```

history is a handy tool that shows you a history of your recent Bash commands. wget is a highly powerful tool for retrieving content from web servers. To learn how to use it, type wget --help 1 and Bash will display a full list of commands you can use.



Scan documents on an Android device

BBYY FineScanner turns your phone or tablet into a powerful document-scanning tool. Originally available for iPhone and iPad only, it has now been released for Android, too. The free version lets you scan documents - such

as till receipts, magazine articles, book pages and so on - and apply filters, correct the perspective and crop, save, and share the scan as a JPEG or PDF file.



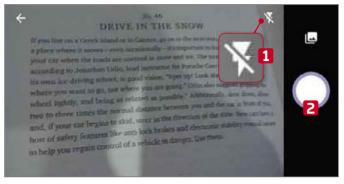
ABBYY FineScanner: bit.ly/fscan404 | 🕒 10 mins | 🖷







Install and launch the app. You'll be given the option to upgrade to the full. paid-for version, which adds optical character recognition (OCR). Skip this, and you'll be taken to the scan screen. Tap the Camera button 1 to scan your first document. just ignore the annoying ads below 2 (upgrading will remove them).



Tap Apply to enable the automatic-cropping feature, then point your device's camera at the document you wish to scan. If it's too dark, tap the flash button 🚺 to turn on the flash. When the item is in focus, tap the big round button 2 to take a photo. 'Scan' as many pages as required.



The number of scans you have made is shown next to the Scan button (or above it in landscape orientation). 1 Tap here to open the scans screen and review the results. If you change your mind about what you've scanned, tap the bin icon 2 to delete the images. The arrow 1 takes you back to the home screen.



The filter buttons in the strip below the scan let you switch between Original, Black and White, Greyscale and Color views. 1 Black and White is the best option for ordinary text. You can crop an image to remove unwanted elements 2 and rotate it left or right. 3 The Filters button 4 turns the filter bar on and off.





The More button 11 lets you retake the picture (to make it clearer, for example, or to include any missing text) or delete it. 2 When you're happy with the result, tap the Save button **B** to save your scan in the Documents folder, where you'll be able to view it.



Tapping the three-dots button 1 brings up a menu of options to share a scan, add more pages and access the properties, where you can rename the image and set the paper size. Buttons at the top of the screen let you search for a scan by name 2 and add tags. **B** Tap the camera button 4 to scan more pages, or select a scan 5 to open it.



Chat with any messaging tool in Chrome

Il-in-One Messenger is an excellent Chrome app that lets you access more than 30 chat tools, including WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Skype and Telegram, in one place. It displays Desktop notifications, so

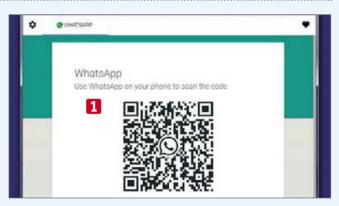
you'll never miss another message, and loads in a separate window, which means you won't muddle your messaging services with other browser tabs.



All-in-One Messenger: bit.ly/allinone404 | 🕒 10 mins | 🦁 Chrome



Visit bit.ly/allinone404. Click Add to Chrome and then 'Add app' to install All-in-One Messenger. Click the Apps button in the bookmarks bar and select All-in-One. Click an app, such as WhatsApp, 11 to install it, then choose if you want to Show Notifications or Mute All Sounds. 2



All-in-One will say: 'WhatsApp may need additional permissions'. Select Resolve, then Allow to give WhatsApp permission to use your microphone. Open WhatsApp on your phone and select WhatsApp Web from Settings. Tap the '+' icon to scan the QR code in All-in-One.



Your chats load in WhatsApp Web. Click the Settings cog and you can choose to mute WhatsApp 11 or stop notifications 2 by clicking the buttons. Clicking the messenger also lets you change its name, which can be handy if you want to add more than one account per service.



To add another account, select WhatsApp again from the 'Add a new messenger' list 1 and follow the on-screen instructions. You can add accounts for all your chat services including Facebook Messenger, 2 Skype **3** and Telegram. **4** The process may vary for each one.



Telegram, for example, sends a message to your phone for you to log in, while Facebook might ask for permission to use your PC's camera. Once added, you can switch between your different messengers by clicking their respective tabs in the Chrome app. 1



Desktop notifications will alert you when you receive a new message 11 and a number appears to show the number of unread messages for each chat service. 2 To delete a messenger, select it from the 'enabled messengers' list and click Delete.

Weekend Project

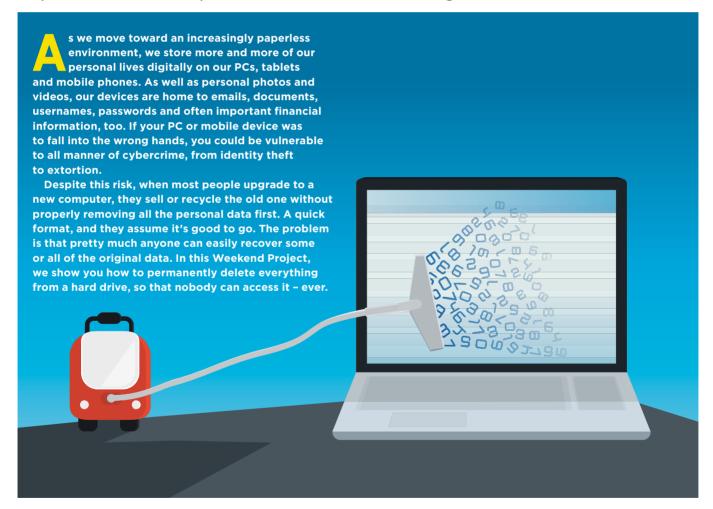
Get to grips with some serious PC DIY to boost your computer's performance





Erase everything from an old PC

Don't let sensitive data fall into the wrong hands. Wayne Williams explains how to wipe a hard drive so nothing can be recovered



How easy is it to recover data?

Really easy. When you 'delete' a file, all you're actually doing is removing the reference to it on the hard drive, not erasing the file itself. Even formatting a drive won't wipe the contents for good. The data can be easily retrieved by using the correct software, and there are many free programs that do this.

To get an idea of the deleted content that can be restored on your PC, try

running Recuva (www.piriform.com/ recuva) and review the results. If this freeware tool can locate and restore so much data in a matter of minutes, you can only imagine what a professional data-recovery firm could achieve.

A few months ago, secure-erasure specialist Blancco Technology Group (www.blancco.com) recovered information from 200 second-hand hard drives and solid-state drives (SSDs).

