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Turn your PC into a Wi-Fi extender

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"GAME LIKE YOU'VE NEVER GAMED BEFORE"

AC5400 WIRELESS TRI-BAND MU-MIMO GIGABIT ROUTER

ARCHER C5400









Unlock Windows 10's potential

t's strange to think that Windows 10 is now just over 14 months old - my, doesn't time fly! Microsoft's operating system has certainly developed since it was 'born' and (according to Mumsnet) at 14 months it will be "able to understand simple instructions", "be capable of doing more than one thing at a time" and "be keen to kiss you but probably won't be very good at it".

Even if your Windows 10 PC is walking, talking and making the tea, there's always room for improvement, and in this issue's cover feature (page 38) we show you how to make the OS look and work exactly the

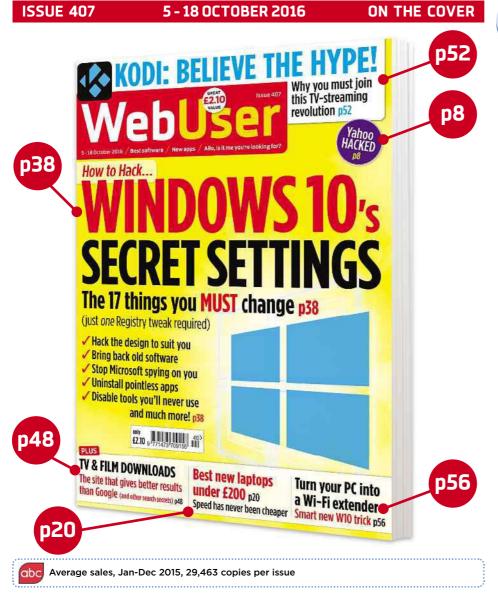
way you want it to. From removing tools you don't like to redesigning the Start menu and applying the secret 'dark' theme, we've got all the advice you need to make Windows 10 your own.

To take things even further, you can order our Advanced Guide to Windows 10 from Amazon at bit.ly/advguidetowindows10. Thanks to everyone who has bought a copy already.

Robert Irvine

robert_irvine@dennis.co.uk #webuser





Things you'll learn this issue How to examine exhibits in the Natural History Museum page 14 in your browser How to increase the size of a small photo without the

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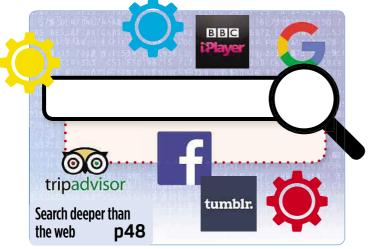
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What's New Online

Say Allo to Google's messaging app

oogle has launched Allo, a new messaging app that it claims will help you "say and do more" on your phone. It's available for Android and iOS, and you can use

it to chat to other users in much the same way you would with WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger, but with a few amusing additions. You can draw on photos before you send them, add stickers from a range of 25 custom packs and shrink and enlarge your emoji.

Where Allo comes into its own, though, is in its use of Google Assistant. By typing @google during a chat, you can ask the search engine to show you videos, find an address, look for restaurants,



discover film times and more. The fact that you don't need to switch to another app or open a web browser to perform a search

You may want to use Allo with caution, however. US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden says it

makes for a more seamless chat.

monitors the text and images you share, and stores your chats on its servers indefinitely. Google says this is necessary for Allo's Smart Reply feature, which suggests potential comebacks that you can tap and send, but you may find it intrusive. allo.google.com

Make money from your photos and videos

contributor.stock.adobe.com

Adobe Stock is a new service that rewards your creativity by letting you upload and sell your photos and videos. The site takes a lot of the legwork out of selling stock images by generating keywords automatically, based on the content of your work. If you use Adobe Lightroom CC or Bridge CC, you can upload files directly to the service. You'll earn 33% commission on photos and vector art, and 35% on videos.



Payments can be made once the total reaches €50 (£43). It's worth noting that other sites pay more, though: for example, Alamy (alamy. com) forks out 50%.

Use Opera's built-in VPN

www.opera.com

Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) are the best way to protect your identity online, secure sensitive communications and circumvent geographical restrictions that stop you

accessing some websites. However, you may

not feel confident in setting one up, or you may baulk at having to pay for a service. Opera has solved both problems by incorporating a free VPN into version 40 of its popular web browser, so you can connect to one of its five servers around the world. This lets you hide your true location and access content that would otherwise be unavailable - Opera says you should be able to stream 720p HD video with ease.

To activate the VPN, go into the browser's settings and, in the 'Privacy & security' section, tick the Enable VPN box. A blue VPN badge will then appear in the address bar. Click this to change your location preferences and see how much data you've used over the past month.

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

Create quirky QR codes

www.amazing-qrcode.com

QR codes were invented in 1994 to track vehicles during the manufacturing process, but more recently they've become a handy way of directing people to websites. You've long been able to generate your own QR codes online, but this fun tool also lets you upload and embed a colourful image, so you can create more personalised codes to share.



Snoop around 10 Downing Street



bit.ly/downing407

Google Street View has left the road and ventured inside the Prime Minister's official residence, so we can now move through the Cabinet room, the Thatcher Room and even out into the rose garden. It's the first time Google's cameras have been allowed inside the 332-year-old building, and the impressive level of detail makes it possible to look at the photos that adorn some of the walls and take in the luxurious decoration. You won't get a glimpse of Theresa May, though - she actually lives at number 11.

Share photos with others much faster

photos.google.com

Attaching photos to messages can be cumbersome and you may fall foul of attachment limits or find that your recipient can't open the image. Google hopes to ease the process by adding a new Share option to its Photos app. Now when you tap Share, you can type a name, email address or phone number to send a link to your image. Even better,

if the recipient has Photos installed, their app will import your image. It's a great wav to transfer images between devices.



Squeeze more content into your tweets

twitter.com

Twitter has eased the restrictions on what counts towards your 140-character limit, so you can now write longer messages when sharing other content. Attached photos, videos, GIFs and quoted tweets no longer use up your character total, although Twitter handles and links still count. Twitter says



this should help you get a little bit more off your chest.

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Discover the latest incredible feats to enter Guinness World Records

@paulhollywood

The celebrity baker is the last man standing as the Great British Bake Off moves to Channel 4

@NowTVBoxsets

See which TV series are available for binge-watching on Sky's streaming service

@PlanetGreen

Autumn's here, but that's no excuse not to continue to think green

@BBCBreaking

Keep abreast of the latest news from around the world with alerts and updates from the BBC

Become a YouTube hero

www.youtube.com

Reporting YouTube videos and comments that violate community guidelines now earns you points that open the door to extra features. YouTube's Heroes scheme also rewards users for adding captions and subtitles to videos

See a map of the sky

gea.esac.esa.int/archive

Scientists have released the first set of data from the Gaia satellite, which has been conducting a census of a billion stars in the Milky Way. You can view a detailed map, download the data and receive alerts about new discoveries.

Watch the presidential debates on Twitter

debates.twitter.com

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump's pre-election debates will be live streamed on Twitter in partnership with Bloomberg. Catch the political circus on 4, 9 and 19 October.



Yahoo hack: are you one of the 500m victims?

What happened?

Yahoo admitted that hackers had accessed 500 million accounts in 2014, saying names, email addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, security answers and encrypted passwords were all stolen.

No payment card details were snatched, according to Yahoo, and nor were any unprotected passwords. The company also claimed that the hackers were state-sponsored cyberterrorists, not a criminal gang, although it didn't say why it believed this. Yahoo said the hackers were no longer active in its networks, but didn't say which country they had originated from.

According to reports, Yahoo found out about the hack in July 2016, but failed to notify users. It also kept the information from Verizon, the company that's buying most of Yahoo's business. The admission follows reports that 200 million account details were leaked online over the summer, though Yahoo hasn't confirmed the truth of this claim or suggested that the incidents are connected.

How will this affect you?

It depends how recently you have updated your Yahoo password. If you changed it in the past two years, you will have minimised any damage the hackers could cause.

But, of course, there are many downsides to so much data being leaked,

even if you have updated your password since 2014. Criminals can use your phone number or date of birth in a phishing attack, or try your password on other accounts, in case you use it elsewhere. Any security answers you gave Yahoo may be relevant for other sites, too – you can't change your mother's maiden name as you can a password, after all. Profiles on the blogging site Tumblr (owned by Yahoo) were not hacked because they

are stored on a separate system.

If your details were stolen, you should have received an email from Yahoo by now. If you're worried you may have missed it, visit haveibeenpwned.com – a website that checks to see if your email address is in any lists of login details dumped online. This latest round of Yahoo data hasn't yet been included in the site, but you can sign up for notifications to get an update if and when it's added (see the screenshot below), plus it will let you know if you've been a victim of any other attacks.

Whether or not you've been attacked, it's a good idea to take this as a reminder

to refresh your passwords. Make sure you're using a strong password - LastPass will generate one for you at https://lastpass.com/generatepassword.php - and don't reuse it on other sites. While you're changing your passwords, turn on two-factor authentication for any sites that use it, such as Gmail. This should be as simple as flipping a switch in settings. Provide your phone number, then type the code that the site texts to you. Above all, don't get "hack fatigue" and ignore such attacks. It's surprisingly easy to become desensitised to them.

What do we think?

Yahoo should be embarrassed that it was hacked, ashamed that it didn't notice for two years and mortified that it didn't bother to tell users for three months after finding out. There is no part of this story that makes the struggling online company look good.

Of course, it's difficult to fend off attackers that are backed by the secret services of other countries, but it's hard to imagine what sort of attack could devour 500 million accounts without Yahoo even noticing. Yahoo hasn't been at the cutting edge of the web for some time, and it's obvious that its security is just as weak as its reputation.

Yahoo isn't the first website that has taken a long time to tell users they've been hacked, and sadly we doubt it will be the last. That's why it's essential that you take your security into your own hands and follow the advice set out above. It won't guarantee you're not a victim of such hacks, but it's the best you can do – until the big tech companies decide to do a better job of security, at least.



Sign up for notifications from haveibeenpwned.com to see if your account was hacked

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

EU drops its own limit on roaming charges

What happened?

The European Commission has performed a U-turn on its own plans to limit how long mobile phone users can enjoy free roaming across the EU.

The original plan placed a 90-day limit on free roaming, which the EC justified by saying most travellers are only abroad for an average of 12 days at a time. The limit would have stopped people exploiting the rules by buying a cheaper plan from another country and using it at home, but it would also have proved a challenge for Brits who spend winters in warm countries.

After criticism, the EC dropped all limits, saying there would be no caps either on time or the volume of mobile phone use, so you'll be able to enjoy free roaming across Europe no matter how long your holiday. However, mobile networks will be able to check usage patterns, so if you use your overseas SIM only in one country and don't appear to be a legitimate traveller, you may well be bumped from the network.

How will it affect you?

The removal of the limit means the new roaming rules, which come into force in June 2017, will be much easier for travellers to understand. British networks will have to abide by these rules until the UK leaves the EU.

It's difficult to say how leaving the EU will affect roaming bills, but many mobile providers already offer 'roam like home' plans. Hopefully, that will continue.

What do we think?

We're glad that the EC has seen sense and backtracked on its plans to impose limits. Some customers may try to abuse the new rules, but mobile operators should be able to spot when this happens and take appropriate action.

Whatever your view on leaving the EU, it's unquestionably a good thing to see the end of huge bills caused by outrageous roaming charges. It would be unforgivable if mobile phone companies used Brexit as an excuse to reintroduce extortionate roaming fees.



Microsoft kills 'Get Windows 10' app



What happened?

Microsoft's nagging is finally over. The company promised to remove the controversial 'Get Windows 10' app from Windows 7 and 8 computers.

Microsoft installed the app on PCs last year to encourage Windows 7 and 8 users to upgrade to the new operating system. It used a series of pop-ups and reminders that many people found annoying and intrusive (see screenshot above). The only way to stop the app appearing was to switch to Windows 10.

The offer of a free version of Windows 10 ended on 29 July this year, so Microsoft has been in no hurry to remove the app, although it did end notifications after the July deadline.

How will it affect you?

If you use Windows 10, it's of little interest. But if you use 7 or 8, it means you're now free to upgrade when you want (and *should* you want) without Microsoft badgering you. The app was removed in an update that began to appear on

PCs on 20 September, so by the time you read this it will probably have been wiped from your computer, never to return (hopefully).

If you want Windows 10 but missed the July deadline, try getting it for free through Microsoft's Assistive Technology offer, which is designed to help people who require special equipment, such as a screen reader, to use their PC. Find out more on Microsoft's site: bit.ly/windows407.

What do we think?

We're pleased that Microsoft has removed the app, but it's about 12 months too late. The company should have killed it last year when the complaints began. Instead, users have had to endure a year of pestering.

The app did nothing but annoy users, whether or not they wanted to upgrade. It's unlikely that anyone who wasn't sold on Windows 10 was going to be converted by these messages. We hope Microsoft doesn't use such tactics again.

iOS 10 flaw leaves your backups at risk

What happened?

Apple admitted that iOS 10 makes it easier for hackers to access backups you make to a computer from an iPhone or iPad

Russian security company ElcomSoft discovered the flaw while updating its 'Phone Breaker' software to work with the new mobile operating system. According to the company, a new password-checking mechanism that Apple has added to iOS 10 backups skips some crucial security checks. This fault makes it possible for hackers to guess passwords 2,500 times faster than they could on backups made from previous

versions of iOS. If they were to crack the password, hackers would be able to decrypt the entire contents of the backup, including passwords stored in Keychain, Apple's password manager.

ElcomSoft researcher Oleg Afonin, who helped to find the flaw, said in a blog post (bit.ly/elcom407) that because the security of iPhones and iPads has improved with every new version of iOS, the vulnerability represents one of very few ways hackers can get their hands on users'



backup data. Indeed, the level of encryption in iOS 10 means it's impossible to make a physical copy of an iPhone or iPad's data, even if you know the passcode. It's still possible to steal files from Apple's iCloud if you have the relevant Apple ID and password, but Keychain data is protected in this instance.

How will it affect you?

Apple said it will fix the flaws in an upcoming security update. In the

meantime, users are advised to make sure their PCs and Macs are protected with strong passwords and only accessed by authorised users. If you have a Mac, you can also enable FileVault to encrypt all the data on your hard drive, although this can take a long time if you have a lot of large files.

However, it's important to stress that the flaw only affects offline backups - in other words, those stored locally on your computer - and not those stored in iCloud, so you're really only at risk if someone manages to get their hands on your devices and crack your passwords.

What do we think?

You don't need to be as famous as Pippa Middleton to become the victim of a cloud hack, so we think that type of attack is a bigger threat than someone stealing data directly from one of your devices. To give would-be hackers less of a chance of breaking into your account, we recommend enabling two-factor authentication (bit.ly/twofactor407) for your Apple ID.

FIRST LOOK

Amazon Echo bit.ly/amecho407

Two years after appearing in homes in the US, Amazon's cylindrical take on Siri, Cortana and Google Now is finally available in the UK for £149.99. Unlike other voice-controlled personal 'assistants', however, Echo is a physical object that's 8.3cm wide and 23.5cm high. It's always switched on, and it starts working whenever you say the 'wake word' Alexa.

Much like its digital rivals, Echo can search the web to answer your queries and set alarms and timers, but it can also add items to your shopping and to-do lists, and play music from its two downward-firing speakers. Echo doubles as a Bluetooth speaker, so you can use it to stream other services such as Spotify and iTunes

from your phone or tablet. It worked well during our preview tests, producing clear 360-degree sound and quickly identifying our voice commands, even when playing music.

Amazon has already confirmed that the UK version of Echo offers more 'skills' - the company's rather infantile name for voice-controlled apps - that work with other non-Amazon services. These include Sky Sports, The Guardian and Daily Telegraph for news updates, Uber for ordering taxis, and Just Eat for ordering take-out deliveries. Most useful of all.



perhaps, is the Radio Player skill, which lets you tune in to 450 radio stations. However, it's unclear whether you'll be able to listen to radio programmes from the BBC iPlayer using just your voice. Echo also works with smart home equipment, so you can switch on lights and thermostats using your voice.

If £150 sounds like too much to spend, consider the Echo Dot instead (bit.ly/ echodot407), which costs £49.99 and goes on sale on 20 October. The reason it's £100 cheaper is that it lacks a speaker, so you'll need to pair it with one or use an auxiliary cable if you want to control your music.



WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

Will Google buy Twitter?

Google is one of several technology companies interested in buying Twitter, according to CNBC. Shares of Twitter increased in value by more than 21% on 23 September after sources told the US business news channel that the social network had moved closer to being sold. It's difficult to know how much the company might sell for, with figures from industry analysts ranging from \$18bn to \$30bn.

However, although Twitter's board of directors is reportedly keen to make the sale, CNBC suggested it could still be some months away: "There's no assurance a deal will materialise, but one source close to the conversations said that they are picking up momentum and could result in a deal before year-end." Another potential buyer is cloudcomputing giant Salesforce (www.salesforce.com), whose Chief Digital Evangelist

about Twitter shortly after the CNBC story broke. Salesforce's shares fell 5.6 per cent on the same day Twitter's value surged.



LIKELIHOOD RATING JJJJ //

tweeted his positive feelings

Google's parent company, Alphabet, and Salesforce have both been named as potential buyers, but the former is a much larger company with total assets of \$154.29 billion (compared to Salesforce's \$14.38 billion). With Twitter valued at up to 30 billion, it's difficult to see how Salesforce could afford to strike an attractive deal with the social network. It would certainly make more sense strategically for Google to buy Twitter. Ali Mogharabi from investment company Morningstar said: "There's value in the enormous data that Twitter has about its users, and their (online) behaviour. The millions of users Twitter has is considered valuable - and given Google's wider ecosystem, it can help drive return and user growth on to Twitter."

What's new on Kickstarter

Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

EarDial

bit.ly/eardial407 | From £1

If you've ever come home from a concert with ringing in your ears, you'll know how frustrating and worrying it can be. EarDial are comfortable, "invisible" earplugs that block the harmful decibels at loud events without sacrificing sound quality, so that you can listen clearly and safely at all times. Each set comes with a compact aluminium case that attaches to your keychain, and there's also an accompanying app that records the sound levels you're currently exposed to, so you know how long you can safely listen for. The project aims to raise £7,500 by 21 October.



WE LIKE...

SanDisk introduces 1TB SD card

SanDisk has crammed a record-breaking 1TB of storage on to a prototype SD card. The company's first



SD card was introduced 16 years ago and had a capacity of just 64MB.

Cheapest ever Roku box launched

Roku has launched five new TV-streaming boxes, including its cheapest ever, called the Express. Priced £29.99, it is a direct rival to Google's Chromecast and Amazon's Fire Stick. See the full range on Roku's site: bit.lv/roku407.

WE DON'T LIKE...

Companies' complacency over security leaks

Research by Lloyd's of London has revealed that although 92 per cent of businesses have experienced a data breach in



customers as a result.



♣ HP printers stop you using 'unofficial' cartridges

An update issued in March for HP's OfficeJet printers has had the delayed effect of stopping them



working with cartridges made by other companies, which are usually much cheaper than the company's own.

Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

The Pirate Bay blocked by Chrome and Firefox

Chrome and Firefox have started blocking torrent website The Pirate Bay, according to Torrent Freak



(torrentfreak.com). The site said that Google's Safe Browsing service was flagging The Pirate Bay as containing harmful programs, although this could be due to malicious adverts running on the site rather than software. The report also said domain-name resolution service Comodo Secure DNS was displaying a hacking warning for the torrent site, while users on Chrome and Firefox were reportedly unable to access the download pages for torrents, seeing a warning message instead.

"Chrome's warning said: Attackers on thepiratebay.org might attempt to trick you into installing programs that harm your browsing experience (for example, by changing your homepage or showing extra ads on sites you visit)." Firefox users were told: "This web page at thepiratebay.org has been reported to contain unwanted software and has been blocked based on your security preferences."

Chrome users can get around this message by clicking Details and then 'visit this site', while Firefox users can click 'lanore this warning'.

The block comes after a number of torrent sites decided to shut up shop, citing a combination of reduced traffic and revenue and constant hounding by anti-piracy authorities.

bit.ly/pirate407

Android Trojan targets Pokémon Go users

Half a million Pokémon Go fans could be at risk from a Trojan hidden in a fake guide to the game. The success of Pokémon

Go has attracted the attention of hackers - who are taking advantage of the craze to target players, said Kaspersky Lab.

A 'Guide for Pokémon Go' loaded with malware and listed on the Google Play store has been downloaded 500,000 times and infected at least 6,000 phones. The malware is able to seize root access on Android handsets. Google removed the app from its store after Kaspersky Lab notified it.

The devious Trojan waits patiently for the right time to run, checking first to make sure the target is worth its while. Once running, it installs other apps and shows adverts.

"There's no surprise that an app as popular as Pokémon Go has spawned associated malware," said Tim Erlin, director at security firm Tripwire. "Any time we see a large event or significant trend in technology, cybercriminals do their best to take advantage of it." bit.ly/pokemon407

Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

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





Louise Welch, Facebook



500 million accounts is a huge number. It's easy to get a little blasé as the

numbers involved in attacks like this get ever higher but, make no mistake, that's a lot of customer data stolen.

Data breaches are on the increase, to the point where they're almost a daily occurrence, and the damage they cause is huge. Criminals may use the data for immediate financial gain or save it until they've gathered more to enable identity theft or phishing attacks. Either way, it could be very damaging for the victim.

As always in these cases, it's the users who ultimately pay the price. Of course, a major hacking incident is never good for the affected company's PR, but for the

🗲 🗲 Make no mistake — 500 million accounts represents a lot of customer data stolen 🥊

individual it could have serious long-term financial implications. It can also leave accounts temporarily unavailable, which is distressing for those for whom emails are a lifeline. Switching providers and changing your email address isn't as easy as it sounds, either, because you may still need access to the old email address if other services you use require a password reset, or you need to recover an account using that address.

