

HAS YOUR WEBCAM BEEN HACKED?

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Not just unwanted software but also...

Dangerous adware, pre-installed bloatware, browser plugins, awful extensions, startup programs, ugly toolbars, Registry files, dodgy drivers, orphan programs, Desktop clutter, pointless updates

and hidden Windows junk - page 38

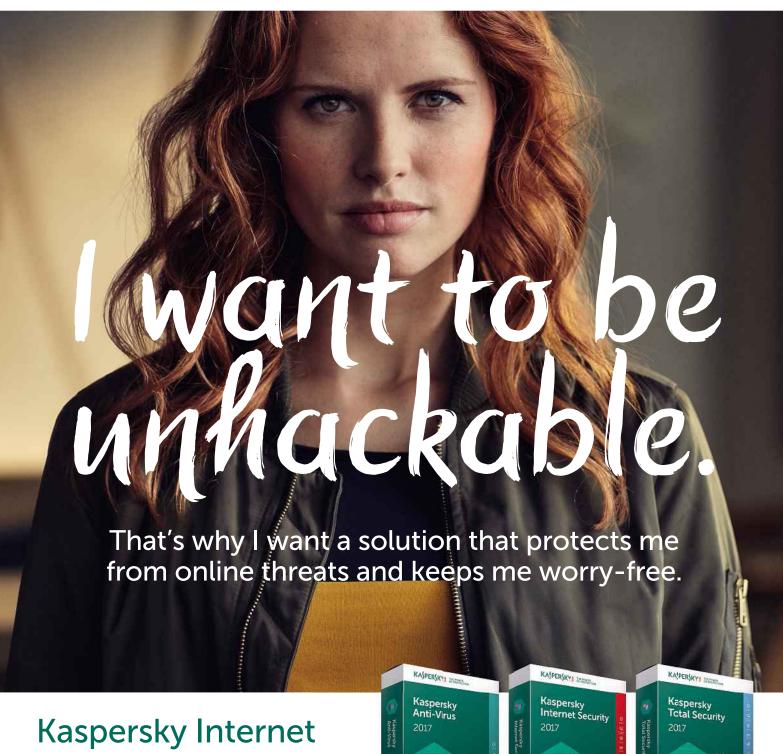


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Use a VPN with ZERO chance of being hacked Is it the web's best-kept secret? p57





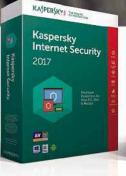


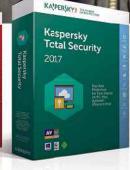
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Time to eliminate the junk

very day when I return home from work, I wade knee-deep through a fresh dollop of junk mail, half of which comes from excitable estate agents telling me they are looking for properties "just like mine". While this is annoying, I know I can bin them without worrying that they've left traces of their existence throughout my home.

If only it was as simple to bin the unwanted software that burrows deep into your computer, then litters your system with files. Well, these persistent programs have met their match. In our Cover Feature (page 38), we reveal the advanced tools you

should use to obliterate such junk for good.

After eliminating all that clutter, you'll want some light relief. I recommend turning your PC intro a retro games console (page 58) and renewing acquaintances with old friends like Super Mario and Sonic the Hedgehog.

Robert Irvine

robert_irvine@dennis.co.uk #webuser

PS: 56 days (and counting) until our annual 'Best Free Software for 2017' Cover Feature - make a note in your diary!



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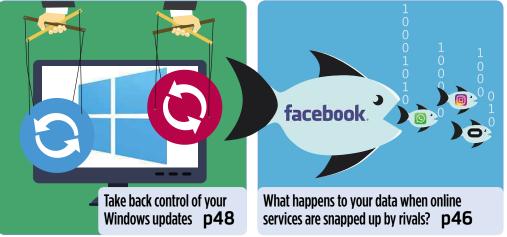
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Remove all traces of junk on your PC and reclaim space

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What's New Online

Write and draw on WhatsApp photos and videos

nything Snapchat can do, WhatsApp can do... well, if not better, then certainly just as well. It now lets you write and draw on photos and videos, and add emoji features that Snapchat added in the summer. WhatsApp, feeling romantic, gives the example of drawing a red heart "to show how much you miss someone", and placing a crown emoji on the cute face of a sleeping pug (pictured). These new options appear when you take a photo or video. You can also apply them to existing photos and videos.

In addition, WhatsApp wants to make it easier for you to take the "perfect selfie", should that be one of your life's ambitions. Its camera now has a front-facing flash to brighten your screen, which will be particularly useful for nighttime selfies. Double-

tapping the screen switches between the front- and rear-facing cameras. Recording videos is also easier - just slide your finger up and down to zoom in and out.

These are all welcome additions to WhatsApp, but Snapchat is still better in one respect - its drawing tools are available in both the Android and iOS versions of the app. WhatsApp's are only

available in the former (from the Google Play store: bit.ly/wapp408), although it says they will appear on iOS

WhatsApp Messenger E PEGI 3 net connection (4G/3G/2G/EDGE or Wi-Ft as as nd family. Switch from SMS to WhatsApp to send and receive mes

> "soon". Visit the URL below to read more on WhatsApp's blog. bit.ly/whatsapp408

Use 'Chrome' without Google tracking you

bit.ly/ungoogled408

If you love using Chrome but don't like the idea of being tracked by Google, then consider using Ungoogled-Chromium, a version of the browser that's based on the open-source Chromium. It shares much of the same code and features as Chrome, which makes it look and feel almost identical, but removes any association with Google, so nothing you browse for will be recorded by the company. You can still use your Chrome extensions, too.

The downside is that, unlike the official version of Chrome, it doesn't update automatically. This means you should

53.0.2785.116-1.2

bookmark the browser's homepage and regularly check for updates, some of which are likely to be crucial security fixes.

To find the correct download link, visit the URL above and, under the Downloads heading, click the link with the '.dmg' file extension (pictured). You'll find download links for Mac and Linux on this page, too.

Search Google in private on iOS

bit.ly/search408

One of Chrome's standout features when it launched back in December 2008 was Incognito mode. Now, almost eight years later, it has arrived on Google's search app for iOS.



Activate it by tapping Settings, then 'Turn on incognito'. Once that's done, Google won't save your browsing history or anything you search for. For extra security, you can lock your Incognito search using Apple's Touch ID (bit.ly/ touchid408). This means you can share your iPhone or iPad without worrying that the other person will stumble across anything that embarrasses you.

Also new is the option to watch YouTube videos within the app, and it should run more smoothly on your device because Google says it's "twice as reliable and less likely to crash", leading to "fewer sighs". To read more on Google's Search blog, visit the URL above.

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

Read interactive Game of Thrones on your iPad

bit.ly/game408

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of George RR Martin's novel A Game of Thrones, Apple is releasing all five books as interactive digital editions for the iPad, iPhone and Mac. Book One, now available, contains character maps, annotations and an excerpt from The Winds of Winter, the long-awaited sixth book in the series. Each book costs £5.99.



TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

@garethsouthgate

He's the new England manager for the time being, at least

@PaintMixing

Oddly compelling and soothing videos of paint being mixed

@RememberThisPod

Glimpses into "secret and forgotten" stories from Hollywood

@Etsy

See the latest products from Etsy's community of makers and crafters

@KodiTV

Updates, tips and news from the controversial media player (see Workshop 1, Issue 407)

Listen to the first computer music



music408

Synth-pop may have become popular in the early Eighties but it was the pioneering computer

scientist Alan Turing who paved the way for the genre. He realised that the internal moving parts of his early machine, called Mark II, could be programmed to create clicking sounds at set intervals, a discovery that was used by amateur pianist Christopher Strachey to code a version of *God* Save the King. You can now listen to this computer-generated tune after New Zealand scientists restored the original recording made by the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{BBC}}$ 65 years ago (Turing is pictured on the right alongside the machine).

It is accompanied by renditions of Baa Baa Black Sheep and Glenn Miller's In The Mood.

Get closer to the BBC **Philharmonic**

bit.ly/brick408

The BBC Philharmonic, together with Salford University, is conducting an experiment that is sure to make classical music appeal more to younger people. It's live-streaming nine interactive concerts in a series called The Red Brick Sessions, letting you zoom into specific sections of the orchestra (so you can watch just the strings, for example). The BBC says that the experience will make you "forget what you thought you knew about orchestral concerts". All performances will be available to view online for 30 days after broadcast.



Watch Sky TV in VR

bit.ly/sky408

Sky ditched its 3D channel but it still has one eve on the future with its launch of the free Sky VR app, which delivers 360-degree virtual reality to headsets, such as the Oculus Rift (Android bit.ly/ skyand408; iOS bit.ly/skyios408). Content includes films and sport.

Fight daft EU law with selfies

https://postcrimes.org

In its bid to highlight an EU copyright law forbidding photos of some landmarks, Mozilla wants you to submit a selfie, which it will superimpose on to a picture of the Eiffel Tower, Little Mermaid (in Copenhagen) or the EU Parliament, and send as a postcard to an MEP.

Replay the Ryder Cup in Street View

bit.ly/ryder408

The Ryder Cup may be over for another year, but you can still explore where the US triumphed (if you can bring yourself to). This Street View tour of Minnesota's Hazeltine National Golf Club has 360-degree views of all 18 holes, and videos of golfers tackling the course. Maybe the Europe team should have watched them more closely.



Talk to a crashed Synth

bit.ly/synth408

This silly yet fun spoof site, a tie-in with the Channel 4 series Humans, lets you 'return' a malfunctioning Synth. Chat with a customer advisor on Facebook Messenger and watch as the robot goes into meltdown.

Need to Know

Chrome to use less memory and stop crashes, says Google

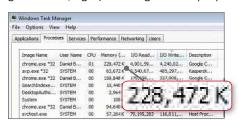
What happened?

Google says it has made fundamental changes to the way Chrome works in order to "significantly reduce" how much RAM it uses, fixing one of the most common complaints levelled at the world's most popular browser. Developers say their improvements to Chrome's V8 JavaScript engine will make it more stable and less likely to crash. Even Chrome's biggest fans admit that it uses too much memory, slowing down PCs and making them freeze. The tweaks

will appear in version 55 of the browser, due for release in December.

RAM is the type of memory your PC uses to run applications, including browsers, so if one program hogs it all, the rest of your applications will suffer. It's a particular problem with browsers because users often leave them running in the background while performing other tasks. This sucks up memory, leaving your PC struggling. You can see this for yourself if you open Task Manager in Windows when Chrome is running (see screen grab below).

These promised improvements come at a time when Microsoft is pushing its Edge browser as a superior alternative to Chrome, claiming it consumes less of a laptop's battery power. In September, Microsoft published test results (and even a timelapse video - see screen grab below, right) showing that a laptop



Chrome can be a huge memory hog -228,472KB (around 228MB) on this PC



streaming a video in Edge lasted 13 hours and 25 minutes - more than an hour longer than one using Chrome (read the blog post at bit.ly/edge408). This was in response to Google's claim a week earlier that Chrome uses 15% less battery power than it did in 2015.

How will it affect you?

According to Chrome's developers, the new browser uses between 40% and 50% less RAM, which should mean your PC runs faster and is less likely to freeze. Chrome should also be more stable on phones and tablets - particularly devices with 1GB of RAM or less.

The improvements will be most evident when you have multiple tabs open or are running several programs at once, particularly on an older PC with limited RAM. If you want to benefit from the improvements before December,



Microsoft claims its Edge browser uses less battery power than Chrome

you'll need to use the developer version of Chrome, called Canary (bit.ly/canary408). Google tests early tools in Canary, but warns users that it's "prone to breakage" and "not for the faint-hearted".

What do we think?

The update has arrived just at the right time for Chrome. While it's still our favourite browser, just ahead of the fast-improving Opera, we've grown exasperated by its instability. Many others feel the same - we regularly receive emails from readers complaining about it.

Chrome has been the world's most popular browser since June 2012, when it overtook Internet Explorer (see bit.lv/ wiki408). Since then its share has risen to just over 50%, giving it a massive lead. Such dominance can breed complacency, but these latest tweaks show that Google is listening to users and responding to their complaints. It also indicates that competition in the browser market - most recently demonstrated by the arrival of Edge continues to be a positive force for users. It may seem petty when the tech giants battle for our attention with 'my dad is bigger than your dad'-style boasts, but such intense rivalry drives standards higher.

Of course, we don't yet know how significant the changes will be. Come December, Chrome's speed and stability claims will face lots of scrutiny, not least from Web User. But should the claims prove true, it's likely that Chrome will remain the world's most popular browser for years to come. It still faces two potent challenges, though: to boost battery performance on laptops to counter Microsoft's claims that Edge is more efficient, and to create versions of Opera's most innovative tools, such as a built-in virtual private network (VPN).

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

Google's pricey Pixel phone (RIP Nexus)

What happened?

Google unveiled its much-anticipated Pixel phone (pictured below) – the first handset entirely made by the company – as it killed off the Nexus devices made with partner manufacturers.

The Google Pixel is a high-end smartphone with a price to match, starting from a whopping £599 for the 5in, 32GB model up to £719 for the Pixel XL, the 5.5in, 128GB version. Key features include a toprated camera, the latest version of Android (7.0, Nougat), and Google Assistant, a digital assistant similar to Apple's Siri.

Other products announced by Google include its Daydream virtual-reality headset, which is made out of fabric and therefore 30% lighter than rivals. It also revealed Chromecast Ultra, a 4K version of the TV-streaming stick; a smart router called Google Wi-Fi; and Google Home, the company's answer to Amazon's Echo, a voice-



based home assistant that uses artificial intelligence to understand and answer your questions.

How will it affect you?

If you're currently using a Google Nexus phone, you'll need to find a different model when you upgrade, because the company won't be making them any more.

Some of Nexus's popularity was down to its unadulterated version of the Android OS. Other manufacturers meddle with the design of Android, customising it to their brand, and add unnecessary apps. These modifications make it hard for Google to update the devices with new Android tools, whereas Nexus devices were always first in line.

Nexus smartphones will still get updates, but if you want a clean install of Android for your next phone, you may have to start saving for a Pixel.

What do we think?

Charging Apple prices for an Android phone is hardly a welcome innovation. The advantage of Android has long been its lower prices - even on phones that compare well with the iPhone. That includes the Nexus line, which originally started from £499, a full £100 less than the cheapest Pixel. Here's hoping that this jump doesn't inspire other Android manufacturers to bump up their prices, too.

Bin W10 apps, but will 'nagging' return?

What happened?

Microsoft added an option to uninstall apps that are built into Windows 10, such as Calculator and Mail. Previously, Microsoft didn't provide an 'uninstall' option for its pre-installed apps, which could only be removed with a Registry hack or by using third-party software (see Cover Feature, page 38). The uninstall option is included in the newest build of Windows 10 (14936), which is available now to members of the Insider Program's Fast Ring (see page 48).

But what Microsoft gives with one hand, it takes with the other. The company is planning to install a pair of updates (KB 2952664 and KB 2976978) that check whether a Windows 7 or 8.1 PC is compatible with Windows 10. It's feared that this means PCs running older systems will soon be bombarded with 'upgrade now' messages.

This comes just weeks after Microsoft confirmed it was removing its notorious Get Windows 10 app, which 'nagged' users to upgrade to Windows 10. It now looks like Microsoft has partially backtracked.

How will it affect you?

On the plus side, you can now easily declutter your Windows 10 PC.
Go to Apps & Features in Settings, then search for the app you want



to remove. Instead of a greyed-out Uninstall box, you'll see an Uninstall button to click (see screen grab).

As to the dreaded prospect of Microsoft resuming its Windows 10 nagging, we hope the company's tactics will be less aggressive than before. If these messages start appearing, software developers may build tools to help you block them.

What do we think?

Is this a case of Microsoft playing good cop, bad cop? We enthusiastically welcome Microsoft's surprising decision to make it simpler to remove default apps. Let's hope this option moves from the Insider Preview to the full version soon.

But we're less happy about the potential return of Microsoft's Windows 10 reminders (polite term). The company has been forced to act because growth of the OS has slowed since the 'free upgrade' offer ended in August, but we hope Microsoft has learned from public (and Web User's) anger about the messages and will make them easier to turn off.

Tougher laws to clamp down on online abuse

What happened?

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) issued new guidance on what kind of online bullying and abuse could lead to criminal charges. It listed a range of offences, many of which are perpetrated on social media, to help the police identify online crime more easily. These include online posting of "disturbing or sinister" Photoshopped images of people; and 'baiting', which is when people are branded sexually promiscuous.

Talking to the BBC, the Director of Public Prosecutions Alison Saunders said that people need to realise that committing a crime online has the same repercussions as doing so offline: "The internet's not an anonymous place where people can post without any consequences. People should think about their own conduct".

But she claimed that the new laws wouldn't "stifle free speech". To be prosecuted, someone would need to be "grossly offensive", which she said was "quite a high test" to pass. Indeed, the guidelines acknowledge that many Photoshopped images are "humourous and inoffensive".

Other crimes to be targeted include inciting people to harass others online, known as 'virtual mobbing', and 'doxxing', which is publishing on the web someone's personal details, such as



their bank account number and home address. Anyone who is involved in a hate crime online could now be charged under the Serious Crime Act 2007.

The guidelines follow on from 'revenge porn' - shaming former partners online by publishing private photos or video following a breakup becoming illegal last year. Since the law passed in April 2015, 206 people have been prosecuted.

How will it affect you?

Hopefully it never will, and you avoid being bullied and abused online. But should you become a target of trolls, you should now find it easier to make the police take you seriously. Until now,

some victims may have perceived nasty comments online as banter that they simply had to put up with. By clarifying what's considered illegal online, these guidelines should give people more confidence in reporting abuse.

What do we think?

These measures are welcome, but overdue. Too many lives have already been ruined by online abuse, and for too long the law has refused to engage with the nastier realities of the internet. But things will improve only when trolls are given jail sentences. They need to be made aware that cyberbullying is not only illegal but leads to time behind bars, not just a slap on the wrist.



Roku Express www.roku.com/products/ roku-express

Roku recently announced five new TV-streaming devices - the Express, Express+, Premiere, Premiere+ and Ultra. UK prices have not yet been confirmed for the whole range, but it's thought that the budget Roku Express will be available for around £30, making it Roku's cheapest ever device.

The Express is slightly larger than the existing Roku Streaming Stick (£39.99) but rather than being plugged into an HDMI slot, it comes with a sticker that attaches it to your TV. The Express connects to your television via a supplied HDMI cable and is powered by a micro USB cable that plugs into the mains or a USB

port on your TV. It also comes with its own remote control, although you can also install the Roku app (www .roku.com/ mobile-app) on your Android or iOS device

to control it.

In essence, the Roku Express has the same hardware as the Roku 2 (2014), albeit in a much smaller case, and streams at a 1080p resolution and supports 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi. However, it's much slower than previous Roku devices, particularly when navigating menus and launching content.

We expect it will be slower than the new versions of the Google Chromecast and Amazon Fire TV Stick, too. That



means Roku must rely more than ever on its unbeatable range of TV services, which includes the BBC iPlayer, All4, Netflix, Amazon Instant Video, Spotify and Plex. You'll also find all these services available on the Roku Express+ which, for around £40, includes an analogue cable that makes it work with older TVs that don't have an HDMI port (backwards compatibility).



WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

Will the Samsung Galaxy S8 have a 4K screen?

Tempting though it is to ask whether Samsung is trialling an 'exploding' option in its phones, it's more likely to concentrate next year on screen quality. The S7's 2,560 x 1,440 pixel resolution is excellent, but it pales in comparison with a 4K screen (3,840 x 2,160 pixels).

Rumours began in March when, at a trade show in California, the company showed off a 5.5in 4K display for virtual-reality devices. At the time, experts thought it may appear in Samsung's Gear VR headset, but analysts at South Korean company UBI Research have recently predicted that Samsung's 4K technology will debut in its phones.

This screen will dazzle all the more if another rumour proves accurate - that the S8 won't have any bezels, allowing Samsung to curve the glass at the top and bottom, as well as on the sides (like the S7 Edge). To complete the effect, there will be no Home button; instead, a fingerprint sensor will be built into the screen.

The S8 (see leaked image) won't be the first phone to have 4K - that honour belongs to Sony's Xperia Z5 Premium, which launched last year. And at around £599, the S8 won't be cheap. But when it arrives, probably in March, it may have the best screen we've ever seen on a phone.



LIKELIHOOD RATING 1111

One clue gives the game away: the S8 is apparently codenamed Project Dream. Google has launched a virtual-reality headset called Davdream (see page 9) and is encouraging phone manufacturers to build handsets that fit into the headset. It's likely that Google and Samsung are sharing the same dream - of a world transfixed by virtual reality. But the Korean company needs to tackle the nightmare of selfdestructing phones first.

What's new on Kickstarter

Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

Live Beacon

bit.ly/beacon408 | From £TBC

It may have received a trillionth of the press coverage of the new iPhone, but Apple's iBeacon is a fascinating technology nonetheless. It transmits web content to smartphones (Android and iOS) by recognising when your device is in range. The makers of Live Beacon - a

small, black transmitter that uses iBeacon - say that it could be used at events to send web pages to your phone. For example, art galleries and museums could beam information about paintings and exhibits as you pass. The London-based company wants to raise £30,000 by 7 November.