Around 67% of the used drives were found to contain personally identifiable information, and 11% held sensitive corporate data. Company emails were recovered on 9% of the drives, and 5% of the drives were discovered to contain spreadsheets displaying sales projections and product inventories. 36% of the drives contained data that had been deleted simply by dragging files to the Recycle Bin or using the Delete button.



Recuva can give you an idea of what data can be recovered from your old hard drives

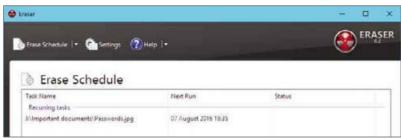
If businesses don't know how to properly erase the data on their drives, then what hope do the rest of us have?

Richard Stiennon, Blancco Technology's Chief Strategy Officer, told us: "Most consumers are still unaware of the difference between deleting and destroying data. The only way to ensure data is unrecoverable is by overwriting it with Os and 1s multiple times."

Because it's so easy to recover personal information, cybercriminals often bulk purchase second-hand PCs and drives cheaply, just to see if they contain any recoverable information that can be used for financial gain or to steal someone's identity.

Permanently delete files and overwrite free space

As we've seen, deleting a file in Windows only removes the directory entry and allocation table data; the file itself



Eraser provides an easy way of securely deleting individual files or folders

doesn't physically go anywhere until it's overwritten, and this could take days, weeks or even months to happen. To properly delete a file, you need to use a data shredder such as Eraser (eraser.heidi.ie). This obliterates content by overwriting its

position on the hard drive with various random data patterns including US DoD (data is overwritten seven times) and Gutmann (35 times).

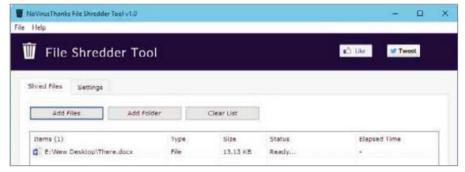
Another program to consider is File Shredder Tool from NoVirusThanks (bit.ly/fileshred404). Like Eraser, this uses different shredding algorithms to ensure permanent file deletion. You can choose from one pass, three passes,

seven passes or 35 passes.

The more passes you select, the less chance there will be of the data on a drive being recovered. Obviously, overwriting files 35 times takes significantly longer than overwriting data once, but it's worth doing for peace of mind.

Erase your entire hard drive

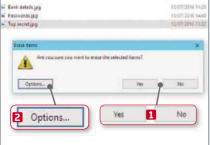
If you're planning on selling or disposing of a hard drive, it's essential that you remove any traces of data from it first to prevent possible recovery. To clear it properly, you need to overwrite the entire drive multiple times. DBAN (Darik's Boot and Nuke) from Blancco (www.dban.org) is ideal for the task. It securely erases the



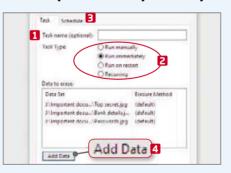
File Shredder Tool is a new application that can securely erase files and folders



MINI WORKSHOP | Use Eraser to permanently destroy data



The easiest way to use Eraser is to right-click the file you want to destroy, then select Eraser, Erase from the context menu. You'll be asked if you're sure you want to erase that item and can respond Yes or No. 11 Click the Options button 2 to open the Task Properties window.

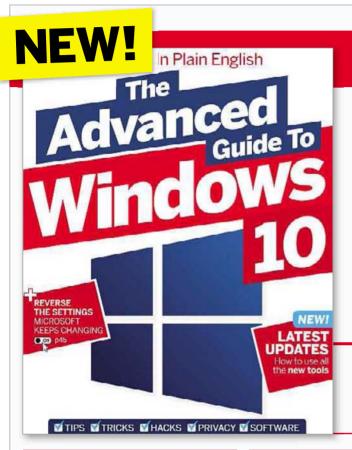


🕽 Give your task a name 🚺 and choose an action type - 'Run manually', 'Run immediately', 'Run on restart' or Recurring. 2 The last option is handy if you want the program to regularly shred the contents of your Recycle Bin, for example. You can set when and how often it runs under Schedule. El Click Add Data 4 to add more files to erase.



Open the main interface and select Settings. 1 From this screen, you can choose to integrate Eraser with the right-click menu 2 and pick a method for erasing a file or drive. The software can unlock locked files before erasing them 5 and replace shredded files with an alternative 'to allow plausible deniability'. 6

WebUser Bookstore



THE ADVANCED GUIDE TO WINDOWS 10

The Advanced Guide to Windows 10 is a must-have manual for anyone who uses Microsoft's operating system. Its 196 pages are packed with expert advice written in plain English, helping you unlock every hidden tool. You'll learn how to customise Windows 10 so it works exactly how you want it to, and how to reverse settings that Microsoft keeps changing. It's also the ideal troubleshooting guide, providing fixes for every conceivable problem. Don't turn on your PC without it!

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contents, making any data completely unrecoverable (it only works on hard drives and can't securely erase an SSD, so bear that in mind). You'll need to download the program in ISO format, burn this to CD/DVD or USB flash drive, and then boot into it.

This isn't the only program that can securely erase content on your hard drive, and you may already have the perfect tool for the task installed on your PC. CCleaner (www.piriform.com/ ccleaner) is best known as a system cleaner that removes junk files from your PC to free up wasted space, but it can also wipe hard drives.

Another program worth trying is Secure Eraser (bit.ly/secureerase404). This erases files and drives securely, and



Secure Eraser is free for personal use and offers a selection of powerful features



DBAN needs to be written to a disc or USB flash drive, which you then boot into

is free for personal use. You can choose the action you require from the front screen: options include 'File & folder

deletion', 'Drive/ partition deletion' and 'Free space deletion'. The software can also clean the Windows Registry, and remove temporary files and other junk. If you need additional features. there's a professional version available for \$22.31 (about £17.11). Just remember to reject the offer to install BackUp Maker during setup.

When you securely erase a drive, you should first make

absolutely sure that you have the correct one selected. If you accidentally choose the wrong drive, all your data on that drive will be wiped and you will have no chance of recovering it.

Use brute-force methods

If you want to dispose of an old drive rather than sell it on, then physically destroying it will make to it impossible to recover any data. One of the best methods is to drill through a mechanical hard drive multiple times. Make sure you wear eye protection if doing this, just in case any pieces shatter and shoot off. Following the drilling, you should smash up the drive with a large hammer for good measure. You can just use the hammer method (a sledgehammer is best) without drilling through the drive, but that may not damage the drive enough on its own.