Data breaches are difficult to defend against, but companies must do everything they can to stop them happening in the first place, and to lessen their impact if they do. They need to store their data in such a way that hackers can't do anything with it if a breach occurs. They should also inform their users of any hacks and keep them up to date with events. This will help cushion any impact.

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Site of the Fortnight

NATURAL HISTORY

Natural History

bit.ly/history407

The Natural History Museum has teamed up with Google to make more than 300,000 of its specimens available to view online. These span 11 exhibits ranging from dinosaurs and fossils to butterflies and birds. You can view this excellent site in your Desktop browser or take 360-degree virtual-reality tours on your phone using Google Cardboard, and explore a wide selection of interactive exhibitions narrated by various scientists. Alternatively, you can simply amble through the museum itself. If a visit to the real-life museum can eat up hours, so can this online offering. It's clearly been a mammoth task, but it's worth it.

Our rating





VIRTUAL REALITY There are lots of 360-degree tours to take in your browser



DOWNLOAD THE APP Viewing videos on your phone brings the exhibits to life





FOOD

RELAUNCH

Just Eat

www.just-eat.co.uk

Just Eat has been acting as go-between for restaurants and diners for over a decade and has refreshed its website to satiate our growing appetite for takeaways. Selecting an eatery is easy, with a filterable list of local outlets, customer ratings and details of minimum orders and delivery charges. Choosing food items is simple, too, although many restaurants don't provide much info about their dishes. However, you do get a running total and you're kept informed of your order's progress. We particularly love Just Eat's live-chat facility, which you can use to inform a restaurant of any food allergies. Read more about food delivery services in our FAQ on page 36.

Our rating





Nextdoor

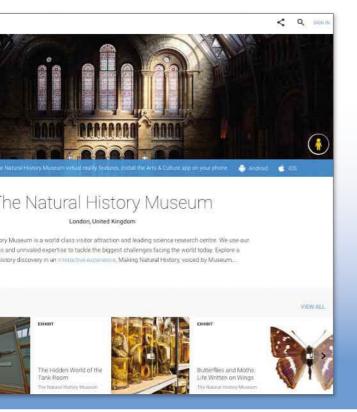
www.nextdoor.co.uk

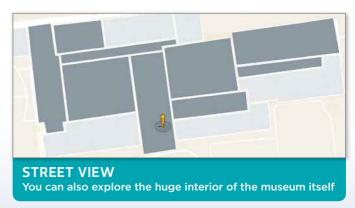
Nextdoor lets you create or join a local social network that covers anything from 100 to 2,000 houses in your area, so you can natter with your neighbours over the virtual garden fence. You can post messages, read a news feed and reply to others while sharing concerns, highlighting events and selling items. You can even upload important documents such as planning applications. It's a great idea that's sure to foster a sense of community, and because it looks similar to Facebook (albeit with 'thanks' rather than 'likes'), it should prove easy for everyone to get to grips with.

Our rating



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







INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION Listen as expert narrators take you through the exhibits



TELEVISION

BBC

www.bbc.co.uk

The beta version of the new BBC homepage isn't dramatically different to the old one, but it certainly looks simpler. This isn't always a benefit. Highlighting three main headlines, three latest news pieces and three top sports articles at the top of the front page betrays the vast amount of news content posted daily. And with large, distracting photos accompanying each story, you need to scroll further to get to other items of interest that are listed below. In this sense, the Beeb seems to be putting design over function. Bizarrely, it still relies on the outdated plugin Flash, too.







MONEY

Current Account

www.currentaccountswitch.co.uk

This site is part of a new campaign encouraging bank customers to shop around for a better deal. It explains clearly the process involved in ditching your old current account, complete with a downloadable checklist. But although the homepage is awash with Get Started buttons, it merely guides you through the four steps to switching rather than initiating the process for you. There's lots of help and support, but you aren't overwhelmed by information. You can view a list of banks, but the site doesn't spell out the incentives on offer.

Our rating





SHOPPING

Ikea

www.ikea.com

Ikea's mobile-friendly new site is so smart and easy to use that you may never need to visit a store again, which should prevent a few arguments! Its clear design and swish drop-down menus aid navigation, and high-quality product photos show you exactly what you're buying. The Quick View function lets you read about items without leaving your search results and there are lots of ideas to inspire you. We especially like the room-design tools and simple checkout process, and although we'd love to see product and assembly reviews, the new site is, as the Swedes say, underbar.

Our rating







WebUser

How can I mute the annoying adverts when listening to music on Spotify?

A Page 46, Issue 368



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Greek Manuscripts

Over the years, the British Library has

be able to understand them. This site

articles and concise introductions to

homepage and speedy search engine

help you find information on specific

With sections on how the Greeks

topics, and there's plenty of guidance,

produced books and their intellectual

traditions, it's a great way to explore a

too, from highlighted collection items to

videos that add context and explanation.

digitised hundreds of Greek manuscripts

but unless you're a scholar, you may not

aims to enlighten you with its engaging

themes such as art and religion. The tidy

bit.ly/greek407



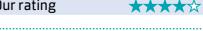
FASHION

Style.com

www.style.com

Style.com used to be Vogue magazine's online presence but this radical makeover turns it into a luxury shopping site. It specalises in clothes for women and men, along with beauty and grooming products, all chosen by fashion experts. The minimalist design is underpinned by glamorous photos, and each section mixes the usual shopping categories with tailored articles from Voque and GQ, to create a personal-shopper element. As a potential rival to Net-A-Porter, it still has some work to do, especially on the plain product pages, but we like the way you can add items to your 'style cloud' and receive alerts about new collections.

Our rating



National Videogame Foundation

bit.ly/game407

The National Videogame Foundation wants to preserve the history of games and inspire a generation of developers. Yet despite backing from influential names in the industry, its website is staid, with no interactive elements. It fails to link to its main attractions - the National Videogame Arcade in Nottingham and the annual GameCity festival - and doesn't give a true flavour of how great they are (and we speak as visitors to both). Although you can catch up on the latest news and get involved, you're better off visiting www.gamecity.org for a truer sense of the fun that awaits.

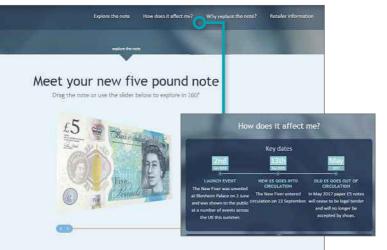
Our rating

(A) BANK OF ENGLAND





fascinating collection.



CURRENCY

NEW

The New Fiver

www.thenewfiver.co.uk

The Bank of England has just unveiled an 'indestructible' plastic fiver, and this website tells you everything you need to know about it. You can enjoy a 360-degree view of the note, with annotations of its features, and watch a video of it being printed by De La Rue. You can also download the Blippar app and point it at an old £5 note to see how things have changed. The site offers lots of facts and figures, including details of why the new note has been introduced and how you'll know if you're handed a fake, and the friendly, bite-size approach makes this resource as entertaining as it is educational. There's a sneak peek at the new £10 and £20 notes, too.

Our rating





Glamping Hub for Pets

pets.glampinghub.com

Just because you're going on a luxury camping holiday, it doesn't mean you have to leave your furry friends behind. This site finds outdoor accommodation around the world that allows your pets to accompany you. Type in a destination, your preferred dates and the number of (human) guests to see available locations and lowest prices. Each glamp site is accompanied by details of facilities and activities, and booking is as simple as filling in a form with your payment details. We like the tips on pet travel and the offbeat blog, which shows you how to teach a dog to surf, among other things.

Our rating



Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

Top Tips of the Fortnight

Simpler WordPress theme control

WordPress.com has a new Content Options tool (bit.ly/ conopt407) that lets you choose whether or not certain common elements appear on your website without you needing to edit style sheets or code. You can use it to



control the appearance of author bio, date, categories and tags, and choose whether particular pages display full posts or excerpts of posts. It doesn't work with every theme, but it has been fully implemented on a few of the more popular ones and is likely to

receive wider support over time as themes are updated.

Show your ads to Adblock Plus users

Popular ad-blocking tool Adblock Plus has announced its own advertising network, called Acceptable Ads (acceptableads .com). Website owners can join the program to break through Adblock Plus's barriers and show 'acceptable' ads to any Adblock Plus users who opt in. You can sign up for the service now, but it's still in beta and sites are being manually selected for inclusion, so don't expect to receive a reply straight away.

Deal of the Fortnight

Easyspace (www.easyspace.com) is offering '.me' domains for £9.60, which is 50% off its usual price of £19.20.

..... Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: John Morris, **CEO UK2 Group** (www.uk2.net)



I've heard you can 'cache' WordPress sites to make them run faster. Is this worth doing and, if so, how do you do it?

Tony Granger, via email

Serving your website to visitors quickly is a must for anyone who hopes to have a successful site, and

'caching' your WordPress website is one way to speed up the process. By caching your site, you're in effect storing a snapshot of it that can be served in an instant, because it's already compiled, saved and ready to go. There are a number of WordPress plugins that can do this for you, but W3 Total Cache (bit.ly/cache407) is one of the most popular options. Designed to improve your site's performance, this plugin pulls out all the stops to shift your site into fifth gear.

MINI WORKSHOP | Find better-quality images for your website 🗸 Google Image Search & TinEye: www.tineye.com | 🕒 5 mins | Any browser

The look of your website creates an instant impression, so it's important to use the best pictures available. If you already have a picture you want to use, perform a reverse image search to find the best version



From a Google search page, click the Images link in the top right. Click the camera icon and choose either to paste a URL that links to your image or upload it directly. 11 Then click the 'Search by image' button. 2 In the results, click the 'All sizes' link and check to see if Google has found any versions of it that are larger or clearer.



Coogle searches for copies of your image but TinEye (www.tineye.com) can also spot your image within another, which is handy if your picture has been cropped. Press the arrow 11 to upload an image or paste its address into the box. Results are listed below, and you can sort these according to different criteria in the drop-down menu. **3**



You can streamline this process by installing the Chrome add-on (bit.ly/tin407). This adds TinEye to the right-click menu, 11 which takes you straight to an image's search results page. Click the add-on's button and select Options 2 to choose where to open the results and how they should be sorted.



Gaming Like You've Never Seen



The brand new GIGABYTE BRIX Gaming has been engineered to ensure it fits almost anywhere. It's stylish design, is compact and cool, specially developed to make sure this little unit still delivers the biggest results. Built using high end discrete graphics and an Intel® Core™ i7 processor, this unit produces rapid gaming performance and stunning HD visuals. The GIGABYTE BRIX Gaming brings to you the ultimate high definition Gaming experience in one cool little package.



Intel® Core™ i7-6700HQ processor Intel Inside® • Extraordinary Performance Outside •







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* Models may vary based on local distribution.



We test and compare the latest products

Windows 10 laptops under £200

Don't spend a fortune on a new PC - these four affordable Windows 10 laptops cost £200 or less

hen it comes to buying a Windows 10 laptop on a tight budget, the first sweet-spot is around the £200 mark. Four manufacturers offer affordable laptops at around this price, and all of them feature Intel's 1.6GHz Celeron N3050 processor. Supported by 2GB of memory and a small 32GB eMMC storage drive (essentially a type of solid-state drive but using technology that isn't as nippy as a standard SSD) they aren't designed to run the latest games, but are perfectly good for browsing the web and performing simple office tasks.

HOW WE TESTED

We put each of the laptops through its paces using our Windows benchmark suite, which gives an overall score based on a series of tests including office tasks, image editing and video encoding. We also tested each laptop's battery life, timing how long it took to drain completely from a full charge.

Acer Aspire Cloudbook 14 | £193.50 | Amazon: bit.ly/acer407

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

When you're only paying £200 for a Windows laptop, you can't necessarily expect it to look as snazzy as more expensive models, but Acer's Aspire One Cloudbook 14 has a particularly bland, utilitarian design. While the outer lid's textured finish feels great to the touch, it's a far cry from the vibrant colours of the Dell Inspiron 11. However, it's the thinnest of the laptops we've reviewed here and offers impressive extras.

The ample 14.1in screen is beneficial not only because it's bigger than those of the 11in Asus

and Dell models, but also because it allows room for a larger, less-cramped keyboard and a generously sized touchpad. The image quality isn't brilliant but it's fine for the price – none of the laptops reviewed here has a top-of-the-range screen.

The Cloudbook 14 doesn't have as many ports as the other devices on test here, but you get a couple of USB ports (one USB3 and one USB2), a full-sized HDMI port and a headphone jack. There's also an SD card slot that accepts microSD cards

which is handy for boosting the laptop's storage capacity.

You'll need to boost the storage because, as with all the laptops on test here, the Cloudbook 14's 32GB eMMC drive has only 10GB left when Windows is installed. Handily, the PC comes with 1TB of OneDrive storage and a year's subscription to Office 365 Personal, which is worth £60.

The performance is good enough for basic applications such as

browsing the web and working in Office but the hardware won't provide you with the kind of power you need to run the latest games. However, its low power requirements helped it achieve a great result in our battery life test, where it lasted 11

hours and 20 minutes.



A £200 laptop will obviously have some compromises, but Acer has done an impressive job of limiting them with the Aspire One Cloudbook 14. Its battery life is great, the 14in screen size leaves plenty of space to work in and the bundled Microsoft Office and OneDrive storage add further value to an already good deal. With an identical processor, memory and hard drive specification to the other three laptops we review here, overall performance is less of a factor in this test, with results showing negligible differences. It's the little extras that lift the Acer to the top of the group and win it our Gold Award.

with an adapter,

Budget Windows 10 laptops Group Test

WebUs

Asus Transformer Book Flip TP200SA

£177.92 | Amazon: bit.ly/asus407 FEATURES ★★★★☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★☆

EASE OF USE ★★★★★ VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★

If you'd prefer something smaller to carry around than the Gold Award-winning Acer with its 14in screen, the Asus Transformer Book Flip TP200SA may fit the bill. Not only does it have a smaller case, but the keyboard attached to the 11in touchscreen flips all the way over and completely

With the same limited resources as the other laptops in this test, it's no computing powerhouse, but it had no trouble keeping up with its rivals. The battery life is slightly disappointing at nine hours and 13 minutes in our test, though, losing a couple of hours to the Acer and Toshiba models.

The smaller screen and case means the keyboard is smaller than most, and we found it a little cramped to type on. The touchpad and touchscreen both worked well, though.

VERDICT

out of the way, so you're

left with a tablet.



With the only touchscreen in this group, and a keyboard that flips round and out of the way, the TP200SA is great for anyone who's torn between a tablet and a laptop. The reduced size makes the keyboard a little cramped, though.

Toshiba Satellite C40-C | £174.99 |

Amazon: bit.ly/tosh407

FEATURES ★★★☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★☆☆

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



smaller Asus and Dell laptops. It has the same processor, 2GB of memory

and 32GB eMMC hard drive as the others, but despite this it was the slowest laptop in the group in our performance tests.

On the bright side it has the best battery life of them all, although it beat the Acer by only five minutes. It's also larger and heavier than the Acer model and significantly thicker at 23mm when folded up, but it has an attractive brushedmetal look to it that is much nicer than the plastic used on the other models.

VERDICT

The Toshiba has the best build quality of all the laptops we reviewed and its battery lasted the longest in our tests. However, it falls behind the others for its performance, and it's the thickest and heaviest of them all.

Dell Inspiron 11 3000 Series | £179.95 |

Amazon: bit.ly/dell407

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

While the other laptops we've reviewed here are a tad boring to look at, Dell has added a touch of flair to its Inspiron 11 3000 Series, with a choice of glossy red, white or blue cases. The laptop has an 11in screen but manages to use full-sized keys, so it's a bit easier to type on than the Asus model. The keys are still cramped together, however, so the 14in models are better if you plan to do a lot of typing. The smaller size also means it

The big disappointment is the battery, which lasted only five hours and 50 minutes in our test. If you reduce the brightness significantly, you might just about get through a school or work day, but it's going to be tight.

only has room for a microSD slot, rather than the more

VERDICT

versatile SD option.

Being the best-looking laptop in our test isn't enough to get the Dell into our awards. Its lacklustre battery life holds it back, but it may still be worth a try if you want a smaller model that doesn't compromise too much on keyboard size.

TEST-RESULTS CHART **Battery life** Toshiba Satellite C40-C Acer Aspire One Cloudbook 14 Asus Transformer Book Flip TP200SA **Dell Inspiron 11** 3000 Series Hours

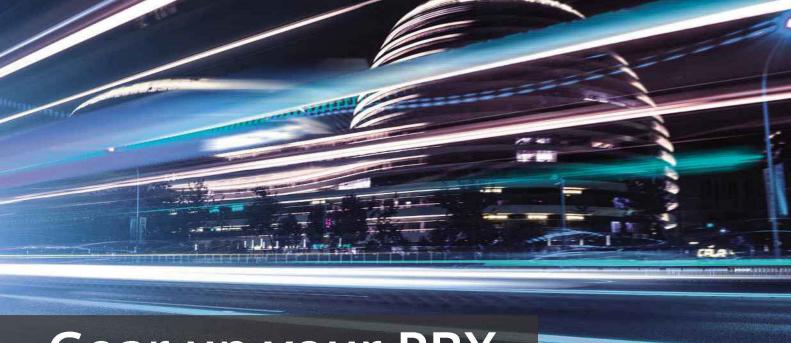
ON SALE NOW! The Advanced Guide To Windows 10 **BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON** at bit.ly/advguidetowindows10



		I III		
	Acer Aspire One Cloudbook 14	Asus Transformer Book Flip TP200SA	Toshiba Satellite C40-C	Dell Inspiron 11 3000 Series
WEBSITE	www.acer.co.uk	www.asus.com	www.toshiba.co.uk	www.dell.co.uk
PRICE	£193.50	£177.92	£174.99	£179.95
BUY FROM AMAZON	bit.ly/acer407	bit.ly/asus407	bit.ly/tosh407	bit.ly/dell407
PROCESSOR	Dual-core 1.6GHz Intel Celeron N3050			
MEMORY	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB
SCREEN SIZE	14.1in	11.6in	14.1in	11.6in
SCREEN RESOLUTION	1,366 x 768 pixels			
TOUCHSCREEN	X	✓	×	X
STORAGE	32GB eMMC	32GB eMMC	32GB eMMC	32GB eMMC
USB PORTS	1 x USB2, 1 x USB3	1 x USB2, 1 x USB3, 1 x USB Type-C	2 x USB2, 1 x USB3	1 x USB2, 1 x USB3
NETWORKING	802.11n Wi-Fi	802.11ac Wi-Fi	802.11n Wi-Fi	802.11ac Wi-Fi
MEMORY CARD READER	SD	MicroSD	SD	MicroSD
OPERATING SYSTEM	Windows 10	Windows 10	Windows 10	Windows 10
SIZE	339 x 235 x 17.9mm	297 x 201 x 18.4mm	344 x 244 x 23mm	292 x 196 x 18.5mm
WEIGHT	1.6kg	1.2kg	1.7kg	1.18kg
WARRANTY	One-year return-to-base	Two-years return-to- base	One-year return-to-base	One-year collect-and- return

OUR VERDICT £200 isn't a lot to spend on a laptop but it's enough to get a fully functioning Windows 10 device - you just can't expect it to be powerful enough to run the latest games. The Acer Aspire One Cloudbook is a great example of what can be done on a tight budget, though, and wins our Gold Award thanks to its long battery life, large screen and bundled extras. If you need a smaller, more flexible device, consider our Silver Award winner. You can use the Asus Transformer Book Flip TP200SA as a laptop or, by folding the keyboard behind the screen, a tablet. We awarded Bronze to the Toshiba Satellite C40-C, which narrowly beat the Gold Awardwinner in the battery-life test but is a bigger,

bulkier laptop to carry around.



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₩eb User's Best Buys

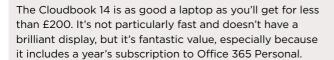
Web User and its sister titles test over 2,500 products every year

HARDWARE

WINDOWS 10 LAPTOP

Acer Aspire One Cloudbook 14

£199.98 from www.pcworld.co.uk Date tested: September 2016



KEY SPECS

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

E-READER

Amazon Kindle (2016)

£69.99 from www.amazon.co.uk Date tested: August 2016

The highly capable Kindle is lightweight, great for reading and matches its rivals for usability and content. Despite the lack of a front light, it

remains the best e-reader you can buy for less than £100.

KEY SPECS

6in E Ink Pearl screen ■ 800 x 600 pixels resolution, 167 ppi ■ Optical touchscreen ■ 4GB storage ■ 160 x 115 x 9.1mm ■ 161g No front light £10 less with Amazon Special Offers = Up to four weeks battery life (if used 30 minutes per day)

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 top-quality prints at a great price and a reasonable speed. It uses multiple cartridges - including a special one for black text - to reduce waste and keep running costs low.

KEY SPECS

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

SOFTWARE & SERVICES

INTERNET SECURITY

Kaspersky Internet Security 2017

£19.95 from bit.ly/kaspersky2017 Date tested: August 2016

Kaspersky is rock solid at protecting your PC from the worst of the web, and has come top in eight of our most recent tests, blocking all malware with its robust defences. Click the link above to save £15.04 on the software (normal price £34.99).



KEY FEATURES

Antivirus and firewall tools ■ Protects online shopping and banking ■ Identity and privacy tools ■ Dangerous-website alerts ■ New software updater ■ Secure-connection VPN ■ Advanced ad-blocking system ■ 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

Xara Web Designer 11 is a great tool for anyone who wants a good-looking website without having to use HTML

or CSS code. The interface is easy to use and the software includes all the tools you need to create flexible sites that change depending on the size of the screen.