WEBOMETER

WE LIKE...

Fewer 'bribes' for good **Amazon reviews**

Amazon says it will stop companies sending free and discounted products to customers in exchange for a positive review.



Visit Amazon's blog for more on this change to its "community guidelines" (bit.ly/reviews408).

Govt opens new cyber security HQ

The Government has opened the National Cyber Security Centre to protect the UK from attacks on its infrastructure.



Based in London, it employs 700 staff and is led by Dr Ciaran Martin, formerly of GCHQ.

WE DON'T LIKE...

Facebook selling drugs, guns and hedgehogs

Within hours of the Facebook Marketplace relaunch, people were already using it to sell drugs, guns and even baby hedgehogs.



Facebook apologised for failing to properly monitor what was being sold (bit.ly/fb408).

Malicious adverts on Spotify

Spotify accidentally displayed some malicious adverts that attempted to infect PCs by opening a dodgy website in the user's browser.



The company said it was an "isolated" issue affecting a "small number" of people.

Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

400 infected apps removed from Google Play store



Here's a worrying statistic - malware on phones and tablets increased by 40% between January and August. Security analysts at Trend Micro said that in total they have now detected 16.6 million incidents of mobile malware. One of the fastest spreading families of malware is DressCode, a Trojan that was spotted lurking in more than 400 Android apps in the Google Play store.

Some very popular apps were

found to be malicious, including 'Mod GTA for Minecraft PE' (see screen grab, left). According to Google's statistics, this app - which adds Grand Theft Auto-themed skins to Minecraft characters - had been downloaded between 100,000 and 500,000 times. Installing these apps would have allowed hackers to take control of the device and use it in a botnet - a network of 'zombie' computers used to carry out huge cyber-attacks. Google has now removed the infected apps from the Play store. bit.ly/trendmicro408

Deadly botnet source code released online

Security experts fear that the internet may soon be flooded with devastating cyber-attacks following the release online of the source code for the Mirai botnet. In September, Mirai was responsible for what was, at the time, the biggest ever Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack, and was used to target the

website of leading security journalist Brian Krebs (pictured,

krebsonsecurity.com). In a DDoS attack,



hackers use the combined power of thousands of infected devices to overwhelm a server with internet traffic. The aim is to take down a website to stop it publishing information or providing a service. Typically, hackers use a botnet made up of computers, but Mirai harnesses the power of other types of webconnected device, including routers and home security cameras (see URL below for more information).

The code for Mirai was posted in early October on the internet-security site HackForums (https://hackforums. net). To protect yourself from future attacks, make sure you replace your devices' default passwords with something much stronger. bit.ly/krebs408

Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: David Emm, principal security researcher at Kaspersky Lab (www.kaspersky.co.uk)



Some security experts say that you should always disable macros in Office software. Is that an over-reaction? Edward Collard, via email

Macro viruses were the most common form of malware

from their appearance in 1995 until the turn of the century. This was a period when email was becoming an established business tool, and malware writers took advantage of the medium as a way to spread their viruses further and faster than ever before.

This form of attack diminished after Microsoft began to disable macros by default (from Office 2000), but in recent years, we've seen a return of macro malware. These malicious programs can't load automatically, so they use social-engineering tricks and scams to persuade the victim to enable macros, thereby allowing the malware to run.

I would advise enabling macros on a selective basis only. Never enable them if you are asked to do so in an email, sent by someone you don't know,

in order to open an attached Office file. Even if the email has been sent by someone you know, phone that person to check its authenticity. There's always the possibility that the sender's email account has been hacked.

Web User savs: Microsoft explains the threat posed by macros on its website, and gives instructions on how to



turn them on and off in each Office program, including Word, Excel and Outlook (bit.ly/macro408). In Excel, for example, you click the top-left Microsoft Office Button, then Excel Options, Trust Center, Trust Center Settings and Macro Settings. You'll find four options under the Macro Settings heading (see screen grab).





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www.msi.com/Notebooks



Best New Websites

Site of the Fortnight

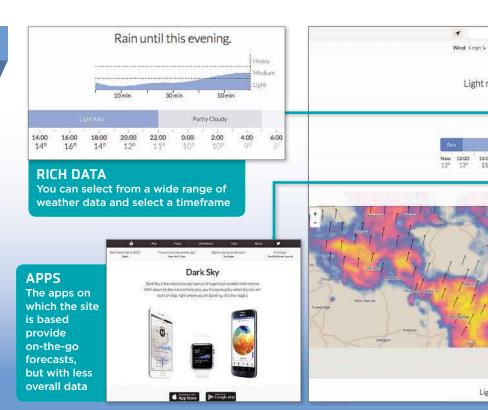
Dark Sky

https://darksky.net

Dark Sky is an easy-to-use weather site that delivers a flood of rich data, letting you skim the surface or dive deep depending on the level of detail you're after. As well as a brief overview, plenty of stats and a breakdown of the day, there are superb interactive maps that let you select a time and date, so you can view rain forecasts, the UV index, wind speeds and more. Clicking a day shows the data plotted on timeline graphs, and for total weather geeks there's a Time Machine that shows past conditions. For some locations it goes back 50 years, so you could check whether it was raining on the day you were born.

Our rating







www.beano.com

Crikey! It may have been more than 78 years since The Beano launched, but it's now been well and truly catapulted (perhaps by Dennis the Menace himself) into the digital age. Adopting the panelled look of a comic, the revamped site features fun videos, activities and games, drawn as much from film trailers and YouTube clips as by the Beano team itself. Clicking the search bar brings up 18 sections, from character bios to cat photos, all underpinned by a mischievous streak thanks to numerous suggested pranks. We love the Make & Do section which is packed with inspiring and creative things for kids, such as drawing on Dennis's jumper. Check out our effort (pictured).

Our rating



FAMILY TREE

Scotland's People

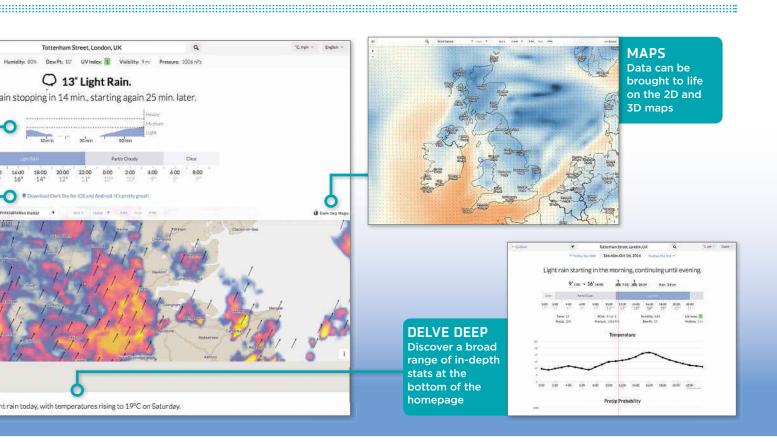
https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk

If your genealogical search points you in the direction of Scotland, then a root around this comprehensive database of registers, census returns, valuation rolls and more could help track down your ancestors. Input a surname, forename and dates in the search bar (serious genealogists can use the advanced option). With the introduction of free searches, you only pay to view, download and order copies of records (you buy credits in minimum batches of 30). You can also view and buy any of the 400 photos in the National Records of Scotland's image library.

Our rating



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





FOOD

Fork and Mouth

www.forkandmouth.com

Written by an "alternative foodie" who goes against the grain of eating local produce and shopping at farmers' markets, 'Fork and Mouth' serves up lots of delicious-looking recipes, and columns on subjects as varied as meat labelling, eating insects and whether Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is a hero or villain (apparently, it "doesn't matter"). Now revamped with a responsive design to make it mobile-friendly, it's also easier to search by season, course and ingredient. Each recipe is easy to follow and is accompanied by a chatty introduction and an appetising photo.

Our rating





MUSIC

Gorillaz

www.gorillaz.com

Throughout the history of Gorillaz, the cartoon band created in 1998 by Blur frontman Damon Albarn and comic book artist Jamie Hewlett, the project's exceptional site has often used some of the web's most innovative technology to capture the group's anarchic ethos. This revamped site doesn't yet break new ground - it's been launched ahead of rumours of a new album and tour next vear - but we expect more content to be added to the sidebar of videos running down the right-hand side. What is new is the band's Instagram account, which you can access from the homepage.

Our rating





FLIGHTS

British Airways

britishairways.com

British Airways' new website is still in beta, which means you have to opt in to view it by selecting "yes please". It has a modern, fresh look and a search box that's much easier to use - initially requesting only your departure and arrival airports and dates (which you can select from a drop-down calendar). While this means you have to add the finer details later - which extends the booking process by two extra screens it actually makes it less prone to error. Besides, it's possible to speed things up later by signing in and making use of the new auto-filled payment page.

Our rating

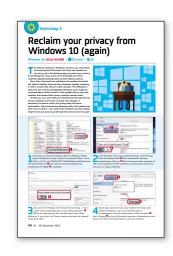




WebUser

Which privacy settings should I change in Windows 10?

A Page 54, Issue 386





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CYCLING

Bikes N Gear

https://bikes-n-gear.co.uk

This is the virtual shop window for Bikes N Gear, which sells a range of cycles, clothes and accessories from its small store in Knutsford, Cheshire. It lets you choose from dozens of different bike types, whether mountain, road and traditional or hybrid, electric and those aimed at children. You can use the 'quick shop' function to read a brief description, alter a bike's colour and add items to your cart. Be warned, though - only the clothes and accessories will be sent by post. If you buy a bike, you'll need to collect it in person. It's a shame the site doesn't make this clearer on its homepage.







FASHION

Yoox

www.yoox.com

Online luxury fashion retailer Yoox made a name for itself in 2000 selling discounted overstocked designer items from previous seasons. This recent makeover combines its product lines with glamorous shots by top photographers and editorial content. The result is a classy - almost dizzying - offering with lots of surprises, from products based on the local weather to a homepage tailored to your buying and browsing history. We love the Dream Box feature, which lets you save items, and emails you when there's only one left. Browse the 'Design + Art' section if you want your home to look as stylish as your wardrobe.

Our rating





ECONOMICS

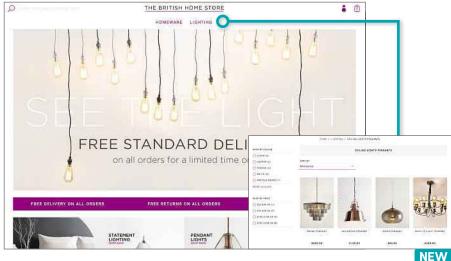
Economy

www.ecnmy.org

Claiming too few people understand economics, this brightly designed site aims to cut jargon while demonstrating how the subject applies to many areas of our lives, from the beer we drink to the Pokémon Go phenomenon. Content is split across news, sport, entertainment and opinion, with articles published under a creative commons licence (meaning it's not under copyright, so you can reuse it). We like how it taps into popular culture and breaks articles into short, manageable chunks of text with clear headlines. By examining economics in this off-beat way, it's like a lighter version of the Freakonomics books.

Our rating





The British Home Store

https://www.bhs.com

BHS only closed its doors in August but the brand is back under fresh ownership and hoping to win over shoppers with a new online-only store. Now run by the Al Mana Group, it sells a decent range of homeware and lighting with the promise of more product lines to come. The uncluttered design makes finding items easy, and deciding what to buy is simple because the products are well described. Who knew there was so much to say about towels that cost £3? Throw in a slick, four-stage checkout and free standard delivery, together with links to social media and a newsletter, and it's clear there's still life in this famous brand. Sir Philip Green, are you watching?

Our rating





TRAVEL

Visit Isle of Man

www.visitisleofman.com

True story: the Isle of Man temporarily changed its name to the Isle of Sam in 2008 in honour of resident Sam Barks, who got down to the last seven in the BBC show I'd Do Anything. Sadly, this isn't mentioned in this official guide to the island. But you will find things to do, where to stay, and where to eat and drink. Filled to the brim with visitor information, forthcoming events and beautiful photos, it lets you build and save your own itinerary. It also has an excellent search engine, which covers entertainment, activities, attractions and shopping, and a regularly updated blog for further highlights.

Our rating



Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

Top Tips of the Fortnight

Build code-free mobile apps

Creating an app sounds like a daunting prospect that requires advanced programming skills, but OutSystems (www.outsystems .com) has come up with a drag-and-drop tool you can use to build apps from scratch, with no need for any coding knowledge. This sophisticated tool is aimed at businesses but includes a great free option for individual users. The helpful tutorials plunge you straight in by guiding you through the creation of a to-do list app.

Never forget a colour

You never know when inspiration for a new web design might strike: another web page or a favourite photo can inspire a new colour scheme, so it's good to be prepared to capture the moment. Instant Eyedropper (instantevedropper.com) is a small, free program, available either to install



or run portably, which sits in the notification area of your taskbar until you need it. When you see a colour you like, left-click the software's icon and hold down the mouse button. Drag the crosshair to the colour you like and it will display the hexadecimal colour code you need to include in your own HTML and CSS files.

Deal of the Fortnight

Nutty About Hosting (www .nuttyabouthosting.co.uk) is offering a WordPress-specific deal, including a one-click installation and daily backups. for £3.81 per month.

Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: Oliver Burkill, Enterprise Support Manager,



eUKhost (www.eukhost.com)



When we leave the EU, can we take the cookie warning down from our websites?

Robert Morgan, via email



The UK passed its own laws in parliament to bring them in line with the EU directive, and leaving the EU

will not change current UK law. Interestingly, the EU cookie law will be superseded by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), due to come into force in May 2018, but it's unclear whether that will now be implemented in the UK. The good news is that the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) is pragmatic in enforcing the cookie law and has never prosecuted anyone over it. If your cookies are only used to make your site function properly, you can take down the warnings now.

MINI WORKSHOP | Optimise images for the web using GIMP (www.gimp.org) Save for Web plugin: bit.ly/gimpsw408 | 🕒 10 mins | GIMP

GIMP is a brilliant free image-editing program but it lacks some of the tools you need to optimise images for a website. However, there's a great plugin available that does the job perfectly



Download the plugin (bit.ly/ gimpsw408) and save it to your hard drive. Double-click the Zip file to open it, right-click the file called 'webexport' and select Copy. In File Explorer, go to C:\Users\YourName\ .gimp-2.8\plug-ins 1 and paste the file into it. 2 Start GIMP.



If the image is very large, you may have to reduce its size before you start. On the Image menu, 11 choose Scale Image. Reduce the Width value 2 and press the Tab key to transfer the equivalent Height value to the box below. B Click the Scale button.



In the File menu, choose the 'Save for Web' option. Select the file type 1 and the file size will be displayed. 2 Use the Quality, Smoothing and other options 3 to reduce the size. Check the Preview window 4 to ensure the image doesn't degrade too much. You're looking for a good compromise between size and quality.







We test and compare the latest products

Apple iPhone 7

Katharine Byrne gets her hands on a Jet Black iPhone 7 to find out if it's a worthwhile upgrade

pple has made all sorts of changes to its latest iPhone, but the one that grabbed the headlines was the removal of the headphone socket. If your favourite headphones connect with a wire, you'll be understandably worried, but it's not a huge problem because Apple includes an

which may go some way to justifying the price increase.

The more expensive models have also doubled their storage capacity and Apple's new Jet Black finish is only available on these pricier versions. It looks fantastic when it's fresh out of the box, but we found it was quick to pick up smudgy fingerprints

You can drop the iPhone 7 in up to a metre of water for up to 30 minutes without damaging it

adapter that turns your Lightning socket into a headphone jack. Using a dongle to plug in your headphones feels a bit odd but at least Apple isn't forcing you to bin them just yet.

What's less easy to sidestep is that this latest model is the first iPhone in ages to receive a significant price hike, rising to £599 for the cheapest version from its usual £539. However, the memory has doubled from 16GB to 32GB,

and unsightly scratches.

The old-style mechanical Home button, which produced a palpable click, has been replaced on the iPhone 7 with a virtual one that vibrates when you press it. You can still feel when you've applied enough pressure to operate the button, but it no longer works when you're wearing non-touchscreen gloves, which could become annoying as the weather grows cold.

A more welcome addition is



iPhone 7 Plus

The most obvious difference between the iPhone 7 and the 7 Plus is that the latter is bigger. It has a 5.5in screen with a resolution of 1,920 x 1,080 pixels. Its main party trick is the second rear camera, which essentially provides a 2x optical zoom, so you can get closer to subjects without compromising the image's resolution and quality. However, the 7 Plus is also significantly more expensive, starting at £719 for the 32GB version.

the iPhone 7's improved water and dust protection. Its IP67 waterproof rating means you can now drop the phone in up to a metre of water for up to 30 minutes without damaging it. This makes it much more practical for daily use because you no longer need to worry about accidentally dropping it down the loo or using it during a heavy rain shower.

Screen and camera

Like the iPhone 6 and 6S, the iPhone 7 has a 4.7in screen with a resolution of 1,334 x 750 pixels. However, Apple claims it produces a wider range of colours and brighter, more intense shades than its predecessor.

Lining the iPhone 7 up alongside the iPhone 6, you can immediately see the



AirPods

The best way to take advantage of Apple's removal of the headphone socket is to buy a set of matching wireless earbuds called AirPods (pictured below left). At £159, they're not cheap, but they're in a different league to the earbuds bundled with iOS devices in the past and it's a relief to be free from the usual tangle of wires. They're comfortable, too, and have a five-hour battery life. The audio quality is excellent but they leak sound, which may annoy those around you.

difference: colours look richer and punchier and blacks are noticeably darker. However, we couldn't replicate this result in our colorimeter tests, which measured a brightness of 540cd/m² (candles per square metre). This was significantly lower than Apple's quoted 625cd/m² and our iPhone 6 measurement of 580cd/m².

To be fair, it's difficult to test the iPhone 7's colour display properly because it only uses its wider palette in applications that specifically support it. We run our display tests in Opera (Safari won't work with them), which means the iPhone 7 defaults to the standard colour range. Even here, though, the iPhone 7 is supremely accurate, reproducing 95.8% of the sRGB colour palette.

On paper, the iPhone 7's camera is better than the iPhone 6's, and we found it produced more vibrant colours and better contrast on brightly lit outdoor shots. Sadly, the indoor photos weren't as good. While our still-life arrangement looked sharper, crisper and richer in photos taken with the iPhone 7, shadowy areas were extremely blotchy and we saw jagged outlines on other shots.



Performance and battery power

The phone's most noticeable improvement is in its day-today performance. It's powered by Apple's new quad-core A10 Fusion chip, which is quicker and smoother than its A9 predecessor. In our Geekbench 4 tests, the iPhone 7 finished way ahead of the 6S, with a single-core score of 3,489 (up from the 6S's 2.493) and a massive 5,652 in the multi-core test (up from 4,102 on the 6S).

Its graphics performance was excellent, too, running our gaming benchmark at an average frame rate of 62.6fps. That's the highest score we've ever seen, so you can be sure that the iPhone 7 will run anything you throw at it.

However, this performance comes at a cost and some users have reported an audible hissing noise coming from just behind the Apple logo. At the time of going to press, Apple hadn't commented on the problem but it seems quite widespread.

For all its raw processing power, the A10 Fusion also introduces significant energy savings. Our video-playback battery test ran for 13hrs 2mins compared with 11hrs 18mins on an iPhone 6S. It's not as impressive as its Android rivals, though: the Samsung Galaxy S7 runs for 17hrs 48mins and the S7 Edge lasts 18hrs 42mins.

OUR VERDICT

The iPhone 7 is an excellent phone, but its improvements aren't quite as impressive as we'd hoped, and the lack of a headphone socket and virtual Home button won't be to everyone's liking.

It's also very expensive, especially because the entry-level model has had a £60 price hike. You can buy Android devices with similar performance for a lot less. **FEATURES PERFORMANCE** **** EASE OF USE VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★☆☆

But if your allegiance is with iOS, this is the best iPhone you can buy. Its increased battery life, superior speed and richer screen provide palpable improvements on the 6S, and a big leap from older devices.

PRODUCT INFO

Apple iPhone 7

Price: £599 (32GB); £699 (128GB); £799 (256GB) Buy from: www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

- Quad-core A10 Fusion processor
- 4.7in IPS screen
- = 1,334 x 750 pixels resolution
- 12-megapixels rear camera
- 7-megapixels front camera
- LED flash
- **32/128/256GB storage options**
- 802.11ac Wi-Fi
- Bluetooth 4.2
- NFC
- = 3G and 4G data
- 138 x 67 x 7.1mm
- **= 138**q
- EarPods with Lighting Connector
- iOS 10.0

FOR

- ✓ Fastest iPhone to date
- ✓ Good battery life
- ✓ Impressive screen

AGAINST

- Expensive
- X Still catching up with the best Android phones

EVEN BETTER ANDROID PHONE

Samsung Galaxy S7, £569 bit.ly/samsung408



MORE AFFORDABLE PHONE

Apple iPhone SE, £379 bit.ly/se408



TP-Link Archer C3200



Andy Shaw tests a router that provides your own private Wi-Fi network that even the rest of your family can't use

ual-band routers that offer both a 2.4GHz and a 5GHz network are old news these days. Tri-band routers are a more recent invention and go a stage further by adding a second 5GHz network so you can spread your traffic across the two 5GHz channels, to reduce the likelihood of congestion.