MINI WORKSHOP | Wipe a drive using CCleaner's Drive Wiper



CCleaner (www.piriform.com/ ccleaner) removes junk files and cleans the Registry, but it can also safeguard your privacy by securely wiping internal and external drives. Click Tools 1 and select Drive Wiper 2 from the list of options. All recognised drives connected to your PC are displayed on the right.



As you can see, it's not just hard drives that CCleaner recognises. USB flash drives, Android phones (set as USB storage) and even Kindles appear in the list. Select the drive you want to wipe, 11 then choose a wipe method. 2 By default, CCleaner will only wipe free space - this prevents the recovery of any data that's already been deleted.



🔁 To remove all data from the drive (not just previously deleted data) select 'Entire Drive (All data will be erased)'. • Pick a wipe method along with the number of passes. 2 Options range from Simple Overwrite (1 pass) to Very Complex Overwrite (35 passes). The more passes, the more secure the deletion. Click Wipe 1 to begin.

NEXT ISSUE

How To... Boot Windows 10 AU from a USB flash drive

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Web User's Top Tips

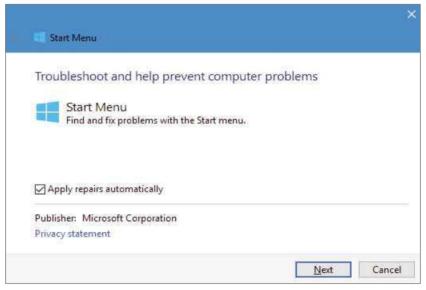
You PC can go wrong in many different ways. Our experts explain how to use Windows troubleshooters

TOP TIPS FOR USING WINDOWS TROUBLESHOOTERS

Troubleshoot the Start menu and Cortana

wo of the most significant changes in Windows 10 are the new Start menu and the personal assistant, Cortana. If you are having problems with either one, you can use a troubleshooter to fix things. Windows has some built-in troubleshooters but this one has to be downloaded from Microsoft's website.

Go to bit.ly/startfix404 and click 'Try the troubleshooter'. Click 'Start menu troubleshooter' to save the file, then open the Downloads folder and locate the file 'startmenu.diagcab'. Double-click it, then click the Advanced link and make sure 'Apply repairs automatically' is ticked. Click Next and follow the instructions. When the troubleshooter has finished, restart Windows to see if it has fixed the problems. It is often successful and saves you having to download diagnostic software.



You can fix problems with the Start menu and Cortana with this troubleshooter

Use a troubleshooter

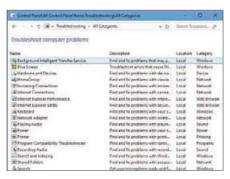
Windows has built-in troubleshooters that scan Windows files and configuration settings, try to identify faults and then attempt to fix them. They are mostly automatic and require little or no knowledge or interaction to use. They can't fix everything, but they are a good place to start before taking more drastic steps, such as reinstalling Windows.

Windows 10, 8 and 7 all include built-in troubleshooters. Just click or right-click the Start menu and select Control Panel. Set 'View by' to 'Small icons' and click Troubleshooting.

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.

Click the 'View all' link on the left to display a long list of troubleshooters.

Find the troubleshooter that relates to the problem you are having, such as Playing Audio, and hover your mouse over it to see a description in a tooltip. Don't left-click a troubleshooter; right-click it instead and select 'Run as administrator'. Launching a troubleshooter in this way means it can fix more problems than when you left-click it.



Troubleshooters can't fix everything, but it is useful to try them before other fixes

Many troubleshooters don't list any options – they just get on with the job of repairing Windows. However, some require more information. For example, when you run Incoming Connections, it asks if you are trying to share files or folders, find this computer on the network and more. Just select the best or closest option and click the Next button.

Fix Anniversary Update problems

We can finally say goodbye to the infamous BSOD or Blue Screen of Death in Windows – well, in the Windows 10 Anniversary Update, at least. Each new version of Windows has more troubleshooters than the previous one and there is now a Blue Screen troubleshooter. Go to Control Panel, Troubleshooting, 'View all' and double-click Blue Screen. Click Next on the opening screen to start it.

Another new troubleshooter in the Anniversary Update is Keyboard.

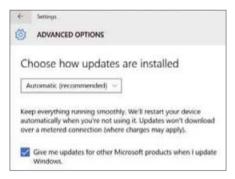
Run it if you are experiencing problems with your keyboard. It might be a hardware issue, but before you rush out to buy a replacement keyboard. check it with the troubleshooter.

The Anniversary Update puts a lot of focus on Cortana and there is now a Speech troubleshooter that tests your PC's microphone and makes sure that Windows can hear what you are saying. Use it if Cortana can't hear you.

Check for updates

If you're having problems with Windows, the first thing you should do is check for updates. Updates are usually automatic, but sometimes only those Microsoft considers essential are downloaded and installed. Performing a manual Windows Update check can often reveal extras that could solve any problems you are having.

In Windows 10, press Windows+I to open the Settings app, then click 'Update & security'. Select Windows Update, click 'Advanced options' and tick the box 'Give me updates for other Microsoft products when I update Windows'. Return to Windows Update and click 'Check for updates'.



Many Windows problems can be solved by making sure updates have been installed

Restart your PC

One of the oldest tricks for solving PC problems is to simply switch off your computer and switch it back on again. You'd be surprised how often this works. Power everything off, including the printer, external drive, monitor and anything else that's plugged into your computer. Wait 10 seconds, then switch everything back on.

If there is a serious Windows freeze and you can't even access the Start menu to shut down or restart, press the power button on the PC. This is usually configured to shut down and power off the computer. If that doesn't work, hold down the power button for around five seconds until the PC switches off. Shutting down in this way can cause problems with any open files, such as documents or photos that are being edited, so only use it as a last resort.

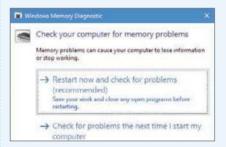
TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

Troubleshoot memory problems

If you've tried everything to fix a problem and nothing has worked. the fault may be with the hardware. Obscure crashes that have no apparent cause can be a result of bad memory. It is rare, but it can happen. To check the PC's memory, open the Control Panel and enter trouble into the search box. Click 'Diagnose your computer's memory problems'.

Choose one of the two options -'Restart now and check for problems' or 'Check for problems the next time I start my computer'.