KEY FEATURES

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

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

PHOTO RESIZER

Reshade Image Enlarger (Pro Edition) 3

reshade.com

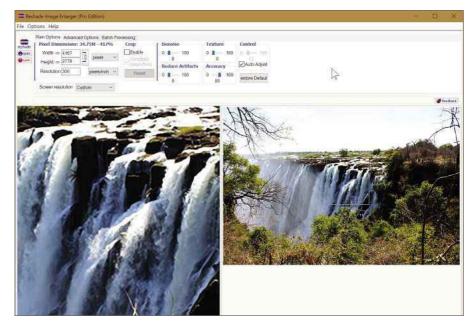
Min requirements: Windows XP/

Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 43.5MB

It's easy to make a large photo smaller – any good editing program will resize it for you in a couple of clicks, so you can share it online more easily or send it to someone by email. Making a small photo bigger is much more difficult, however, because it introduces all manner of problems, including blurring, jagged edges and a general loss of sharpness that can leave the result looking far from satisfactory. Reshade Image Enlarger aims to do a much better job by using "state of the art single-image photo enlargement algorithms to produce crisp-clear resizes".

Originally a paid-for program (hence the Pro Edition tag), Reshade Image





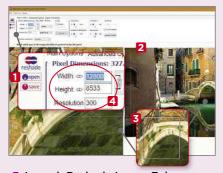
Enlarger is now entirely free, and comes without any bundled junk to worry about. The 32-bit version of the software can handle images of up to 300 million pixels (30,000 x 10,000), while the 64-bit edition is limited only by the amount of memory in your PC. The program can zoom an image by up to 2,000%, although the higher you go, the less impressive the results – Reshade Image Enlarger does a good job of resizing pictures but it can't perform magic. It works with all the

popular image file formats, including JPEG, TIFF and PNG, and supports different colour modes such as RGB and CMYK.

The program produces good results at its default settings, but if you want to tweak the way it works, you have plenty of advanced options to play with. These include sliders to Denoise and Reduce Artefacts, which should help to improve things. As long as you don't expect miracles, Reshade Image Enlarger does an excellent job of upscaling photos.

Ö

MINI WORKSHOP | Resize your photos using Reshade Image Enlarger



Launch Reshade Image Enlarger, click the Open button and browse for an image. The picture will appear in the right-hand pane. Click part of that preview to see a close-up on the left showing how the resized image will look. Set the width, height and resolution to what you want them to be.



Choose from a selection of preset screen resolutions or set your own.

If you want to tweak the results, you can use the sliders to remove (or add) noise, reduce artefacts, alter the texture (by adding contrast to edges) and adjust the accuracy. You can also adjust the edge control manually. Click Restore Default to undo any changes.



On the Advanced Options tab
1 you can adjust the JPEG
compression 2 and other settings. The Batch Processing tab 1 lets you
apply the same options to multiple
images. When you're happy with
the result, click the Save button
to export your resized photo in
an image format of your choice.

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



SCREEN CAPTURE

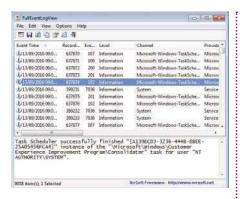
Icecream Screen Recorder 4

bit.ly/screen407

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 48.1MB

Icecream Screen Recorder lets you capture any area of your screen either as a screenshot or a video file. Just click the option you want from the main menu. You can record whatever you're doing on your PC, and even record streaming videos.

The new version improves the History view so you can upload recordings to YouTube and copy screenshots. It also applies other improvements, including a reduction in the size of the program, and fixes numerous bugs.

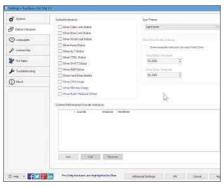


SYSTEM TOOL FullEventLogView

www.nirsoft.net/utils

Min requirements: Windows Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 84KB

This useful new system tool from prolific developer Nirsoft lets you view all the details stored in Windows event logs, including application and system errors, warnings and information messages. It's fully portable, which means you don't need to install it, and lets you sort the data by various criteria, including event time, record number, level, provider, keywords and user. Click an entry to find out more about it.



SYSTEM INFORMATION

TrayStatus 3

www.binaryfortress.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 2.84MB

This program shows important information about your PC in your System Tray, including hard drive activity and the status of keys such as Caps Lock and Num Lock. You can choose which information you see, and the latest version lets you use different themes. Several more features, including memory usage and audio playback status, have been added to the Pro edition, which costs £5.11.

New Windows Apps

Vocabulary Crosswords

bit.ly/xword407

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 11.87MB

If you struggle with traditional crosswords, you might get more enjoyment out of this crossword app, which uses common words. It offers 200 puzzles for you to solve at your own pace.



Winxlr

bit.ly/winxlr407

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 17 9MB

Winxlr is an unofficial Windows 10 app for live audio-broadcasting platform Mixlr. You can filter broadcasts by category, listen to live or past broadcasts and view comments.



WOWSee

bit.ly/wow407

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 4.4MB

This image and PDF viewer for Windows 10 supports touchscreen as well as mouse and keyboard controls. It lets you sort and group images by colour, and GPS location.



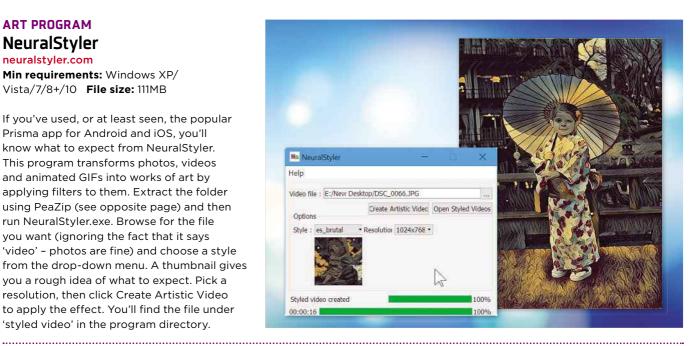
Best Free Software

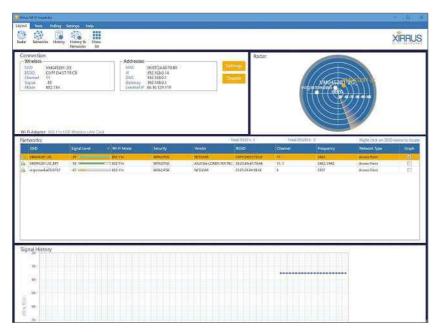
ART PROGRAM NeuralStyler

neuralstyler.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 111MB

If you've used, or at least seen, the popular Prisma app for Android and iOS, you'll know what to expect from NeuralStyler. This program transforms photos, videos and animated GIFs into works of art by applying filters to them. Extract the folder using PeaZip (see opposite page) and then run NeuralStyler.exe. Browse for the file you want (ignoring the fact that it says 'video' - photos are fine) and choose a style from the drop-down menu. A thumbnail gives you a rough idea of what to expect. Pick a resolution, then click Create Artistic Video to apply the effect. You'll find the file under 'styled video' in the program directory.





WI-FI TOOL

Wi-Fi Inspector 2

www.xirrus.com/inspector

Min requirements: Windows XP/

Vista/7/8+/10 or Mac OS X File size: 14.8MB

Xirrus Wi-Fi Inspector can find and connect to nearby wireless hotspots and help you manage and troubleshoot your own wireless network. It provides details of your current connection (including SSID, Channel and Mac and IP Addresses), while a real-time graph shows the signal strength over time. A dynamic chart that looks like a radar display shows all other networks in range, including their name, strength and relative distance. Version 2 of Xirrus Wi-Fi Inspector is available both for Windows PCs and Macs, and supports the latest Wi-Fi standards. You'll need to enter company details to download it, but you can just make them up.

ART PROGRAM

Freehand Painter

bit.ly/freehand407

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 5.9MB

With Freehand Painter, you can create works of art without the messy paint and brushes. If you have a touchscreen PC or Windows tablet, you can use your fingers to produce your masterpiece, but the program works with a mouse too. You can adjust the size of the brush, and either use preset colours or create your own colour groups. As you work, you can select areas and move them elsewhere, and easily fix mistakes using the stroke eraser. Layer support lets you build up your images in sections, and when you've finished, you can save your creations in ISF format or export them in a range of image formats.







GAME Supercontinent Ltd

bit.ly/super407

Min requirements: Windows XP/

Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 97.8MB

Landline phones are increasingly rare these days, but they play a central role in this narrative-driven point-and-click adventure game set in a dystopian future. In the game, you have to make a series of calls to identify the top members of Supercontinent Ltd before the landline network is disconnected at 2am.

Don't install...

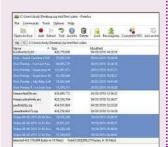
FreeArc

freearc.org

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

File size: 7.9MB

FreeArc claims to offer "fast but efficient" compression for your files and folders, but compared with rival tools it's rather disappointing. We weren't enamoured with its basic interface, and in our tests we found that files created in its ARC format were slow to compress and still relatively large at the end.



...Install this instead

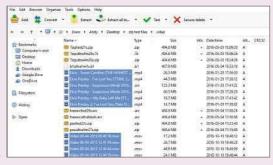
www.peazip.org

PeaZip

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

File size: 6.8MB

PeaZip 6.1, which launched earlier this year, adds a handful of tweaks to its already excellent file-compression software. It may not have the most dynamic interface but it's easy to use, with the same familiar layout as an Explorer window. To make a new archive, simply select the files you want to include and click the Add button. You can choose from a range of useful options, such as whether to encrypt the archive or make it as small as possible. PeaZip supports a broad range of compression formats and shrinks files smaller than other, similar software.





UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs



IMAGE EDITOR

Paint.net 4.0.12

www.getpaint.net

Min requirements:

Windows 7/8+/10

File size: 6.7MB

Paint.net is one of the best free photo-editing tools around. This new release fixes a problem that crashed the software on single-processor systems, and another that affected the rendering of rounded rectangles. There have been various other minor improvements, too.



SYSTEM CLEANER

CCleaner 5.22

www.piriform.com

Min requirements: Windows

XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 7.9MB

This popular system-cleaning tool is updated every month. The latest version offers improved support for Windows 10 Anniversary Update and superior Microsoft Edge cookie and history cleaning. There's also updated Firefox extension management and better support for 64-bit systems.



MUSIC MANAGER

Apple iTunes 12.5.1 www.apple.com/uk/itunes

Min requirements: Windows

7/8+/10, or Mac OS X

File size: 167MB

Apple has updated its music player and organiser, adding some improvements to the company's streaming service Apple Music, as well as new tagging options for classical music. The interface has been tweaked throughout, and a new Library makes it easier to browse your collection.



DISC AUTHORING SOFTWARE

BurnAware Free 9.4

www.burnaware.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 9.4MB

BurnAware Free can write to all types of optical disc, including Blu-ray. The latest version lets you set the number of copies of an audio CD compilation and adds an auto-erase feature in the Copy Disc section. Be sure to decline the junk during installation.

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



Best New Browser Tools



CHROME

Share online accounts securely with others

Suppose a family member asks to use your Amazon Prime subscription to order a present, or a friend wants access to your Spotify account to hear a new album. Can you trust them not to abuse the privilege? Possibly not, which is where AccessURL (bit.ly/access407) comes in handy. This ingenious extension lets you share your online accounts without

disclosing your username or password. It works by creating a unique link that gives someone temporary access to your account. Click the add-on's toolbar button while you're signed into a site, then choose an expiration time - 24 hours. one week or never - and click Create Access URL. Copy the link to a private message, send it to the other person and they can click 'Get access to [site name]' to log into your account. If you change your mind, just sign out of the site and they will be logged off, too.



Discover new TV shows and films on Netflix

There are plenty of great things to watch on Netflix, but not all of them are as easy to find as big hitters such as Stranger Things and Making a Murderer. Wouldn't it be useful if you could click a link to view a randomly selected TV programme or film, as you can with the 'Random article' option on Wikipedia? That's the thinking behind 'Random Button for Netflix' (bit.ly/random407),



interesting content to watch without having to sift through hundreds of titles in separate categories. Just click the 'Random Movie/TV Show' link that the extension adds to Netflix's top menu bar to start watching a mystery title. If you're not impressed by what you see - our first result was the noisy cartoon

Transformers: Robots in Disguise - keep clicking until you find something more to your taste. You can also adjust the add-on's options so that it only shows you random movies, TV shows or documentaries.

Control what you block online using Ghostery 7

Many privacy add-ons have an all-ornothing approach to online trackers that can stop websites working properly, but the seventh version of the popular tool Ghostery (www.ghostery.com) gives vou greater control over what you block online. It now separates trackers into eight categories, including Advertising, Site Analytics, Social Media, Audio/ Video Player and Comments. You can either block all categories or allow some trackers through while filtering



others. Ghostery 7's helpful 'tracker alerts' tell you how a specific tracker - or your blocking of a tracker - is affecting a given page. For example, broken-page alerts indicate that a particular tracker is necessary for a website to work properly, while 'slow' and 'non-secure' alerts point to other problems. The updated Ghostery is also available for Firefox and Opera and will soon make its debut on Edge.

Install Chrome extensions from a phone

The Chrome mobile app doesn't support extensions, but if you come across one you'd like to try while you're browsing on your phone or

tablet, you can now install it directly in the Desktop version of the browser. Simply tap the link to the Chrome



Web Store, tap 'Add to Desktop' and - provided you're logged into your Google account on your mobile device - the extension will be installed on any Desktop versions of Chrome you're also signed into.



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

Download document in WORD format

Open Link in New Tab

Bookmark This Link

Save Link to Pocket

Share This Link

Save Link As...

Open Link in New Window

Open Link in New Private Windo

Google for "Do



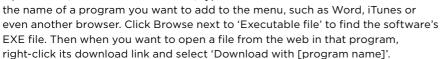
FIREFOX

Send your downloads to another program

The download managers built into browsers are fine for grabbing files from the web, but they're not particularly sophisticated and you usually need to launch another program to open the file, whether it's a document, MP3, PDF or other file type. A new Firefox add-on called Download With (bit.ly/download407) fixes this by letting you specify

which software you want a Download with Microsoft Word file to open in before you

download it. To set it up, go to the add-on's Options and, in the 'Menu label' box, type



Launch video chats and share your screen

If you upgraded to Firefox 49 last month, you've probably noticed that the browser no longer comes with Hello, the built-in tool that let you make video calls without any additional software. Mozilla hasn't revealed why it said goodbye to Hello, but we assume some people must have liked it or the feature wouldn't have survived from version 34 until now. If you're one of them, the good news is that you can still get Hello-like functionality from a free online tool called Talky (talky.io). Based on the same WebRTC technology as Hello,



Talky lets you create an instant private chat room in which you can talk to up to 15 people through your webcam, without installing anything or even registering. As with Hello, you can also share the content of your screen with other users. To get started with Talky, simply enter a name for your room,

grant the service access to your camera and invite people to join the chat. There's also an add-on (bit.ly/ talky407) to make launching video calls even faster.

Make YouTube videos play

Whether you're short of viewing time or you just want to speed up footage of people a la Benny Hill, you'll like HTML5 YouTube Video Speed Controller (bit.ly/speed407). This expands the six playback-speed options YouTube offers so you can zip through videos as quickly as you like. Click the add-on's toolbar button to choose one of 16 speed settings, from 0.5x to 3x, or use the arrow buttons to make the video play even faster or slower. You can select Remember Previous Speed to save your preferred setting for future viewing.



OTHER BROWSERS

Scroll pages on Reddit infinitely One of the biggest downsides to Reddit's quaintly

old-fashioned design is that it can only fit 25 links on each page, so you're forever clicking the tiny 'next' button at the

bottom of the page to move to the next one. You can avoid this horrendous first-world problem by

installing a new Opera extension called RedditInfinity (bit.ly/ reddit407), which hacks the site so that the next page loads automatically when you're halfway down the current one. This 'infinite scrolling' feature certainly saves you a lot of clicking, although it may mean you spend more time browsing Reddit than you'd intended!

Try Vivaldi 1.4's new features The Vivaldi team

(vivaldi.com) has been updating its web browser at an incredible rate and less than a month since the last release, they've already introduced a host of new features and improvements. These include the ability to reopen a closed tab by middle-clicking the Trash icon, a clever option for scheduling themes so they change at specific times of the day and greater flexibility over the size and behaviour of Vivaldi's web panels. The team has also made numerous bug fixes to help the browser run more smoothly.





Best Free Apps

App of the Fortnight

SYSTEM TOOL

Clean My Android

bit.ly/clean407

Min requirements: Android 4.0.3

Size: Varies with device

The web is full of scare stories warning us that Android cleaning apps do more harm than good. Yet these apps are among the most downloaded items in the Google Play Store - and newcomer Clean Mv Android has already amassed delighted user reviews and an excellent average score of 4.5.

The reason it's so popular with users, rather than critics, is that it fixes the problems that arise due to the way most of us use our phones and tablets. We let

them clog up with photos, videos and

messages, which we share and back up to other apps. We install and uninstall apps, leaving a litter trail of leftover files. And we open oodles of apps all at once and forget to close them, all of which slows down our devices and makes them overheat. Clean My Android helps restore order.

The app's automatic one-tap cleaning tools make it quick

and easy to use, and it's smaller (only 4.8MB on our Moto X) and less of a battery drain than some similar apps, including CCleaner. We'd prefer a bit more control and information, though. The Junk Clean tool tells you what it's removing, but the details flash by too quickly to read.

CleanMyAndroid

It's true that some apps may actually slow down or even stop working if you clean them. Your Gallery, for example, would have to rebuild its cache of thumbnails, putting a strain on your processor and battery. Clean My Android solves this by letting you add apps to a whitelist, which excludes them

from the cleaning process - see our Mini Workshop (right).

Our main complaint (for which we've docked the app a 'star') is that adverts take up half the screen after you've run a one-tap clean. We downloaded an app we didn't want by accidentally tapping the ad, so be careful.





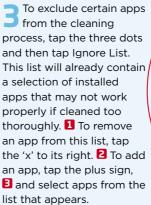
MINI WORKSHOP

Speed up your device using Clean My Android

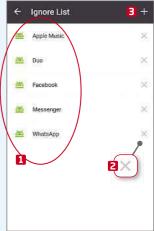
Install and launch Clean My Android, then tap Start. The app begins by measuring your device's performance (ours was deemed 'Good'). 11 To free up memory, tap Boost. 2 Then tap the back arrow to return to the main screen. To optimise your device's temperature, tap CPU Cooler. El To uninstall apps completely, tap Apps Manager. 4 Tap Junk Clean **5** to remove hidden junk.



The Junk Clean tool gets straight to work, displaying an animation as it removes temporary files, search history, cookies, caches and more. It provides details of what it's deleting, but they go by too quickly to read. 11 If you're fast, you may be able to see how much space the app has saved, 2 but those details don't appear for long either. Tap the back arrow to return to the main screen. B









CleanMyAndroid

CPU Cooler (840)

Apps Manager

Device Info

Settings

Feedback



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

PHOTOGRAPHY

Raw bit.ly/raw407 Min requirements: iOS 9.3

Size: 31MB

Get professionallevel photo editing, workflow and even sales tools on your iPhone or iPad using this new



app from photography-sharing site 500px (500px.com). The app is a camera, editor, filter creator, metadata tool, gallery, marketplace and licensing manager rolled into one. The editing tool is particularly impressive, with exposure and colour slider controls that rival PC-based tools. As its name suggests, Raw supports full-resolution RAW files, so for best results you

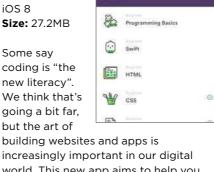
EDUCATION

Mimo bit.ly/mimo407 Min

requirements:

Size: 27.2MB

Some say coding is "the new literacy". We think that's going a bit far,



building websites and apps is increasingly important in our digital world. This new app aims to help you learn and master coding through interactive lessons and practical assignments. Mimo is essentially a digital textbook, with 11 courses (and more to come) on topics including HTML, CSS and 'Programming for Absolute Beginners', each with two free chapters. If you want more, you'll have to cough up £4.49 for a monthly subscription.



SOCIAL

InterNations

bit.ly/ interdroid407 bit.ly/interios407

requirements: Android 4.1.

iOS8 Size:

> 8.9MB (Android), 38.3MB (iOS)



InterNations (www.internations.org) is a social network for expats, with 2.3 million members spanning 390 cities from Abu Dhabi to Zurich, and it's finally launched its own app. Use it to sign up to the InterNations community, find and chat with expats nearby, discover events in your area and join groups based on your hobbies and interests. Some of the app's functions are buggy - events won't sync to the calendar, for example - but it's still easier than using the site in

Our rating

your mobile browser.



Our rating



Our rating

VIDEO

Kronicle

bit.ly/kronicle407

Min requirements: iOS 7.1

need a device with plenty

of storage and memory.

Size: 38.2MB

photography and video. They're usually created by shooting a series of photos over time - perhaps by taking one photo per day from the same spot - and then using the frames to create a video that shows the months flying by. Kronicle is a gorgeous new iOS app that lets you use photos from a historical archive to create timelapses



('Kronicles') spanning years or even decades. Alternatively, you can collaborate with other users to create a Kronicle showing the same place through the eyes of many people. Filters and framing effects are laid on, but the app's emphasis is on Instagram-style sharing rather than editing. Explore and comment on other people's Kronicles from around the world, and get inspiration from the Popular section, as well as the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ kronicle). An Android version is due to follow soon.



Our rating



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 vour device
- Remove hidden junk so it never comes back
- Switch from iOS without losing data

Order it now from Amazon at bit.ly/defguidetoandroid



AUTOMATION

Conscient

bit.ly/conscient407

Min requirements: Android 5

Size: 5.7MB

Make your smartphone (or tablet) even smarter by setting apps to launch automatically when certain things happen. For example, you could set your music app to open and play a specific playlist when you plug in headphones, or set a navigation app to open when you're in the car.