PRODUCT INFO

TP-Link Archer C3200

Price: £166.98 Buy from: Amazon (bit.ly/archer408)

SPECIFICATIONS

- 802.11ac/n/g/b Wi-Fi
- 1 x 2.4GHz, 2 x 5GHz networks
- 4 x Gigabit Ethernet ports
- 1 x Ethernet WAN port
- ■1x USB 3 port
- ■1x USB 2 port
- WPS
- 6 antennas
- Guest network
- Parental controls
- = 200 x 200 x 39mm

FOR

- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Extra 5GHz network for your own
- ✓ Good 5GHz speed at a distance

AGAINST

X Slow on 2.4GHz network

It won't make your Wi-Fi any faster, but there's less chance of it slowing down when your network gets busy. To date, this option for a third network has only appeared on very expensive routers, such as the Netgear Nighthawk AC3200, which cost in excess of £200.

Enter TP-Link with the Archer C3200. This tri-band router is significantly cheaper than the competition - we spotted it on Amazon for £166.98 - making the addition of a third network to your home Wi-Fi an affordable proposition. You could use it to set up your own private 5GHz channel to connect your devices to, and keep the password secret. For households where the kids' YouTube consumption gets in the way of your own streaming requirements, it could be a godsend.

Set up and performance

Setting up the Archer C3200 is very straightforward. It's a standard router that doesn't have its own modem, so you'll need to connect your existing router or modem to it using an Ethernet cable. You'll be able to access the wireless networks as soon as you turn on the router. using the login information printed on the bottom.

To configure the router, you log into a special web page.

 $oxedsymbol{arepsilon}$ It performed well in our tests, particularly at a distance on the 5GHz network

This is well designed and easy to use, with a wizard to help you configure the basic settings; a Basic tab for simple tasks such as changing the Wi-Fi passwords; and an Advanced tab where the most technical settings are kept.

We tested the router by timing how long it took to send a standard set of files from an external USB 3 SSD, connected to the router, to a PC equipped with an 802.11ac Wi-Fi adapter. We compared the results to the same test run on a Netgear R6300 (a dual-band model costing around £70) and a Linksys WRT1900ACS with upgraded antennas (around £260 in total), which we reviewed in Issue 391 (bit.ly/issue391).

Using the the 5GHz network to reach a distant room, the TP-Link significantly outperformed both of the other routers, with transfer speeds of 12MB/s, but it wasn't as fast as the Linksys model in the same room. TP-I ink's 2.4GHz network was faster than Netgear's router in the same room, but performance on this frequency dropped off when we moved to a distant room, failing to match the Linksys model's optional powerboosting antennas.

OUR VERDICT

The idea of a private network you can keep to yourself is extremely tempting, and TP-Link has brought this option to a sub-£200 device. undercutting other tri-band routers by at least £30. It performed well in our tests. particularly at a distance on the 5GHz network, which is exactly where its power needs to be concentrated.

FEATURES PERFORMANCE EASE OF USE VALUE FOR MONEY ***

It's not as slick to set up and configure as some of its rivals, but there's nothing here that would confuse anyone who's happy to explore their router's settings.



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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

£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 = Threeyear return-to-base warranty

MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER

Canon Pixma MG5750

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



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

KEY SPECS

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

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 MANAGER

CyberLink PhotoDirector 8 **Essentials**

bit.ly/photodirector408

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8.x/10, or macOS

File size: 332MB

PhotoDirector 8 Essentials is a cut-down version of the paid-for Ultra. It includes a photo organiser, image viewer, slideshow creator and a good selection of image-editing tools. The free download also includes a 30-day trial of the fully featured Ultra edition.

The user interface has a standard menu bar across the top which gives you access to the options, with a second menu below providing access to the different modules: Library (the photo organiser), Adjustment, Edit, Layers, Slideshow (see screen grab





below) and Print.

Unfortunately, once the trial has expired, the Edit and Layers sections no longer work and several other tools throughout stop functioning, too. There's no way of knowing that something is no longer available until you try to use it. This can be frustrating, but you'll soon learn whether a specific tool or module is or isn't offered.

Below the second menu are tabs that relate to the current module. Library, for example, has tabs for Project and Metadata. The former lets you manage

your images, create folders, add tags and so on, while the latter displays EXIF and IPTC data, and lets you make changes, and manage and add tags.

In the Adjustment tab, you can use sliders to make changes to your images, or apply preset effects, such as Black & White, Colour Creative, People and Scenery, Each preset contains a selection of filters. Because there are a lot of tools and options, it may take a while for you to get to grips with the software, but there's plenty of help available, including tutorials.

MINI WORKSHOP | Edit your photos in CyberLink PhotoDirector 8 Essentials



To add some images, go to File, 11 Import, Photos and select the items you want. You can exclude possible duplicates 2 and choose whether to make a copy when importing, 3 so you can apply changes without affecting the originals. You can also add filters, tags and copyright information when importing. 4



Your added images will appear in a ı strip along the bottom. 🚺 Click a photo to see a preview of it. 2 You can switch to a different view at the top. 3 The metadata (name, capture date, dimensions and so on) 4 for the selected photo appears in a panel on the left, and can be altered.



To make changes to the look of a photo, click the Adjustment button. 11 The software displays a selection of available preset effects. 2 Select one you like to apply it to your image. The Manual tab 3 lets you make various batch adjustments using sliders. When you've made all your changes, you can save the result.

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



VPN SOFTWARE TunnelBear 3

www.tunnelbear.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8.x/10, or macOS File size: 23.6MB

If you need to access a website that's blocked in your country or you want to browse the web without being spied on by your ISP, a VPN is the perfect solution. TunnelBear is easy to use and gives you 500MB of free data every month, plus a choice of unlimited paid-for plans - \$7.99 (6.28) a month or \$49.99 (£39.31) a year. The latest version has a cleaner interface, and connecting and reconnecting to a network is now around 60% faster. You can mark your favourite networks as trusted and be alerted to any potential vulnerabilities before connecting to other networks.

• Take a look at our Workshop 'Watch US TV without being hacked' on page 57



ASTRONOMY SOFTWARE Gaia Sky

bit.ly/gaia408

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8.x/10, macOS, or Linux

File size: 123MB

Gaia Sky is an open-source, real-time 3D astronomy-visualisation tool that's based on the European Space Agency's Gaia mission to chart around one billion stars in our galaxy. Once you've chosen the graphics quality, resolution and mode (windowed or full screen), the program opens on a view of the Earth as seen from space. Gaia Sky takes a while to load so be patient. Click and drag with the left button to move the view, and click the button again to freeze everything. We'll have a full Workshop on Gaia Sky next issue.



SYSTEM TOOL Driver Booster 4

www.iobit.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/

Vista/7/8.x/10 File size: 14.8MB

Driver Booster helps you avoid crashes and hardware problems by scanning your system for outdated or missing drivers and updating them to the latest versions with a single click.

The newly expanded database offers over 400,000 drivers from more than 5,000 hardware manufacturers, and includes the latest game components. **Driver Compression Technology** reduces the size of driver packages by up to 90% for speedier updating, and the program can now resume interrupted driver downloads.

New Windows Apps

Kodi

bit.ly/kodi408

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 289.45MB

The popular media centre (formerly XBMC) is now available as an app for Windows 10, letting you add your music, videos and photos, and also watch TV and play DVDs. See Workshop 1 in Issue 407.



SuperPhoto Free

bit.ly/superphoto408

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 24.1MB

This app lets you apply hundreds of effects to your images and finetune the results. You can import photos from your computer, or from Facebook and Instagram.



Open Live Writer

bit.ly/olwriter408

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 42.5MB

Open Live Writer is an open-source 'fork' of Microsoft's Windows Live Writer blogging software. The app lets you create blog posts, add photos and videos, and publish them to your website.



Best Free Software

DNS SWITCHER Change DNS Helper

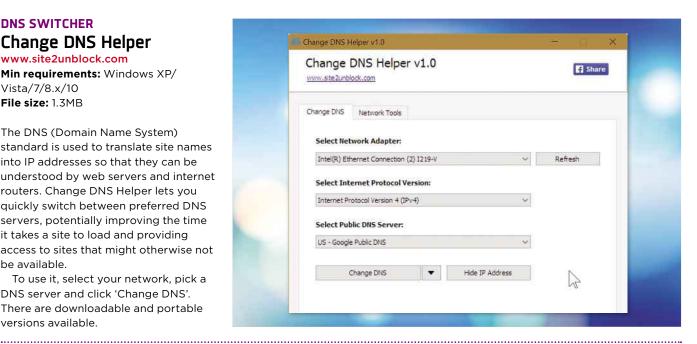
www.site2unblock.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/

Vista/7/8.x/10 File size: 1.3MB

The DNS (Domain Name System) standard is used to translate site names into IP addresses so that they can be understood by web servers and internet routers. Change DNS Helper lets you quickly switch between preferred DNS servers, potentially improving the time it takes a site to load and providing access to sites that might otherwise not be available.

To use it, select your network, pick a DNS server and click 'Change DNS'. There are downloadable and portable versions available.



> HelDocne Choose Software O Windows 7 O Windows 8.1 Select edition Windows 10 The Windows 10 editions below are valid for both Windo O Office 2007 Office 2010 O Office 2011 Office 2016 More download options 1 Get Windows/Office Keys

DOWNLOAD UTILITY

Windows and Office ISO Download Tool 4

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8.x/10 File size: 499KB

If you want to try a different version of Windows in a program like VirtualBox (www .virtualbox.org) or you've lost your original Windows installation disc but still have the licence kev, this tool can find and download genuine ISO image files of Windows and Office for mounting, or writing to a disc or a USB stick. It can download Windows 7 and newer, and Office 2007 and newer. The latest release adds a download-link creator for Office 2013 and 2016.

SYSTEM TOOL

Insomnia

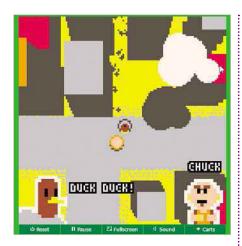
www.techcenter.dk

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8.x/10 File size: 623KB

Insomnia is a simple tool that can stop your PC from going to sleep or hibernating, and also prevents your monitor from going into standby. Unlike some similar tools that keep your PC awake by emulating key presses or mouse clicks, Insomnia works by using Windows APM (Advanced Power Management) flags, so your system thinks it's too busy to shut down.

To use Insomnia, just right-click the systemtray icon and choose to Keep Monitor On, or Exit.





GAME

Duck Duck on the Loose

bit.ly/duck408

Min requirements: Windows XP/

Vista/7/8.x/10 File size: 85.9MB

If you like your games simple, then give this one a go. It's an open-world exploration game in which you control a duck on a quest to track down seven missing ducklings. Along the way, you'll encounter people you can chat to.

You'll be asked for a donation to download the game, but you can skip this and play for free.

Don't install...

EaseUS Partition Master Free

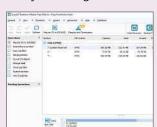
bit.ly/ease408

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 48MB

EaseUS Partition Master Free is a useful tool but installing it on a PC is littered with traps for the unwary. We had to dodge one for upgrading to the Pro edition and had to supply an email address to finish the installation. Also, the software itself is full of links to extra downloads that you can't get rid of.



...Install this instead

MiniTool Partition Wizard Free

bit.lv/mini408

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

File size: 32MB

Installing MiniTool Partition Wizard is much smoother, and there are no extras or upgrade nags. It still pops up the occasional advert when you first use it but you can dismiss them with a click. The interface is clear and simple to use, and can perform all the hard-drive partitioning jobs you might need, from creating and deleting partitions to resizing and reformatting them. There's also a handy partition-recovery wizard, which can reclaim partitions that have disappeared from your drive.





UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs



BITTORRENT CLIENT

µTorrent 3.4.9

www.utorrent.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/ Vista/7/8.x/10

File size: 2.3MB

The latest version of this popular BitTorrent client introduces a new Altruistic Mode designed to help your fellow torrenters by ensuring you upload more than you download. You can enable this by going to Options, Preferences, BitTorrent.



SYSTEM TOOL

WinUtilities Free 13.14

hi.ylcomputing.com

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

File size: 6.1MB

WinUtilities is a comprehensive all-in-one cleaning and optimisation suite. The latest version fixes a bug in the Duplicate File Finder module and optimises settings for the 64-bit version of Windows 10. It also improves Registry and disk cleaning, and updates the database.



WINDOWS CUSTOMISER

8GadgetPack 21

h8gadgetpack.net

Min requirements: Windows

8.x/10

File size: 19.7MB

This program lets users add floating gadgets such as clocks, calendars and system monitors to the Windows Desktop. The latest version fixes a bug that made gadgets freeze after the Windows 10 Anniversary Update and improves LibreOffice support in the Clipboarder gadget.



SYSTEM CLEANER

Wipe 16.12

bit.ly/wipe408

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8.x/10

File size: 530KB (installer-

Wipe removes temporary files, cached web pages and the general junk that accumulates on your PC. This version fixes three big bugs, including detection of updates of third-party programs, and adds cleaning support for the latest browser versions.

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



Best New Browser Tools



CHROME

Keep your online chat completely private

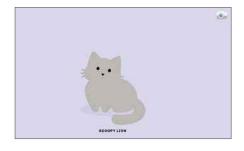
If you like to chat, text and send video messages but also value your privacy, then Signal Private Messenger (bit.ly/ signal408) might be the tool for you. It uses end-to-end encryption and was developed by Open Whisper Systems - a company that comes personally recommended by none other than Edward Snowden. It has been available for Android and iOS for a while now, but this PC version is fresh out of beta. It installs like any other Chrome extension, but you'll need your phone handy to complete the set-up process, which involves scanning a barcode displayed on screen. Once linked, you can keep your contacts and messages synced across all your devices, and pick up conversations where you left off if you switch between them. Until recently, you could only link the extension with Android phones and tablets, but the new version works with iOS devices, too. Signal is a free service and there are no adverts.



Silence unwanted sounds forever

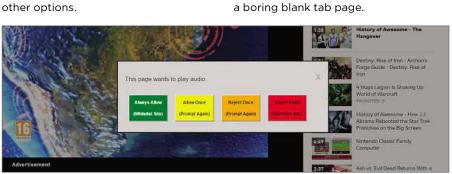
Noisy tabs can be a nuisance especially pages that randomly blare out adverts when you're trying to read or listen to something else. Silent Sound Blocker (bit.ly/silent408) keeps the peace by blocking sounds on everything other than sites you've specifically added to a whitelist. With the extension installed, any page you land on that attempts to play audio or video will be muted by default, until you allow or reject it. A warning screen will pop up (see screen grab, below) offering you to Always Allow (add the site to your whitelist), Allow Once, Reject Once or Never Allow (add it to your blacklist).

Alternatively, you can switch to a blacklist-based approach, which plays all audio by default but lets you block specific sites. Simply right-click the extension's toolbar button for this and other options



Fill every new tab with cats

There clearly aren't enough cats on the internet yet – at least, not according to the makers of Tabby Cat (bit.ly/tabby408), a Chrome extension that displays a cute cartoon kitty whenever you open a fresh browser tab. Other than providing a screenshot tool to save your favourites and a humorous name for each animal, the tool doesn't have many features. But if you're a cat lover, then being greeted by 'Scoopy Lion' or 'Mighty Scratcher' certainly beats a boring blank tab page.



Automatically identify landmarks in videos

Flico (bit.ly/flico408) recognises landmarks in online videos and shows useful information about them in a small pop-up window as you watch. Play a YouTube clip, for example, and you'll see Filco's icon appear in the bottom-right corner of the screen. Click this, then click the Scan Landmarks (target) icon that appears above and Filco will attempt to identify any landmarks it finds in the video.



In our tests, Filco's performance proved to be somewhat patchy. It seems to work best if you pause the video on the clearest shot of the landmark in question before you run the scan. Even then, it was only able to identify two out of the three shots of the Houses of Parliament (above). Still, it's pretty good fun when it works and could be a handy homework aid for schoolchildren.



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



FIREFOX

Get Firefox to read web pages to you

The latest version of Firefox (49) brings with it a number of features and fixes, including a vastly improved Reader Mode. This not only cuts clutter from web pages, but also lets you customise the layout and gives you the option to have the page read aloud, thanks to a built-in text-to-speech tool.

Reader Mode isn't available on every web page - if Firefox deems a page suitable, then you'll see a book icon to the right of the address



bar. Click this and Firefox will reformat the page into a more readable view and a slim sidebar will pop out on the left. Clicking the 'Aa' icon in the sidebar lets you control the font, the size of the text, the spacings and the colour of the background (Light, Dark or Sepia).

Click the soundwave icon in the sidebar for the Narrate tool and use the playback controls to play or skip back and forward. The slider lets you control the speed and you can select a voice from the drop-down menu.

Test drive the latest Firefox features

Want to try new Firefox tools before they're released? Fancy helping to shape future versions of Mozilla's browser? Then you should consider signing up to the company's Test Pilot scheme. Joining is easy - just head to bit.ly/testpilot408 and click 'Install the Test Pilot Add-on'.

The scheme has just introduced three new experimental features: a handy built-in screen-capture tool called Page Shot, which provides one-click sharing; a new picture-in-picture tool called Min Vid that keeps online videos in a small frame in the foreground as you browse other pages; and an improved Tracking Protection tool that turns on protection for all browsing and adds quick ways to report any problems you encounter.





Make multi-tasking a snap

Aero Snap in Windows is useful for organising open windows on your Desktop - including your web browser - when you're carrying out multiple tasks, but it's not very configurable and doesn't always work as you might expect. Simple Window Resizer (bit .ly/simple408) is a Firefox extension that, in one click, quickly moves your browser window to the left-hand side of your screen and resizes it to fit the full height of your desktop, leaving - by default - 400 pixels of empty space on the right. Usefully, by delving into the extension's settings, you can customise the width of the remaining empty space.

OTHER BROWSERS

Search for images

in seconds If you see an image while you're browsing and want a bigger (or smaller) version, or you want information about what's depicted, then install the Google Reverse Image Search add-on (bit.ly/image408). To find a larger version of a thumbnail image, just right-click it and select 'Search Google for image'. A Google Image Search page opens showing other sizes of the same image. as well as links relating to what the image contains.



Add Office Online apps to Edge Office Online extensions have been available for Chrome for a while now, but Microsoft has recently added them to Edge (bit.ly/office408). The tool lets you open and edit Office documents in a couple of clicks from within the browser. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and Sway are all supported. Office Online apps don't have all the features of their software counterparts, but they're completely free to use. All your files are stored in OneDrive by default, so you'll need to sign in with your Microsoft account the first time you use the extension.





Best Free Apps

App of the Fortnight

NEWS

News Pro

newspro.microsoft.com

Min requirements: Android 4.4, iOS 8.1 Size: 9.8MB (Android), 26.9MB (iOS)

Personalised news feeds have been around since the earliest days of RSS - the technology that 'fed' articles to your Desktop (assuming you could work out how to use it). Apps such as BBC News (bit.lv/ bbcnews408) have made it easier by letting you add favourite topics to a My News screen. Microsoft's News Pro is similar but, unlike BBC News, it draws headlines, articles, video and more from dozens of sources around the world.

News Pro isn't quite a match for the BBC's app,

at least at first sight. That's due in part to the strong US bias of its headlines and sources, and also the rather random nature of its default 'Highlights' news feed.

You can fix both problems by allowing News Pro to get to know you. There's an option to sign in using Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn, which helps the app get an idea of your interests. You can also rate articles and subscribe to topics

(see the Mini Workshop on the right). Soon your feed will look less like a Donald Trump photo album than it did when you first opened it (unless Trump is your favourite subject, of course).

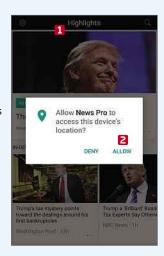
News Pro has huge potential. A text-only 'Speedy view' option makes articles a pleasure to read, and you can annotate and comment on stories when sharing them. The app is fast, and the number of sources grew in the few days we were testing it, but it's crying out for better ways to organise content. You can't easily switch from the Highlights to a specific topic, for example, and it



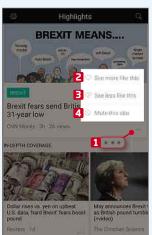
MINI WORKSHOP

Personalise the news using News Pro

Install and launch News Pro. Sign in using a social-media account, or tap 'Get started' to skip, then tap Skip when asked for your 'company or industry'. On the Highlights screen, 11 tap Allow to let News Pro know which country you're in. 2 Next time, the app will open straight to Highlights.



Swipe up to scroll through the headlines in Highlights. To let News Pro know that you're interested in a subject, tap the three dots below a headline, 11 then tap 'See more like this'. 2 If you're not interested in the topic, tap 'See less like this'. El To remove a news source completely, tap 'Mute this site'. 4

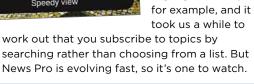


To subscribe to a topic. tap the search icon and type a keyword or words. 1 This loads a list of matching articles from the past 24 hours, in order of relevance. To subscribe to your search term, tap the plus sign. 2 To unsubscribe from it, perform the same search, then tap the tick.