Use this tool to restart your computer and check that the memory is working

Find secret troubleshooters

Not all troubleshooters are found in the Control Panel - there are more on the Microsoft website, although they are a bit harder to find. For example, if you are having problems installing a program or removing it, go to bit.ly/ blockedprograms404 and click the Download button. Open the Downloads folder and double-click the Program Install and Uninstall Troubleshooter. Follow any instructions that appear on the screen.

If you are having problems with files and folders, such as emptying the Recycle Bin or deleting files in it; renaming a file or moving it and getting the message 'The file or folder does not exist'; or viewing

settings in folders, you can fix them (and other file- and folder-related faults) by going to bit.lv/folderproblem404 and clicking the Download button. Open the Downloads folder and double-click the file that was saved.

Enable troubleshooting reminders

Open Troubleshooters in the Control Panel and click

'Change settings' on the left. The Computer Maintenance setting should be set to On so that Windows can offer a prompt when it encounters a problem that can be fixed by a troubleshooter. Tick the box below to allow troubleshooting to begin straight away.

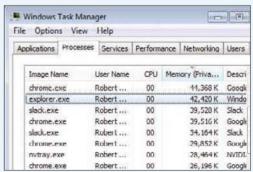
Search for troubleshooters

Open the Control Panel, click in the search box in the top-right corner and type trouble. This brings up a list of ways to fix problems that are not in the Troubleshooting section of the Control Panel. For example, Under the 'Security and Maintenance' heading, you'll see 'Fix problems with your computer'. Click it to see any available problems and fixes.

You can expand the Maintenance section to show more settings and fixes. For example, Under Automatic Maintenance, 'Start maintenance', runs various Windows cleanup and optimisation functions. It normally runs automatically, but starting it manually might solve some problems. It certainly won't do any harm to try. Check the 'Drive status' and 'Device software' sections for problems and possible fixes.

Restart Explorer

When Windows freezes or programs become unresponsive, you can sometimes fix the problem by restarting Explorer. One way is to restart Windows, but if you can't access the Start menu or taskbar. press Ctrl+Shift+Esc or Ctrl+Alt+Del. then click Task Manager, Select Windows Explorer on the Processes tab and click the Restart button in the bottom-right corner. This closes and restarts Explorer, which sometimes gets Windows working again.



Use the Task Manager to restart Explorer if Windows freezes or programs crash

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



BROWSERS

Overcome IE 11 problems

I upgraded to Windows 10 in May and, ever since, Internet Explorer 11 has developed two faults which it never had when running Windows 7.

Firstly, it takes an age to load. sometimes two or three minutes, with a notification that IE is not responding. When I run it as an administrator, it opens immediately, so I have tried to change administrator rights but this seems very difficult to do in Windows 10. The other problem is a scriptingerror notification which appears on nearly every website I visit with IE 11, but not Edge. It is driving me nuts.

I have looked on the web and tried several solutions, such as resetting IE 11 and reinstalling it. I have gone into Internet Options, Advanced and ticked 'Disable script debugging' and 'Display a notification about every script error'. Windows 10 will not let me uninstall and reinstall IE. I deleted the temporary files, cookies and history, and I tried using a Microsoft troubleshooter, but it doesn't work in Windows 10.

Owen Fallon, via email

Internet Explorer cannot be uninstalled and reinstalled, but resetting it may clear the problems.



Internet Explorer is old technology and doesn't work with modern websites

Click the gear icon, then 'Internet options' and select the Advanced tab. Click Reset, then 'Restore advanced settings'. The two 'Disable script debugging' options should be ticked and 'Display a notification about every script error' should be clear. Click 'Default level' on the Security tab if the button is enabled.

Add-ons slow down the browser's startup so click 'Manage add-ons' in the Programs tab and, in the window that opens, select 'Toolbars and Extensions'. Select each item listed and click the Disable button. Select 'Search providers' and delete them all except for Bing or Google. Select Accelerators, then select all items and click Disable

You say that Edge works fine, so why don't you use it instead of IE 11? If you don't like Edge, try Chrome (www.google.co.uk/chrome).

It won't start straightaway - you have to schedule it and restart Windows.

Check that Windows is working properly by going to Start, All Programs, Accessories, System Tools. Right-click Command Prompt and select 'Run as administrator', then enter sfc /scannow. When it's finished, type: dism.exe /Online /Cleanupimage /Restorehealth. Restart Windows and go to the Windows Update Troubleshooter at bit.ly/ wutrouble404. Click the 'Run now' button for Windows 8 or 7.

Uninstall any security software. Open the Control Panel and click Windows Update. Click 'Change settings', select 'Install updates automatically' and tick the two options below. Reboot and try Windows Update. It should work.

You don't have to use Windows Update. Instead, you can go to bit.ly/ win10upgrade404 and download a Windows 10 installer. The most reliable way to upgrade is to download the Media Creation tool from bit.ly/ mctool404. This lets you to start the upgrade automatically or write the installation files to a DVD-R or USB flash drive and boot from there.



Problems with Windows Update? Try creating an install DVD using this tool

WINDOWS

Can't install Windows 10

My laptop runs Windows 7 64-bit Home Edition. I tried to upgrade to Windows 10 but Windows Update refuses to download anything. It doesn't even list any updates. It runs as if it is searching for available updates, and I've left it searching for many hours, but it still comes up with nothing.

I'm not very tech minded and have had no success with the step-by-step guides I've found. I tried the 'Fix it' program on Microsoft's site and waited over an hour watching it supposedly working, but I had to cancel it as it obviously shouldn't take that length of time. Other people seem to have experienced the same fault. I am now in a position where I won't be able to get the free upgrade. Is there any way to make Windows Update work?

Mike, via email

There are several steps to fixing Windows Update and getting Windows 10 to install. The first is to check the hard drive. Open Explorer, select Computer on the left, right-click the disk and select Properties. Select the Tools tab and click 'Check disk'.

SOFTWARE

Fix 7-Zip update problem

I followed the advice in Web User issue 400 by updating my version of 7-Zip and installing Personal Software Inspector. This showed that I had the latest version of 7-Zip, but also an outdated version. On closer inspection, this outdated 'version' has the following characteristics:



Filename: 7z.dll

Type: Application Extension

Version: 9.20.0.0 Date: 19/11/2010

I have a Lenovo desktop computer and the file is located in the following folder: 'C:\Program Files (x86)\Lenovo\Driver & Application Auto-installation'. Using Personal Software Inspector to update the file fails. My research indicates that I have the latest version of 7z.dll. so is Personal Software Inspector getting confused or is there a later version of this file that needs to be installed?