NEW Headphones Plugged J. Apple Music Mag

It's a little like IFTTT ('if this, then that'), but it uses physical actions as triggers, thanks to Google's Awareness 'contextbased' technology (bit.ly/aware407). We found

it easy to set up and use - easier, in fact, than IFTTT - but you can only set up three automatic triggers for free. If you want more, you'll have to stump up for an in-app purchase, starting at 69p.





PC TOOL

DeskDock

bit.ly/deskdock407

Min requirements: Android 4.1

Size: 1.5MB

Turn your Android device into an extra monitor for your PC using this clever but fiddly app. Once you've connected your computer to your phone or tablet (or multiple Android devices), you can share clipboard content between them, use your PC's mouse with your Android device and even create



customised mouse actions for it. We love the idea, but found the reality somewhat tricky - to use it, you need to install a free program on your PC (bit.ly/deskpc407), run

Java and install USB drivers for your device. If that prospect doesn't intimidate you, this could make a great weekend project, especially if you've got a spare Android device or two.



Our rating



Our rating

APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

SYSTEM TOOL

Screen off

bit.ly/screenoff407

Min requirements: Android 4.3

Size: 1.5MB Price: 59p

Save battery life and spare your power button by putting your screen to sleep without locking your device. You can configure transition effects, notifications and voice commands.

MEDICAL

Medi Prompt

bit.ly/medi407

Min requirements: Android 2.3 Size: 5.3MB Price: 79p

This isn't so much a first-aid app as a memory aid for professional medics. It includes information about examinations, responses and

what to do in a major incident.

ALARM

Disarm Alarm

bit.ly/disarm407

Min requirements: Android

4.4

Size: 61MB Price: 89p Force yourself out of bed by defusing a virtual ticking time



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 5 Neck and Chest Examination unds, bruising, swellin nsion (Jugular Expose the chest and about the exclude life threatening in

bomb. One wrong move and you could set off the 'bomb', which you really don't want at silly o'clock in the morning.

MUSIC

Frinky Music Controller Pro bit.ly/frinky407

Min requirements: Android 4.1 Size: 1.3MB Price: 69p

Add extra controls to your Android music player or third-party music app. Frinky includes a sleep timer and gives you the ability to skip tracks (as well as change volume) using your device's volume buttons.

TRAVEL

Pocket Guide Megaliths

bit.ly/megadroid407 bit.ly/megaios407

Min requirements: Android 4.0.3,

Size: 38MB (Android), 42.4MB (iOS)

Price: £1.49

Explore 50,000 ancient and prehistoric sites around the world using data gathered by Megalithic Portal (www.megalithic.co.uk). The app even provides sunset and moon-phase information, as well as historical and geographical facts.





Screen off

Medi prompt

Disarm Alarm

Frinky Music Controller Pro











Best New TV Apps

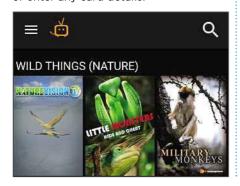
FILM & TV

Tubi TV

bit.ly/tubi407 bit.ly/iostubi407

Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 8 Size: 3MB (Android), 17.8MB (iOS)

As a rule, services that offer films and TV shows for free either do so illegally or feature such rubbish that they're not worth the bother. Tubi TV bucks this trend (sort of) with a large selection of movies and series that aren't completely awful or unlawful. Although the app has none of the blockbusters mentioned in its description, such as Gladiator and Star Trek, its categories range from Action and Horror to Comedy and Nature, and include such gems as 1962 spookfest Carnival of Souls and some decent music documentaries. You need to sit through ads to enjoy the free viewing, but you don't need to register or enter any card details.



VIDEO

Twitter

twitter.com

Min requirements: Amazon Fire TV,

Apple TV, Xbox One Size: Varies with device



Twitter is expanding into television with new apps for Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Xbox One that let you stream live video from the social network to your telly. The apps are free and you don't need to register with Twitter to use them, although if you do the content will be more personalised. As well as live broadcasts, you can watch streams from Twitter's Periscope service and selected GIFs from its Vine app, while Apple TV users can view videos side by side with tweets commenting on them as a means of engaging with the action. Currently, Twitter's biggest coup is screening NFL Football games to US viewers, but we're sure some UKspecific live content is coming soon.

NEWS

BBC News

bit.ly/news407

Min requirements: Android (varies

with device), iOS 7 Size: 20.5MB

The BBC News app has long had filmed reports embedded in its stories, and now it's gone a step further with a dedicated section for videos. The new 'Ten to Watch' playlist presents a round-up of top stories in video form, for those times when you'd rather watch the news than read it. The update is part of the Beeb's Project Newstream, which aims to bring new formats and storytelling methods to the 34 million people who browse BBC News on their mobile devices every week. The videos in 'Ten to Watch' change throughout the day. The feature is being rolled out gradually, so you might not see it yet.



X Don't install...

Stolen Car Checker Pro

bit.lv/stolen407

We like the idea behind this app, which alerts you if a vehicle you're thinking of buying has been reported stolen, but the execution leaves a lot to be desired. For a start, it costs £3.56, whereas other, similar apps are free. Then



there's the fact that you need to enter a car's 17-digit vehicleidentification number (VIN), which is tricky to do covertly and accurately on your phone. And despite claiming to search 20 international databases, it doesn't appear to cover the UK.

...Install this instead

Vehicle Smart

www.getvehiclesmart.com

Min requirements: Android 4.0, iOS 8

Size: 20MB

Described by one happy user as "the must-have app for all motorists in the UK", Vehicle Smart lets you check MOT and tax information for any car from your phone or tablet - for free. Just enter the vehicle's make and registration number to see its full MOT history, including advisory and failure notices, tax status (including costs) and mileage, including distance travelled per year. Vehicle Smart puts all this essential information at your fingertips in a clear, simple manner, which makes it the ideal companion when you're looking to buy a used car or you can't remember when your MOT or tax is due.





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

Food-delivery services

Feeling peckish but don't want to go out? David Crookes thinks you should get stuffed from one of the growing number of online food-delivery services

What's the deal?

In days gone by, ordering a takeaway entailed hunting for paper menus stuffed in drawers, making a phone call and hoping the person on the other end managed to write down your order and home address correctly. It also meant having a wallet bursting with cash for when the driver arrived. Today the situation is different. You can now order meals from thousands of restaurants entirely online, even if they don't have their own delivery drivers.

Is there a big appetite for this?

There is. Companies such as Just Eat (www.just-eat.co.uk) and Hungry House (hungryhouse.co.uk) have been acting as intermediaries for a number of years, providing an online ordering service for restaurants and takeaways but leaving the deliveries to the food outlets themselves. But over the past year or so, there has been a noticeable increase in online food-delivery services that use their own drivers. Promising to take you from hunger to a full belly faster than you can say "pepperoni 12in deep pan with extra cheese", they have greatly expanded the number of eateries that deliver to your home.



Just Eat has been around for several years and has really annoying TV ads

Which companies are involved?

One of the best known is Deliveroo (deliveroo.co.uk), which launched in 2013 to serve London and quickly expanded



to other cities in the UK and abroad. Its success has encouraged competition from UberEats (ubereats.com), which was created by the guys behind the popular Uber taxi app, and more recently from Amazon (amazon.co.uk/ restaurants). There are many other services. Some, such as One Delivery (one-delivery.co.uk) specialise in fastfood, bringing you KFC, McDonald's and Burger King meals, while others, such as Eat First (eatfirst.com), concentrate entirely on the finest-quality lunches and dinners from top chefs.

How do they work?

Typically, you just visit the service's website or install its app, then choose a type of cuisine to see relevant food providers in your area. Select the food and drink you want from the online menu and the service will pass your order to the takeaway or restaurant. A driver then brings the food to your door - Deliveroo delivers in 32 minutes, on average, UberEats in less than half an hour and



Order a meal through Deliveroo and it could be delivered within half an hour

Amazon Restaurants (which is available only to Prime members) within the hour.

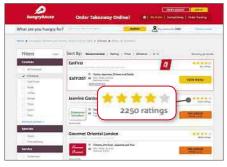
Why can't I just use a restaurant's own site?

You can - if it has one. However, many independent eateries don't have a proper website, let alone an online payment system or their own delivery service, so if you were to place an order, you'd have to go and collect the food yourself. By bringing restaurants and takeaways

together in one place, delivery services allow food outlets to benefit from a simple, speedy ordering process, while the likes of Deliveroo also give food outlets access to their delivery drivers.

How do I know the food is good?

Some food-delivery sites let customers leave reviews and ratings, while others promise to sign up only the best-quality restaurants. Most also have a complaints procedure that offers protection if you have a problem with a particular eatery.



Avoid food poisoning by reading other diners' experiences of restaurants

How do I pay for my meals?

Although you can often choose to pay on delivery, the services encourage you to pay beforehand through their sites. You can set up an account with your card details to make it easier to pay for future deliveries or enter your details every time you order a meal. In either case, the delivery site, rather than the food outlet, processes your money, passing on the cash - minus a fee - to the takeaway or restaurant. The service won't share your financial details, so they're safe.

What if these companies don't serve my area?

JustEat and HungryHouse list tens of thousands of takeaways and restaurants across the UK, and there will invariably be one that delivers to you. But newer services such as Deliveroo, UberEats and Amazon Restaurants only operate in certain areas, so it's a case of waiting for them to expand their



Amazon Restaurants currently only delivers to people living in central London

coverage. Deliveroo,

for example, is available in more than 40 areas of the UK and hopes to double the number by the end of the year.

What if there are no good restaurants where I live?

Maybe you should move somewhere else. Only joking - Deliveroo has come up with a solution to that particular problem. It has invested in an initiative called RooBox that allows a restaurant from another part of town to set up a kitchen in an under-served yet populous location to broaden its potential customer base. Deliveroo would be the only delivery company serving the satellite kitchen, making the move mutually beneficial.

Food-delivery services



You don't need to tip your UberEats driver, but don't expect them to smile

Do I have to pay for deliveries?

Deliveroo charges its customers £2.50 for a delivery, while Just Eat and Hungry House allow their restaurants and takeaways to decide whether and how much to charge. UberEats is delivering food for free while it establishes itself, and Amazon Restaurants is currently offering a £10 discount on orders. It's certainly worth shopping around.

THE DARKER SIDE OF DELIVERY SERVICES

What's so controversial about these services?

Deliveroo and UberEats in particular have come under fire for the way they treat their drivers. Earlier this year, Deliveroo threatened to scrap its hourly rate of £7 plus £1 per delivery in favour of a £3.75 payment per delivery. Meanwhile, drivers for UberEats earn £3.30 plus a mileage fee for every offpeak delivery they make, minus a 25% fee. These fees prompted dozens of delivery moped riders and cyclists to protest against the changes and, as a result, Deliveroo gave workers the chance to opt out of the new system.

What do the drivers say?

The drivers say per-delivery payments don't take into account the fact that they often have to hang around while food is being cooked and readied for delivery. They also argue that if no orders are coming through, they are left twiddling their thumbs without a wage. Since the drivers are classed as



Deliveroo drivers have complained that the company is giving them a raw deal

self-employed, they are not entitled to holiday or sick pay. Both Deliveroo and UberEats deny giving their drivers a raw deal, though.

And the companies?

UberEats told The Guardian (bit.ly/ uber407) that its couriers can take home more than the London living wage during lunch and dinner times (when the company pays a bonus of up to £4 per delivery) while Deliveroo says new-contract drivers working during the busiest times can earn more than twice what they would have received under the old system. Crucially, it seems that pay-perdelivery methods are important to the survival of these companies.

Are the restaurants happy, though?

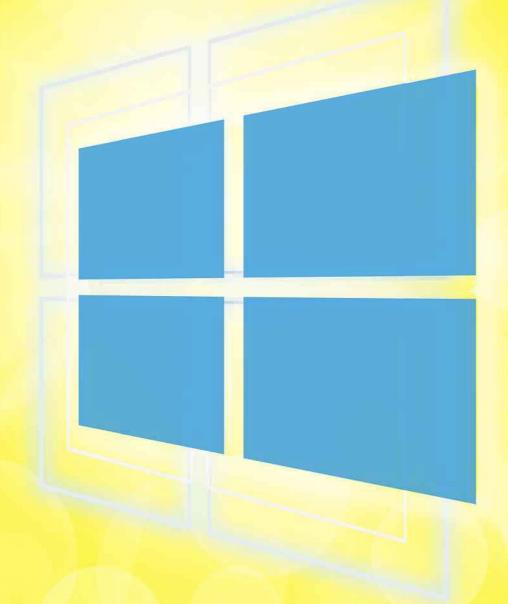
They appear to be - if they weren't, you'd expect them to withdraw from the services. That said, some takeaway owners have had reservations about the sheer number of listings that appear on some sites, which makes it harder for them to stand out. There are also concerns about the fees. Just Eat, for instance, has a sign-up fee of £699 plus VAT and charges restaurants 14% commission on orders. It justifies this by claiming that a takeaway's revenue from online ordering is typically more than 25% higher than from orders made over the phone.

How to Hack...

WINDOWS 10's SECRET SETTINGS



Want to improve Windows 10 without messing up your PC?
Wayne Williams reveals how to make Microsoft's operating system look and work exactly the way you want



How to hack Windows 10's secret settings



y now you're probably quite familiar with Windows 10, even if you waited until the end of the free upgrade period to start using the new operating system. We're also willing to bet that there are things you don't like about it, or that you think could be done better or more like they were in a previous version of Windows.

The good news is that you don't have to put up with these niggles, because you can easily tweak Windows 10

to elevate it from a good operating system to a great one. You won't need to pay for extra hardware or software, or (aside from one tweak) mess around in the Registry, either.

In this feature, we reveal the most useful hacks for improving and customising Windows 10. Over the following pages, you'll learn how to change the way Windows 10 looks and works, disable features you hate and restore functions that you miss.

RESTORE THE FEATURES YOU MISS

Bring back Desktop Gadgets

Windows 7 lets you place floating gadgets, such as clocks, calendars, photos, news feeds and system monitors, on your Desktop. This feature was removed from Windows 8 onwards due to what Microsoft describes as "serious vulnerabilities", but lots of people liked gadgets. If you're one of them, you can get the feature back by installing the third-party tool 8GadgetPack (8gadgetpack. net). Despite its name it works fine with Windows 10, although, annoyingly, some of the 50+ gadgets available aren't compatible with the Anniversary Update - at least until 8GadgetPack itself is updated.

Another alternative is Gadgets
Revived (gadgetsrevived.com).
Download the sidebar and then choose
some gadgets to put in it. You'll find a
Control Panel option for Gadgets
Revived under 'Appearance and
Personalisation', Desktop Gadgets.

Restore the Windows Experience Index

Windows Experience Index, or WEI for short, is a basic benchmarking tool in Windows 7 (and Vista) that rates the performance of your PC and gives it an overall score out of 10, as well as individual scores for your computer's processor, memory, graphics, gaming graphics and

Get back Windows Media Center

Microsoft dropped Media Center from Windows 10, replacing it with an optional, expensive and very basic DVD player. However, you can restore this useful software by installing an unofficial new release called WMC for Windows 10. This is available to download for free from Google Drive in 32-bit (bit.ly/wmc32-407) and 64-bit (bit.ly/wmc64-407) editions. Because



You can restore Windows Media Center to Windows 10 by installing WMC

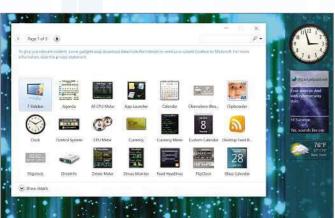
the WMC files are rather large, Google Drive can't scan them for malware, so before you install either version it's worth checking the download with your antivirus program or VirusTotal (www.virustotal.com) to make sure it's not harbouring anything nasty (both were clean at the time of writing).

Extract the WMC folder to your system drive and open it. Right-click _TestRights.cmd and choose 'Run as administrator'. Then right-click Installer. cmd and select 'Run as administrator' again. Exit when prompted. When you want to run the program, you can either search for 'Media Center' or launch it through Windows Accessories in the Start menu. For easier access, pin WMC to Start or your taskbar.

primary hard drive. WEI isn't the most informative benchmarking tool around, but it helps you identify which areas of your system are the weakest and would benefit most from an upgrade.

Microsoft dropped WEI from Windows 8 and later versions, but you

can perform the same function by installing ChrisPC Win Experience Index 4 (www.chris-pc.com). Download the software and run it to find out how your system performs - but make sure you decline the bundled RelevantKnowledge junk during installation.



Floating Desktop gadgets were last seen in Windows 7, but you can bring them back by installing 8GadgetPack



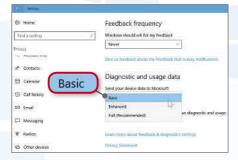
Benchmark your PC to find out how well it performs, and how your various components measure up

CHANGE THE WAY WINDOWS 10 WORKS

Limit Microsoft's data gathering

Windows 10 spies on its users in two ways. The first is that it collects data about how you use the operating system (how you speak or type, for example) to improve the way Windows responds. However, it also reports 'telemetry' data back to Microsoft. This includes details of your hardware, how long you spend using Windows, details of any crashes and other information that could prove useful to the company.

If you don't like the idea of your data being collected like this, you can limit the amount of telemetry information Windows passes back to Microsoft by clicking Start and opening Settings. Open the Privacy section and scroll down to 'Feedback & diagnostics'. Here you can set how and when Windows asks you for feedback, and change what device data it sends to Microsoft. This option will probably say 'Full (Recommended)' by default. You can't disable it completely, but you can switch it to Basic, which stops your PC sending



Stop Windows 10 sending data about your activities to Microsoft

diagnostics data and 'enhanced insights' about how you use the apps installed on your PC and how stable they are.

If you want even greater control, you can use Spybot Anti-Beacon (bit.ly/anti-beacon407) to adjust a host of hidden telemetry settings in Windows 10. See our Mini Workshop below to find out how to use the program.

Stop Windows 10 spying on you

As well as addressing
Microsoft's telemetry
gathering, you might want to
take control of other details
Windows 10 records. The
Privacy section of Settings
contains lots of options that you can
enable or disable, but they're spread
over numerous categories. This
confusing arrangement makes it much
harder to find everything, let alone work
out what you should be changing. For
total peace of mind, you'll want to make
sure you don't miss anything important.

Thankfully, there are plenty of third-party apps that gather all the privacy settings together, making it easier to find and disable those you don't like. Try O&O ShutUp10 (bit.ly/shutup407) or Windows 10 Privacy Fixer (bit.ly/privfix407), both of which list all the privacy options from across Windows 10 in one place.



O&O ShutUp10 makes it easier to find and change your privacy settings in Windows 10

Skip the Windows 10 login screen

If you're the only person who uses your PC, you can save time by setting it to bypass the Login screen and boot to the Desktop. Open the Start menu and type run. Press Enter, and type netplwiz into the Run box. Click OK and highlight your account. Untick 'Users must enter a username and password to use this computer'. Click Apply, then enter your password twice and confirm it.

To check that it has worked, reboot your PC and it should go straight to the Desktop. If you want to restore the Login screen, repeat the process but tick the 'Users must enter a username and password to use this computer' box.

Ö

MINI WORKSHOP | Block telemetry gathering using Spybot Anti-Beacon



Spybot Anti-Beacon was designed to block telemetry tracking in Windows 10, but it works in earlier versions, too. You can install it or use the portable version if you prefer. Run the program, and it will tell you that no protection has been applied yet. Click 'Show options' if you want to view advanced details.



From the 'Show options' screen, you can choose what to block. Click the Immunize button 1 and the software will block all the telemetry elements (or just those you selected), leaving your computer fully protected. 2 Click Undo 1 if you want to roll back the changes and allow telemetry gathering again.



The Optional tab 1 displays other items you can block. Click the Apply button next to an item to block it 2 or Undo 5 to reverse a change. Don't block something unless you know exactly what it does, because this might cause a feature you use to stop working. The Log tab 4 lists all the changes you've made.

How to hack Windows 10's secret settings



CHANGE THE WAY WINDOWS 10 LOOKS

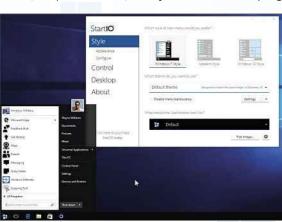
Customise the Start menu

There are several ways to customise Start in Windows 10, but the easiest is to use Windows' own settings. Click Start, open Settings then click Personalisation and select Start. From here you can change the number of tiles that appear in Start and toggle 'suggestions' (essentially adverts) on or off. You can also show your 'most used' and 'recently added' apps, and switch between a Start menu and a Start screen. What's more, you can choose which folders - such as File Explorer, Settings, Downloads Pictures, and Network - appear on Start.



An easy way to hack the Start menu is to change Personalisation settings

If you want to make more advanced changes – such as replacing Windows 10's Start menu with a Windows 7-style version – the excellent Classic Shell tool (www.classicshell.net) is ideal. This free program lets you apply dozens of customisations – read our Mini Workshop on the right to find out how to use it. Other useful customisation tools include IObit Start Menu 8 (bit.ly/sm8-407) – which, despite its name, is fully

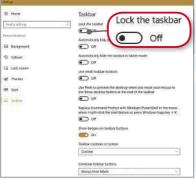


Take complete control of your Start menu using the paid-for program Start10

compatible with Windows 10 - and the highly sophisticated Start10 (bit.ly/start10-407), which costs \$4.99 (£3.82). A free 30-day trial is available, but make sure you reject the offer to install Fences when installing the software.

Tweak the Windows 10 Taskbar

There are plenty of changes you can make to the Windows 10 taskbar too. To access Windows' own controls, right-click the taskbar and go to Settings. The window that opens includes options to lock the taskbar, hide it in Desktop or tablet mode, use small taskbar buttons, show badges on buttons (to indicate that you have unread messages, for example) and choose a different location for the bar (left, right, top or bottom). You can also combine taskbar buttons, choose which notifications appear and – if



Windows 10 gives you greater control over the taskbar than ever before

you have more than one monitor attached to your PC - specify which screens the taskbar appears on.