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

MONEY

1Tap Receipts

1tapreceipts .com

Min

requirements: Android 4.1,

iOS 8.3 Size: 30MB (Android), 276MB (iOS)

Mobile apps have made life

easier if you're self-employed or you just like to stay on top of your spending. Instead of stuffing your receipts in shoeboxes, you just scan them using your device's camera. 1Tap Receipts goes a step further than most scanner apps by extracting relevant data from your scanned receipts and adding it securely to your tax return on your behalf. The app also

Halfords

Mon, Jan 18 Apr 2015

Car, van and travel expenses

includes encrypted cloud storage for your receipts, an HMRC tax calculator and invoicing tools.



Our rating



INTERNET

Speedify

speedify.com

Min

NEW

requirements:

Android 4.4, iOS 9

Size: 8.8MB (Android), 31.1MB

What's faster and more stable than Wi-Fi or mobile data? Using both

at once, according to Speedify. The app combines all your available connections to achieve the best possible internet speeds on your phone or tablet, which can significantly boost streaming video and other bandwidth-heavy activity. The app lets you set a data limit, but even so we urge caution: it can quickly eat through your allowance, and it only lets you use 4GB of data

free per month. It also requests permission to modify system settings, which you may not want.



NEW

UPDATED

Speedify

Upgrade

Free Account 🕥

Our rating

CUSTOMISATION

lvy bit.ly/ivy408

Min requirements:

Android 4.4 Size: 2.2MB

Make the most of your phone's limited screen space by adding swipe-out sidebars



(or 'ribbons') of shortcuts, contacts, news and notifications. By default, Ivy adds a simple Apps Ribbon, although that does nothing to distinguish it from all the other apps that claim to make your phone more like a £500 Samsung Galaxy S7, which has sidebars built in. Ivy offers more than most, however, including a swipe-out RSS

feed, customisable widgets for your apps and a People Ribbon filled with shortcuts to friends and family.



Our rating

TRAVEL

Google Trips

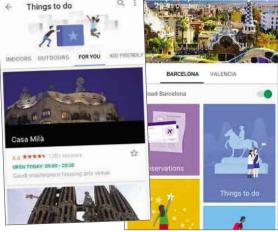
google.com/trips

Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 8 Size: 10MB (Android), 44.6MB (iOS)

We sometimes find ourselves wondering how we ever managed to travel without smartphones. Google hopes we'll soon be wondering how we ever travelled without Google Trips.

The app organises your travel details into a personalised itinerary that you

can use offline while you're away. Sign in using your Gmail account, and Trips will scan your messages for flight details, hotel bookings and so on. It uses this info, along with your Google history, to create a custom-made guidebook for your trip, including annotated maps, places to see and eat, and a 'Need to Know' section with information about the local currency and what to do in an emergency. Download the lot before you leave and you can access it all offline - sparing you costly roaming charges while helping you get more from your holiday.





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

Order it now from Amazon at bit.ly/androidbook2016

Best Free Apps

SCREEN SHARING

Casto

bit.ly/casto408

Min requirements: Android 5

Size: 13MB

View and control your Android device from the widescreen comfort of your PC or even your smart TV. Casto streams your device's display over the internet, so you can view it in any browser. There's no need to register - just install the app, tap



Start Streaming, then go to www.castoapp.com on your PC and scan the QR code. Controlling Android takes a few extra steps, but it works - up to a point. The stream is blocky and controls are limited. It has potential,

though, and could be useful for viewing photos and videos from your phone on a laptop, or for

giving presentations.



SECURITY

Truecaller

www.truecaller.com

Min requirements: Android 4.0.3, iOS 7, Windows 10 Mobile

Size: 8.6MB (Android), 60.7MB (iOS),

from 3.86MB (Win)

Nuisance calls are a plague, but Truecaller fights the menace by warning you if an incoming call is from a notorious number, and automatically blocking certain numbers. The service began life as a web forum in 2009, and

UPDATED

has since amassed an international user base of 250 million people, who have helped create a database of spammers and con artists. This new version makes Caller ID

available offline, so you can get spam warnings even without an internet connection. You can also add tags to calls, and suggest better names for anyone who rings you.

Our rating



Our rating

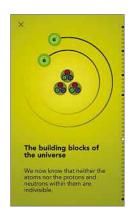
NEW APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

SCIENCE

Stephen Hawking's Pocket Universe

bit.ly/hawking408

Min requirements: iOS 9 Size: 154MB Price: £5.99 Explore the universe with the legendary Professor, Content is divided into six topics including Space-Time, Black Holes and the Expanding Universe, each with stunning illustrations and an integrated glossary.



WRITING

Compo

bit.ly/compo408

Min requirements: iOS 9.3 Size: 10.9MB Price: £2.29 This beautifully designed notepad and reading app offers many styles, fonts and file formats, and syncs automatically with iCloud.



Human Anatomy Atlas 2017

bit.ly/anatomy408

Min requirements: Android 4



Size: 555MB Price: £22.49

Human Anatomy Atlas is expensive and takes up lots of storage space on your phone or tablet, but this outstanding

medical reference tool gives you a lot for your money. The app includes animations. MRI scans and zoomable 3D models.

TRAVEL

WiFox

bit.ly/wifox408

Min requirements: Android 4.1 Size: 2.7MB Price: £1.79

Discover the Wi-Fi password for any airport around the world, then get straight online. You'll never have to ask for passwords at the information desk again.

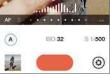


bit.ly/manual408

Min requirements: iOS 10 Size: 3.4MB Price: £2.99 Like Raw, which we looked at in Issue 407, this is another new app for shooting raw (uncompressed) photos with full exposure control. Full controls are only available on certain devices.







Stephen Hawking's Pocket Universe



Compo



Human Anatomy Atlas 2017

34 19 Oct - 1 Nov 2016



Manual



Best New TV Apps & Hardware

FILM & TV

Anytime by Utelly

bit.ly/anytime408

Min requirements: iOS 8

Size: 86.6MB



First there were TV-streaming services, such as BBC iPlayer and Netflix. Then came aggregator services, such as JustWatch. Now, Utelly's new Anytime app lets you access multiple services from a single hub. Soon we'll need

an aggregator for all the aggregators. Or we could just choose the best one and Anytime is a serious contender, with a good choice of UK content as well as US films and TV series. It's free, with no in-app purchases, and lets you find and play catch-up and on-demand films and TV programmes from dozens of services, including 4oD, ITV Player and YouTube, as well as subscription services such as Netflix. Browse recommendations and trending content. track favourite programmes and customise the built-in player to suit you. It's a must-have for your iPad.

ENTERTAINMENT

StubHub

www.stubhub.co.uk

Min requirements: Apple TV (4th gen)

Size: 31.2MB



We'll be honest - the ability to buy concert tickets through the TV was never on our wishlist. But now that eBay-owned marketplace StubHub has launched Apple TV's first ticketing app, it makes complete sense. Sit back and use your Apple TV remote to browse forthcoming shows, sporting events and even live TV recordings using a Netflix-style interface, then choose your seats from a full-screen venue plan. It feels more comfortable and leisurely than using your PC, tablet or phone. Sadly, the checkout process is less of a breeze and redirects you to the mobile app to complete your purchase. The new TV app is available now in Apple's tvOS App Store, and the updated mobile app is free to download for Android and iOS from www.stubhub.co.uk/mobile.

HARDWARE

Amazon Fire TV Stick

bit.ly/amazon408

Min requirements: HD TV with

HDMI port

Expected price: £34.99 (£44.99 with Voice Remote)

Amazon's Fire TV Stick crams all the features of a powerful set-top box into a thumb-sized dongle that you plug into your TV's HDMI port. It's now been updated to support Voice Remote, making it work with Alexa, Amazon's voice-controlled 'assistant' in the Echo. Instead of fumbling with buttons, you can just tell it what you want to watch. The remote puts the Fire TV Stick a step ahead of rivals such as Google's Chromecast and Roku Express (see page 10), and it's now more powerful, too, with a quad-core processor and 802.11ac Wi-Fi making it much faster than its predecessor. As ever, it lets you access dozens of streaming and on-demand services, plus hundreds of apps and games. Amazon Prime members get unlimited Amazon Video (bit.ly/amazonvid408). On sale now in the

US. it's expected to arrive in the UK soon.



X Don't install...

Sleep Analyzer

bit.ly/sleep408

"Getting enough sleep" is the key to a good day, according to a new survey by Heathrow Express (bit.ly/survey408) - and there's no



shortage of apps to help. Sleep Analyzer claims to 'monitor' the quantity and quality of your shut-eye, but in practice it does little more than overheat your phone. You even have to tap your screen to register when you wake up. Here's a better idea: switch off your phone.

...Install this instead

Twilight

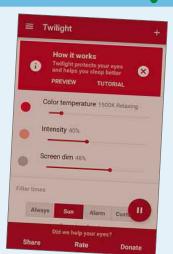
bit.ly/twilight408

Min requirements: Android

(varies by device) Size: Varies by device

Twilight automatically adjusts your screen's brightness and hue according to the time of day and ambient light. It's far more powerful than your device's built-in brightness settings. For example it casts a red hue to relieve eye strain - and stop your body's natural sleep chemicals being disrupted - when you read on your device before bedtime. Options include integration with Tasker for automated

tasks, and sunrise and sunset tracking. The app is lightweight but includes tutorials and a preview, which we wouldn't recommend tapping when you're trying to stay awake, because it's... it's quite soporific... Yawn! Think we need a little nap.







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

European copyright law

The EU is looking to harmonise copyright law, and Google isn't happy. But should you be? David Crookes finds out

What is happening?

The European Commission is looking to change the rules on copyright across the EU in a bid to update them for the modern, digital age. The most important proposal is to relax the national restrictions that prevent you from watching and listening to content from the UK when you're abroad (such as shows on the BBC iPlayer), and vice versa. The proposals form part of efforts to create a Digital Single Market, which was announced in May 2015 in the hope of being delivered by the end of this year.

Why is it doing this?

Because currently each EU member state operates to a different set of rules, which makes it difficult for companies to license their content across country borders and prevents you from accessing what you want, where you want.

This system was sufficient in the days before the internet, but new rules are needed because there are so many ways to access copyright-protected content. Andrus Ansip, vice-president of the EU's Digital Single Market team, not only wants to reduce barriers across the 28 member states but also increase cultural diversity in the content that's available, while ensuring all work is fairly paid for and protected. It's a big ask.

How are the current restrictions affecting us?

According to EU figures, a third of Europeans want to access content they



Fed up seeing this message? So is the EU



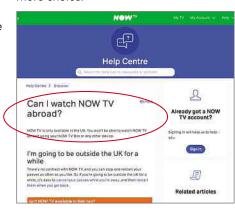
pay for from their home country when they are abroad, while a fifth want to do so from other EU countries when they are at home. But licensing difficulties within Europe mean that this isn't always possible. Broadcasters operating in one country have to negotiate individually with the copyright holder if they want to offer channels in other EU countries. These talks are costly and timeconsuming, and often break down.

So what's going to change?

You'll be able to access everything you've bought or subscribe to - movies, sport, music, ebooks, games and so on - in any EU country. As well as affecting traditional broadcasters like the BBC, a change in the law would let viewers access TV services such as Now TV (nowtv.com) when outside the UK, but still inside the EU.

However, the EU has suggested new laws that go further. It wants collective bargaining of copyright, which means that broadcasters across the EU would club together to pay a one-off fee for the rights to a TV show (this has been

described as a 'buy one, get 27 free' deal). This move would damage broadcasters such as ITV, which would no longer be able to negotiate a higher price for its programmes from broadcasters based in countries that have a larger population. Other broadcasters, including Sky, have said that this law will cut their revenues and lead to less investment in new programmes. But Mr Ansip is in favour, saying it would give consumers more choice.



If EU law changes the answer to this question will be 'yes'

What about videos that users post online?

They'll be affected too. One part of the new regulations deals with content being posted on video-sharing sites such as YouTube. Today, sites either remove content when they are informed of a copyright infringement, or they make money on behalf of the copyright owner through adverts. Under the new proposals, sites will have to introduce technology that can tell whether a video breaks copyright rules.

Doesn't YouTube already do this?

Yes, using its Content ID system (bit.ly/ content408), which compares videos and music to a database of copyrighted material. But the EU says that this doesn't go far enough. The new laws place more onus on YouTube to prevent anv copyrighted material from being uploaded by ordinary users. For example, they will have to impose rigorous measures to stop users from submitting videos that use copyrighted music.

Are only videos being affected by the rules?

No. Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, said he wanted journalists, publishers and authors to be paid fairly for their work, online and offline. To this end, he wants to give writers and publishers the power to seize the rights to their own content. and refuse to let their work be listed on news 'aggregators' such as Google News, or negotiate payments for their inclusion. Mr Ansip says this won't mean charging companies and individuals for linking to copyright-protected material, though.

How has Google taken this?

Not very well. It believes that restricting services such as Google News will only



The EU says news websites should be able to charge Google to show links to stories

hurt those who write, read and share the articles being linked to online. Google claims the EC is undermining the sharing nature of the web and it is concerned that websites are going to be forced to remove text, videos and images. It's pleased that the EC has recognised the importance of YouTube's Content ID in blocking copyrighted content, but believes the new rules are overkill. It fears that the internet will be turned into "a place where everything uploaded to the web must be cleared by lawyers before it can find an audience".

Isn't this a bit of an overreaction?

Google feels it has a legitimate argument based upon similar rules that were introduced in Spain in 2014 as part of a new intellectual-property law. News aggregators started to be charged for showing snippets of news and linking to news stories. Fines for breaking the law ran into hundreds of thousands of euros.

Google acted swiftly to close its News service, causing web traffic to Spanish news sites to drop by 14% in a year. Revenues plummeted and some sites went bust, but the rules are still in place. "Paying to display snippets is not a viable option for anyone," Google says. It wants Spain to give websites the option to



Spanish Google News said 'adios' in 2014

choose whether they allow Google to link to their stories. When this happened in Germany, Google says, many websites did just that.

So why is the EC still considering this?

It reckons that a pan-European approach will be more effective. Gunther Oettinger. the European Commissioner for digital economy and society, says that a global company of Google's size could not afford to exist without access to the entire EU market. Google is hoping it can convince the EU of alternatives, pointing to the Digital News Initiative (www .digitalnewsinitiative.com) which it runs with European news publishers to "support high-quality journalism" and develop ways it can make money in the future. It's in Google's interests, after all, that news websites continue to exist.

Will Brexit change things?

Everything depends on the deal that is eventually struck. The UK could retain copyright as it is today, including any EU rules that have been incorporated up to this point. Or it could adopt the new rules - something it may be asked to do if it follows the Norwegian model by remaining part of the European Economic Area. Watch this space!

WANT TO CHANGE COPYRIGHT LAW? THEN SIGN MOZILLA'S PETITION

Firefox's developer Mozilla has launched an online petition (www .changecopyright.org) asking for copyright law to be updated for the internet age, so users can "tinker, create and share" content without fear of breaking any laws. Mozilla says that online parodies and remixes, and use of material for educational purposes. should be free of restrictions.

It also points out how absurd some of the current rules are. For example, it's technically illegal to share online a photo of the Eiffel Tower's light

display (see also the bottom-right box on page 7). The same applies to street graffiti, and certain buildings and cityscapes. Mozilla's answer is for the EU to implement a 'freedom of panorama' across Europe.

The restriction is surprisingly widespread. It's not part of UK law, but exists in many European countries, including France, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Iceland and Romania. Mozilla claims that ending this law will help to "keep the internet awesome", but ministers in Brussels say it's unlikely to change.



If you think it's mad that you can't share a photo of the Eiffel Tower, then sign this



Your PC is stuffed with junk - including programs you thought you'd seen the back of. Jane Hoskyn reveals how to remove every trace and reclaim your space

omputers (like people!) slow down when they're full. If you've had your PC for a while, it's likely to be crammed with programs you no longer use, Windows apps you never used, defunct hardware drivers and all sorts of stuff you can't budge, even when you right-click and choose Delete.

Windows' built-in uninstaller isn't powerful enough to remove programs completely, and it certainly can't tackle unwanted default apps and old system installations, yet

these items could be hogging half your hard drive without you even knowing it.

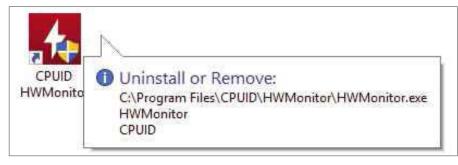
For this feature, we uninstalled everything we could from our test PCs, moving step by step from installed programs to Microsoft leftovers, and even Windows itself. We got a shock when we found 28GB of obsolete Windows update files on a relatively new laptop, but we can happily report we uninstalled them easily - once we knew how. Read on to find out how to free this much space and more.

STEP1 UNINSTALL UNWANTED PROGRAMS

Uninstall a program completely

You know how to uninstall software. Open the Control Panel, click 'Uninstall a program', choose one and then click Uninstall. But while this auto-pilot strategy may be quick, it's certainly not complete, and it leaves behind a trail of Registry data, program files and processes that continue to run in the background.

The free version of Revo Uninstaller (bit.ly/revo408) seizes all this litter while removing a program so you can ditch the lot. It takes barely any longer than the old Control Panel method, and it's easy – simply double-click a program in Revo's list. This automatically selects Uninstall and



Use Revo's Hunter Mode tool to identify and uninstall a program

displays all the program's Registry items and other leftover files. You then simply click Select All, then Delete to get rid of them. It always creates a system restore point in case anything goes wrong.

Revo is straightforward to install, but

be careful because the download button at the top of the page is the paid-for version, Revo Uninstaller Pro. Instead, scroll down the page and click Free Download next to Revo Uninstaller Freeware. There's no junk in the installer. If you're using Windows XP, Vista or 7, use the portable

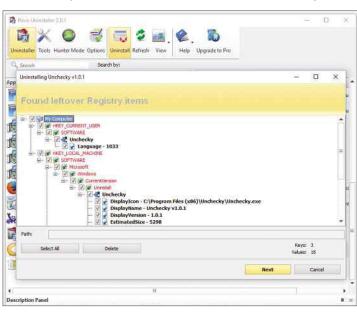
version instead – just click the Download button under Other Downloads.

Delete unwanted start-up programs

Revo includes a Hunter Mode tool you can drag on to programs to investigate them and force them to stop, then uninstall them completely. It's especially useful for getting rid of programs that automatically start when Windows launches, and which may not appear in the 'Uninstall a program' list.

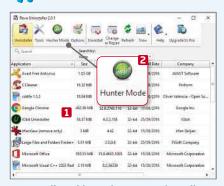
Startup programs appear in your system tray - the pop-up window hidden next to the clock on your taskbar. Not everything in your system tray is junk - it's likely to contain your antivirus, the single most important program on your PC - but a lot will be.

To find out what to keep and what to ditch, set Hunter Mode to run when Windows starts. Drag it over each system-tray shortcut to find out what it is. You can then kill and uninstall it completely from the Hunter Mode menu. To find out how, see our Mini Workshop below.



 ${\it Revo~Uninstaller~lets~you~quickly~remove~every~last~trace~of~a~program}$

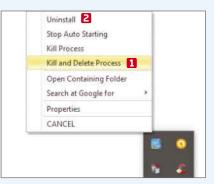
MINI WORKSHOP | Purge startup junk using Revo Hunter Mode



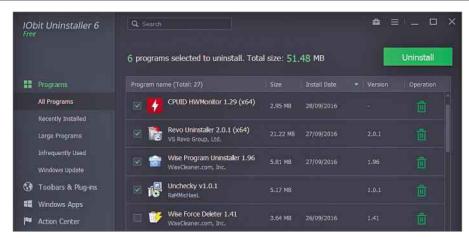
Install and launch Revo Uninstaller.
It opens by default on a list of your installed software. I Click Hunter
Mode. Revo's window will disappear but the program will continue to run.



You'll see a target icon, like the crosshairs on a rifle. I Right-click it and select 'Auto start with Windows'. Restart your PC and the Hunter Mode icon will appear on your Desktop.



Open your system tray, then click and drag Hunter Mode to a shortcut and let go of your mouse button. Click 'Kill and Delete Process' in the menu to stop the program. 1 To remove it completely using Revo, click Uninstall.



Uninstall multiple unwanted programs in one go using IObit Uninstaller

Uninstall multiple programs at once

The new version of IObit Uninstaller (bit.ly/iobit408) lets you batch-uninstall programs from its default window. Tick everything you want to remove, then click Uninstall. As you tick each program, IObit calculates how much space you'll save.

IObit uninstalls programs one after the other rather than simultaneously; you have to click to confirm each one, so you can't simply leave IObit to get on with the job.

Unlike Revo, IObit doesn't create a restore point automatically. Instead, it

asks if you want to create one or not. This is handy if you're trying to free up space on your PC, because restore points can be large.