Keith Reid, via email

Sometimes software uses compressed files, which include Zip or 7-Zip uninstallers. It looks like some Lenovo drivers and apps use 7-Zip compression and they include what was probably a current version of 7z.dll at the time, but is now old. Changing this could cause the software or updates to fail. It is best to leave it alone, but you could try moving it elsewhere, then replacing it with a copy of 7z.dll from the 7-Zip folder. If this causes problems, put the old file back again.

SOFTWARE

Get Viber working again

The Viber messaging program was running perfectly on my Windows Vista PC until last week, when it started updating itself and froze halfway through. I have completely uninstalled and reinstalled it, cleaned the Registry, set Windows back to an earlier date, and so on. Each time, it says installation has been successful but when I try to open it, I just get the message: 'Viber has stopped working. A problem caused the program to stop working correctly. Windows will close the program and notify you if a solution is available.'

CD, via email

Windows Vista is very old but according to the Viber system requirements, it should be compatible. However, there are a couple of potential problems. Some versions of Viber have been known to clash with Kaspersky security. Even if you don't have Kaspersky, it is worth turning off your security software and seeing if Viber then runs properly.

The only other option is to update everything. Update Windows Vista and Viber to the latest versions. Old drivers can cause problems and, since you are running Vista, you may have some really old ones. The video and audio drivers



Use Driver Booster to check for outdated drivers, but update only one at a time

could be causing the crashes, so download the latest drivers from the manufacturer's website.

If you have problems finding drivers, try using a free driver-update tool such as Driver Booster 3 Free (bit.ly/ booster404). Don't update everything in one go - just update one driver, then test your PC to make sure it's running properly before updating another driver. That way, if an updated driver is not compatible, you can roll back to the previous one.

Don't forget there are free Viber apps for iOS and Android phones and tablets in their respective app stores. You can use these until you get your PC working.

Solve Xpress printer problems

I want to connect a Samsung Xpress C410W laser printer to a PC running Ubuntu 16.04. I downloaded the file from the Samsung site and the Universal

Print Driver for the Ubuntu system, and I have extracted the files. However, I am not sure what to do after this. I successfully connected the printer by cable, but I want to connect wirelessly.

I tried using the commands in the command line to install the downloaded software, but I just get error messages and nothing happens. And I can't print anything. I thought CUPs would recognise this printer, but it doesn't. How do I install this?

Andrew Smith, via email

Plug in your printer using a USB cable, then install the printer software you downloaded from the Samsung website. To do this, create a folder in your home folder, such as 'samsung', and move the file to it. Open a Terminal window and change to the folder by typing cd ~/Samsung. Extract the files from the archive by typing tar xvf filename (replacing 'filename' with the name of the downloaded file). This may create a subfolder for the files. Change to the folder with cd foldername and type sudo ./install.sh.

You may need to switch off the PC and printer and then power them up again. After getting the printer working via a USB cable, you can try it wirelessly. Unplug the USB cable, go to the Printers panel and add a network printer. It should be detected automatically.

WINDOWS

Make menu items larger

I recently updated my monitor from an LG 22in to a 28in ASUS PB287. The resolution is set to 3840 x 2160 pixels, the refresh rate is 60Hz running Windows 7 64-bit and the connection is via the DisplayPort.

My problem is with Adobe Photoshop Elements 12. The photoeditor opens full screen, but all the tool icons and menu bars are very small in comparison to the size of the window. This also happens in my Stellarium astronomy program. When the window is open to the correct screen size, the menu bars are so small I can hardly read them. Both programs were fine on the previous monitor. Is there a way to resize the bars and icons within the programs?

Brian Dunn, via email



Increase the size of text and other objects on high-resolution monitors

Some screen objects, such as toolbars, buttons, icons and menus, are designed in such a way that their dimensions are measured in pixels (rather than units of length, such as centimetres). The pixels on a 4K monitor are smaller than on a standard screen so screen objects will also appear smaller. Go to the Control Panel, open Display and find the options to change the size of text and other items on the screen. Try Medium - 125% or Larger - 150%.



This fortnight Roland has been getting to grips with WordPress - installing updates and tightening security

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

ANDROID

Lock individual Android apps

Last week, I took my phone to the Samsung store to have its Home button repaired. I was told the work could take up to 10 days to complete and was asked to turn off the phone's lock screen completely before handing it over, which meant all my personal files were accessible to whoever might be fixing it.

While I'm sure Samsung has strict rules in place to protect user data, I still felt uncomfortable giving

them my phone in this vulnerable state. I considered wiping the device completely (I had nearly everything backed up to various cloud services anyway), but this would have meant a lot of work restoring my phone to its previous state when I eventually got it back. I then remembered reading about a handy app that lets you lock



App Lock lets you lock individual apps on your Android device

your apps individually: I installed AppLock (bit.ly/applock404) and used it to lock all the apps on my phone containing sensitive data (and which Samsung would have absolutely no reason to access), such as Messenger, Gmail, Google Photos and WhatsApp.

winner WebUs

By default, the app locks the Settings menu, so I turned this off in case it needed to be accessed. The tech people at Samsung could have got their hands on

any of my data if they'd really wanted to, but AppLock made me feel confident that they wouldn't end up opportunistically snooping through my private emails and holiday snaps. It's worth noting that AppLock now supports fingerprint scanning for devices with compatible hardware.

Ed Wright, via email

and then hold down the Ctrl key while clicking the files you want to deselect.

Once you've highlighted your selection, you can use the right-click drag-and-drop tip to choose whether you want to copy or move them.

MeesterChris, Web User Forums

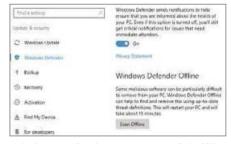
WINDOWS

Scan for malware using Windows Defender offline

While exploring the new Windows 10 Anniversary Update, I found something new in Windows Defender under Settings - a Scan Offline button. Clicking this restarts your PC and, before Windows loads, Windows Defender scans the drive for viruses and spyware. In the past, I have gone to the Microsoft Website and downloaded the file to create a bootable CD to scan the PC and repair it. Now you can do this from within Windows.

John Hanlon, via email

Web User says: For more on using Windows Defender offline, see page 42.



Windows Defender gets a powerful offline mode in Windows 10 Anniversary Update

GENERAL PC

Get more from File Explorer

When moving files between a hard drive and a USB stick or memory card, you can open two File Explorer windows at once, but did you know that you can set them to fill the screen, side by side? Just right-



Right-click when you drag and drop files to choose whether to move or copy them

click an empty section of the taskbar when both windows are open and select 'Show windows side by side'.