If you'd like to go further than Windows 10's options allow, try 7+ Taskbar Tweaker (bit.ly/7tt407). This free program was originally

> designed for Windows 7, but it works with all later versions of Microsoft's operating system, including Windows 10 Anniversary Update. All the program's tweaks are presented on a single screen, with categories that include Taskbar Items, Grouping and Combining, and Other. You can

MINI WORKSHOP Replace Windows 10's Start menu with Classic Shell

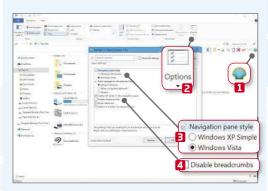


Once you've installed Classic Shell, click the Start button and you'll see that the Windows 10 menu has been replaced by a Windows 7-style one. Instead of tiles, you'll see a list of programs 1 and a sidebar showing common file locations and Windows settings. 2 You can search for programs and files here.



To customise the new menu, right-click the Start button and select Settings.

Classic Shell offers three different customisable Start menu styles, 1 and you can even replace the default Start button with an alternative. 2 Adjust the menu's behaviour under Basic Settings and customise its look under Skin. 4



As well as replacing the Start menu,
Classic Shell lets you customise File
Explorer. To do this, click the Shell button or, if it isn't there, the down arrow under
Options, and select Classic Explorer Bar.
You can change the navigation pane style and other options, such as breadcrumbs.



Make more extensive changes to your taskbar using 7+ Taskbar Tweaker

use the program to apply a range of advanced hacks, such as hiding the Start and Show Desktop buttons, and reserving empty space on the taskbar.

Enable the dark theme

Windows 10 Anniversary Update comes with a dark theme that completely changes the look of the operating system, including the Start menu and apps. To switch to this smart new theme, click Start and open Settings. Click Personalisation, then click the Colours option on the left. Scroll to the bottom and you'll see an entry that says 'Choose your app mode'. Change this from Light to Dark, then turn off the options 'Make Start, taskbar, and action centre transparent', 'Show colour on Start, taskbar, and action centre' and 'Show colour on title bar'.

This change isn't applied to every program or feature in Windows - some,



Windows 10's new dark theme gives the OS a smarter, if more sombre, look

such as File Explorer, remain in light mode. But it certainly looks stylish.

DISABLE THE FEATURES YOU HATE

Remove Cortana from your PC's Lock screen

The Windows 10 Anniversary Update puts Cortana on your Lock screen so that you can use the personal assistant without needing to sign into or unlock your PC. If you never use Cortana, this change will seem pointless and perhaps

Settings

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Change Cortana's settings to stop it appearing on Windows 10's lock screen

even
annoying,
but
disabling
the feature
is easy.
Just click
the
Cortana
button
next to
Start,
choose

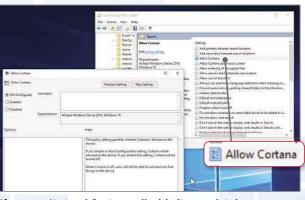
Settinas

and flick the 'Lock screen' toggle to Off.

Disable Cortana completely

Microsoft's personal assistant Cortana is useful for lots of things, such as searching the web, setting reminders, identifying a song that's playing, performing calculations and checking the weather, but if you have no use for

it, or you prefer to search for things in the more traditional way, you can disable the feature. In the Anniversary Update, Microsoft made Cortana much harder to kill by removing the 'Off' switch in 'Cortana and search settings', but you can disable it anyway using the



If you can't stand Cortana, disable it completely

Group Policy Editor. This is available in the 'professional' versions of Windows 10 but not the Home edition.

To curtail Cortana in the professional versions, click Start, type <code>gpedit.msc</code> and hit enter. Navigate to Computer Configuration, Administrative Templates, Windows Components, Search. Locate the Allow Cortana option and double-click it. Select Disabled, then click Apply and OK to turn off the feature.

Windows 10 Home users will need to apply a Registry tweak (the only one in this feature!) instead. Click Start, type regedit and press Enter. Navigate to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ Policies\Microsoft\Windows\Windows Search. Right-click Windows Search and select New, Dword (32-bit) Value. Call this AllowCortana, then double-click it. Set its value to 0 and click OK.

Hide the Windows Defender icon

Some users who upgrade to the Anniversary Edition report seeing a new icon for Windows Defender appear in the System Tray. If you don't want it there you can get rid of it in one of two ways. The first is to right-click the

Uninstall unwanted apps

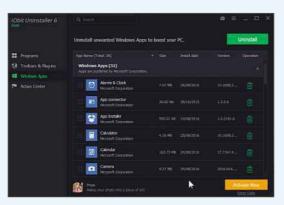
Windows 10 comes bundled with some apps you're never likely to use, such as 3D Builder, Groove Music, Candy Crush Soda Saga and Feedback Hub. To remove any you don't want, go to Start, Settings, System and select 'Apps &

features' on the left. Select an unwanted app and click the Uninstall button for it.

You can remove unwanted

apps in bulk by using IObit
Uninstaller 6 (bit.ly/
uninstaller405). Select
Windows Apps on the left,
then click the Windows Apps
heading and pick the ones
you don't want. Click
Uninstall to remove them all.

We'll be taking a closer look at uninstalling unwanted software in next issue's cover feature.



Use IObit Uninstaller to get rid of any Windows 10 apps you don't want

How to hack Windows 10's secret settings

COVER

taskbar and select Task Manager. Click the More Details button, then click the Start-up tab. Select the 'Windows Defender notification' entry, click the Disable button and restart your PC (or log off and back on again). When Windows restarts, the icon will be gone.

The other option is to click Start and type icons. Click 'Select which icons appear on the taskbar' and disable the icon from there.

Remove your empty agenda from the clock

If you click the taskbar clock in Windows 10 Anniversary Update, you'll see a calendar and daily agenda below that. If you don't use the calendar app and never schedule events in Windows, the feature serves no purpose, and being reminded of your empty agenda every day may even prove depressing. You can easily banish this element by clicking the 'Hide agenda' option in the bottom-right corner, or if you prefer you can remove it entirely.

To do this, click Start, Settings and select Privacy. Click Calendar on the left-hand side and, in the right-hand pane, toggle 'Let apps access my calendar' to Off. Now when you click the clock, the agenda will be gone.

It's worth pointing out that some apps, including People, require access to the calendar to work properly, so bear this mind if you use any of them.



Nothing on the agenda today? Then why not get rid of the agenda altogether?

THE RISE OF WINDOWS 10

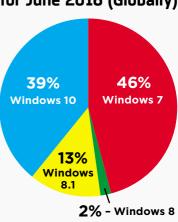
According to official figures from Microsoft (bit.ly/wintrends407), Windows 10 accounted for 39% of the global Windows market in June, just behind Windows 7, which had 46%. In the UK and US, the share was even higher, with Windows 10 on 51% and 50% respectively, versus 36% and 38% for Windows 7. Those figures are for PC and tablet but not phone. Microsoft records Windows installations, so the figures include PCs that haven't been sold yet, and ignores older versions, such as Vista and XP. However, with three more months to factor in since June, Windows 10 may already have overtaken Windows 7 globally, which is a massive achievement.

The figures are at odds with those from NetMarketShare (netmarketshare.com), however, which records usage rather than installations, and places Windows 10 at 23% globally in August, dwarfed by Windows 7 on 47%. XP still has around 9%.

Whichever figures you believe, Windows 10 is doing well and, surprisingly, the recent switch from free to paid hasn't had much of an impact on the new operating system's growth - at least not vet.



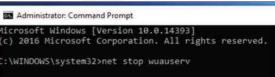
Microsoft's figures for June 2016 (Globally)



Pause automatic updates

Windows 10 automatically downloads updates in the background. Thankfully, the Anniversary Update lets you set Active Hours to stop the OS installing updates and restarting your system while you're busy. Open Start, and click the Settings button, then go to 'Update & security' and specify your Active Hours there.

You can also pause updates through the Command Prompt. Rightclick the Start button and select 'Command Prompt (Admin)'. Type net stop wuauserv and press Enter, then type net stop bits, and press Enter again. Finally type net stop dosvc. Press Enter, then close the window. To resume downloads, open Command Prompt (Admin) and type net start wuauserv, and Press Enter. Type net start bits and press Enter again. Finally, type net start dosvc, press Enter and close the window.



You can hack Windows 10 to stop it downloading updates automatically

on sale Wednesday 19 October 2016

NINSTA COMPLETE

Remove every trace of programs, plugins and other PC tools that you no longer want or need



OCONTROL YOUR UPDATES

Get the latest features and fixes whenever you want

OBUILD A HOME ARCADE

Turn your PC into every retro games console ever

OMOBILE SCANNING APPS

Capture and convert text using your phone or tablet

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You don't need to pay to get good video-editing software. **Edward Munn** rounds up six of the best free tools for creating perfect home movies



Windows Movie Maker | bit.ly/essential407 | ★★★★☆

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

What we liked:

WebUser GOLD AWARD

From 10 January 2017,
Microsoft will withdraw
Windows Movie Maker
and the other programs in
the Windows Essentials
2012 bundle from its
website. That's a shame,

because although Windows Movie Maker hasn't had a major update for several years, we think it still offers the best combination of usability and tools of all the video editors in this roundup.

Importing your raw footage is as simple as dragging and dropping video clips (or images if you're making a slide show) to the program. Once there, they appear on a simple timeline where you can reorder, trim or split them with frame-by-frame precision. Clicking the Animation or Visual Effects tabs lets you add a wide range of transitions and effects to your clips, and you can preview each one simply by hovering your cursor over it. To add a soundtrack, you can either drag and drop music files of your choice or click 'Add music'. The program even lets you add a personal commentary by clicking 'Record narration'.

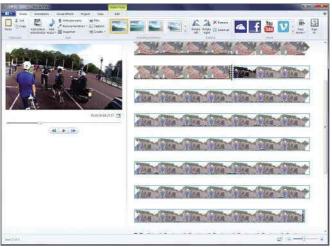
It's rarely practical to have the video's audio and your incidental music at the same volume throughout a movie, so

Movie Maker gives you full control over the 'Video volume' for every clip, and you can split audio tracks where necessary to change the music's volume for a particular section. The program's handy 'Fade in' and 'Fade out' tools also help ensure there are no abrupt start or end points on your video's soundtrack.

Movie Maker includes all the tools you need to put together a typical home video, including options to speed up or slow down your clips and add title or credit screens. Unlike many of its competitors, it doesn't impose any restrictions on file formats or resolution, and it includes handy tools for sharing your project through Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo and OneDrive.

How it can be improved:

Our main criticism of Windows Movie Maker is that the current version won't be supported for much longer. However, Microsoft has promised



that it will soon be available from the Windows Store for Windows 10 users, so it may have a future yet. We also found Movie Maker a little slow when working with very large files.

OUR VERDICT

Movie Maker remains the free video editor to beat, thanks to its user-friendly interface and strong set of tools. There's no better program to install if you're embarking on your first video edit, so download it while you still can.

Video-editing software

VSDC Free | bit.ly/vsdc407 | ★★★★☆

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

What we liked:

VSDC is one of the most powerful free video editors available. As well as tools for making basic edits such as splitting clips and speeding up or slowing down footage, it offers a range

of advanced video effects including transformations, filters and colour adjustments. You can add text, shapes and animations, and the program includes advanced audio-editing tools.

Unlike our other award winners, VSDC lets you manage your media files in layers, as you can with the best imageediting software, which gives you an unmatched level of control. The editor supports all popular video and audio formats, and offers handy presets for exporting your videos to different devices. Even though it's the free version of paid-for software, VSDC imposes no significant restrictions and includes useful tools for screen capturing and creating slideshows.

Since our last round-up in Issue 355 (bit.ly/webuser355), VSDC's makers have introduced a 'Get Started' guide,



and an impressive range of web-based articles to help you use the program.

How it can be improved:

Although VSDC offers more helpful documentation than ever before, it's still harder to get to grips with than either of our other award winners. Its interface is a little cluttered, too.

OUR VERDICT

VSDC has some of the best features of all the free video editors we tested, but you'll need to set aside time to learn how to use them. It's ideal for ambitious video editors who want more control, though.

.....

BEST OF THE REST

DaVinci Resolve

bit.ly/davinci407

DaVinci Resolve is primarily a colour-correction tool but it offers professional-level video editing too. While experienced video editors will get to grips with the interface straight away, novices are likely to find the abundance of tools overwhelming. We also found that the program took ages to install and

run, so we'd recommend trying one of our award winners instead. unless vou have a very powerful PC.



Lightworks

bit.ly/lightworks407

This professional-level software was used to edit classic films including Pulp Fiction, LA Confidential and Heat. If you simply want to assemble a handful of clips from a recent holiday, you'll find that figuring out how to use the program is more trouble than it's worth. It'll reward those who are attempting more ambitious edits with its

unrivalled power and precision, although the free version has limited export options.



Shotcut

bit.ly/shotcut407

Shotcut is a powerful open-source video editor for Windows, Linux and Mac. Like our award winners, it lets you build a montage by trimming and splitting your clips and arranging them on a timeline. It supports a wide range of formats and includes an impressive array of video effects and filters. Despite its relatively simple interface, however,

we found it confusing, and even simple tasks such as adding a soundtrack felt like hard work.



Vidiot | bit.ly/vidiot407 | ★★★☆

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

WebUser BRONZE AWARD

What we liked:

Vidiot is a lightweight video editor with all the tools most people will ever need. Once you've imported your video files, you can build your montage

by dragging and dropping clips to reorder them. Simply click and drag the ends of clips to trim their length, and add cross-fade transitions by right-clicking a clip and selecting 'Fade from previous' or 'Fade to next'.

You can change a clip's speed or transparency by selecting it and using the controls in the Details window. Here you can also perform a range of transformations including cropping, rotation and scaling. You can give your movie a soundtrack by importing your own audio files, as with our other award winners, and Vidiot even lets you separate a video clip from its audio track so you can edit them independently. When you've made all your changes, you can preview your montage by jumping to the start and pressing the spacebar. Vidiot then



offers a range of video formats in which to export your creation.

How it can be improved:

Our biggest gripe is that Vidiot doesn't have a tool for splitting clips, but we worked around this by duplicating clips and trimming them. There's no option to overlay a title or credits either.

OUR VERDICT

For quick, simple edits, Vidiot is as good a tool as any, and we love its simplicity. However, if you're looking for a wide range of video effects or transitions, you're better off with one of the other award winners.

Use multiple accounts on the same device

Using the same service on more than one account is easy on a computer, but much trickier on a phone or tablet. Edward Munn reveals a few simple ways to double up

WHATSAPP



Your WhatsApp account is linked to your phone number, which makes it easy for your

friends and family to find you and get in touch. One downside to this, however, is that the app won't let you have more than one account on the same device, even if your phone can accept two SIM cards - see 'Ask the Expert' on page 66. Thankfully, you can get round this by installing an amazing free Android app called Parallel Space (bit.ly/parallel407). This lets you clone many of your apps to a new, virtual environment on your phone, where you can create and use a second, different account.

Unlike many other apps that let you



do this, Parallel Space is available directly from the Google Play store and doesn't require vou to root your device. Just make sure the SIM card for the new account is installed in your device

before setup, because you'll be required to enter an SMS-verification code to complete the process.

If you've just changed your phone number, Parallel Space offers a handy way to use both your old and new number in WhatsApp on the same device. Just remember that WhatsApp only lets you associate each phone

number with one device at a time, so if you set up a new account in Parallel Space, you'll be logged out of WhatsApp on any devices that use the same phone number.

FACEBOOK

Parallel Space lets you clone many popular apps, including Facebook, Twitter, Gmail and Netflix, so you can log into and switch



multiple accounts. If you've already installed the app by following the steps in our first tip, it makes sense to use it for other apps it supports. However,

between

if you'd rather loa

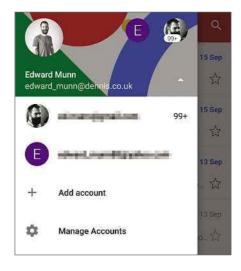
into a second Facebook account without installing any additional apps (perhaps to let a friend access the social network on your device), the easiest way is to use your web browser. Visit www.facebook.com in any browser app, and you can log into an account without being logged out of your Facebook app.

Bear in mind that if the account has two-step authentication activated, you won't be able to log in unless you have already approved the browser, or you have access to the account on another device to approve the log in.

GOOGLE

You can log into multiple Google accounts on your Android device and quickly switch between them, which is very useful if you have different accounts for your work and home lives. The easiest way to add a second Google account is to use the Gmail app. Simply open the app's sidebar and tap the down arrow next to your email address, then choose 'Add account'. Once you've added an account, you can switch to it in any Google app, including Drive, Calendar and Docs, by opening the app's sidebar and tapping the appropriate email address. Selecting 'Manage Accounts' from this menu lets you choose which apps sync with each Google account.

In Gmail, you can choose 'All inboxes' to view all your emails in a single, unified inbox. You can also open the Settings menu to configure each email account, including whether or not it sends you notifications. To delete a Google account, open Accounts from the





Android Settings app and select Google. Tap the account you want to delete, then select the three-dot button and tap 'Remove account'.

INSTAGRAM

Unlike the services we've looked at so far, Instagram lets you log into more than one account directly from its mobile app. To do this, open your profile, tap the three-dot button and swipe all the way down the page until you see Add Account. Tap it and, from the screen



vou can either log in with an existina account or tap the 'Sian up' button to create a new one. Once you've logged in, you can switch between accounts

that

appears,

using the drop-down menu on your profile. Instagram lets you use up to five accounts at once, and if you want to remove an account, tap the three-dot menu button on the appropriate profile and then swipe up until you see the option to 'Log Out of X'. From this menu, you can also select Push Notifications to specify whether or not you want to receive notifications for activity relating to that account.

WITTER

Like Instagram, Twitter lets you log into more than one account from its mobile app, which is handy if you want to post tweets on behalf of a business or club as well as from your own personal account. To log into a second account on the Android app, tap the account thumbnail in the top-left corner, then select the down arrow in the header to open a dropdown menu. From here, you can choose either to 'Create new account' or 'Add existing account', as appropriate. Once you've added a second account, you can switch between them by tapping the down arrow in the header again. If you're using an iOS device, you'll need to select the Accounts icon from the app's Me tab and then select 'More options'. From here, choose either 'Create new account' or 'Add an existing account'. Once you've added an account, you can toggle between them by selecting the Accounts icon again.



APPLE ID

If you want to let your family use iOS apps you've bought but keep your Messages, Photos, FaceTime and other Apple apps to yourself, you can do so using Apple's Family Sharing



Use multiple accounts

feature. Introduced with iOS 8, this lets you share apps, music, ebooks and anything else you've bought from the iTunes Store with up to five other family members by setting up Apple IDs linked to your account. It's even available for children under the age of 13, and an 'Ask to Buy' option is enabled by default so they can't make any purchases without your permission. To enable Family Sharing, open Settings, tap iCloud and choose 'Set up Family Sharing', then follow the instructions on screen.

It's also worth noting that you can sign into iCloud and 'iTunes & App Store' using different Apple IDs on one device. To log into a different iCloud account, simply open Settings, select iCloud and swipe the page up until you see the option to Sign Out at the bottom. To do the same thing for iTunes, tap 'iTunes & App Store' in the Settings menu, select your Apple ID and choose Sign Out. You can also use a different Apple ID account for Messages. To do this, simply open Messages from Settings, tap 'Send & Receive' and you can select your Apple ID to sign out.

ADD GUEST USERS IN ANDROID

If your Android device runs Lollipop or a later version of the operating system, you can allow someone else to use your phone or tablet as a guest, which gives them access to some features but not all the information on your device. To add a new guest user, open the Quick Settings menu by swiping down from the top of any screen with two fingers. Next, tap 'Add quest' or Guest.

If you regularly share your Android device with friends or family, you can set up a new user profile for them so they have their own space to create custom home screens and install apps. To add a new user, open Settings and tap Users, 'Add user' and OK. These features might vary or be unavailable on Android devices from some manufacturers.



Search deeper THAN THE WEB

Typing search queries into Google only gets you so far. **Robert Irvine** explains how to find information, people and content that doesn't appear in web search results

tripady

Search across legal streaming services

There are so many streaming services these days that by the time you've searched them all to find a particular film or TV show, you're probably ready to go to bed. Typing Watch [title] into Google isn't much help because it yields lots of irrelevant results, including YouTube trailers, dodgy torrent sites and silly 'clickbait' articles. A much better option is to use the marvellous JustWatch (www.justwatch.com/uk), which lets you search all the main video-on-demand services in one place. Enter the title of a movie or TV series and JustWatch will scour providers including Netflix, BBC iPlayer, Now TV, ITV Hub, Apple iTunes, Google Play and Prime Instant Video, and tell you exactly where you can stream, rent or buy it. Click a result to open it on the relevant service or add it to you Watch List to view later.

Just Watch also offers free apps for Android and iOS (bit.ly/just407) that let you set price-drop alerts for specific rentals and purchases.



JustWatch shows you where to stream and download TV shows and films

Search across social networks

Although Facebook posts and Twitter tweets often appear in Google search results, the 'walled garden' approach of the big social networks makes it difficult for Google to find specific content. But if you've ever tried using Facebook's own search facility, you'll know how frustrating it can be, despite the company's promise last year to make every public post searchable. Other social-media sites aren't much better, but fortunately help is at hand from Social Searcher (www.socialsearcher.com). This lets you search across all the main social networks from one place and filter your results to find exactly what you're looking for.