Force-remove stubborn software

The programs you most want to get rid of are often hardest to uninstall. They aren't necessarily malicious, often just badly designed, with files scattered all over your hard drive.

The most powerful tool for removing them is GeekUninstaller (bit.ly/geek408). It's free and portable, so there's no installation to worry about. Click the Download Free link and extract



Geek Uninstaller lets you force-remove any program from your PC

the EXE file, then double-click it to open a list of your installed software, including stuff that doesn't show up in 'Uninstall a program'.

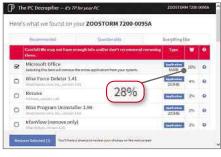
To dislodge a stubborn program, right-click it and select Force Removal (see screen grab, above). This gets rid of it completely, along with Registry entries and other leftover files. If you're not sure what a program is and don't understand why it won't delete, select 'Google for' from the right-click menu to find out more information.

STEP 2 BLITZ BLOATWARE

Find pre-installed junk on your new PC

A new PC is an empty PC, right? Wrong. Very wrong. Most computers are stuffed with software by the time they reach the shops. This 'bloatware' commonly includes media suites, cloud-storage programs and trial versions of antivirus products. Sometimes, as when Lenovo pre-installed Superfish adware on laptops, this junk can be downright dangerous (bit.ly/lenovo408).

To find out what's already installed on a new PC, run the free, portable program PC Decrapifier (www .pcdecrapifier.com). It reveals which of your installed programs should get



PC Decrapifier reveals how many users ditched certain pre-installed programs

the boot, using scores gathered from other users.

You can uninstall multiple programs at once using PC Decrapifier. However, the removal process is less thorough than in the other tools we've mentioned, so use one of those as well to sweep up leftover files.

Remove all built-in Windows 10 apps at once

Windows 10 apps have certain advantages over traditional programs: they're fast, easy to update and relatively small, which is great if you've chosen to install them. But what about the dozens you didn't? Open your Start menu and you'll find oodles of default Microsoft apps, uninvited and pre-installed.

You can get rid of some by rightclicking their entries in the Start menu and clicking Uninstall. This works for several pre-installed Microsoft apps including Feedback Hub, Microsoft WiFi and Microsoft Solitaire Collection (though we rather like that one). Until Microsoft adds its app-removal option to the full vesion of Windows 10 (see page 9), others – such as Cortana, Edge and Store – need a firmer hand.



10AppsManager lets you remove all default Windows 10 apps with one click

To uninstall these persistent apps in one go, use the free, portable tool 10AppsManager (bit.ly/10apps408). Its new version (2.0) lets you uninstall all Windows apps in one go, then reinstall any you decide you want back. To get it, scroll down the page and click Download File, then extract the contents of the Zip file. Click an app's thumbnail in the program window to uninstall only that app, or click Remove All to blitz the lot.

STEP 3 REMOVE REDUNDANT BROWSER TOOLS

Uninstall pointless plugins and extensions

Plugins and extensions are tiny programs that add features to your browser. Some are useful, such as the advert-blocking extension Adblock Plus, and some are notorious security blackspots, such as the media plugin Java. They all take up space and many slow down your browser. By and large, they're dispensable.



You can disable plugins in your browser settings, but this doesn't remove them

All the major browsers let you disable plugins manually. In Chrome, type chrome://plugins into the address bar and press Enter, then click the Disable links (though this doesn't remove them). In Firefox, open the menu, click Add-ons and select Plugins, then click Disable next to any plugin. Extensions are usually listed separately



Get rid of stubborn adware such as Binkiland using AdwCleaner

and you can easily remove them one

For a quicker and more thorough clear-out, use Wise Plugin Manager (bity.ly/wiseplug408). This free program automatically detects extensions and plugins in Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer (IE) and Opera, then lets you remove each item with one click. Unlike some other Wise programs, Plugin Manager doesn't currently bundle junk

in its installer.

To uninstall multiple plugins and extensions in one go, use the latest version 6 of IObit Uninstaller. Click 'Toolbars & Plug-ins' to see all plugins installed by and for Chrome, Firefox, IE and - going one better than Wise Plugin Manager - Edge.

Remove dodgy search engines and toolbars

Unwanted search engines and toolbars are the unsavoury side of browser extras. These hijackers trick their way on to your PC by hiding in software installers - often with the full cooperation of the software maker. The Bing toolbar has long been bundled in the installer for Skype, and nasty adware such as Conduit Search Protect and Binkiland commonly stow away in installers for MP3 downloaders, torrent tools and other free media software Adware can be hard to uninstall, especially if you use browser-syncing tools that pass the offending intruder between your PC and other devices. Less offensive search junk, including Bing and Avast's 'Safe shopping' extension, can be removed via 'Toolbars & Plug-ins' in IObit Uninstaller.

The nasty stuff - adware and PUPs (potentially unwanted programs) - often secrete themselves in deliberately obscure locations in your hard drive and Registry. To find and remove them, stop any browser-syncing services and then use the free, portable adware-removing tool AdwCleaner (bit.ly/adwcleaner408). Run AdwCleaner as an administrator to find PUPs embedded on your PC, then click Clean to remove every trace.

WHY WE UNINSTALLED AUSLOGICS

The free program Auslogics **Browser Care claims to speed** up your PC by removing plugins, extensions and space-hogging browser data (bit.ly/browsercare408). Unfortunately, it also installs a PUP (potentially unwanted

program), even when you explicitly tell it not to. We ran its installer, clicked

'Custom Install (Advanced)' and then unticked Install Auslogics BoostSpeed (a different program entirely). We also unticked 'Launch program at Windows startup' to avoid acquiring yet another start-up process of the kind we used Revo Hunter Mode to kill and delete.

Hey presto - up popped a window saying: "Thanks for installing **BoostSpeed along with Browser Care** Free", with a demand for our email address (see screen grab). Meanwhile, a box lurched from our system tray



inviting us to "Improve Performance Now" by clicking a green button, which is actually a download button for another tool.

Auslogics Browser Care may help to clear your PC's clutter, but it delivers more junk than it removes and ignores your choices during installation. So we quickly expunged this obnoxious beast using a proper uninstaller.

STEP 4 DELETE OLD DRIVERS AND UPDATES



Find and uninstall obsolete drivers using Driver Talent

Remove obsolete drivers

Drivers, like plugins, are tiny programs that make something work – in this case, hardware. Your printer, graphics card, PC card and DVD drive all install drivers on your computer. As time goes by and you replace your printer, external hard drive and so on, your PC gets clogged up with old drivers that waste space and memory. Old drivers may also prevent you from installing new ones.

Some old drivers can be uninstalled manually. Open Device Manager in the Control Panel, click View, select 'Show hidden devices', then look for greyedout (obsolete) drivers under each device. To uninstall one, right-click it and select Uninstall.

Not all drivers can be removed this way, though. For a more thorough search, use the free version of Driver Talent (bit.ly/driver408). It quickly scans for old drivers and lets you remove them completely. It warns you if uninstalling certain drivers will damage your system, and lets you create driver backups in case things go wrong.

Uninstall Windows and Office updates

Microsoft constantly rolls out minor updates to Windows and its Office programs, and it's not very diligent



Investigate and uninstall recent Windows updates using Windows 10's Settings app

about removing old updates from your PC. You can uninstall minor updates in Windows 10 via the Settings app. Click Start, then click the cog, 'Update & security' and then 'Update history'. This opens a list of updates Windows has installed recently. They may include updates for Word, Outlook and certain plugins that you may recognise from Step 3's browser plugin clear-out on page 41. Click an update to see a description.

If you find an update you're sure you want to uninstall, click 'Uninstall updates' to open the Control Panel in a new window. Double-click an update in this window to uninstall it completely. We don't recommend uninstalling security updates.

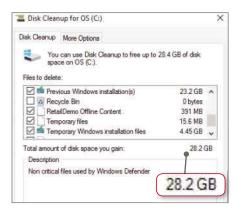
Remove Windows 10 installation junk

Windows 10's enthusiasm for updating regularly creates vast folders of temporary data and redundant installation files. And we mean *vast*. On our Windows 10 laptop, this amounted to a shocking 28GB (see screen grab, below).

This data is left behind in case you want to roll back to Windows 10's previous build. It's designed to delete automatically after 10 days but in our experience, this doesn't always happen.

You can clear this vast stockpile of system files in a few minutes using your PC's built-in Disk Cleanup tool. Type 'disk' into Start, then right-click Disk Cleanup in the results and click 'Run as administrator'. The tool will then scan for any system files you no longer need.

In the window that opens, scroll through the list and tick 'Previous Windows installation(s)' and 'Temporary Windows installation files', along with any other categories you want to clean. (If there are no old Windows installations on your PC, these options won't appear in the list.) Click OK to remove the files completely.



Disk Cleanup found 28GB of old Windows Update and installation files on our laptop

CAN YOU UNINSTALL WINDOWS?

Yes. Now here's another question: why would you? Partly because we've promised you a feature about uninstalling anything from your PC, and your operating system (OS) is the biggest thing installed on it. But also because it allows you to reinstall Windows from scratch (a 'clean' install).

First, make a full backup of your current system. Next, get your new OS ready to install from a DVD or USB stick. You can download the Windows



10 media-creation tool from Microsoft (bit.ly/windownload408, see screen grab). Next, install the new OS. The Microsoft Community site has a step-by-step guide for installing Windows from your DVD or USB (bit.ly/install408). Installing the new OS automatically deletes your current Windows installation. If you have multiple systems on your PC ('dual boot') and want to uninstall one of them, you can do it via the System Configuration tool.

STEP 5 CLEAR OUT UNINSTALLATION LEFTOVERS

Completely remove part-installed programs

If you abandoned an installation halfway through, that half-installed program will be cluttering your PC. You may also be hosting programs you thought you'd removed (say, by deleting their shortcuts).

The superb free tool BCUninstaller - short for the less delicate-sounding Bulk Crap Uninstaller (bit.ly/bulk408) scans your PC for half-installations and 'orphan' program files, then lets you remove them completely.



Find and remove orphaned installations using the powerful BCUninstaller

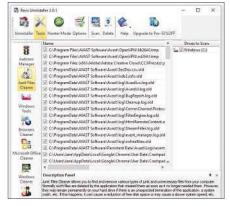
When you first launch the program, a pop-up wizard offers advanced options including 'Show system components' and 'Show orphaned applications'. Tick these, then click Continue to open the main uninstaller list, which includes Windows apps and part-uninstalled programs. Right-click any item to see its uninstall options.

To scan your hard drive for orphans, click Tools and select 'Clean up Program Files folder'. Items that BCUninstaller thinks are safe to remove are pre-ticked in the list that appears; others are left for you to decide. Double-click any item in the list to open it in File Explorer and see more information. Tick the items you want to remove completely from your PC, then click 'Delete selected'.

Remove junk left behind by old programs

What could possibly be left on your computer after you've got rid of unwanted programs, plugins, updates and half-installed software? Plenty, as you'll see if you run the latest free version of CCleaner (bit.ly/ccleaner408) and discover the many thumbnail caches and temporary files that have been left behind by programs you removed months ago.

For an even deeper clean, use the Junk Files Cleaner tool in Revo Uninstaller. Click Tools, then Junk Files Cleaner, and then click Scan. Revo's tool isn't quite as easy to use as CCleaner's but, when we used it, we discovered lots more junk left behind by uninstalled programs, including font caches, message logs and bug reports. All files are ticked by default, so click Delete to get rid of them in one go.



Use Revo's Junk Files Cleaner tool to clean up after uninstalled programs

To go a step further and make old and uninstalled data impossible to recover, use Revo's Evidence Remover and Unrecoverable Delete options. both of which can also be found on the Tools screen.

What you say...

We asked Web User readers have you ever found it difficult to uninstall a program from your PC?

I downloaded iTunes when I had an iPhone. I tried to uninstall it and all its associated software when I got rid of the phone, but I still keep finding leftovers.

Paul Emsley

CryptoLocker was a tough one to clear and then decrypt. Luckily, it was on a virtual machine so it didn't cause any damage.

Si Mellor

All the bloatware on my HP Stream 11 laptop.

Adrian Strand

The preloaded software on my Toshiba c660d laptop. I should have just formatted it and reinstalled Windows 7.

Jack @imthegoldmaster

I always use Revo Uninstaller. Not only does it get rid of the program, it also cleans up the leftovers.

Steve Hamilton

Fingers crossed, I've never been beaten. I hope I've not spoken too soon!

Richard Bond

Not in the past 10 years. I'm careful and wiser and armed with programs such as IObit Uninstaller that help prevent and eradicate.

Gary Olsen

NEXT ISSUE

on sale Wednesday 2 November 2016

EAT THE WEB'S JPID RESTRICT

Clever ways to do what websites don't want you to do



OBROWSE THE WEB IN A **DIFFERENT COLOUR**

Essential changes to Chrome, Firefox, Edge and Opera

O BEST PORTABLE SOFTWARE

Top tools to run from a USB

ODWNLOAD & **CONVERT VIDEOS**

Must-use software for every type of file

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Best Android apps for scanning documents

Edward Munn rounds up the best apps for turning your smartphone into a pocket scanner



Office Lens | bit.ly/officelens408 | ★★★★★

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

What we liked:

Webuser
GOLD
AWARD

Microsoft's
Office Lens is
the perfect app
for scanning
documents,
notes or indeed
anything that

contains a lot of text. After opening the app, you can choose from four different modes - Document, Photo, Whiteboard and 'Business card' - to get the best scan possible.

Point the camera's lens

towards the document you want to capture and Office
Lens will use a floating frame to outline the selection that it will capture. Once you've taken the picture, the app quickly processes it, correcting wonky perspective (even if you've taken the shot from quite an extreme angle) and enhancing the colours to make it look like a real scan. If the automatic selection accidentally cuts something off, you can manually re-crop it or simply store the scan as the uncropped original photo.

Office Lens lets you export your scans as Word, PowerPoint and PDF files, or you can export the image to your

A corker in Mallorea

Cyclis's rambling route to the lighthouse

use the full route, point or youth to the 18 phthouse

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Gallery app. Choosing one of the Office formats has the added benefit of uploading the scan to Microsoft's OneDrive, so it's accessible from any of your devices.

Office Lens doesn't simply embed an image file in a document; if you choose to save the scan as a Word file, the app's OCR (optical character recognition) technology jumps into action and converts the text into a fully editable document. Exporting as a PowerPoint

file, on the other hand, transforms handwritten lines into drawn objects that can then be resized, moved and edited.

We were amazed by how accurately text was converted when we exported our scan as a Word file; there were very few – if any – mistakes, and the different font sizes and styles were carried over. Also, having the file saved to OneDrive meant we could immediately open it on a PC.

How it can be improved:

The biggest drawback to Office Lens is that there's no option to save multiple-page documents. Although the app is meant to recognise handwriting as well as printed

text when exporting to a Word document, we found this unreliable.

OUR VERDICT

For quick scans of documents, notes and even drawings, no app beats Office Lens. Its automatic enhancements, cloud backups and incredibly accurate OCR place it streets ahead of any of its rivals.

PDF Scanner Free | bit.ly/pdfscanner408 | ★★★★☆

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

What we liked:

Scanning documents with PDF Scanner Free is quick and easy. Simply tap the

button to capture an image with your camera and, like Office Lens, the app will indicate its selection clearly on the screen. You can manually adjust this after the picture has been taken

if anything has been cut off, and the app automatically corrects the scan's perspective before letting you choose from four different filters - Gray, B&W, Document or High Enhance.

To convert a scan to editable text. tap the three-dot button and select OCR, then Start. You can then edit the text to correct any mistakes made by the converter before saving it to your device or sharing it.

Unlike our Gold Award winner, PDF Scanner lets you scan multiple pages to a single document, letting you run OCR

14 10 GETTING TO THE ISLAND Shertly after the town of Prizgrina the vineyards end, the landscape becomes baser and rocket, and ahead you see the gittering see, framing the island of Kolciula. The port of Orelid. from where you take the ferry, is small, but there are several hotels and to the north are some of the coast's best sandy beaches, which are popular with windourfers. There are in coasts bestsandy bearches, which popular with windsurfers. There are ferries from here, but if you plan to confirate on the town of Kockula, as-tineeray does, it would be as well save your car here and take the pas-gor ferry across. The Old Town itself dedestriansed, and outlying areas easily reached on foot, As your boat

on all the pages at once, or you can export them as a multiple-page PDF. There's also a handy built-in editor you can use to add text, highlight sections and add a signature to your document.

How it can be improved:

PDF Scanner's interface is not as polished or intuitive as either of our other award winners, and its scans appeared to be of a slightly

lower quality. The free version of PDF Scanner is also supported by ads, which can be removed for £4.49.

OUR VERDICT

PDF Scanner was the only app we tested that offered both multiplepage scanning and full OCR functionality for free. However, we found that Office Lens offers higher-quality scans and a more enjoyable user experience.

CamScanner | bit.ly/camscanner408 | ★★★★☆

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

WebUser BRONZE AWARD

What we liked:

CamScanner had the most polished design of all the apps we

tested and using it was a real pleasure. After photographing the document you want to scan and confirming the app's auto-selection, it quickly corrects your scan's perspective and lets you

choose from a range of enhancement filters including Auto, Lighten, Magic Colour, Grey Mode and B&W. There are also handy options to adjust brightness, contrast and detail, in case you're not happy with the standard filters.

Once you've approved the scan, you can add notes, share it as a JPEG or PDF, and add more pages to create a multiple-page document. The app even offers a handy batch mode that lets you quickly capture multiple scans in a row. CamScanner supports OCR and lets

A corker in Mallorca

you search the pages of your document by the words they contain, but you'll need to buy it (for £1.79) to edit or export this text on a page-bypage basis.

How it can be improved:

CamScanner's confusing pricing includes both a paid-for app and a Premium subscription. The free version lacks high-quality scans and adds a

watermark to multiple-page PDFs. Also, the app's OCR results are less accurate than those of Office Lens.

.....

OUR VERDICT

The free version of CamScanner offers impressive performance and an excellent interface, but it is let down by its lack of features. We think you're better off choosing one of our other award winners.

BEST OF THE REST

Text Fairy

bit.ly/textfairy408

A lightweight, ad-free OCR scanner, Text Fairy lets you convert printed documents into editable text quickly and easily. However, we found its OCR results were less accurate than our award winners, particularly when we didn't capture



the image very close up. Because it's an OCR scanner, Text Fairy is largely redundant if you want to scan pages with pictures.

Tiny Scanner

bit.ly/tinyscanner408

Tiny Scanner is a fast, easy-to-use scanner that almost claimed our Bronze Award. It creates highquality digital scans of documents

that you can share as PDFs or JPEGs. Like our award winners, it offers a range of filters to make the scans look just like the real thing. There's support for multi-page scanning but, unfortunately, even the Pro verison of Tiny Scanner, which costs £4.19, doesn't offer OCR.



Fast Scanner

bit.ly/fastscanner408

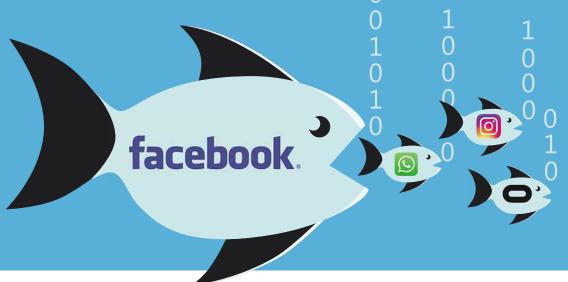
Like Tiny Scanner, Fast Scanner lets you quickly scan multiple-page documents and convert them to PDF or JPEG files for sharing. There are a range of filters to choose from

(including B&W, colour, photo and grey) to enhance the appearance of your scans, but again there's no OCR tool and the app doesn't correct your scans' perspective. On top of this, the free version of Fast Scanner is supported by obtrusive advertising.



WHO OWNS YOUR ONLINE DATA?

What happens to your data when online services are snapped up by bigger rivals?
Nicole Kobie exposes the truth behind the web's biggest buyouts



ulti-billion dollar tech acquisitions may seem to have little relevance for us humble users, but there's no question that they affect our lives online. When the big fish snap up smaller fry, it may be because they're after their technology or aiming to wipe out competition, but in many cases, they're most interested in vacuuming up your data.

Facebook's acquisition of the popular messaging app WhatsApp is a perfect example. When Facebook bought the company for \$19bn two years ago, WhatsApp's founders promised they would never share user data with their new parent firm. However, in September, WhatsApp asked its users to agree to new terms of service that allow the app to share their data with Facebook for the purpose of targeted advertising. Promises fade quickly in the face of \$19bn deals, especially with a new boss in charge.

In this feature, we reveal the other popular apps and services that have been bought by big tech firms, and explain what it means for your data.

Google
Google already controls much of our web browsing, thanks to its enormously successful search engine and Gmail service, but the company has been busy extending its reach with a host of acquisitions. Going as far back as 2003, with its purchase of blogging service Blogger followed by photo tool

Picasa a year later, Google has snapped up companies including Android, YouTube, Nest and even phone maker Motorola, which it later sold to Lenovo.