Another handy tip is that if you rightclick the mouse when dragging and dropping files, a context-menu will appear asking you whether you want to copy or move the files, or create a shortcut in the new location.

There are lots of ways to select multiple files in Explorer. Hold down the Shift button when you click the first and last items in a list to select them all. Or, if you want to select non-consecutive files from a list, simply hold down Ctrl instead of Shift and click each file you want to select. If you only need to exclude one or two files from a long list, select them all

WINDOWS

When Windows is wrong

Shortly after I installed a free antivirus program, Windows began displaying a message stating that there was no firewall or it was turned off. However, when I checked, I found that the Windows Firewall was on. If you get popup messages that are wrong or of no



Show or hide Windows messages by ticking or clearing the boxes

interest, you can stop them appearing. Open the Control Panel, then open 'Security and Maintenance'. Click 'Change Security and Maintenance settings' to choose the messages you want to see. I disabled Network Firewall, which stopped the bogus 'firewall off' alert.

David Blackmore, via email

SOFTWARE

Date your notes

If you use Notepad to store notes, you might want to record the date and time you changed a document so it's easier to find in the future. You can type this information yourself, but Notepad can do it automatically. Start Notepad, type .LOG and press Enter. Save the file and quit Notepad. Now, whenever you open the file (by double-clicking it in Explorer), the time and date will be added. I've been using Notepad like a diary, recording thoughts, ideas and events under each time and date stamp.

Alan Townsend, via email

SOCIAL MEDIA

Explore your Facebook history

Finding something you've posted on Facebook isn't always easy. You can scroll down your home feed to look for it there. but what if you posted in a group or as a comment on someone else's post?

In Facebook, click the down arrow at the top-right to show the menu. Click 'Activity log' and scroll down until you find what you're looking for. If you press Ctrl+F, the Find function in Chrome or Firefox will open and you can enter a word to search for. I used this recently to find something I posted some time ago.

Dave Carroll, via email

WINDOWS 10

Remove 'Cast to device' from the right-click menu

You might have noticed that rightclicking media files - such as a photo or music file - in Windows 10 brings up a 'Cast to device' option. This is useful if you have DNLA (Digital Living Network Alliance) devices, but not everyone does and you might find it irritating that it

always appears in the right-click menu. To remove it, add the following text to a new Notepad document (you can copy and paste it from bit.ly/cast404):

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

[HKEY CLASSES

ROOT>CLSID>DELETE KEY{7AD84985-87B4-4a16-BE58-8B72A5B390F7}1 "{7AD84985-87B4-4a16-BE58-

8B72A5B390F7}"="Play To menu"

When saving the file, select 'all files' from the drop-down menu, then add the extension .reg to the filename. Once you've saved it, double-click the REG file to run it, then reboot your PC.

If you decide you want to restore the context-menu option, download and run ShellExView (www.nirsoft.com/utils). find the 'Play to device' option and click the green button to enable it before restarting your computer. Remember to back up your PC before making any changes to the Registry.

Jack Gold, Web User Forums

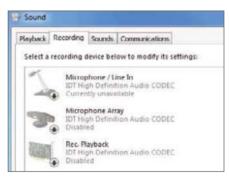
GENERAL PC

Switch off your PC's microphoné

After reading the current issue of Web User (bit.ly/webuser402), I wanted to find out whether my PC has a built-in microphone. I searched for 'Manage audio devices' in the Start menu, then clicked Recording' and discovered that I do have a microphone connection.

Like my webcam, I have no use for this so I decided to remove the microphone by right-clicking it and selecting Disable before clicking Apply and OK to finish. This completely removed the microphone driver so now applications won't be able to use it and eavesdrop on me without my knowledge.

FratPark, Web User Forums



Turn off your PC's microphone by typing 'Manage audio devices' in the Start menu

WINDOWS 10

Disable Cortana in Windows 10 Anniversary Update

After you've installed Windows 10's Anniversary Update, turning off Cortana is no longer as simple as just clicking a switch, but you can still disable the

personal assistant, replacing it with a simple search tool for only local files and applications. To do this, open the Registry editor by pressing Windows+R. Type Regedit into the Run box and hit Enter. In the Registry Editor, Navigate to:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\ SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\ Windows\Windows Search

Right-click the Windows Search key in the left-hand pane and select New. DWORD (32-bit) Value. Name it AllowCortana, then double-click it to set its value to '0'.

The changes will take effect when you restart your PC and Cortana will now be disabled. Remember, as always, you should back up the Registry and create a System Restore point before making any changes to the Registry.

To re-enable Cortana, just revisit the Registry entry and set its value to '1'.

FratPark. Web User Forums



Disable Cortana by tweaking the Windows 10 Anniversary Update's Registry

GENERAL PC

Access your PC's boot options

A few weeks ago, my aunt couldn't log into her PC, so she asked me to take a look. One of the solutions I found online asked me to continuously press F8 on startup to access different boot options. That didn't work and it just booted up as normal. After two hours of searching the web, I came across a bit of advice that said to press F11 continuously instead of F8. This worked and revealed a host of options for diagnostic solutions.

gareth5506, Web User Forums

BROWSERS

Create a browser within a browser in Firefox

I have no idea whether the tip I have found is a feature or a bug, but you can type chrome://browser/content/ browser.xul into Firefox to get another Firefox browser within the tab. Everything works, including the buttons, tabs and menus. This means you can open a tab, enter that URL to create a browser within a browser and create tabs within it. You effectively have tabs and sub-tabs. You can repeat the process again, so you get a browser in a browser in a browser!

L Edmunds, via email



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3	sky	Sky: Broadband	£10.00 (HALF PRICE for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	£60.00
4	Virgin modia	Virgin: Broadband	£24.00 (£10.00 for 9 months)	12 months	50Mbps max speed	unlimited	£162.00

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Data supplied by www.broadbandgenie.co.uk, Correct as of 9 August 2016.



In the next issue of our sister title Computeractive... SNEAK





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Readers' Helpdesk

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

HARDWARE

Can I attach a wireless access point to my Ethernet cable?

Is there a dongle or adapter I can buy to turn an Ethernet cable into a wireless access point? My router is in my bedroom at one end of the bungalow and I want to set up a wireless connection in my living room at the other end of my home. I can't use a HomePlug or repeater because my bedroom is on a different electrical circuit to the rest of the property.

I also want to avoid moving my router or using a second router as a wireless access point.