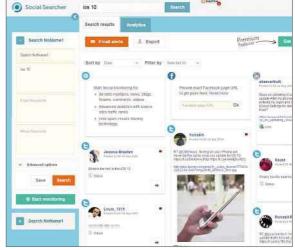
Just type your query into

Social Searcher's search box
to see matches on services including
Twitter, Instagram, Google+, Reddit,
Tumblr, YouTube, Flickr and more,
which you can then sort by date or
popularity. Further options let you
deselect networks you're not interested
in, view only certain types of content
such as photos or status updates, and
even filter results according to their
sentiment – positive, negative or neutral.

You'll notice that we didn't mention Facebook. That's because Mark



Tell Social Searcher which sites to check and the type and tone of content



Use Social Searcher to find information from all the big social networks at once

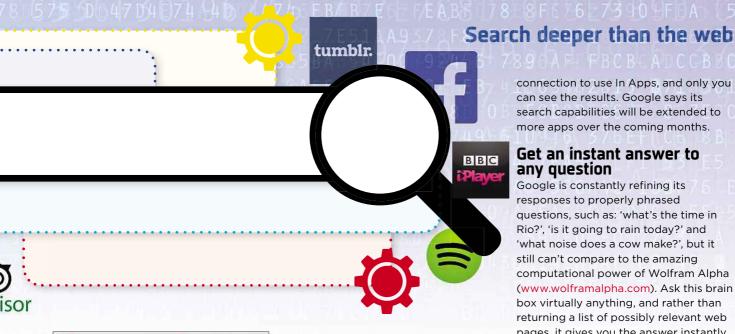
Zuckerberg no longer allows thirdparty search tools unlimited access to his site. However, you can get Social Searcher to scour Facebook by entering the URLs of specific pages, for example https://www.facebook .com/webusermagazine.

The free version of Social Searcher limits you to 100 searches a day, but if you need to make more, you can buy a subscription from £3 a month. This also adds useful features such as socialnetwork monitoring.

Search across onlinestorage accounts

Do you know exactly which of your files are saved in Google Drive, Dropbox and other cloud services? We bet you don't, and neither do we, which means you need to visit each individually when looking for a specific item. Unless, that is, you sign up with the excellent Xendo (xen.do), which lets you search multiple online accounts simultaneously and find any file in seconds.

Simply register with the site, select the services you use from the list – which includes Dropbox, Google Drive, OneDrive, Box, Pocket, Evernote and



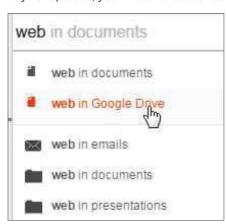


Connect your online storage accounts to Xendo to search them all at once

Gmail - and Xendo will index the contents of your accounts. Once it has built an index, Xendo automatically keeps it up to date by adding, removing and updating content as it changes.

To search across all your services, either type a search query into the Xendo website or install the Chrome extension (bit.ly/xendo407) to look for files from anywhere on the web. Matching documents, photos and other items appear instantly in the results list, and can be filtered by date, type and service. Double-click a result to open it.

Xendo is free to use, but if you want to search back further than the last 30 days of uploads, you'll need to subscribe

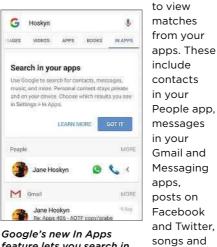


Search for a term in Xendo to find matching files in your storage accounts

for \$9 (£6.99) per month. It uses AES-256 bit encryption and has no direct access to your files, which are still stored on each service's servers.

Search within apps on your

Google has owned Android since 2005, so it's surprising that the search giant has taken so long to apply its powers to mobile apps. Similar to the Spotlight feature in iOS, Google's handy new In Apps search mode (bit.ly/inapps406) makes it easy to find content that's stored within apps on your phone or tablet, without you needing to open them first. To use the feature, either open the Google app on your search device or tap the Google search-box widget and type or speak your search query as usual. When the results appear, swipe the menu bar to the left and tap the In Apps option



feature lets you search in Android apps

and YouTube, TripAdvisor reviews, BBC News stories and much more.

videos on

Spotify

You can control exactly which apps are included in the search by going into Settings, selecting In Apps and deselecting any you want the feature to ignore. You don't need an internet

connection to use In Apps, and only you can see the results. Google says its search capabilities will be extended to more apps over the coming months.

Get an instant answer to any question

Google is constantly refining its responses to properly phrased questions, such as: 'what's the time in Rio?', 'is it going to rain today?' and 'what noise does a cow make?', but it still can't compare to the amazing computational power of Wolfram Alpha (www.wolframalpha.com). Ask this brain box virtually anything, and rather than returning a list of possibly relevant web pages, it gives you the answer instantly. Its knowledge spans everything from mathematical equations and scientific facts (the largest known star is V1489 Cygni, apparently) to showbiz trivia and Scrabble scores for specific words, making Wolfram Alpha the tool you wish you'd had to hand during exams.



Wolfram Alpha has lots of useful search tools that you won't find in Google

Secret features that you certainly don't get in Google include an anagram maker (type anagrams followed by a word), image-editing tools such as cropping, filters and colour processing (see bit.ly/image407 for the full list), a rhyming dictionary (type words that rhyme with [word]), a Morse Code translator and much more.

Wolfram Alpha also has an Image Identification Project (www .imageidentify.com) that goes further than Google's reverse-image search by guessing the subject of a picture - with varying degrees of success!



The Image Identification Project tells you the subject of photos you upload



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	Provider	Package name	Monthly price	Contract length	Broadband speed	Allowance	First-year cost*
1	sky	Sky: Broadband	£10.00 (FREE for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	○○ unlimited	£0.00
2	E	EE: Broadband	£10.00 (£1.00 for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited **	£12.00
3	TalkTalk	TalkTalk: Broadband	£7.50 (£3.75 for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	onlimited	£45.00
4	Virgin media	Virgin: Broadband	£26.00 (£12.00 for 12 months)	12 months	50Mbps max speed	unlimited	£144.00

Terms & Conditions apply - see ISP sites for details

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

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Take a Screen Break

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

WEB USER WORD SEARCH

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

BBC IPLAYER BT TV FREESAT FREEVIEW ITV HUB NETFLIX NOW TV PRIME VIDEO **YOUTUBE YOUVIEW**

Z D Z K T U

CAN YOU GUESS THESE EIGHTIES SONGS FROM THE EMOJI?

WORTH

£80

EACH

Get the answers online at bit.ly/quiz407

COMPETITIONS

WIN 1 OF 5

Penclic B2 ergonomic mice

Available through Posturite's website, the Penclic B2 Bluetooth mouse helps to minimise the effects of repetitive strain injury (RSI). Its vertical design leads to a more relaxed, comfortable and natural grip. It swings freely on a gliding base, so you can swipe and glide with or without a mousepad. To enter, email your address

to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'penclic' in the subject line. For more info, visit Posturite's website (www .posturite.co.uk) and follow Penclic on Twitter @Penclic.

settings and passwords. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'AV1200' in the subject line. For more info, visit TP-Link's website (http://uk .tp-link.com) and follow TP-Link on Twitter @TPLINKUK.



WORTH

£119



Turn your PC into a home entertainment centre | kodi.tv

Stop mourning the loss of Microsoft's Windows Media Center - open-source alternative Kodi is filling the gap admirably. Here's how to use it

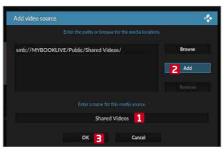
odi, the free, open-source media centre software formerly known as XBMC, is having the finishing touches added to its latest version. Currently in beta, version 17 (or Krypton) has been radically redesigned, with a streamlined interface that lets you access your movies, music and photos as soon as you launch it. Adding new items to your library is now even easier

than before, and new search, tagging and navigation tools place everything you want to watch and listen to at your fingertips.

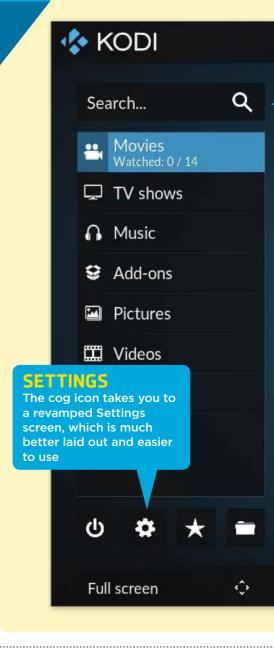
This versatile software is available for most operating systems. You can even install it on an old PC or Raspberry Pi as an operating system in its own right to make a dedicated media player that sits by your TV.



To add content to Kodi, click the type of entertainment you want, then click 'Enter files section'. In the browser, choose 'Add videos' (or whatever it is you're adding) then Browse for the source – this can be your hard drive or a network drive.



When you've selected the file or folder of files, click OK. Give the source a name 1 so you can find it again later. You can include more than one folder, drive or network location in this named source by clicking the Add button and browsing to them. 2 Click OK.





In the 'Set content' box, click 'This directory contains' to tell the software what types of files are included.

I Kodi will assign an information provider to supply details, such as a synopsis and actor info for movies.

Settings lets you choose whether to add things like YouTube trailers.



You can view this additional information by right-clicking a film on the main screen and selecting Information. Click on an actor 1 to see other films you have with them in. Use the buttons to play the movie, watch the trailer 2 and see films by the same director.



Once you've added files, you can hover the mouse over the menu item in the home screen to see a selection of appropriate thumbnails. Click a thumbnail to start it playing or you can browse through more options using the icons at the top to sort them by date, genre, actor or tag.





The Music section has been significantly improved and is now as dynamic as the Movie section. The main menu shows recently added and random albums, 11 or you can click on the icons 2 to select different views of your music collection, such as Artist, Album or Top 100.



You can now access your add-ons and download new ones through a single menu button. 1 Add-ons provide extra tools and channels, and you can browse and download them through the 'Kodi Add-on repository' icon. 2 Once installed, add-ons appear as thumbnails in the menu. 🖪



If you have a touchscreen, you can switch to Kodi's new Estouchy interface, which has bigger buttons 1 that are easier to use on smaller screens. Click the Settings icon 2 and choose 'Interface settings'. Highlight Skin and click the Skin option. Change it to Estouchy and accept the change.



Protect your data for free with paid-for backup software

Paragon Backup and Recovery 16: bit.ly/paragon407 | 🕒 30 mins | 灪 7, 8, 10

hen it comes to security software, the free options are often stripped-back versions of paid-for alternatives. Although a savvy user can make the best of free software, you usually find that compromises have been made somewhere.

That makes this particular freebie all the more impressive. Paragon is offering the latest version of its paid-for Backup and Recovery software completely free, but only for a limited time. The software costs \$39.95 (around £30) but is available to download for free from Paragon's website until 1 November.

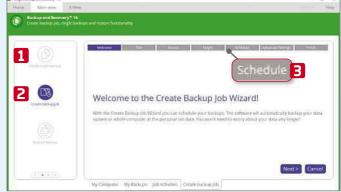
New tools in this latest version include step-by-step wizards that guide you through the process of creating backups, which could protect your precious data in the case of catastrophe.

You need a free Paragon account to receive the serial number and launch the software. If you don't already have one, you have the option to create one from the software's splash screen, which appears when you first run the program.

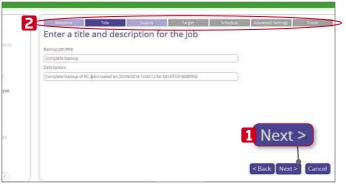




When you launch the software, it opens on the 'Main view' tab. 1 Here you can see a representation of any hard drives installed in your PC, as well as any partitions they're divided into. 2 If you have any external drives plugged into your PC, they will be listed here, too.



The 'Create single backup' 🗓 and 'Create backup job' 🔁 options do almost the same thing, except the step-bystep wizard for the latter includes a step for creating a schedule. El Click the one you want. The 'job' option is better because it creates regular backups automatically.



Work through the wizard, clicking Next 11 to proceed through the tabs. 2 You can't skip ahead until you've finished each screen, but you can click the heading of a tab you've already completed if you want to go back and make changes.



The Source tab 1 is where you choose exactly what you want to back up - either the entire PC, entire drives, partitions, groups of files or individual files and folders. 2 Tell the program where to save your backup in the Target tab **B** that follows.

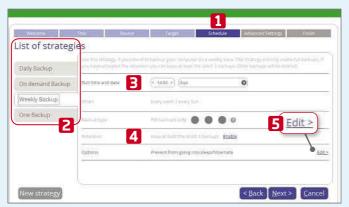




EXPERT TIP

Andy Shaw says

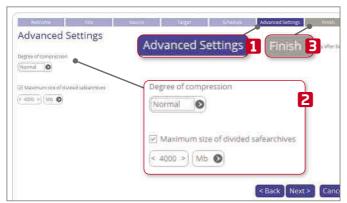
Click Settings on the Home tab to explore the options available. In the Include/Exclude section, for example, you can create filters that tell the software to ignore certain types of files you don't need to back up, such as temporary (TMP) files. It's also a good idea to use the Recovery Media Builder to create a USB boot drive that can restore your backup even if your hard drive fails.



The Schedule tab 🗓 only appears if you are creating a 'job'. Choose an option from the 'List of strategies' depending on how often you want to back up. You can select a time and day (if appropriate) for your backups, **E** control how many backups it keeps 4 and edit the options. 5



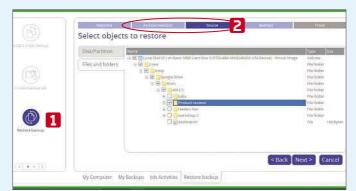
If none of the strategies suits your needs, you can create your own by clicking the 'New strategy' button. 11 This saves your settings so you can apply them to future backups. Give your strategy a name 2 and work through the other tabs to select the settings you require.



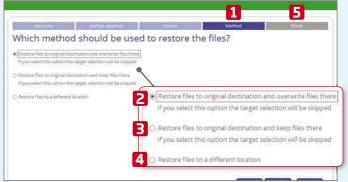
The Advanced Settings tab 11 lets you choose the type of compression to use and set a maximum file size, which is important for FAT32 drives. 2 From the Finish tab 3 you can run the backup now or at the time you've set. Tick 'Create initial backup now' and click Finish to get started immediately.



The program displays a progress bar 11 while it's creating a backup. If you need to cancel the backup for any reason, click the cross. 2 You can explore the rest of the interface while the job is running, so take the opportunity to look at the Home tab **B** options mentioned in our Expert Tip.



If you ever need to restore your backup, select the 'Restore backup' icon 🚺 and work through the step-bystep instructions, as you did when creating it. Make sure you choose the correct backup file in the 'Archive selection' and Source tabs. 2



In the Method tab, **1** you can choose how to restore your data. You can overwrite the files that are there, 2 replace the old files but rename them so nothing is lost **3** or restore the backup to a different location. **4** When you're ready, choose 'Restore now' from the Finish tab.



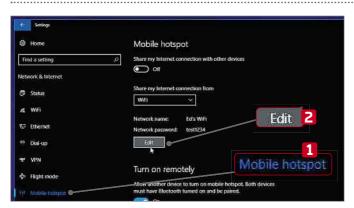
Boost your Wi-Fi using your PC

indows 10's brilliant new 'Mobile hotspot' feature lets you extend your wireless network without any additional hardware. This makes it very useful if you have weak or nonexistent Wi-Fi coverage in a room that's

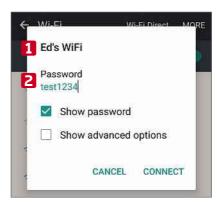
closer to your PC than to your router. Don't worry if you haven't upgraded to Windows 10, because there's a simple tool you can install that does the same thing in Windows 7 and 8.



Windows 10 Mobile Hotspot | 🕒 10 mins | ಶ 10 (Anniversary Update), 7, 8



Open the Settings app in Windows 10 Anniversary Update, click 'Network & Internet' and choose 'Mobile hotspot' from the sidebar. 11 If you want a new name or password for your shared connection, click Edit 2 and change the 'Network name' and 'Network password' before clicking Save.



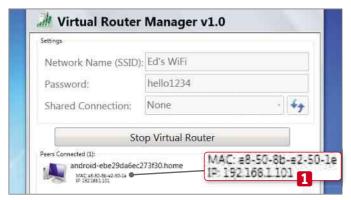
Check that Windows is set to share internet from the correct source, then click the switch to 'Share my internet connection with other devices'. Once you've done that, you can search for the Wi-Fi network on the device you want to connect, select it 1 and enter the password. 2



In Windows 10's Settings you can see how many devices are connected, 11 as well as the name, 22 IP address 53 and MAC address 4 of each one. By default, the 'Mobile hotspot' is set to 'Turn on remotely' when it detects a paired Bluetooth device, but you can switch this off if you prefer.



To share your wireless connection in Windows 7 or 8, you need to download and install Virtual Router (free from virtualrouter.codeplex.com). Launch the software, enter a name 1 and password 2 for your shared wireless connection and choose the internet source you want to share.



Click the button to Start Virtual Router, then open your device's wireless settings to search for and connect to the network. As with Windows 10's 'Mobile hotspot', you can monitor how many devices are connected and see information including their name, IP address and MAC address. 11



To help you see which devices are connected, you can give each a different icon. Right-click a connected device, select Properties and click Change Icon. If you minimise Virtual Router, you can restore it from the Notification Area. 1 Once you've finished sharing Wi-Fi, click Stop Virtual Router.



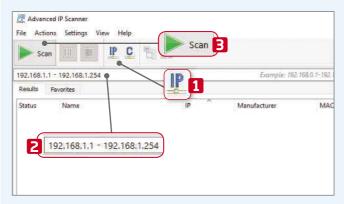
Control every PC on your network from your own

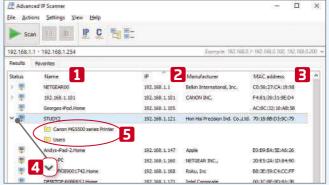
f you have more than one PC on your network, there will be times when you find you're sitting at the wrong one. Perhaps you need a file from another computer, or you just want to shut down a PC that no-one is using without having

to get up and walk to another room. Advanced IP Scanner provides tools for a variety of remote tasks, which you can perform without leaving your chair.



Advanced IP Scanner: bit.ly/ipscan407 | 🕒 10 mins | ಿ XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10

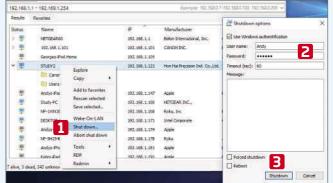




Download and run the software, then choose whether to install it or run it as a portable program. When it's started, press the IP button. 🚺 This enters the range of available IP addresses on your current network into the address bar below. 2 Press the Scan button. 3

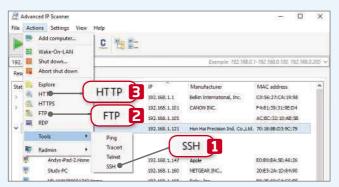
The program scans your network for devices, and displays any it finds in the list below, showing the name, 1 IP address 2 and MAC address. 1 If there's an arrow to the left of the Status icon, 4 click it to view the devices and shared folders available on it. 5

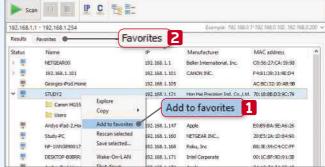




If a PC is sharing files and folders, 11 you can doubleclick to open them in an Explorer window. 2 You can then browse through and open files as if they were stored on the PC in front of you.

Shut down or wake up a PC by right-clicking it and selecting the appropriate option. <a>I Enter the username and password for the PC you want to control 🛭 and choose from the options. 3 You may need to set up the other PC and its security software to allow shutdown commands.





The Actions menu has further options, but most require you to install helper programs first. SSH 11 is handy for controlling a Linux computer, such as a Raspberry Pi, that has no keyboard or screen attached. You can use FTP 2 to transfer files and HTTP **1** to browse web pages.

If you have a lot of extra devices cluttering the list, such as phones, tablets and TV streamers, you can add your PCs to your favourites to filter them. Right-click a PC and select 'Add to favorites'. 1 Click the Favorites tab 2 to see them.

Weekend Project

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





Become your household's IT helpdesk

Are you the person your friends and family call on when their PC is broken? Wayne Williams shows you how to provide the best support



Restrict Windows accounts

Many IT departments place restrictions on how employees use their computers. Typically, they'll stop you installing your own software, accessing certain websites (such as Facebook and Gmail) and sending enormous files. It's annoying, sure, but the IT department has the company's interests at heart – and, after all, you're there to work, not use your PC for fun. More importantly, the

support staff don't want you doing anything that might cause them extra work, such as inadvertently spreading a virus across the network.

You can take a leaf out of the IT department's book and lock down your home computers in the same way. This lets you control when your children (for example) can use a PC or access the internet, as well as manage which sites they can and can't visit.

There are plenty of free parental control programs you can use to limit your children's computer and internet use. Qustodio (www.qustodio.com) is particularly good, and is available for Windows and Mac, as well as Android, iOS and even Kindle. The free version lets you protect one user on one device, but you can upgrade to Premium 5 (to protect five users on five devices) for £32.95 a year. If you don't want to install



The free version of Qustodio only protects one child on one device

any extra software, try Family Safety (bit.ly/famsafe407). A parental control suite that's built into Windows 8 and upwards, it lets you manage your family's digital life across Windows PCs, Xbox and Windows phones.

If it's not just children vou're concerned about. you can use a program such as FrontFace Lockdown Tool (bit.ly/ frontface407) to limit what Windows accounts can do. If the entire family shares a PC, for example, you can use this program to stop others making changes you don't want, or potentially screwing things up. We show you how to set it up in our Mini Workshop, below.

The program is really designed for turning a PC into a public kiosk

Use the Windows Group Policy Editor (if you have it) to restrict people's access to certain programs



Microsoft Family Safety is available in all newer versions of Windows

terminal, but it works just as well in a home environment. You can't lock down everything you might want to - the Registry Editor is still available, for example - but it gives you enough control over things. Best of all, you don't need to install anything - it runs from a USB memory stick, which makes changing policies on several PCs simple.