In 2006, Google bought YouTube for \$1.65bn. At the time, Google said YouTube would be run independently but then in 2011, despite protests, Google insisted that users sign in using their Google+ accounts, in effect linking the two sites. Users were particularly upset because the Google+ 'real name' policy meant YouTubers lost their online aliases. The move backfired, not due to user complaints, but because Google+ failed to catch on.

Google has a history of shutting down its acquisitions. Picasa, the smartphone app Bump and smart-home company Revolv were all either integrated with Google's own products or closed. Google's money doesn't necessarily mean success for a startup – or for its customers. A lack of support left owners of Revolv smart-home hubs with useless hardware after the company

Seving energy never goes out of style Martin Res

Google's purchase of smart-home company Nest ruffled a few feathers

was bought by Nest (nest.com), which was in turn bought by Google.

The acquisition of Nest raised further privacy issues. One of the reasons Nest's smart thermostat was popular with users was that the company wasn't owned by any of the big tech firms – a bonus for anyone who didn't want their home data being linked to other online accounts. Then Google came along. Nest founder Tony Fadell said at the time: "We've always taken privacy seriously and this will not change". But sure enough, in June 2014, Nest started passing data from its apps to Google.

FACEBOOK
Facebook has made two other controversial acquisitions besides WhatsApp: the Oculus Rift virtual-reality headset and the Instagram photo app. The latter is the most significant in terms of the quantity of user data it transferred to the company.

When Facebook bought Instagram for \$1bn four years ago, many assumed it was for the app's successful mobile photo-sharing technology. Instagram had amassed tens of millions of users, while Facebook struggled to get anyone to use its own app. Within months, Instagram users were angered by plans to use their photos in ads without compensation – a move that the companies quickly dropped. Since then, Instagram has introduced adverts and switched from chronological posts to algorithmic ordering, similar to



Facebook didn't buy Instagram just to look at the pretty pictures

Facebook's default News Feed. It now shows the pictures it thinks you'll want to see first - a controversial change that allows Facebook to slot in ads more easily. Facebook and Instagram share your data, too, which is how the app is able to tell you when a Facebook friend has signed up for Instagram.

Microsoft

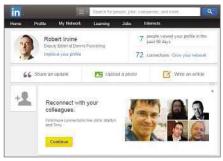
Microsoft has picked up its fair share of tech companies over the years, but its three most recent acquisitions - Skype, Mojang, and

In 2011, Microsoft paid \$8.5bn to buy Skype, which was previously owned by eBay. The move pulled many millions of Skype users into the Microsoft database, and also led to the company rolling its own Windows Live Messenger and Lync tools into Skype. That's not the only change, though: adjustments to the way the VoIP system runs are thought by many to make it easier for Microsoft to snoop on Skype calls.

LinkedIn - attracted the most headlines.

Next, Microsoft spent \$2.5bn buying Mojang, the developer behind the hugely popular game Minecraft. Again, Microsoft acquired a huge amount of user data in the deal. The game is now being developed for HoloLens. Microsoft's virtual-reality headset.

Then there's LinkedIn. Microsoft surprised many by shelling out \$26bn for the professional social network earlier this year. Microsoft is expected to keep the brand name - as it did with Skype - and share LinkedIn's data



We've yet to find out exactly what Microsoft has planned for LinkedIn

WHAT THE ICO SAYS ABOUT DATA BUYING

Major acquisitions are the reason why it's important to pay attention to emails from services you use, and to read their terms and conditions. That can be easier said than done, though. Firms don't often spell out what the changes mean, so it's worth reading them before clicking 'I agree'.

In the UK, changes in the way our data is used fall under the remit of the Information Commissioner's Office (ico.org.uk). The ICO has taken a relaxed approach to such changes in the past, although that may change with the appointment of a new commissioner, Elizabeth Denham. When WhatsApp's new privacy policy was announced, Denham said the ICO was keeping an eye on the process. "Organisations do not need to get prior approval from the ICO to change their



The ICO is keeping a close eye on what companies do with your data

approaches, but they do need to stay within data protection laws," she said. "Our role is to pull back the curtain on things like this, ensuring that companies are being transparent with the public about how their personal data is being shared, and protecting consumers by making sure the law is being followed."

between both companies. Such integration is set to benefit business users, according to Microsoft, because Office 365 could suggest experts from your circle when it sees you're working on a related task, or give biographies of participants in a meeting to reduce time spend on introductions. If you receive an Outlook message from someone you don't know, you can add them to your network to find out more about them.

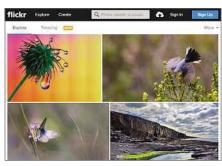


The history of the troubled tech giant Yahoo highlights

the problems user data poses on both sides of an acquisition. Yahoo had bought several web businesses, including Flickr and Tumblr, before it announced in July that it, in turn, would be bought by Verizon, the largest phone network in the US. Soon afterwards, however, details of a massive security

breach came to light (see News, Issue 407), in which 500 million users' details were stolen.

The acquisition of Flickr in 2005 saw Yahoo pick up the then-popular photo site for a reported \$35m. Flickr co-founder Stewart Butterfield said years later that the buyout had all but killed innovation at the company, which was an early exponent of cloud storage and social media. Yahoo failed to invest in Flickr, leaving it to stagnate without even a mobile app until 2009.



What will Yahoo's current problems mean for Flickr's millions of users?

When Yahoo bought Tumblr in 2013, CEO Marissa Meyer announced the deal with a "promise not to screw it up". Some may feel she failed on that promise, but Tumblr was short of cash before the acquisition, so the deal may actually have helped keep it afloat. Tumblr is still around but, like Flickr. has been pushed to the background

by rival apps such as Giphy and Snapchat.

Verizon's \$4.8bn buyout of Yahoo's business raises questions about the future of Flickr and

Tumblr. Verizon has said the brands will operate separately from its own core business, but will either site be seen as having any money-making potential? That said, Verizon owns AOL, which is decidedly long in the tooth, so perhaps Tumblr and Flickr have a chance at survival, too. With the news of Yahoo's enormous data breach, however, it's not known whether Verizon will even proceed with the buyout.

Take control of your Windows updates

Microsoft has made it harder to tweak Windows updates, but you can still take control if you know how.

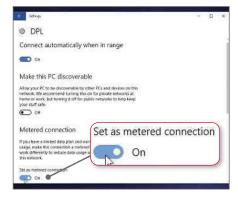
Edward Munn shows you which settings to turn on and off



Turn off automatic updates

Windows 10 doesn't let you turn off automatic updates but you can stop them downloading by 'metering' your Wi-Fi network. Doing this tells Windows that you have a download limit (as you would if you were tethering from a mobile phone) and that you need full control over when you carry out large downloads (such as updates to the OS).

Open Settings, click Network & Internet then WiFi. Next, click the name of the current network and click the switch to 'Set as metered connection' (see screen grab below). From now on, you'll need to open Windows Update and click Download to manually download any updates as they become available. Remember that failing to install updates can leave you vulnerable to security flaws that have been discovered in Windows.



Turn on 'Set as metered connection' to stop Windows 10 updates downloading

If you're not worried about receiving the latest features, you can choose to defer feature updates so that you don't waste time installing any you don't want. To do this, click 'Advanced options' from Windows Update and

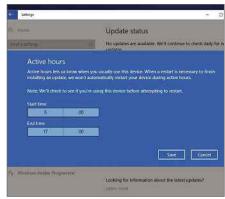


Tick 'Defer feature updates' to stop new Windows 10 tools appearing on your PC

tick 'Defer feature updates' (see screen grab, above). Crucially, you'll still receive all Microsoft's security updates when they're released, but new features won't be delivered and installed until several months later.

Schedule updates for convenient times

The Windows 10 Anniversary Update added a handy feature that restarts your PC outside of your 'active hours' to complete updates with minimum



You can now prevent Windows 10 from updating during a set time period

disruption. By default, your active hours are set to 08.00-17.00, to prevent your PC from restarting during a typical working day, but you can set this to any time period of your choice.

Open Settings, click 'Update & security' and select 'Change active hours' from the Windows Update menu. Pick a 'Start time' and 'End time', then click Save to store your preferences (see screen grab below, left). You'll still receive a warning before Windows attempts to restart your PC.

If your 'active hours' are irregular, you can schedule a specific time and date for when you are happy to let Windows automatically restart and install updates. Click 'Restart options' in the Windows Update menu, then set a time. When you click the Back button, Windows Update displays the time and date to confirm.

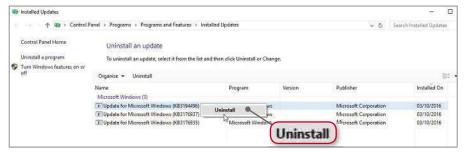
Undo updates you don't want

It's easy to uninstall updates if you find they do more harm than good. In Windows 10, click 'Update history' in Windows Update, then click 'Uninstall updates'. From the window that appears, click the update you want to uninstall and select Uninstall (see screen grab opposite, top).

In Windows 7, type windows update into the Start menu, open the application and select Installed Updates from the sidebar. You can now sort all your updates by name or by the date they were installed. To remove one, right-click it and select Uninstall.

To find more information about a particular update (to double-check that you want to uninstall it), click the back arrow, select 'View update history' and

Take control of Windows updates



To uninstall an update in Windows 10 right-click it, then click Uninstall

double-click the update. You'll see a basic summary and a link to 'More information'. To find this information in Windows 10, simply click the update in 'Update history' and a pop-up window will appear explaining its purpose.

Fix updates that get stuck

If Windows Update gets stuck, it's always best to be patient. Sometimes updates can be large and require a long time to download, so don't panic if a particular update is stuck for an hour or two. However, there may be a problem if the progress bar doesn't move overniaht.

If this is the case, you can try running the Windows Update Troubleshooter, which will automatically detect any problems with your system. To do this, type troubleshoot into the Start menu, then click Troubleshooting and 'Fix problems with Windows Update'. Click Advanced and check that the option to 'Apply repairs automatically' is ticked. If this doesn't fix the problem. you can try resetting your system to a previous state with System Restore.



Run the Windows Update troubleshooter if updates have frozen

Get Windows 10 updates before anyone else

If you want to get Windows 10 updates before anyone else, you can do so by signing up to the Windows Insider Program (sometimes spelt 'Programme' by Microsoft). By enrolling, you not only get early access to new versions ('builds') of the operating system (OS), but can also play an important role in improving its features and functionality.

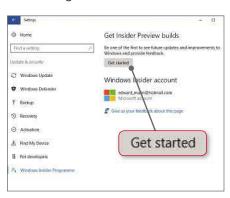
To sign up to the Windows Insider

Program, visit bit.ly/insider408, click Get Started and log into your Microsoft account. You'll be asked to accept a number of warnings about the potential instability and security vulnerabilities of installing early builds. Click Submit, open the Windows 10's Settings menu and select 'Update & Security'.

From here, click Windows Insider Programme in the left-hand column, make sure the appropriate Microsoft account is listed and click 'Get started' (see screen grab, below). After following the instructions on screen and restarting your PC, you'll be able to choose your 'Insider level' from the Windows Insider Program menu. This will determine how early you get new Windows tools, and how risky they are to use.

Selected by default is the Release Preview level, which adds 'Patch Tuesday' updates to your PC before they are publicly released. The two other options - Slow and Fast correspond to how quickly you receive new tools and features. The earlier the tools are released, the more flaws they are likely to have, so the Fast level suits users with the patience to tolerate these potential glitches.

If you decide you want to leave the Insider Program, simply click 'Stop Insider Preview builds' from this same menu. Windows gives you the option to pause the Insider Preview builds for up to seven days or you can switch them off completely. Bear in mind that, in some cases, you might be required to reinstall Windows after leaving the Insider Program.



Click 'Get started' to activate the Windows Insider Program

GET NEW ANDROID FEATURES FIRST

Like Windows 10's Insider Program, it's possible to get the latest Android updates ahead of the crowd by signing up to the Android Beta Program.

Once you've enrolled, the updates are delivered via the normal 'over-the-air' method, but there's one catch: you must own a recent Nexus device (Nexus 6, Nexus 9, Nexus 5X or Nexus 6P). Another important caveat is that joining the program means you'll have to carry out a factory reset on your phone and wipe all its data if you ever decide to revert to a stable version of the operating system.

To sign up, visit google.com/ android/beta and log into your Google account. After carefully reading the information on screen, select the phone you want to enroll under 'Your eligible devices' and follow the instructions on screen.

To leave, click 'Unenroll device' and you'll receive another update that installs the latest stable Android release.

When will I get Android Nougat?

It's notoriously hard to predict when new versions of Android will arrive on devices because it's dependent on the network and manufacturer. But this is when we think the latest version, number 7.0 (Nougat), will become available:

- Motorola (various) -October 2016
- LG G5 November 2016
- HTC 10 Late November 2016
- Huawei Mate 8 and P9 -December 2016
- Sony (various) March 2017
- Samsung Galaxy S7 -





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2	E	EE: Broadband	£10.00 (£1.00 for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited **	£12.00
3	Virgin media	Virgin: Broadband	£26.00 (£12.00 for 12 months)	12 months	50Mbps max speed	omega unlimited	£144.00
4	TalkTalk For Everyone	TalkTalk: Broadband	£22.95	18 months	17Mbps max speed	∞	£275.40

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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Data supplied by www.broadbandgenie.co.uk. Correct as of 5 October 2016.



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

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

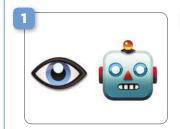
WEB USER WORD SEARCH

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

AUTORUNS CALIBRE CDBURNERXP IRFANVIEW OPERA PAINT.NET PEAZIP SKYPE **TEAMVIEWER** WINPATROL

X Z S G

CAN YOU GUESS THESE FILM TITLES FROM THE EMOJI?









Get the answers online at bit.ly/quiz408

COMPETITIONS

WIN 1 OF 3

TP-LINK Wi-Fi AC1750 Range Extenders

The TP-LINK AC1750 Wi-Fi Range Extender connects to your router wirelessly, strengthening and extending its signal into areas it can't reach on its own. It works with all routers, reducing signal interference to ensure reliable Wi-Fi coverage throughout your home. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'AC1750' in the subject line. For more information visit http://uk.tp-link.com and follow @TPLINKUK on Twitter.

WORTH £64.98 **EACH**

WIN 1 OF 6

Peli Voyager iPhone 7 cases

Peli's new iPhone 7 cases are the first line of defence against drops, dirt and screen damage from sharp edges. Made from impact-absorbing materials (elastomer inside a rigid polycarbonate shell), it provides maximum, military-grade protection for your iPhone 7. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@ dennis.co.uk with 'peli' in the subject line.

For more info visit www.pelimobileprotection.com and follow @Peli_Products on Twitter.





Practical WebUser

16 pages of workshops, tips, projects and problem solving

Manage widgets and discover new features in iOS 10

bit.ly/appios408

Apple has rolled out a massive update for the mobile operating system used on its iPhones and iPads. Here's what's new

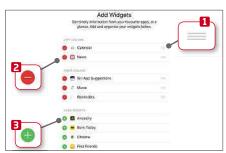
pple has released iOS 10, the most significant update to its mobile operating system in a long time. As well as general improvements to the look and behaviour of the operating system and its built-in apps, the update introduces new core technologies, fixes a number of annoyances and makes better use of 3D

Touch in the iPhone 6S and 7. Apple's digital assistant, Siri, now integrates with some apps (including banking, photos and chat, for example) and for the first time you can remove bundled apps you don't want, such as Stocks.

If you haven't yet updated to iOS 10, you can do so by tapping Settings and selecting General, then Software Update.



Widgets, which display at-a-glance information from your favourite apps, have been given a new look in iOS 10, and there are now many more to choose from. To view them, slide your screen to the right. Browse the app selection or click Edit to manage them.



On an iPad in landscape mode,
Widgets appear in two columns.
To move a Widget to the opposite
column, hold your finger on its menu
button 1 and drag it to the new location.
You can remove a widget by tapping the
red minus button, 2 and add one by
clicking the green plus sign. 5





Swiping up reveals the Control Centre, as before, but Apple has made some welcome changes, including a new card system. The first card lets you turn common settings on or off and access useful apps. Swipe left to access a second card containing music, video and networking controls.



Night Shift changes the screen colour to stop blue light interfering with your sleep. This feature was introduced in iOS 9 but is now easier to control. Tap the button 1 to turn it on or off. Owners of the iPhone 6S and 7 have a 3D Touch-enabled flashlight. Press the Home button to select a preset brightness.



Messages has been updated with a range of new options in iOS 10. Rotate your iPhone sideways, for example, and handwritten responses, such as "Hello" and "Thank you" appear. Digital Touch 1 lets you draw a picture to send, 2 or you can record a short video message.



.....



Open the Messages App Store 11 to search for and add animated images and videos to your chats. 2 You can also install sticker packs. Some of these packs cost money, but there are plenty of free ones, too. Tap the four-dot icon 3 to access the Store, then swipe left or right to switch to different options.



Maps is much improved. While following directions, you can now scroll around the map 11 and swipe in the instructions box 2 to see the next action. If your device connects to your car using Apple CarPlay or Bluetooth, Maps remembers where you parked it. You can view its location in Maps or ask Siri for it.



Photos now creates collections from your best snaps. Open the Memories section 11 to preview them. Tap the Play button 2 to watch them as a movie, complete with music. Photos also creates a People album of familiar faces, and you can search for pictures simply by describing what's in them.



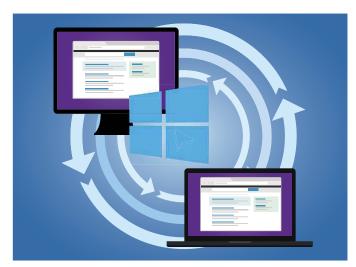
Save time by syncing all your settings across all your PCs

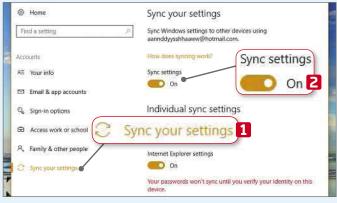
Windows 10 sync settings | ⊕ 20 mins | **■ 10**

any of us use more than one computer, but getting the settings exactly how you like them can be time consuming and repetitive, especially if you share a computer with someone who's equally keen on tweaking. Sign into your PC with your Microsoft account, however, and not only will it remember your key settings and stop others from changing them, but it will carry those settings over to any other PC you sign into.

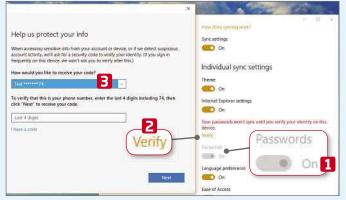
You can change the general appearance of Windows on your main PC and have it reproduced on whichever computer you switch to, so elements such as the wallpaper and colour scheme are the same. You can also sync more sophisticated options, such as the layout of the Start menu, and dig deeper into the settings to sync a wide range of other customisations.

The Windows tools also let you sync Internet Explorer's settings, but we'll show you how to sync settings in Chrome, Firefox and Edge, too.

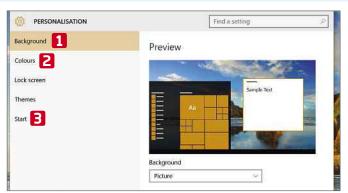




Log into Windows using your Microsoft account. Open the Start menu and click the Settings icon. Click Accounts, then the 'Sync your settings' option. If it isn't already switched on, click the 'Sync settings' switch to start the system working.



The Passwords switch 1 is switched off by default. You can click the Verify link 2 to get a verification code sent to your phone, 3 but it makes more sense to leave this switched off and use a decent password tool such as LastPass (lastpass.com) instead.



The Theme switch remembers all your Personalisation settings. This includes the Desktop wallpaper 1 and colour scheme, 2 but also carries over settings for the Start menu 3 and other elements that are customised using the Personalisation menu.



If you've ditched Internet Explorer in favour of Chrome, Firefox or Edge, then you can turn off the switch for 'Internet Explorer settings'. 1 If you're still using IE, your browser settings, favourites 2 and more are transferred across. See steps 8 to 10, opposite, for sync options in other browsers.





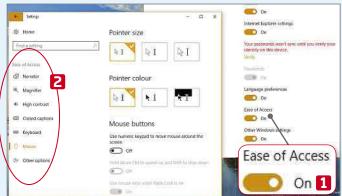
EXPERT TIP

Andy Shaw says

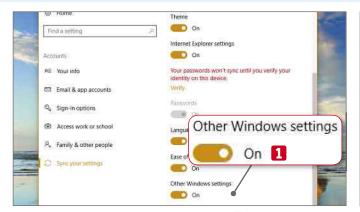
Files and folders can also be synced across your PCs using an online storage service. OneDrive (onedrive.live.com) is convenient because it's built into Windows but Google Drive, Dropbox and others work just as well. You should regularly archive finished work to the Documents folder on your main PC and only use the online drive to store current work, so you avoid any upgrade charges.