gareth5506, Web User Forums

What you're describing is actually a router. Amazon sells a small travel router (bit.ly/tplink404), which I can recommend. I use one myself to do something similar to what you want and I also take it with me when I'm staying in hotels, because connecting to it via WPA provides an added layer of security. All you would need to do is plug this into the Ethernet cable in your living room, and this will give you Wi-Fi in the immediate vicinity. You shouldn't need to do any configuration with this device.

TheTechGuy, Web User Forums



A plug-and-play travel router can turn any Ethernet cable into a wireless access point

WINDOWS 7

Do I need to install old Windows updates?

I have just fitted a new SSD to my six-year-old desktop computer and installed Windows 7 from the original

WINDOWS 10

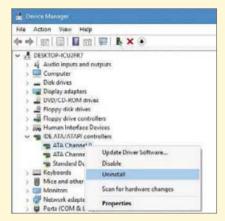
Why has my CD drive disappeared from Windows 10?

Following my Windows 10 upgrade, I have noticed that my CD/DVD drive no longer shows anywhere - not even in Disk Management. It's just a generic read and write drive, so I'm not sure why it's disappeared. Can anyone help me?

Castman, Web User Forums

Shortly after upgrading, I got an update for my CD/DVD drive that I think might have been a Windows 10 driver for it, so make sure you've checked for updates. To do this, click Start, Settings, Update & Security, then select 'Check for updates' and see if anything comes up.

I recently fixed a mate's machine whose optical drive had suddenly gone AWOL by following a simple procedure



Uninstalling ATA Channels from Device Manager can fix a missing CD/DVD drive

given on Windows Ten Forums (bit.ly/ ten404). It involved opening Device Manager, then expanding 'IDE ATA/ ATAPI controllers' to delete both the ATA Channel 0 and ATA Channel 1 entries (right-click them and select Uninstall). Finally, I rebooted his PC and the devices were reinstalled, prompting the drive to reappear.

Cantrel and tornado, Web User Forum

Malware Tips forums (bit.ly/wsus404).

disc. I read an article in Computeractive Issue 478 about installing a special backlog of updates called Windows 7 SP1 Convenience Rollup from Microsoft but, unfortunately, I couldn't get it to work, so I wondered, since everything seems to work fine, do I really need to install a huge backlog of updates? If so, how do I get them?

hogan, Web User Forums

Windows Update from the Start menu (or Control Panel) and simply click 'Check for updates'. If this doesn't work, you can use WSUS Offline Update (download.wsusofflline.net). Be aware that this can be a time-consuming process because any large number of updates takes a long time to download and install. There's a helpful guide on the

> Cantrel and calimanco, Web User Forums

The answer is yes because they are, in the main part, security updates. I've recently factory reset a Windows 7 laptop and there were 252 Important and 8 Optional updates - in excess of 1.3GB of downloads. The reason that the Windows 7 SP1 Convenience Rollup did not work for you might be that you don't have SP1, because your disc pre-dates it. The easiest way to get these updates is to open



Click 'Check for updates' to install old Windows Updates



Star Email

Mug winner WebUser

Stick your stupid contactless payments

here do you keep Barry Collins in between his columns - in a dark room? I have droned on before about contactless cards, although not for the same reason that Barry does in his column in Issue 403 ('The pointlessness of paying by phone').

The way Barry sees it, he would keep all his money on his bank card and have none in his pocket. Now that is stupid. However, I do not trust the security of these contactless payment methods. Have you not noticed the enticements and encouragements to make us use contactless cards and mobile phone payments? They have invested so much money in this technology that they are in a panic to get more people using it, even



offering 5% to 10% cashback if you pay contactlessly using your phone.

Frankly, they can stick it. I still insert my card for less than £30 or I pay cash. At 70, I do not need to look cool waving my card at a terminal and certainly not

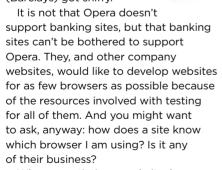
my phone. When I look at the adverts, I just laugh at the stupid people who think they are clever and "with it". If I was a hacker I would sit in the supermarket café and have my tablet open ready to receive.

I get implored by my bank to try its contactless-payment app. But the app is the most ridiculous thing I've had from one of my banks. I cannot use the app to check my account until they've made sure it is me. They have to ring my contact number, which is my home phone number in Yorkshire. That's a lot of good to me when I'm in the New Forest. And what's the point of using a mobile banking app if they have to ring me? The stupid idiots.

Martin Fletcher, Thorpe Hesley

Don't blame Opera, blame the banks

Replying to David Eaglesham in Issue 402 (bit.ly/webuser402), who uninstalled Opera because his bank (Barclays) got sniffy.



When negotiating a website, browsers declare themselves via their user-agent description. Fortunately, there is an extension for Opera called User-Agent Switcher, which allows Opera to ask websites to behave as if they're being browsed with just about any browser you would care to use. This works well for me. Opera – even the developer version – has proved to be a solid performer with features that keep me secure and interested.

John Walker, via email

Alarmed by scam call from 'BT'

Today, once again I had a scam telephone call from India telling me I had a virus on my computer. As usual the callers asked me to give them access to my computer so they could fix the problem.

What really concerns me is that the caller claimed to be from BT Internet. Perhaps this is not unusual, but in order to convince me that he was



genuine he quoted transactions that had taken place between myself and BT in the last week.

This is just too much information to be a coincidence. I am now concerned that BT may have members of staff in its customer support office in India who are working in cooperation with the scammers.

I have reported this incident to BT's director of customer services in London. Maybe you could make other readers of your magazine who subscribe to

BT aware of this situation. In the meantime, I will now change all my BT-related passwords.

Tony Steele, via email

Will Issue 404 not be found?

I am a huge fan of Web User and eagerly await it coming through my letterbox every fortnight. Alas, I notice that Issue 404 is due out shortly and I'm worried that it might not be found – any help in locating it would be greatly appreciated.

Stephen Whitelaw, via email

Web User says: Well, Stephen, we did briefly consider marking Issue 404 of Web User by printing nothing but 'Page not found' on every page, but instead we settled for a roundup of creative 404 error messages. Turn to page 50 to see our favourites. Here's one we didn't have space for, from Bigstock (www.bigstockphoto.com/404).





You can let us know your views and opinions via:

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Windows 10 ate our laptops

No, Windows 10 hasn't eaten my hamster (bit.ly/webuser401), but ever since it was announced by Microsoft it has ruined all of our laptops, one after the other.