If you only want to limit access to specific programs on a particular PC, you can use the Group Policy Editor, which is built into some editions of Windows although not Home, sadly. Click Start, type gpedit.msc and press Enter to launch the tool. Under Local Computer Policy, navigate to Computer Configuration, Windows Settings, Security Settings, Application Control Policies, AppLocker. Click on 'Configure rule enforcement', then click Configured under 'Executable rules'. Click OK, then click on Executable Rules. Right-click and select Create New Rule, and follow the steps in the wizard. You can apply your rules to a specific user or group, which is useful if you share one PC with several family members.

Manage multiple computers using CCleaner Cloud

CCleaner (www.piriform.com) is a superb, free PC cleaner than can remove junk files and reclaim space on your hard drive. There's much more to the program than that, though, because it can also fix Registry errors, manage startup entries, remove browser plugins, analyse hard drives, find duplicate files and more.

CCleaner Cloud (bit.ly/cccloud407), as the name suggests, is an online version of the program, but with a twist. It lets you manage multiple PCs over the internet and alerts you when a drive is nearly full, a computer has crashed, software has been installed, and so on.

You're not limited to CCleaner's tools either, as it also brings in Piriform's other



MINI WORKSHOP | Restrict Windows elements using FrontFace Lockdown Tool



To begin the process of locking down your PC, click Startup & Shutdown. 1 From here you can set up auto login, so there's no need to enter a password each time Windows starts. You can also choose a favourite program, such as a web browser, to open automatically when the PC starts. Select this under Custom. 4

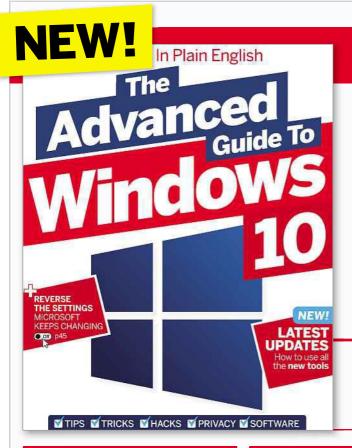


In the Continuous Operation section, 💶 you can disable the screensaver 🔼 and Windows wallpaper, mute audio, block updates 3 and stop USB memory sticks and DVDs running automatically, which helps to protect your computers from viruses and other malware. The Protection & Security section 4 offers even more tools to lock down your PC.



Under Protection & Security, you can make sure the firewall is active, 1 and disable Windows tools such as the task manager. 2 You can also view the settings for each user account on the PC [3] and restart or shut down Windows. 4 Use the icons at the top of the screen 5 to apply the changes, discard them or restore the defaults.

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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THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO FREE SOFTWARE

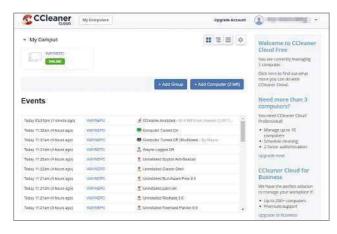
Free software can be a worry. Is it as good as a paid-for package? Will it sneak junk on



to your PC? Does it nag you to update to a premium version? In our new 148-page book *The Definitive Guide to Free Software*, we recommend only the best free programs that deliver high-quality features and no nasty surprises.

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CCleaner Cloud can manage three computers for free

from wherever you are - is incredibly handy. It means you can access a home computer from the office to solve a problem, for example. You can even log into a PC from your mobile phone, so you can provide assistance to someone else in your house without even

getting up from the settee.

Perhaps the best tool for the job is TeamViewer (www.teamviewer.com), a

multi-platform tool that lets you access your computer or mobile device from any other computer or device. It works on Windows, macOS, Linux, Chrome OS, iOS, Android, Windows Phone and BlackBerry. You can take complete control of another device, copy files between them, set polices, chat by text or voice, view video and listen to audio. It's very easy to use too.

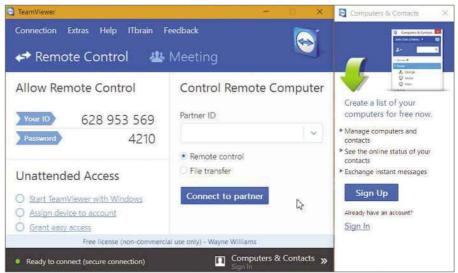
Another option is Chrome Remote Desktop (bit.ly/crdesk407). This Chrome add-on lacks the power and flexibility of TeamViewer (there are no mobile apps available for it, for example), but as long as all the PCs you want to manage have Chrome installed on them, it could be the perfect solution.

programs, Speccy (PC analyser) and Defraggler (hard drive defragmenter). There are some restrictions to be aware of when using the free version: you're limited to managing up to three computers, and viewing 100 events per day. It also stores only two months' worth of events. That should be enough for most, but if you need to manage more computers and want access to additional tools, such as scheduled cleaning and defragging, you can upgrade to the Pro version for \$5 (around £3.85) a month or \$49.95 (£38.48) a year.

When you sign up for CCleaner Cloud, you get a free 14-day trial of the Pro version. Once the trial is over, it reverts to the free edition. We show you how to use it in our Mini Workshop, below.

Access your devices remotely

The ability to access a PC remotely - so you can identify the problem and fix it



TeamViewer lets you connect to any of your PCs or mobile devices from anywhere

MINI WORKSHOP | Manage and maintain your PCs with CCleaner Cloud



Download and install the helper program on the first PC you want to monitor. You can access that computer through the web interface - just log into it from anywhere using your account details. You'll see a summary of its operating system and hardware, 1 as well as a list of events, 2 including any restarts or crashes.



Graphs for Bandwidth, Memory, CPU, and Processes 🚺 show how well the PC is performing. You can also check on the drive space and activity. 2 If you have multiple drives, click the arrows **E** to view the same information for a different drive. For a more detailed breakdown, click the Hardware or Software tabs. 4



The top bar provides access to the online versions of CCleaner 🗓 and Defraggler. 2 These work like the downloadable tools. For CCleaner, choose which areas to target in the sidebar, E then click the Analyse button and Run Cleaner. 4 If you install the helper on your other PCs, you can access them though My Computers. 5

NEXT ISSUE

How To... Turn your PC into every retro games console

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Web User's Top Tips

Our experts show how to use Google Now to see useful information, and control your phone with your voice

TOP TIPS FOR GOOGLE NOW

Choose your Google Now cards

oogle Now, which is available on both Android and iOS. displays cards that contain information Google thinks will interest you. It can show updates about your location if you're in a place of interest, movies and TV shows you like, football news, weather, travel information and more. You can configure these cards to show only what you want to see.

Open the app on your Android phone or tablet, press the menu button and tap Settings. Press 'Now cards' and you'll see a master on/off switch at the top, which controls the display of cards. Turn it on. Below is a list of topics, and next to each of these is an on/off switch, so you can choose which topics you want to see. On Apple devices, tap the menu button at the top of a card and choose Customise Google Now to see a similar menu to the Android version.

← Now cards 0 Weather Substantial changes in weather conditions Commute and Time to Leave Traffic alerts and recommended departure times when you have an appointment Sports Scores and game times Topics of interest The latest updates, articles and videos about topics that matter to you Stocks Substantial changes in stock prices or indices Places Updates about your location, like public transport timetables, restaurant reviews and shopping info Information about your upcoming bills Choose which Google Now cards you

want to see in the app's settings

Customise the app

Google Now cards will display information that's more relevant to you if it knows something about you. If it knows where you live and where you work, for example, it can display appropriate travel information on cards without you having to search for it.

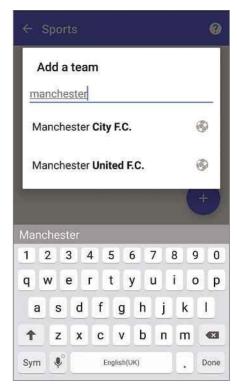
Open the Google app and go to the Customise screen. Tap items in the Places section to set your work and home addresses. Below this is a section called 'In your stream' and tapping each of these items lets you set various

options that change the information Google Now displays. Press Transport, for example, and you can tell the app whether you usually cycle, drive, walk or use public transport. This affects the travel information Google Now displays. On the iOS version you'll find this in the main Customise menu.

Tap Sports and then the plus button at the bottom of the screen (or tap Teams on iOS) to add a team, such as the football team you support. Once you've done that, Google Now will display cards containing team updates 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.

and match results. Press Everything Else at the bottom of the Android list and you'll find several items to configure, including weather information for home and work, whether or not Google Now can read bills from your Gmail, and more.

In the 'Apps & Websites' section you can opt to see Google Now cards from other services. The options on offer depend on which apps are installed. If you have a news app, for example, there might be an option to show news stories from it.



Tell Google Now what you'd like to see, such as news of your favourite team

Now card actions

The more features you enable in Google Now, the better it will be. It's best to enable every option in 'Settings and Customise' and see what appears. Each card has a three-dots menu on it. Tap it to display various options. Among them is the option to never display this type of card again. A less drastic option is to say you've finished with a card, which simply means you have read it and don't need to see it any more.

Control your device

You can control your device by saying "OK, Google" followed by a command. For example, you can say "Turn on flashlight," "Mute the volume," "Set the volume to 50%" and "Take a picture". Say "Play some music," and Google Play Music opens, selects a song in your music library and begins to play it. You can specify a playlist and, if the music is too quiet, say "Turn up the volume". Many people use Shazam to find out the name of a piece of music that's playing on the radio or elsewhere. Google Now can do the same thing. Say "OK, Google. What music is playing?". It listens for a few seconds, then displays the name of the track, artist and album.

Set alarms and appointments

You can set alarms to remind you about appointments, help you with timings when cooking, wake you up in the morning or whatever you want. Say "Set an alarm in three minutes" if you're boiling an egg or "Set a repeating alarm for 7am" to make sure you never oversleep. You can create Calendar appointments with "Add a meeting" or "Schedule an event with Bob on Saturday at 2pm." Say "What's my next appointment" to see a list of events.

Convert units

The easiest way to convert one unit to another is just to ask Google. So when an American cooking recipe says one cup of water, say "OK, Google. How many millilitres is one cup?" Going on holiday? Ask "What is £57 in dollars?" Your phone or tablet may have a calculator, but you can be lazy and ask Google instead. Ask "OK, Google. What is 8% of 163?" Anything a calculator can do, Google can do too.

Use Google Now on iPhone

The Google app is available for iPhone and is similar to the Android app. Most but not all of the same features are available. You can still perform voice searches by saying "OK, Google" and get results from calculations, unit and money conversions, and more.

TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

Use Google Now on tap

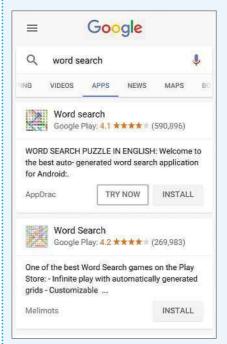
If your Android phone runs version 6 (Marshmallow), you can try a new feature called 'Google Now on Tap'. This works on any screen with any app. Press and hold the home button until you see the Google icon at the bottom of the screen, then release it. A small bar appears at the bottom of the screen, and swiping up reveals a series of Google Now cards that provide information based on whatever's on the screen.

Suppose you're reading a story in a news app. Long-press the home button and swipe up to see related information. Alternatively, long-press home and tap the finger icon in the toolbar, then tap a word on the screen to see cards related to that word.

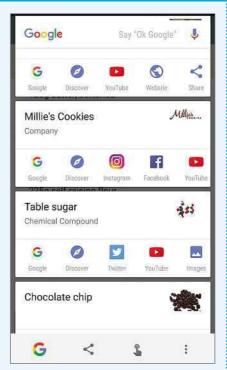
Stream apps

A recent update to Google Now is app streaming, which lets you run apps without installing them. Instead, you stream them over the internet, which lets you try apps before you install them on your phone or tablet. Not all apps support this, and finding apps that do isn't easy, but here's one you can try.

Open the Google app and type word search. When the results appear, press Apps under the search box to filter the results to show just apps. There is a 'Word search' card



If you see a Try Now button when searching for apps, tap to stream it



Press the home button and swipe up to see cards related to what's on screen

with Try Now and Install buttons. Press Try Now. The app runs just as it would if it were installed, but it's streamed instead. In the bottom-left corner is a Google icon - pressing this displays options to install the app or return to Google search.

You need to be on Wi-Fi or a fast 4G connection for this to work. The number of apps that can do this will increase over time, so watch out for it.

Unlock your phone

There is a Google search widget for the home screen of your Android phone, and you can add the Google Now app as an icon. Tap either of these and say "OK, Google" followed by a request for information or a command for it to perform some function. You can even use it to unlock your phone.

You might be asked if you want to set this up by tapping the Google search box or microphone icon. If not, open the Google app and go to the menu, Settings, Voice. Press "OK, Google" detection'. Turn on all the Trusted Voice options. The app will ask you to say "OK, Google" three times so that it recognises your voice. From then on, you can press the home or power button to turn on the screen and say "OK, Google" to unlock the phone instead of entering a PIN.

Ask the Expert

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



GENERAL PC

Configure your PC's boot order

I have a Windows 10 PC and an external hard drive, which I intend to use to store my backups. After successfully making my first backup, I turned off the PC, but the next time I turned it on it refused to boot, instead displaying a flashing cursor. The external drive is a USB model, and I remembered that Windows 10 can boot from USB, so I removed the hard drive. Sure enough, Windows booted normally. Can I change the emergency Windows boot setting to CD so that I can leave my USB drive plugged in?

Adrian Painter, via email

Boot options haven't changed much over the years. The setting that tells your PC which storage device to boot from is in its BIOS or UEFI. Switch on your PC and press the appropriate key to enter the setup



Tell your PC which device to boot from in the BIOS setup utility

utility (usually F2, F10, F12, Esc or Del, but the screen that appears briefly on startup should tell you which one). Modern PCs start quickly and you have to press the key at exactly the right time, so you may need to press it repeatedly just after switching on.

Setup utilities vary between PCs, so we can't say exactly where to look for startup settings. It will be labelled Boot Order or something similar and will display a list of devices to boot from, such as your internal hard drive, USB and CD/DVD. Pick the one you want, save the settings and exit.

The first command selects drive F: so replace this letter with whichever one your drive uses. When the process is complete, load E:\FileList.txt into Notepad to view, search or print it. Type FileList.txt into the command

GENERAL PC

What's on my drive?

I have an external hard drive that contains a large collection of media files, including music, photos and videos. I would like to make a complete list of everything that's on it. How do I do this?

Mike Gosden, via email

Windows has never provided a facility for saving or printing lists of directories and files. However, DOS, which PCs used before Windows came along, did have such a command, and it was very easy to use. That command still works today, and you can use it to create a list of all the files on a drive, either to read on the screen or print. First press Windows+R and type cmd and press Enter to open a command prompt window. Then type:

dir /s >FileList.txt

MOBILE

WhatsApp on a dual sim

prompt to load the file into Notepad.

I have two mobile phone SIM cards - a UK SIM and a foreign SIM - and each has a separate WhatsApp account associated with it. I recently bought a dual-SIM phone to avoid having to carry two phones. This works well with most things, but I can't get both WhatsApp accounts to work. How do I do this?

Gerrit, via email

According to WhatsApp (bit.ly/ wapp407), this isn't possible. An account can be verified with only one phone number. You can change the

phone number for your account, but if you do this too often your account may be blocked. Some people have rooted their Android phones and installed an unofficial app from an alternative app store that lets them use WhatsApp on dual-SIM phones. See our feature on page 46 for more on this topic.

MOBILE

Speed up an Android tablet

I have an old Nexus 7 Android tablet that I haven't used for a long time, and I wondered if there is any way to get it working again. It was a speedy little tablet when it was new, but problems arose when I updated it from Android 4 to 5. From then on it was so slow as to be almost useless. Opening apps or switching from one to another took minutes, and it became unusable. I thought I'd have one last go at getting it working before throwing it in the bin. Do you have any suggestions?

Frank Wall, via email

The initial release of Android 5 was bloated and slow, which caused a lot of problems on devices with limited memory and processor power, such as

the Nexus 7. making them run very slowly. Google has addressed the problem since then, and minor updates to Android have partially solved the performance problem.

Uninstall all unnecessary

Your system is up to date. Last checked for update at 17:37. CHECK FOR UPDATE

Check for updates in the About section of Android's settings

apps to free up storage and memory, then go to Settings, About Device. Check for Android updates and install them. This can take a long time, but afterwards the tablet will be faster. Not as fast as when using Android 4, but you will be able to use it for light duties such as web browsing, email, Facebook, ebook reading and so on.

GENERAL PC

Fix Vista updating problem

My old Gateway ML6227b PC runs Windows Vista Home Premium SP2 but has developed a problem with Windows Update. Searches for updates never end, and performance is reduced to a snail's pace, while the CPU load reaches 100%. Choosing the "Never search for updates" option restores its performance, but none of the other update options has any effect.

I generated a System Diagnostics Report, which confirms that Windows Update is overloading the CPU due to "svchost.exe 1100". I also checked for viruses and malware but found none.

Online forums suggest it's a common problem but no-one has a solution. I assume, therefore, that Microsoft must have issued a patch at some point, but without knowing the details, I find myself in a Catch-22 situation: without the patch, Windows Update is incapable of finding and installing it.

Henry Ford, via email

Microsoft is winding down support for Windows Vista. Mainstream support ended in 2012 and extended support will end in 2017. You should still receive updates for now, but not for much longer, and they're not exactly a priority. Giving the PC time to install updates might solve the problem, as it may just be slow. Let Windows Update run overnight and see what happens.

Fix It tools are available for Windows Update in 7, 8 and 10, but not Vista. However, Microsoft and others have written scripts to fix Windows Update. Microsoft's is at bit.ly/msfix407, so try that first. If that fails, try Windows Seven Forums at bit.ly/sffix407, which has three possible solutions. Each involves downloading and running a file. Hopefully one will work.

SECURITY

Remove Trovi browser hijack

A friend of mine has a Windows 7 PC and both his browsers, Internet Explorer and Chrome, have been hijacked by something called Trovi. The homepage and search always use this unwanted search engine, and he is sick of seeing the Trovi page and adverts. How can I help him to remove it?

Alan Carroll, via email

Trovi isn't hard to remove, but the procedure isn't obvious and it involves multiple steps. Miss a step and it will still be there, which is frustrating.



Remove unwanted browser software in Chrome by visiting its settings

The following technique works for any software that hijacks your web browser.

Go to the Control Panel and select 'Programs and Features'. Look for any programs that indicate they're from Trovi or Conduit, and uninstall them. Then look for programs with 'toolbar' or 'search protect' in the name and uninstall those too. These steps are essential but they won't completely solve the problem, because each web browser has additional components installed that must be removed.

In Chrome, go to the Chrome menu and select Settings. In the 'On start-up' section select 'Open a specific page or set of pages'. Click the 'Set pages' link and hover your mouse over each item, then click the cross icon to delete it. Type www.google.co.uk as the

homepage. Click Change under 'Show home button' in the Appearance section and enter www.google.co.uk. Then click 'Manage search engines' in the Search section of Settings. Find Google, hover your mouse over it and then click the 'Make default' button. Close Settings and open a new tab. If there is a Restore link at the bottom, click it.

You'll also have to reset Internet Explorer. Click the gear icon and select 'Manage add-ons'. Click Search Providers on the left and choose the one you want, such as Bing or Google, from the list on the right. Set this as the default and delete or disable all the others. Next select 'Toolbars and Extensions' and choose 'All add-ons' from the drop-down menu below. Delete or disable any items that mention Trovi, Conduit or Search Protect. Then go back to the gear icon and select 'Internet options'. On the General tab. enter the web address of the homepage you want, such as http://www .google.co.uk. Then in the Tabs section, click the Tabs button and set the 'When a new tab is opened' menu to your chosen homepage or a blank page.

You have now removed Trovi. If you have other browsers, such as Firefox, you'll need to clean those up too.

GENERAL PC

Upgrade Windows to 64-bit

My PC is five years old, and I think it runs 32-bit Windows 7. I have two questions. How can I check which version of Windows is running? And can I upgrade to 64-bit Windows 10? I have read about the Anniversary Update and it looks good.

Sarah Berry, via email

You can find out which version of Windows you have by opening the Control Panel and clicking System. You will also see details of your processor and memory, and next to 'System type' it will say either 32-bit or 64-bit.

PCs have been compatible with 64-bit operating systems for years, so no matter which version of Windows you have, you can install and run 64-bit Windows. How you go about it, however, depends on which version of Windows you have now. If you have 32-bit Windows 7, you



Open System in the Control Panel to see which Windows version is installed

can upgrade to 32-bit Windows 10 and keep all your programs, photos, videos, music and documents. If you have 64-bit Windows, you can upgrade to 64-bit Windows 10 and keep all your programs and files.

Sadly, you can't upgrade from 32-bit Windows 7 to 64-bit Windows 10 without performing a clean installation, which means you'll have to erase all your data from the hard drive before 64-bit Windows 10 can be installed. You'll have to copy anything you want to keep to an external USB hard drive. After the upgrade, you can copy your files back and reinstall your software.



This fortnight Roland cleaned up a laptop rendered unusable by adware and other junk. Watch what you install!

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

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Find old Facebook posts

Have you ever scrolled back through months (or even years) on your Facebook timeline in search of a particular post? It's an incredibly frustrating experience, but thankfully not one you'll ever need to suffer again, because Facebook's search tool now lets you find old posts in seconds. Simply type a keyword from your post into the site's main search and press Enter. By default, Facebook shows its 'Top' results for the search term, which includes a section for 'Posts from friends and groups', as well as Pages, People and Places. From the sidebar, you can narrow the results by specifying that you only want to see posts from you or your friends. You can also filter posts by year. If you know



Facebook's search tool now returns results from your old posts

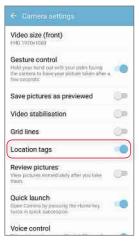
what you're looking for, this new feature makes it much easier to find.