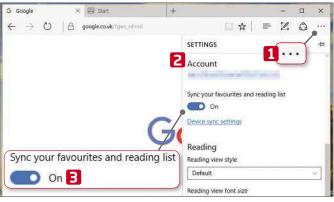
Regional and language preferences 11 in Windows can be a hassle to set up, so it's convenient to carry over your 'English (United Kingdom)' settings 2 to another PC. If you need to set the correct language on your main PC, go to Settings, click 'Time & language', then 'Region & language'.



Switch on 'Ease of Access' 1 to transfer all the mouse, keyboard and other settings you use to make Windows easier to work with. There are lots of settings included in this section, all of which can be configured from the Settings app's 'Ease of Access' section. 2



The 'Other Windows settings' switch 11 includes options for your printers and mouse, File Explorer settings and notification preferences, so it's worth having this switched on to maintain continuity across your PCs.



Microsoft Edge is integral to Windows 10, but it has separate syncing tools. Click the three-dot menu button, 1 choose Settings and scroll down to Account. 2 Here, you can link the browser to your Microsoft account and choose to sync your favourites and reading list. **E**



Chrome is synced via your Google account. Go to Settings and connect it under 'Sign in'. Click the 'Advanced sync settings' button and either select what you want to sync from the tick boxes 1 or use the drop-down menu and choose 'Sync everything'. 2



Firefox Sync is configured by clicking the three-line menu button, 11 choosing Options and clicking the Sync tab. 2 As with Chrome, you can select the settings you'd like to sync 3 and share the information with the browser on other PCs and devices.



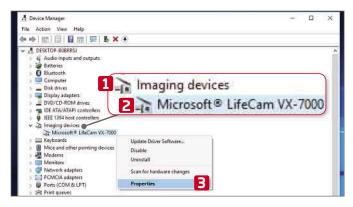
Stop your webcam spying on you

he CEO of Facebook and the Director of the FBI both take precautions to stop people spying on them through their webcams. If they are concerned about the security of their cameras, then you should be too.

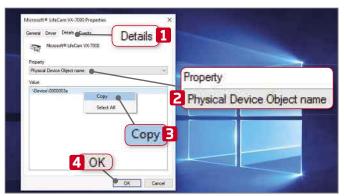
In this Workshop, we'll show you how to find out which software and apps are accessing your webcam and tell you how to block them.



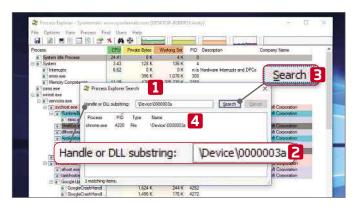
Process Explorer: bit.ly/proc408 | 🕒 10 mins | 🎥 Vista, 7, 8, 10



To find out which programs are accessing your webcam, type device into the Start menu and double-click Device Manager. Look for your webcam in the list - it can usually be found under 'Imaging devices'. 11 Right-click the camera 2 and select Properties **B** from the menu.



Click the Details tab, 11 then select 'Physical Device Object name' 2 from the drop-down Property menu. Right-click the information that appears in the box below and choose Copy 3 from the menu. Click OK 4 to close the window.



Download and run Process Explorer (bit.ly/proc408). Press Ctrl+F to open the search tool. 1 Paste the information you copied in Step 2 to the 'Handle or DLL substring' box 2 and click Search. Programs using the webcam are listed, 4 so you can see if any are spying on you.



The Windows 10 Settings menu lets you control the Windows 10 apps that can access your camera, but only those that have been pre-installed or downloaded from the Windows Store, not software from other sources. Open the Settings app, click Privacy and choose Camera. 1



Use the switches on the right to stop individual apps from accessing the camera. 1 You'll see apps from the Windows Store, and pre-installed tools such as Microsoft Edge, but not programs downloaded from elsewhere. You can disable all the apps at once by clicking the switch at the top. 2



To make absolutely sure no software can spy on you via your webcam, just cover it up. If it's a USB camera, unplug it from your computer when you're not using it. If you have a laptop with a built-in camera, cover it with a sticky note or use a piece of opaque tape for a more permanent solution. 1



Watch US TV without getting hacked

he PC version of TunnelBear (also available for Mac) has recently been updated with a fresh new interface and faster connection times. The VPN also now includes a tool that automatically encrypts your connection when you join unknown networks, and you can opt to block all traffic while the VPN connects, so you're never left unprotected.



TunnelBear: www.tunnelbear.com | 🕒 10 mins | 🎥 7, 8, 10 📫 10.10+



Download and run the TunnelBear installer. Log in or set up an account when prompted and skip the introductory screens. Leave TunnelBear set to Auto 11 if you want the best performance and are only concerned about privacy. Otherwise, choose a country 2 from the drop-down menu.



Click the switch to turn on TunnelBear. 11 The program lets you know when it's connected. 2 All internet traffic activity is now routed through the VPN, and TunnelBear shows you how much of your free data allowance you have remaining. E



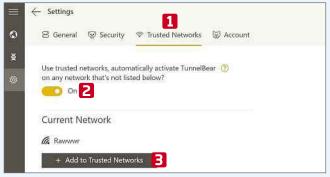
You can choose another location at any time by selecting a different country from the drop-down menu. If TunnelBear can't establish a new connection, try turning the VPN's switch off and back on again. Next, click the Settings cog 1 to view TunnelBear's advanced options.



By default, the program is set to launch and connect on startup, 1 but you can turn this option to Off if you'd rather control when you connect. If you notice that your connection is unstable, try enabling TCP Override, 2 which is slightly slower but more reliable.



Even with TunnelBear's handy notifications, you may not notice if it disconnects. To ensure all unsecure traffic is blocked, click Security and activate VigilantBear. If you want to make your encrypted data less visible to governments, businesses and ISPs, switch on GhostBear. 2



To ensure you're always protected on unfamilar Wi-Fi networks, click the Trusted Networks tab 11 and switch it on. 2 Click 'Add to Trusted Networks' 3 when connecting to a network you trust. The VPN will activate automatically when you use any other networks.

Weekend Project

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

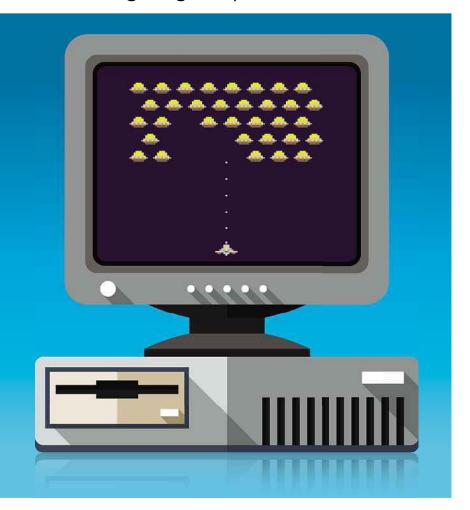




Play all your favourite retro games on an old PC

Wayne Williams transforms an old PC into a retro games console for playing anything from Sonic the Hedgehog to Space Invaders

Cs have been emulating arcade machines, games consoles and other computers for decades. There are plenty of free specialist emulators to choose from, such as MAME (mamedev.org), if you like to play arcade classics, and WinUAE (www.winuae.net) for Amiga games. But if you want to play a wide variety of games that includes pretty much every past games machine you might care to think of, then Lakka (www.lakka.tv) provides an interesting all-in-one solution. It's an alternative operating system that can automatically run a whole bunch of emulators. You can install the OS on an old PC you no longer use or run it 'live' from a USB memory stick.



Meet Lakka

Lakka is a lightweight, Linux-based operating system that will turn any spare computer into a games console. It's built on top of the RetroArch emulator (bit.ly/retroarch408) and is under heavy development. That means that while it will let you play most games on most PCs, you may encounter bugs, problems or missing features along the way. We've found it to be stable and mostly

problem-free, but your experience may vary depending on the hardware you run it on. Lakka can run on Windows, macOS and Linux computers, as well as a Raspberry Pi and other, similar small computers.

It's worth noting that the Lakka disc image you download is designed to be installed on a USB memory stick rather than a CD or DVD, which aren't supported. Lakka will not run in a virtual



Experience James Bond's adventures, Nintendo 64-style, in GoldenEye



Mario 64 was one of the better games for the Nintendo 64 and still holds up today



Sonic the Hedgehog 2 was one of the Sega Mega Drive's best and most popular games

environment such as VirtualBox and you can't dual-boot it alongside Windows.

You will need a USB memory stick of at least 2GB to write the operating system to. The writing process will wipe the stick, so make sure you copy anything important off it before you start. We show you how to install Lakka in our Mini Workshop, below.

Installed or Live?

Lakka is designed to be installed on a computer, but you can run it directly from a USB stick. The latter 'live' option is useful because it lets you test the OS and make sure it's fully compatible with your hardware before you take the big step of installing it.

We tried it on several PCs and found it wouldn't boot on one and froze on another, so it's sensible to run a test

first. It's also worth noting that the speed of your USB stick and the port it is plugged into can be a factor in getting it running, so bear that in mind - the faster the better.

Adding games

Once Lakka is installed and running, you'll need to add your first games. All emulators work using ROMs, which originally referred to the read-only memory chips where a game was stored on an arcade machine or console cartridge, but is now used to refer to any type of game data, even if it originally came on a disc or tape.

It's often suggested that provided you own the original game, you can legally download the ROM for it, but that's not actually true. The legal situation will vary depending on the device you're

emulating, and whether the game is out of copyright or has been made free. In most cases, downloading a ROM will be illegal, although it's incredibly unlikely that you'll face any legal repercussions.

You can find ROMs for any game by searching Google or trying a site such as Emuparadise (www.emuparadise.me). When you've found a game you want to play, download it to your hard drive.

The next stage is to get the game into Lakka. This is done over a network, so vou'll need to connect the PC on which you installed Lakka to another PC that has the ROMs on it. Lakka doesn't currently support Wi-Fi, so you'll need to use an Ethernet cable plugged directly into your router or a HomePlug.

We show you how to add games to Lakka in our Mini Workshop on page 61.

WORKSHOP | Install Lakka on a USB memory stick



Go to www.lakka.tv/get, click Windows, then select PC from the hardware page. Next, select the 32- or 64-bit version of the program, 1 based on the hardware you plan to run Lakka on. The download is around 175MB. Extract the contents of the file to your Desktop using 7-Zip (www.7zip.org) or a similar program.

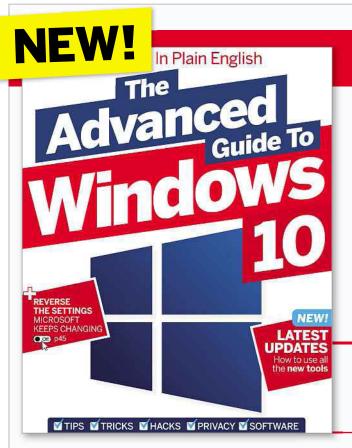


To create your installation memory stick, you will need to run Win32 Disk Imager (from bit.ly/windisk408 if you don't already have it). Run the program, connect your stick and select it from the drop-down menu. 11 Click the folder icon 2 and locate the saved Lakka image file. Click Write 1 to create the installer.



You should now be able to boot the operating system from the memory stick. If your PC isn't set to boot from USB, you'll need to set this up in the BIOS. The main menu should load and give you the option to install the OS on your PC 1 or run a live, install-free version. 🔼

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Add a gamepad

While you might be able to play some of the games using your keyboard, a gamepad works much better, especially if you're emulating Nintendo and Sega games. To connect a USB game controller of the type used on the Xbox and PlayStation consoles, simply plug it into a spare USB port in your PC. Lakka should recognise it automatically and make it available to use in all compatible games.

You can also use wireless controllers, such as the PlayStation Wireless DualShock and Wii Remote. To enable them, go into Settings from the main menu, scroll down and open Lakka Services. Turn on Bluetooth Enable, then plug and unplug the controller, which should be recognised and paired automatically. There are online guides



If your PC has Bluetooth built in, you can use wireless controllers in your games

available if you need help setting up a Wireless Dualshock (bit.ly/ dualshock408), Wiimote (bit.ly/ wiimote408) or 8Bitdo Wireless Controller (bit.ly/8bitdo408).

If you want to customise the buttons, use the Quick Menu settings. Scroll down to Controls and make your changes there.



Lakka has lots of customisation options

Keyboard shortcuts

Lakka works best with a gamepad, but you can also control it using your keyboard. As mentioned in the Mini Workshop below, X corresponds with Enter and Z with Back, but there are plenty of other built-in shortcuts to be aware of. F8, for example, takes a screenshot, while E puts a game in slow motion. You can view the keys and reassign them by going to Settings, Input, then Input Hotkey Binds.

Customise Lakka

To change the look and behaviour of the operating system, go to Settings, Menu. From here, you can change the colour theme, add your own choice of background wallpaper, choose whether to have Mouse or Touch support, and more.

WHICH SYSTEMS ARE SUPPORTED?

Lakka can run emulators for the following systems. Depending on the hardware you're using, some will run better than others, but they should all work well on a PC:

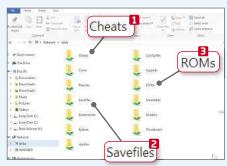
2048 FB Alpha 3DO **FFmpeg** Atari 2600 Game Boy Atari 7800 Game Boy Atari Jaguar Advance Game Boy Color Atari Lynx Cave Story Game Gear Dinothawr Lutro Doom Master System

Mega Drive **PSP NES** Quake Neo Geo Pocket Sega 32X Nintendo 64 Sega CD Nintendo DS **SuperNES PCEngine** Vectrex **PCEngine CD** Virtual Boy PC-FX WonderSwan **PlayStation** Color

MINI WORKSHOP | Add and play your first games



Connect the computer running Lakka to your network via an Ethernet cable. On another PC on the same network, open File Explorer and look for the Network option on the left. Expand this and you should see an entry called 'lakka'. 2 If you don't, type //lakka/ into the address bar **B** and press Enter.



The window that opens shows all the directories on the Lakka memory stick. These include folders for cheats, 11 savefiles 2 and ROMs. 1 The latter is the folder you copy your game files to. Drag your first games to the ROMs folder. Be patient, because it can take a while for them to be copied over.



On your Lakka system, scroll to the plus symbol on the right and then hit X (the equivalent of Enter) to select Scan Directory. Scroll down to 'Scan this Directory' and hit X again. Hit Z (Back) until you get back to the main menu. The available console options are shown as icons. 11 Select one, and choose a game to play. 2

NEXT ISSUE

How To... Make your old tablet last longer

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Web User's Top Tips

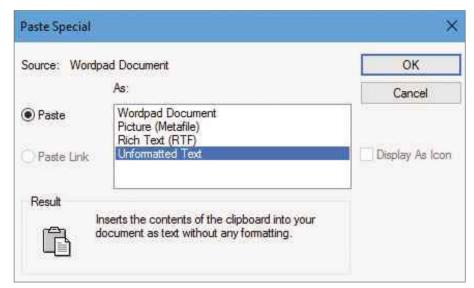
Add new tricks to your copy and paste repertoire with top tips from out experts

TOP TIPS FOR CUTTING AND PASTING

Remove text formatting

hen you copy text from one program to another in Windows, the default behaviour is to copy the formatting information too, including the typeface, size, line spacing and attributes such as bold and italic. This can cause problems if the formatting doesn't match the style of the document you're pasting it to.

The solution is to paste text without the formatting. Ctrl+V pastes everything, but in some programs Shift+Ctrl+V pastes only the plain text, so that it matches the current style. In WordPad or Word, click the arrow under the clipboard icon, select Paste Special and choose Unformatted Text.



If the formatting of pasted text is proving problematic, use Paste Special and select Unformatted Text

Multiple clipboards in Word

When you copy something to the Windows Clipboard, it replaces the previous contents, so only the last item is available for pasting. However, you can install software that lets you store everything you copy so you can use it again, even if you've copied something else in the meantime. Microsoft Word has a similar tool built in

In Word, go to the Home tab. Under the clipboard icon, to the right of the word 'Clipboard', there's a tiny arrow. Click it to open the Clipboard panel on the left. When you copy text or images, they are saved in the Clipboard panel,

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.

with the most recent at the top. Click any item in the Clipboard panel to paste it into the document at the cursor's current position.

Surprisingly, this works outside Word, too. Open a web browser and whenever you see text or an image on a web page that you want to save, select it, then right-click and copy it. Word saves each

item in the Clipboard panel. This is useful if you're researching topics for work, homework or a project. Just browse the web, copying things as you go, then switch to Word and everything is there, ready for you to paste into your documents.

Copy and paste formatting

Word, Google Docs and some other applications can copy and paste the formatting, including the colour, font, size and other text attributes, without including the text itself, so you can apply it to other parts of your document. Select some text in Word, then click the paintbrush icon



Store multiple Clipboard items in Word by opening the panel on the left

next to the clipboard icon on the Home tab. Click and drag the tool over some other text in the document to paste the style but not the text. The paint roller icon in Google Docs performs the same trick.

Strip out formatting

Not every application has an option to paste plain text, which means copying text from word processors can cause problems. To remove the formatting from text on the Clipboard, open Notepad and press Ctrl+V, Ctrl+A, Ctrl+C, then Alt+F4. You now have plain text on the Clipboard, which you can paste wherever you need it.

Draw with Screen sketch

The Windows 10 Anniversary Update introduced a new feature called 'Screen sketch'. It lets you take a screenshot, crop, draw and write on it, and then copy it to the Clipboard. From there, you can paste it into other applications.

Right-click an empty part of the taskbar and select 'Show Windows Ink Workspace button'. Click the new button that appears in the notification area to display the Windows Ink tools. Click 'Screen sketch', and Windows will take a screenshot and display a toolbar in the top-right corner. Click the crop tool to select part of the screen if you don't need it all, then use the ballpoint pen, pencil and highlighter to draw on the screen. The touch-writing tool lets you write with your finger, stylus or mouse. Click the Copy button near the far-right end of the toolbar to copy everything to the Clipboard, ready for pasting elsewhere.

Take the Clipboard with you

If you regularly use more than one computer, you might find it useful to make the contents of your Clipboard available on both machines, so you can copy items on one computer and paste them on another.

Ditto (ditto-cp.sourceforge.net) is a tool that lets you do this. Install it and click its icon in the notification area, then right-click in the list of clipboard items and select Import/Export, then 'Export Clip(s)'. Save the file to OneDrive, Dropbox, Google Drive or any other shared storage. Then, on your other computer, use the 'Import Clip(s)' option to load the file.

Another option is to save the contents of the Clipboard to a USB memory stick. Unzip the download for the portable version of Ditto and copy the Ditto folder to the USB stick. You can then carry your saved Clipboards in your pocket and use them on any PC.

TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

Top tips for CopyQ

CopyQ (bit.ly/copyq408) is a free clipboard manager that received a Gold Award in Issue 403 (bit.ly/ webuser403). Whenever you use the clipboard, CopyQ saves its contents. The program stores multiple items and lets you organise any you intend to keep, so they're easier to find.

Click the CopyQ icon in the notification area to open it, and select Tabs, then New Tab. Name the tab 'Images'. Create another called 'Text' and a third called 'URLs'. Select the Clipboard tab, then drag and drop any text, URLs and images to the appropriate tab (Test, Images or URLs). The next time you need to paste something, you'll be able to find it quickly. Just click the tab, doubleclick the item and paste it into whichever application you're using.

Tabs can also contain sub-tabs. If you create a tab called Sport, for example, and then make tabs called Sport/Football and Sport/Rugby, they become sub-tabs of Sport. Select File, Preferences, Layout and tick the box labelled Tab Tree. Tabs will then appear in a panel on the left, with sub-tabs that you can expand and collapse. Click Sport and you'll see the Football and Rugby sub-tabs: click it again to hide them.

CopyQ also lets you rearrange items on the clipboard. If there's a particular item that you use a lot, click it to select it in the CopyQ window, then use Ctrl+up to move it to the top. Ctrl+down moves the selected item down the list.

If you right-click the CopyQ icon at the right side of the taskbar, it shows the last five items, so you can quickly select them for pasting. Open the main window, go to File, Preferences, Tray and you can increase the number of items. Change it to 10.

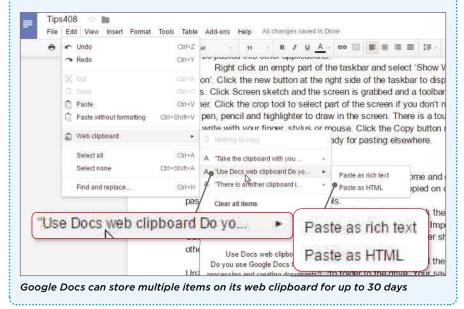
The CopyQ toolbar appears on the right by default but, if you prefer, you can click it, then drag and drop it to the usual place for toolbars, which is just under the menu.

Use Docs web clipboard

Google Docs provides users with an extra clipboard. If you just highlight some text in Google Docs and press Ctrl+C (or right-click the selection and click Copy), the text is saved to the Windows Clipboard as usual, where it remains until you copy something else or switch off the PC.

However, you can also select some text in a document, then go to the Edit menu and click Edit, then 'Copy selection to web clipboard'. Doing this adds the text as a submenu in the 'Web clipboard' menu. To paste it into a document, select Edit, 'Web clipboard', move your mouse over the item and select 'Paste as rich text'.