The first to suffer was my wife's Acer laptop, running Vista HP. It began to run so slowly that my wife ditched it totally for an Android tablet. When I opened Task Manager, I was horrified to see that CPU usage was 100% and more than 50% of the memory was consumed as well. I found the process 'svchost.exe' to be causing the CPU usage to skyrocket. I stopped the function running and received a warning of possible instability. However, the laptop flew for a short while after that, before slowing once again when svchost.exe restarted. I searched for the culprit and of course it was good old Microsoft.

Later on, after updating had finished on my own laptop - a Toshiba running Windows 7 - it began to slow up in exactly the same way as my wife's laptop. Opening Task Manager, it showed me what had been the problem. Yes, good old svchost.exe. And why is Microsoft hobbling your PC or laptop by downloading this resource-hogging piece of software? To convince owners that their PC or laptop is knackered so they will take it to PC World or a local PC-repair shop. Where they will be offered an upgrade to Windows 10, with an additional charge of around £50 to cover the cost of the upgrade work, or even sold a full-priced replacement. Just so that Microsoft can notch up another Windows 10 conversion, a market-share triumph and another step towards regaining global OS domination.

Why oh why can't we, the end user, buy an OS that we really like and need. Unfortunately, Linux just isn't there yet but looks more promising every day. There now, I've had my rant and moan. I will go the same route as my wife and browse the web exclusively using an Android tablet and screw Microsoft and its wicked ways.

Roger King, via email



WILL YOU EVER PAY £100 TO UPGRADE TO WINDOWS 10?

I wouldn't pay for it as I already have it, but I think £100 is excessive. It certainly will not convert Windows 7 lovers.

Jason 'Boz' Bowyer

No, as there are second-hand shops selling laptops with it already installed for £100.

Paul Emsley

Definitely not. Gone are the days of 'buying' a new operating system. More likely to be a monthly Office 365-style charge in the future.

Derek @dlee1

No. I only ever upgrade my OS (currently Windows 7) when I buy a new laptop or PC.

Lynn Sharpe

AVE YOU EVER BEEN ON A DIGITAL DETOX?

Yes, from social media. We were fine before it, sending emails and writing on forums – both killed off by social media.

Gary Olsen @Gary_Olsen

Yes, from social media for around two weeks, and from YouTube for six months. It's nice to take breaks.

Purav @PDTalkinTech

No, I would be lost without my computer. Everything is on it.

Lewis Karl Flood @LewisKFlood

I'd like to take a permanent digital detox. Civilisation did okay before the internet.

Marg @x__marg

A RE YOU WORRIED THAT 27,000 MET POLICE COMPUTERS STILL RUN WINDOWS XP (bit.ly/police404)?

I applaud their new anti-terrorism squad, but then you question whether running an outdated OS is making any sense in the fight. Terrorists are not stupid. I'm sure they are looking at disrupting the whole Met system, perhaps with a little ransomware.

Fosseway Fella

I would guess that a lot of public bodies are in a similar position to the Met. I bet your local council is not running Windows 10.

Doublell

The thing is, large organisations tend to run their systems from behind servers, so they aren't as vulnerable as the home user with an outdated OS.

Cantrel

I'm amazed they're not using Linux Mint. It's free and far more secure.

Jack @imthegoldmaster

I think they are still on MS-DOS!

Jerome Lobo

No, because I don't live in London!

Dave McAlister @dpmcalister

••••••

F FACEBOOK BANNED ADVERT BLOCKERS WOULD YOU STOP USING IT?

Of course not - it's their business to do as they choose. It's a free service, which costs a significant amount to support, maintain and grow.

Alastair Shortland

If they send me an advert that interests me I'll have a look at it. If not, I'll set Facebook to not show me that type of advert again.

Ted Taylor

I don't use Facebook. A load of people who bore everyone with their moans and family problems.

Trevor Arbon @trevor_arbon

A Page 404

Why can't PC error messages be written in plain English? Barry Collins pleads for sense

anti-terrorist squad first?

creating an error report".

Although that's arguably more

message: "An error occurred while

Or how about the all-time classic of

its genre, which appeared several hours

informative than the Windows 7

Not getting the error message

message arrives from HQ. "Just thinking about your next column for Web User." writes the boss man. "It's Issue 404 and, as your column is Page 404, we were wondering if we could make something of that." Make something of it? Give me a publishing deal, six weeks and a vat of coffee and I could write you a book on error messages, let alone a 500-word column.

Error messages are the software developers' revenge, the digital equivalent of a waiter spitting in your soup. They are banal, incomprehensible and designed to irritate you more than the crash that prompted the message to appear in the first place.

There are several different species of error message. There's the most common kind: the utterly unfathomable, which normally disappears from your screen 0.6 picoseconds after you've managed to find a biro to write the

bloody thing down. Messages such as: "The instruction at 'O74kifhd4fhs' referenced memory at 'Wsk434f1c'. The memory could not be 'written'." For all the help they are in diagnosing your problem, such messages may as well read: "The badger has landed at Keith Chegwin International Airport. Proceed to Departures."

Then there are the 'ashtray on a motorbike' messages, the ones that try to be helpful, but prove to be about as much use as a pledge of allegiance from Michael Gove. "No keyboard detected. Press

"Windows has found an unknown device and is installing a driver for it." Okay, but shouldn't we call the

F1 to continue." Erm, how?

ff Error messages are the software developers' revenge, the digital

equivalent of a waiter spitting in your soup 🖣 🖣

after thousands of poor souls clicked

the button to upgrade their PCs to Windows 10. "Something happened," the error message read,

in big type, above a smaller message reading: "Something happened." It must have taken every last ounce of willpower for the recipients of this message

not to smash a fist through their screens.

Nowadays, error messages have moved into the post-modern world, where developers try to be witty with their crash reports (even though these people generally have all the comedic flair of a rusty paperclip). In fact, the very error message this award-winning* column is named after, the 404 'page not found', has become something of a sub-genre for developers who fancy themselves as the next Woody Allen.

My personal favourite is found on the site of the Dutch creative agency, STG, which you can find at: studiogewoon .nl/404#. If you attempt to visit a broken link on their site, you're immediately confronted by a full-page image of the singer Lionel Richie, with the message: "Hello, is it me you're looking for?" with a YouTube link to the video of the song. Cheesy, sure, but it beats Googling error messages All Night Long.**

*Error: Award not found. Column will

**See page 50 for more examples of creative error messages





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