Ray Gosden, via email

ANDROID

Find out where photos were

Last month, I was driving back from a holiday in Cornwall when we stopped for lunch at a café slightly off the beaten



In 'Camera settings', you can set the Galaxy S6 to store location tags

track, Later, I wanted to recommend the place to a friend who was going to be passing through the area, but we hadn't thought to make a note of its name or exactly where on the route it was. Then I remembered that I'd taken a photo while

we were there, so I opened the Gallery app on my Samsung Galaxy S6, tapped Details for the image in question and found the café's precise location, including a postcode and town name, courtesy of my phone's built-in GPS. I made a screen grab of the details and shared them with my friend, so they knew exactly where to go. Needless to say, this was the first time I have seen the practical benefit of storing GPS data on photos taken with my smartphone!

Brian, via email

SOFTWARE

Extract images from a Word document

If you have a Word document with images embedded in the text, you may want to extract the images and save them separately. This is actually very easy, although how you do it is not at all obvious. Basically, you save the Word document as a web page, because these store text and images in separate files.



Open Word and load the document, then select File (or the Office button) and Save As. Select 'Web Page, Filtered' as the file format - you may have to click Other Formats first. Once you've done that, use Explorer to locate the folder you saved the document in, and you'll find a subfolder containing all the images. The original filenames will have been replaced with image001, image002 and so on, but you can easily rename them.

John Havlin, via email

BROWSERS

Check your grammar and spelling online

If spelling isn't one of your strengths, you may benefit from installing the Grammarly browser extension for Chrome (bit.ly/grammar407). It's a really useful tool that checks both your spelling and grammar whenever you type anything into a web page. It certainly makes me feel more confident when typing an important email.

Anne W, via email



Grammarly automatically flags up any spelling mistakes you make

SECURITY

Keep changing your passwords

It seems there's a security breach almost every week at one website or another, and we're constantly being told to change our passwords. This is a tedious and time-consuming task if you have to log into each of the sites and services

you use to find out how to change your password. However, a password manager makes the job much easier.

I use LastPass (lastpass.com), but there are plenty of other password managers available that can change your passwords for you. LastPass adds a button to your browser, which you click to open your vault. Find the website or service you want (using the search box is easiest way), then click the spanner icon to see your account details. Under the password box is an Auto Change Password option. Click it and LastPass automatically changes your password to a new, secure one and stores it.

It doesn't work with every website but most of the popular sites are covered.

Eve Houghton, via email

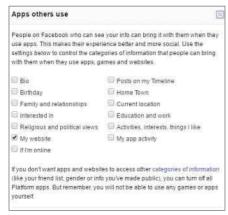
SOCIAL NETWORKING

Stop Facebook apps snooping

It's increasingly difficult to keep anything private these days when everyone and everything is connected to the internet. If one of your friends uses a Facebook app, for example, that app can access information from your profile too - unless, that is, you've configured your settings to prevent it.

In Facebook, click the button at the top right to show the menu, and select Settings. Select Apps on the left and, in the 'Apps others use' section, click the Edit button. Here you'll see 13 categories of information that your friends' apps can access. Clear the tick boxes next to those you don't want to share, or clear them all to keep your Facebook account hidden from their apps entirely.

Ed Wright, via email



Friends' apps can access your Facebook data unless you take steps to stop them

SOFTWARE

Fix unintentional indentation in Word

When copying and pasting text into Word, I used to find that the formatting was sometimes a bit strange, and a single line of text was indented. I tried to delete the indentation using backspace,



Clicking No Spacing in Word can remove accidental indentation

and even copied the passage and pasted it using the 'keep text only' option, but whatever I did, the indentation would stay put. I told a friend about my problem, and he suggested that I simply highlight the troublesome passage of text and click the 'No Spacing' option in the Styles section of the top ribbon. I tried this and it fixed the problem immediately, so if you experience something similar, give this a try and save hours of frustration!

Ryan B, via email

CHROMECAST

Try out new Chromecast feåtures first

Did you know that Google recently introduced a Preview Program for the Chromecast that lets you get the latest firmware for the device before its widespread release? It isn't Beta software, either. In fact, the Google support page for the Preview Program says the updates "will be of the same quality as production version updates" and that "you're simply getting earlier access to new features before they're released broadly".

To get on the Preview Program, open the Google Cast app, tap Devices and scroll to find the device on which you want to install the updates. Tap the three-dot button for that device and choose Device Settings, then Preview Program. If you can't see this option, it apparently means Google isn't currently accepting new members, but you can check later to see if there are any more spaces. It's worth knowing about if you want access to all the latest Chromecast features before everyone else.

Andrew Westcomb, via email

SOFTWARE

Turn vour old Kindle into a weather station

I recently bought a new Kindle and, just before getting rid of the old one, I discovered that you can do some neat things with it if you're prepared to take the risk of jailbreaking it. There's a wealth of custom software you can install, including interactive novel readers, audiobook players and even screensavers that show the time, date and current weather conditions. It seems that the

simplest universal iailbreak method is only compatible with 6th generation devices (Paperwhite 2) onwards, but there are other methods that work with the original Paperwhite. If you're tempted to

experiment with an old device that would otherwise be gathering dust, this article (bit.ly/jailbreak407) from hackaday.com shows you what's possible and is a great place to start.

Ian White, via email

ONLINE STORAGE

Stop OneDrive crippling your internet speeds

The ability to store all your important files online is handy if you need to access them wherever you go. When creating a backup, however, syncing large files takes up a significant amount of your bandwidth. Thankfully, OneDrive lets you control its upload and download speeds so that it doesn't have too negative an effect on your web browsing and other internet-related activity.

To change these settings, right-click the OneDrive icon in the notification area and select Settings from the context menu. Next, click the Network tab, where you'll see sections for 'Upload rate' and 'Download rate'. Select the 'Limit to' option for either or both of these. The default setting is to limit bandwidth to 125kbps, but you can change this to any speed you like. Note that the bandwidth settings will only apply on the computer you were using when you made the changes. If you need to share large files with other devices, limiting the bandwidth will only increase the length of time it takes for your files to sync.

As an aside, I recently noticed that OneDrive lets you search for keywords within documents, and has optical character recognition (OCR), which means the search tools can even find keywords contained in PDF and image files!

Mel Sullivan, via email



Limit OneDrive's upload and download speeds if it's affecting your web browsing



Readers' Helpdesk

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

HARDWARE

How do I fix an electronic device after a battery leak?

My clock's batteries leaked so I removed them, scrubbed the white stuff off the battery contacts and tried brand new batteries, but it still doesn't work. Has the leakage damaged the electronics?

vista, Web User Forums

Part of my job was to maintain AlphaSmart keyboards that had been left unused for months with the batteries in, so they often leaked. I used vinegar to counteract the alkaline and then filed the contacts. Your problem may simply be that the contacts aren't clean enough, so if you have no luck after cleaning them thoroughly, you could try scraping them with a nail file. If that doesn't work the battery's contents might have penetrated to the circuit and damaged it.

Sneakybeaky, Castman and alanrwood, **Web User Forums**



Use a weak acid such as vinegar or lemon iuice to clean a device's battery contacts

HARDWARE

Can I service my laptop battery?

My Dell Latitude 6400's battery has failed, and now the laptop only works when the charger is connected. Can the nine-cell battery be repaired? If not, should I buy a new battery, or is it time to replace the laptop?

Debby, Web User Forums

HARDWARE

Can I use the same monitor with two PCs?

I've just bought a new desktop computer and I would like to use my old PC and the new one side by side with the same monitor (although obviously not at the same time). Can I use a split lead to achieve this? They appear to be available on eBay. If so, would there be any reduction in picture quality?

jeff3, Web User Forums

I only have experience of using a full KVM switch, which lets you switch your monitor, keyboard and mouse over from one PC to another at the press of a button. My KVM switch doesn't affect the image quality, but beware of cheaper examples, which may only allow for a lower-resolution output. Also make sure the switch has the right connectors for your devices (HDMI, DVI or VGA), Some switches also let you switch your PC speaker connection from one PC to another. Aten (www.aten.com) makes a range of KVM switches. You can view them all at bit.ly/kvm407.

ricky101, Web User Forums



Lithium batteries deteriorate with time and use, losing their capacity until they eventually fail. They can't be repaired, so you will have to replace the battery if you want to use your laptop without plugging it in. To make sure it's definitely the battery that has failed and not part of the motherboard, use the

free version of HWMonitor (bit.ly/ hwmonitor407) to check the battery's last recorded wear level. Alternatively, run an elevated command prompt (right-click Command Prompt, and click 'Run as administrator') and use the command powercfg -energy to view a report about your PC's energy efficiency, including how much charge your battery holds. If the 'last full charge' figure is

much lower than the 'design capacity'

number, you know your battery has started to fail. If you decide to buy a replacement battery, be wary of cheap imitation models because they can represent a fire hazard. If you think a new battery costs too much compared with the original cost of your laptop, it might be time to consider replacing it.

> Helmut, Cantrel, Stewart40, **Web User Forums**

You can usually buy replacement laptop batteries directly from the manufacturer









Star Email

Mug/

Blocking Flash made my photos blurry

found your article 'What you must block online' (Issue 405, bit.ly/webuser405) informative, but you seem to have missed one important fact about Adobe Flash.

By recommending that we remove Flash from our PCs, you make it impossible for us to use certain websites, such as PrinterPix (www.printerpix.co.uk), which lets you turn your photos into a book.

A few weeks ago, I deleted Flash, as you suggested, knowing it to be a security hazard. The trouble started when I tried to create a photo book using PrinterPix's web-based design tool. These days, most companies that offer services for making books, cards and calendars provide similar online tools rather than software that you download.



To my dismay, I found that after building a 35-page book, nearly all the photos I copied into it from my Photo folders were out of focus, blurry and distorted. The original photos, which I'd taken with a modern Lumix digital camera, were sharp and crisp. As I'd just downloaded the latest Windows 10

update, I immediately blamed Microsoft, as we all would!

However, after a great deal of time and effort searching Windows 10 forums and Adobe's own help site, I discovered that PrinterPix uses Adobe Flash on its site. I had to reinstall it before I could continue building my book.

I really think your wonderful magazine should be more responsible when it comes to telling users to remove software that many companies still use. I'm

sure there are others who will remove Flash from their computers, try to make a photo book and have no idea what's gone wrong.

I hope this is the Star Email because I would love a mug.

John Morton, Ipswich

Keep language simple — say what you see!

Although Robert Sheehan made some sound points about the use of US and UK English on the web (Inbox, Issue 405, 'Americans speak better English than Brits'), he can't get away with "color", because the spelling dictates the pronunciation. The UK spelling of "colour" requires something in the order of "culla" or "culluh", whereas "color" invites a pronunciation of "coll" and "or". which I have heard from

many Americans. However, he is correct on the question of "-ize" endings, as I know from my former days as a sub-editor on a newspaper that insisted we get it right. As I recall. words ending in "ize"

distinguish words with Greek roots from those of Latin origin. Our saviour was the Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors, affectionately known as Odwe.

What intrigues me about American English is that they often prefer longer words for the same thing: faucet instead of tap, elevator instead of lift, apartment instead of flat, and so on. But one Americanism creeping over here that does drive me up the wall is "met with", when "met" is all you need. Keep it simple, guys!

Tony Allaway, via email

Delightful memories of

Thank you, Web User, for making 'This is Durham' (www.thisisdurham.com) your Site of the Fortnight in Issue 405.

Durham is my home city, and describing it as a jewel of the North East is spot on. The website is a great one to explore.

I have many a fond memory of Durham - one example, perhaps not so fond, being when I were just a lad and climbed the spiral staircase to the top of the Cathedral tower. It's a long, steep climb but the view over the city is something to behold. The problem was going back down those steep stairs, because someone switched off the

lights when I was only half way down. Panic is an understatement. I shouted for quite some time before the lights



were switched back on again. When I'd reached the bottom, I was greeted with lots of apologies by a nice man in a long gown. I never did find out his rank, and I never climbed those steps again.

Great memories. Thanks again Web User.

George, Web User Forums

Seeing your review of the website 'This is Durham' in Issue 405 reminded me of that delightful old joke: which university did the Pink Panther go to? Durham, Durham, Durham, Durham, Durham. No? I'll get me coat.

Patrick Jennings, via email





You can let us know your views and opinions via:

webuser@dennis.co.uk, www.facebook.com/webusermagazine, www.twitter.com/webusermagazine and forum.webuser.co.uk

Cash is better than contactless

Contactless payment is fine (Page 404, Issue 403), but you can't beat cash. At least with cash you know exactly how much you've spent and how much you have left.

Other forms of payment are handy, but using them doesn't feel like spending real money. It's only when you look at your bank statement that you see what the damage is.

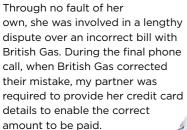
Cash is easy to budget with: you take out a certain amount on a specific day each week and make it last until the same day the following week.

You may think I hate the latest tech but in fact I love it. I'm the first in line for the latest gadget. But some things are better left unchanged.

Stan Elliott, Co Down

Troubled by a possible British Gas leak

Tony Steele's letter in Issue 404, referring to his experience with an attempted scam relating to BT, is similar to one my partner experienced.



A few weeks later, she received a phone call from her bank asking if she had just tried to settle a hotel bill in Florida and

then attempted to buy some expensive camera equipment in the same area. As it was obvious that she couldn't be in two places at once, the bank cancelled her credit card and issued her with a new one.

My partner had never previously used or passed her credit card details over the internet or the phone, so the bank was interested to learn that it could have been from an employee at British Gas. Additionally, she is the only person who knows her PIN, including me. So these big corporations may not be as secure as we're led to believe.

WG Welstead, via email

Looking for a music-download service

Having abandoned Amazon Drive after its 150% price hike, I am wondering what, if anything, to do instead.

My music is stored on my computer's hard drive with a backup on a separate external drive. I also have it on my two tablets. The beauty of cloud storage is that whenever I bought an album or track, it was automatically copied to all my devices as well as being stored in the cloud.

I don't know much about other reputable companies that offer music



service, which I don't need, and Tesco Digital doesn't look big enough to bother with yet.

I'm not sure about 7digital's DRM conditions because I want to be able to store and listen to my music on three devices. The company hasn't replied to my email yet anyway, so it can go hang until it does. I might consider HMV if it has what I want. Otherwise, I will buy from Amazon, but only when I'm assured that the company won't take money from my card for a service I don't want.

Do any Web User readers have other suggestions?

Martin Fletcher, Thorpe Hesley

Can USB-stick backups be trusted?

I'm sure we Web User readers are all steadfast computer users who always back up our stuff (aren't

we?), but one thing has crossed my mind. With modern Windows operating systems, rather than relying on a Windows disc that came with our shiny new computers,

we're encouraged to create our own recovery 'disc' on a USB memory stick.

The theory is that once you have installed a backup of the operating system on your memory stick, you can stash the device in a safe place ready for immediate use if the need to perform a full recovery should ever arise.

This raises an important question: will the memory stick still contain the required recovery information six months, a year, two years or more down the line? How does a memory stick



Our 2015 Back Issues Disc is on sale now from Amazon, visit bit.ly/webusercd15









retain the data placed on it? Does it need to be plugged into a live USB socket to be refreshed from time to time?

When you buy a USB memory stick, the manufacturer rarely provides any information about the device itself apart from its capacity and whether it's USB 2.0 or 3.0.

I am interested to know what readers think about this, as I have made USB system recovery discs for all my family's PCs and laptops, which I keep in a safe out of the way. I would hate to think they might be unreliable if I plugged them in after several months of not being used.

Bruce Ward, via email

Face up to non-virtual reality

What sort of person has £700 to spend on a stupid virtual-reality headset (Page 404, Issue 405)? I'll tell you who: the kind of person who's so scared of facing the real world that they're willing to throw their money away on escaping to a make-believe one.

What's the point of strapping on a heavy headset so you can walk around bumping into furniture while looking at pretty pictures of things that aren't actually there. Sooner or later you've got to come back to Earth, and then you'll realise what a fool you look.

Gadgets should be about making life easier, not putting your responsibilities on hold while you run off to la-la land. Seriously, people, get a grip and spend your money on something useful instead.

Max Skinner, via email

I have to agree once again with Barry in his column about virtual reality. I have no interest in paying a lot of money for what I reckon will be a 10-minute wonder.

Grant Saunders, via email





AS APPLE RIGHT TO DITCH THE HEADPHONE SOCKET ON ITS NEW IPHONE (bit.ly/ socket407)?

I think they like to shoot themselves in the foot. It's hardly going to slow the steady migration to Android. However, if looking cool is your thing and you like spending money on yet more hardware (adapters and wireless headphones), it's awesome news!

Chris Armstrong

I don't care, to be honest. I am in my late 40s and wouldn't spend that amount of money on a phone anyway! Colin Wallace

Good idea, but try looking for them when you lose them.

Dominik's Blog

No, not at all. Lots of people use headphones because they want good audio quality.

Jack @imthegoldmaster

OW DOES THE BROADBAND SPEED YOU'RE PAYING FOR COMPARE WITH WHAT YOU GET?

My advertised speed with Virgin Media is 150mbps. I get anywhere between 70 and 130mbps, depending on the time of day.

Derek @dlee1

With Fuel Broadband, I'm lucky if I have a connection at all. They're useless, unreliable and their customer service is appalling.

Wolf Simpson @Dark_Wolf

Since I (recently) moved to SSE (Daisy Communications), mine has been very good and constant. I'm well happy.

Gary Olsen @Gary_Olsen

Do a speed check - I did, and I found that I can get a better speed if I switch suppliers. I'm currently paying £20 a month to TalkTalk, so either they send me a new router or I'm going to leave them and go with someone else.

David Griffiths

Pants.

Wendy Lilygreen

AS A SOFTWARE UPDATE ■ EVER MESSED UP YOUR PHONE OR PC (bit.ly/ update407)?

I always try to keep my phone, tablet and laptop up to date, along with my antivirus software, and haven't had any problems.

David Robinson

A Windows update did once and it took me three hours just to get my PC to boot.

Paul Wallace

Yes, the iOS 10 update bricked my iPhone. It took hours to sort out.

John Tarbet Walker

The first big Windows 10 update last year caused problems, but I managed to undo it pretty quickly.

Jason Haines

ILL YOU BUY A VOICE-**CONTROLLED AMAZON ECHO SPEAKER?**

I've been gagging to try one of these since they launched in the States. I will post a quick review when I've had a chance to play with it.

The Tech Guy

Yes, because I really want Amazon to listen to and record my conversations so it can target me with product recommendations. That was sarcasm, by the way.

John Hale

Another unnecessary piece of tech. Martin Phillp

A Page 404

Why are wireless solutions less convenient than the wires they replace, asks Barry Collins

Don't rip out the wires from our lives

ere's a little thought experiment. Pretend that newspapers and websites never existed, and then ask yourself which of the following you'd be most likely to pay for: a printed version of the news that's at least 12 hours out of date and that you have to walk half a mile to the newsagent to collect, or a constantly updated live news feed that you can access instantly from your phone, tablet or computer. Bit of a no-brainer, right? But even so, old habits see millions buying newspapers every day while their websites struggle to get anyone to pay.

A similar thought struck me last week, when Apple announced it was removing the 3.5mm headphone jack from its new iPhone and replacing it with a pair of £159 wireless earbuds. Again, imagine neither existed and you were presented with two options: an expensive pair of earbuds that need recharging at least every five hours and are easy to lose, or wired headphones that never need recharging, never lose their connection and can be replaced easily and cheaply if lost or broken. Which of these would seem to be the solution we've all been waiting for?

The tech industry is obsessed with solving the 'problem' of wires, even though it's not really a problem in the first place. In fact, almost every wireless solution creates more

problems than it solves. I'm typing this column using a wired keyboard, alongside a wired mouse, both of which I've had for at least a decade. How many minutes of productivity have I lost due to my mouse and keyboard in



those 10 years? Not a single moment's worth. They just work, unlike the Bluetooth combo I used in my last office job, which frequently dropped its connection and periodically required me to run five floors down to the post room to beg Tony for a pack of AAs, hoping the stock cupboard hadn't run dry.

I use a wireless router, of course, but where possible, I still prefer to plug my

> devices into it. My Apple TV, Xbox One console and Sky+ box are connected by Ethernet cable to my BT Home Hub, because the wired connection is 100% reliable and requires no extra equipment

(such as Sky's wireless dongle) to connect. When you're waiting for gigabytes of HD video to download, you want it to get to the device as quickly as possible, not get caught up in the wireless traffic. Likewise, there's zero

extra delay (or latency, to use the technical term) when playing online games on the console. Wires deliver data as fast as it can possibly travel.

That's not to mention the other enormous bottle of snake oil being peddled by the mobile manufacturers: wireless charging. I foolishly paid extra for the wireless-charging pad when I bought my Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge last year. Now, every night I play charging roulette, sometimes waking up to find that my phone is as dead as George Osborne's career because I didn't place it with millimetric precision on the pad. And if I ever need to top up in an emergency, I have to plug the damned thing in anyway, because the wireless charger doesn't support the fast-charge technology that replenishes the device rapidly.

So sorry, Apple, Samsung and all the other tech manufacturers who are relentlessly cutting cords - if you want my wires, you'll have to rip them out of my clenched fists.

f The tech industry is

obsessed with solving the

'problem' of wires, even

though it's not really a

problem |



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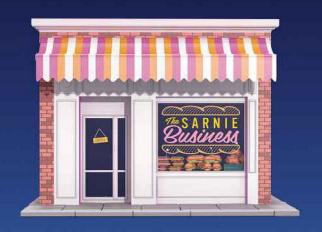
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