You can copy and store multiple items on the web clipboard. Each is added as a submenu, and you can select and paste any of them into a document. Everything you save to the web clipboard remains there for 30 days, even if you copy an entire document and switch off your PC or sign into your account from a different computer.



Ask the Expert

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



SOFTWARE

Open a Microsoft Works file

I have a USB memory stick containing Microsoft Works text documents and spreadsheets that I saved a year ago using my old Toshiba laptop PC with Windows 7. Since then, difficulties with Windows 7 updates and a host of other PC problems prompted me to buy a new Toshiba laptop with Windows 10 installed.

The old Windows 7 laptop came with Microsoft Works Suite installed, so I was a little annoyed that Microsoft now expects me to pay to install it on my new Windows 10 laptop. While I was never a serious user of Works, I found it useful on the odd occasion that I needed to write a letter or produce a spreadsheet. The rest of the Works suite was of no use to me. I don't intend to pay for something I have no great need for, so I'm looking at the possibility of a free download to satisfy my occasional use.

The problem is that I now need to open and edit some of the files on the USB stick. I tried to do this using WordPad, which is fine for basic letter writing, but it won't open the documents.



If you don't want to pay for Microsoft Office, LibreOffice is a great alternative

If it's not possible to open the files in WordPad, would I be able to open them in LibreOffice (www.libreoffice .org) or OpenOffice (www.openoffice .org) instead?

Alan Possee, via email

The Microsoft Works file format is poorly supported and few applications can open the files. Do you still have access to your old laptop? If you do, open the documents in Works' word processor and use Save As to save them in RTF, TXT, DOC or DOCX format. These are the only formats WordPad supports.

The free LibreOffice suite supports a much wider range of file formats, including Works word processor (WPS) files. It should have no problems loading your Works files. Under Storage, select Disk Management. Usually these partitions can't be seen, but a glitch in Explorer might have mistakenly assigned it a drive letter.

Devices plugged into the PC or on the local network can sometimes appear in This PC as drives. Since this problem hasn't happened again, however, we'd advise you not to worry about it.

GENERAL PC

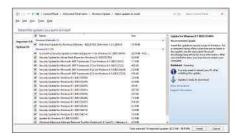
Avoid the Windows 10 update

I didn't want to upgrade my PC from Windows 7 to 10, so I set my Windows Update to 'Check for updates but let me choose whether to download and install them'. Now that the 29 July deadline has passed, I have 17 important updates and several optional ones waiting to be installed. Is it safe to install these now? And will they include any crafty Microsoft pop-up reminders telling me I'd be happier if I paid for Windows 10?

Graham Miller, via email

When Windows Update is set not to install updates automatically, it displays the number of important and optional updates available. Click either of these and two tabs will open, one listing all the important updates and the other showing optional ones. Each update has a title – click it and a description will appear on the right.

A box next to each update lets you select the ones you want to install. Read each update, tick any you want and remove the ticks next to those you don't. You might see Windows 10 recommended but it won't be installed automatically now that you have to pay for it.



Click an update to get information on what it does

GENERAL PC

Exorcise a ghost drive

Can you explain why a ghost drive appeared on my computer the other day? I took the attached screenshot (right) and am baffled. It has never happened again since. As you can see, I have my main hard drive and two external drives attached. When I took the screenshot, I also had a USB memory stick plugged in.

Al Love, via email

There are a few possibilities, one of which is that a bug in Windows Explorer caused this. Another is that a hidden partition has become visible.

There are one or more hidden partitions on a Windows hard drive, such as Recovery Partition, EFI System Partition and OEM Partition. You can see them by right-clicking 'This PC' in the left panel of Explorer and selecting Manage.



Got a phantom drive in Explorer? Reboot Windows and it will probably go away



EMAIL

Access blocked GMX mail

I have a GMX email account (gmx .co.uk), which I access through an app. A few days ago, it stopped working, showing an error message with a reference number. I logged into my online account and a message appeared saying GMX had been taken over by 1&1, and that I had to agree to its terms and conditions if I wanted to continue using it. I clicked Agree and it has been working ever since. Was this the correct action to take?

John Gidden, via email

GMX is part of a group that includes web-hosting company 1&1 Internet, and the mailing address for GMX is the same as 1&1 Mail in Germany. There may have been some internal reorganisation or a change to the terms and conditions that required your agreement, but the company hasn't changed hands.

In the short term, the only action you could have taken was to agree, otherwise you would have lost access to your email. In the long term, you could stay with GMX if you are happy with the service or get a free email account elsewhere if you're not.

MAC

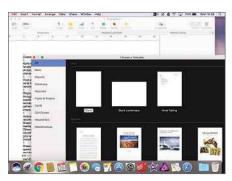
Use tabs in macOS Sierra

I upgraded to the latest version of macOS and was looking forward to using the new browser-like tabs tool, which Apple has implemented in many other apps. However, I can't work out how to use it in Pages (Apple's word processor). I can open a blank page in a tab but I can't open an existing document.

Richard Singer, via email

The new tabs option still feels like something of a work in progress, and there isn't much documentation on it yet. It works best in simpler software, such as Maps, where you can open a new tab by clicking the New Tab button to the right of the tabs toolbar or by pressing Command+T - a sensible shortcut for the job.

In Pages, things are a bit different. As you say, if you just want to open a new blank document, you simply click the New Tab button as explained above. However, Command+T doesn't work in Pages because that key combination is already assigned to opening the Fonts window. Clicking the New Tab button opens the 'Choose a Template' window, which, as you've noticed, only opens a



To open an existing file in a new Pages tab, ignore the 'Choose a Template' menu

blank page or template.

After much frustrated clicking, we finally found the answer. To load a document into a new tab, you have to click the New Tab button first, then ignore the 'Choose a template' window and go straight to the File menu. Select Open, double-click the file you want and it will open in a new tab on the existing window.

We hope Apple will introduce a proper 'open into a new tab' option in a future update.

HARDWARE

Update touch screen drivers

I have a Dell ST2220T monitor. When I upgraded to Windows 10, it stopped working as a touchscreen. A message during the upgrade told me I could make changes later, but I've tried more than once and am left frustrated and bamboozled. Can you help?

Michael Pearsall, via email

The driver for your screen may have A been disabled or deleted during the installation. Microsoft has drivers for lots of hardware devices, so that's the first place to check. Open the Control Panel and click Device Manager. Right-click Human Interface Devices and select 'Scan for hardware changes'. Expand that section, and you should see an entry for a touchscreen.

If that doesn't solve the problem, go to the Dell website (bit.ly/touch408 or bit.lv/dell408) and download the driver. It hasn't been updated for a couple of years and says it's compatible only up to Windows 7, but it is worth trying.

PHOTOS

Delete duplicate photographs

I have uploaded a number of photographs to Google photos and I am aware that many of them are duplicates. I'm surprised Google doesn't have a tool for finding and deleting them. If it does, I can't find it.

Is there a simple program that can sort them out? I saw a program called ImBatch 5 (www.highmotionsoftware .com) in the Best Free Software section of Issue 405 of Web User (bit.ly/webuser405). Would that do the job, or is there something better for what I want?

Mark, via email

If you go to photos.google.com in a browser, open the menu on the left and click Settings, you'll see an option for unlimited storage. It applies to photos up to 16 megapixels, which covers most phones and digital cameras. With unlimited storage you don't need to worry about duplicates. However, duplicate images can be irritating and confusing and, unfortunately, Google Photos has no tool to find or remove them.

There is a workaround, though, Go.



CloneSpy locates duplicate files on vour hard drive and works with photos

to Google Drive (drive.google.com), click the gear icon and select Settings. There, you'll see an option to show your photos in a Google Photos folder in Drive. Install the Google Drive app on your PC if you don't already have it. This syncs a folder on your PC with Google Drive.

Now that all your photos are on the PC, you can run software that finds and deletes duplicates. ImBatch looks like it would do the job, but it might be better to use a program specifically designed for the purpose. Try CloneSpy (clonespy.com), SimilarImages (tn123.org), VisiPics (www.visipics.info) or Duplicate File Finder (www.auslogics.com).

Take care when installing duplicatefinding software to opt out of installing any extras that might be bundled with it.



This fortnight Roland feels he's been doing nothing but updating: Windows 10, iOS 10 and macOS Sierra

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

GENERAL PC



Customise Anniversary Start icons

The new Start menu in Windows 10 Anniversary Update is better than the old one. There are icons near the bottom on the left for power, settings and your account. More icons can be added to get quick access to common folders. Click the gear icon to open the Settings window, then click Personalisation and select the Start section. Click the link 'Choose which folders appear on Start'.

There are lots of switches to show or hide Downloads, Music, Documents, Pictures and other folders. Turning them on adds icons to the left side of Start and it makes a useful toolbar.

Alex Crowther, via email



Add these items to the Start menu or remove them to customise the icon set

WINDOWS 10

Exit Safe Mode loop

After working on my Windows 10 computer in Safe Mode. I wanted to exit and boot as normal. I seem to remember that in previous versions of Windows this happened automatically when restarting. However, it didn't work for me and my PC kept repeatedly booting into Safe Mode.

I have worked out the following method for quitting the cycle. Press Windows+R to open the run command, then type msconfig and press Enter. Open the Boot tab and make sure the 'Safe boot' box is unticked.

Although it was already unticked on



Make sure 'Safe boot' is unticked to stop your PC getting stuck in a boot loop

my PC, ticking it and immediately unticking it again, before clicking Apply and OK, let me exit Safe Mode and restart my PC as normal.

Trevor Bunce, via email

GENERAL PC

Window-positioning shortcuts

Here is an interesting thing to try. Open a program or an Explorer window and place it in the middle of the screen. Hold down the Windows key and press the left and right arrow keys. The window is docked to the left edge, put back in the middle and docked to the right edge, cycling between the three positions.

If you hold down the Windows key and press the up and down arrow keys, the window cycles between maximised, normal and minimised. These keyboard shortcuts can be useful when positioning windows on your Desktop.

G Harris, via email

SOCIAL MEDIA

Block horrible Instagram comments

I updated Instagram on my phone recently and noticed some new tools



that some people might find useful. If you get bad language and nasty comments on your posts, you can block them so you don't see them. Only nice comments are let through! Press the gear icon in the top-right corner, select Settings, then Comments. There is a switch to 'Hide inappropriate comments'. There is also a box into which you can enter words you want to block.

Mat Davies, via email

WEB

Find Google services

On the Google homepage, there is a menu button in the top-right corner. Clicking the grid icon shows all Google's services as icons. I use it dozens of times a day to access Gmail, Calendar, Drive, Photos and Maps.

Whichever services you use the most. click and drag the icons to the top right corner of this panel. If you use Gmail most, drag the icon to the first position. It makes your favourite services quicker to find and access

Liam James, via email



Drag Google's icons around and place them in the order that suits you best

PROGRAMMING

Learn to code for free

A few years ago, I paid to take part in an online course in web design so I could learn how to improve my WordPress website. Unfortunately, the course was quite heavy going and not particularly



interactive, so I didn't get far with it.

Last month, a friend told me that he'd learned to code for free using a site called Codecademy (www.codecademy .com), so I thought I'd have a look. I'm so pleased I did because there is an excellent module called HTML & CSS, which teaches you the languages that form the building blocks of any website.

Although I'm only 40% of the way through it, I already feel more confident than ever in building web pages from scratch, to the point that I can imagine eventually doing it without WordPress. The site has free courses in everything from JavaScript and PHP to Python and Ruby, so there's nothing to stop you from becoming an expert programmer. Paying for a premium subscription unlocks personalised learning plans, extra lessons and quizzes to test what you've learned, but I've been more than happy with the free version.

Jonathan Reed, via email



Codecademy teaches you programming via an innovative split-screen interface

Reflect and magnify with your phone's camera

Your mobile phone can be used as a mirror or a magnifying glass. If you want to check your hair or you've got something stuck between your teeth, just open the camera app and switch to the front camera as if you were taking a selfie. It makes a useful mirror.

Sometimes the text on packaging (such as the ingredients on food packets and tins) is so small that it's difficult to read. Turn on the phone camera, point it at the text and spread two fingers to zoom in. It works like a magnifying glass.

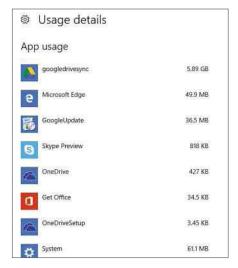
Dave Bradley, via email

WINDOWS 10

Stop bandwidth hogs

I recently discovered a handy tool in Windows 10 that lets you see how much data you've used on both your Wi-Fi and Ethernet connections. This can be very handy when you're limited to using a specific amount of data on a personal hotspot, for example.

Not only does it show total data usage for the last 30 days but you can also see the amount of data each program uses, so you can find out if something is



Windows 10 shows how much data your software uses

hogging more than its fair share. Unfortunately, there's no option to reset the data-usage figures, so you have to keep note manually if you want to know how much vou've used over a shorter period of time.

To access the data usage counter, open Settings, 'Networks and Internet', then 'Data usage'. You can see the total usage figures at a glance. Click 'Usage details' for a more thorough breakdown.

Ed Wright, via email

Web User says: If you frequently connect to the same personal hotspot, you can stop Windows downloading large updates in the background by setting the Wi-Fi network as a metered connection. We explain how to do this - and the other benefits of doing so - on page 48.

WINDOWS 10

Clear Settings error

While using my Windows 10 PC recently, I saw an error message that said: "Some settings are managed by your organisation". I'm not sure if this was a bug in the operating system or a result of me using another program to change my privacy settings, but the computer has never belonged to a company, so I was determined to fix the problem.

The suggestion I found online that eventually cleared the message involved using the Group Policy Editor with administrator privileges, though I believe this won't work on the 'Home' editions of Windows 10. To try it, type gpedit.msc into the search bar, right-click the top result and select 'Run as administrator'. In Group Policy Editor, use the sidebar to navigate to Computer Configuration, Administrative Templates, Windows Components, 'Data Collection and Preview Builds'. From here, double-click Allow Telemetry and choose Enabled. Select '3 - Full' from the drop-down

menu in the window that loads. Click Apply and OK to save the changes, then double-click Allow Telemetry again. Choose Not Configured instead of Enabled, then save your changes. Now, when you restart your PC, the error message should be gone.

Tom Cooke, via email

BROWSERS

Remove stubborn plugins from Pale Moon

I recently had trouble getting rid of a plugin in Pale Moon (the Firefox-based browser). For some reason, it had appeared in Plugins instead of Extensions and it's not possible to get rid of a plugin by simply right-clicking it and selecting 'Remove', or indeed by any other simple method. Pale Moon only lets you disable plugins, not remove them, which means they are inactive but remain where they are.

Eventually, I found a method of completely removing the offending item using CCleaner (bit.ly/cclean408). Open the program, go to Tools, then Browser Plugins and click the tab for the browser you want to remove the plugin from (for Pale Moon pick Firefox). Next, highlight the plugin and click 'Delete'. The browser needs to be closed for this to work and CCleaner will close it for you, if necessary.

I followed these steps and when I reopened the browser, it had gone! Be careful what you remove, though, and make sure it's not something you may need in the future.

Madeline, Web User Forums



CCleaner includes a tool for removing browser plugins

WEBSITES

Check your IP address from Google

Previously, if I wanted to check my IP address, I had to use a website such as www.whatsmyip.org. However, you can now type 'What is my IP' or even just 'IP' into Google's search bar and it will tell you your public IP address. Click 'Learn more about IP addresses' on this results page and an article appears explaining how IP addresses work.

Tony W, via email



Readers' Helpdesk

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

GENERAL PC

Why does my laptop drop its Wi-Fi connection?

My laptop keeps losing my Wi-Fi connection, while all other devices in the house use Wi-Fi without any problems.

tamtosh, Web User Forums

Which version of Windows are you using? Having recently upgraded a Windows 7 PC to Windows 10, I had problems with the Windows 10 driver that got installed and had to revert to the Windows 7 one.

This makes me think you might have a driver problem. Type devmgmt.msc into the Start menu and press Enter, then click View. 'Show hidden devices' and look for any yellow alerts. If there aren't any, expand 'Network adapters', rightclick the wireless one and select Uninstall. but don't tick the box to include software. Now click Action and 'Scan for hardware changes', then wait for the driver to reinstall.

If you recently upgraded to Windows 10, then right-click the wireless option in 'Network adapters' and select 'Update driver software', 'Browse my computer' and 'Let me pick...'. When the box appears, you'll probably see one dated 31 March 2016. Select one of the earlier ones, click OK and reboot to see if you still lose connectivity. If you do, make sure you try any alternative drivers, otherwise go to the manufacturer's driver



Try reinstalling your wireless network drivers to fix Wi-Fi dropouts

SOFTWARE

How do I transfer photos from a tablet to a PC?

What's the best way to transfer photos from a Windows 10 tablet to my laptop?

billw, Web User Forums

I do this by copying the files to a USB memory stick. If the tablet only has a micro-USB port, you can buy a dual-USB stick. These are widely available and there's one on PC World's website at bit.ly/sandisk408. You could also try connecting the tablet to your laptop via its USB cable to see if it appears as an external storage device. If so, you can drag and drop the files straight across using File Explorer.

If you sign into the tablet with a Microsoft account and are using OneDrive, you can enable the autouploading of photos and videos in its settings. You can then access OneDrive, either via the web or



Google Photos' desktop uploader syncs selected directories to the cloud

through the app on your laptop, to download the photos. The same also works with Dropbox and Google Photos using their syncing software.

Lastly, if both devices are connected to the same Wi-Fi network, try setting up a shared folder to access the files. For instructions on how to do this. have a look at the article on the Geek Squad website at bit.ly/file408.

> Stewart40, ezyduzzit and Space_ Cowby, Web User Forums

support site and download one for your previous operating system.

Cantrel, Web User Forums

HARDWARE

Why has my USB stick stopped working?

I'm having problems formatting my USB flash memory stick. It's a Verbatim 32GB model and I use it for playing music in the car. However, it's suddenly stopped working and I can't reformat it. I've tried Windows' 'Quick format' option, as well as normal formatting in both FAT32 and NTFS, but with no joy. Can anyone suggest what the problem might be?

willibobs, Web User Forums

You could run a check using Error Scan on the free version of HD Tune (bit.ly/hdtune408) but, unfortunately, it sounds as though your stick has

probably failed, in which case you'll need to replace it.

Stewart40 and Calimanco, Web User **Forums**

Web User savs: Although it doesn't degrade with time, flash storage has a finite number of writing cycles. The typical lifetime of a flash drive is anywhere between 10,000 and 100,000 write cycles, so if you keep using the same one, a portion of it will eventually stop working and the data will be lost. Low-quality sticks are more likely to fail prematurely, so we'd always recommend buying from a reputable











Star Email

Mug winner

Haunted by online trackers after installing Ghostery

'm not sure whether or not I should thank Web User for introducing me to Ghostery in Issue 407. I installed it about four hours ago (from www.ghostery .com) and since then I have done nothing but browse the web to check how many trackers there are on different sites. That's a whole afternoon of my life I will never get back, so to make it worthwhile I thought I should share the worst three sites for tracking, based on the 100-odd sites I've just visited.

In third place was the Daily Telegraph's site, with 46 trackers; second was the Mirror's site, with 47; but in the lead was the Daily Mail's site,



with 56. I've attached a screengrab as proof. I didn't just visit newspaper websites, but they were the ones with most trackers, no doubt because they are stuffed with adverts. I should give an honourable mention to Currys, which crammed in 44 trackers on its homepage. By contrast, Amazon only

had five.

If anyone wants to waste several hours, I recommend some Ghostery action. Watching the purple bar rise like a New York skyscraper is oddly exciting (or maybe it's just me, and I should get out more). I love some of the names the trackers have: SiteScout, PubMatic, Quantcast, Grapeshot, Crazy Egg and Gumgum (my favourite).

I'll sign off with two thoughts: should Web User initiate an award for the tracker with the stupidest name? And can any reader beat my tracker score of 56? I'll have a root around in my attic for a suitable prize.

Vince O'Sullivan, via email

500 million reasons to stop using Yahoo

There were two delicious understatements in Issue 407 that made me chuckle. First, in the main news story about the Yahoo hack, you said that the company "hasn't been at the cutting edge of the web for some time". There's no doubt about that. Yahoo just feels like Google's uglier, stupider, poorer younger brother, the kind of relative you're a bit embarrassed about. While Google wants to change the world with driverless cars and medical research. Yahoo can't even keep its users safe.



Which brings me to the second understatement, in Stay Safe Online (page 12), where ESET's Mark James says that 500 million accounts "represents a lot of customer data stolen". It sure does. It's also 500 million reasons why I'll never use Yahoo again.

Steve Thornton, via email

Web User says: Turn to page 74 for Barry Collins' take on the Yahoo hack. Talking of Barry...

Born to hand jive thanks to Apple's AirPods

I accept Barry Collins' point in his Page 404 column in Issue 407 that the tech industry exaggerates the benefits of

things being 'wireless' but I think Apple has made the right decision to dump wires with its new AirPods. Hopefully, it will solve one of the biggest

annoyances of my

life, which is when my hands catch my earphone leads, causing them to come flying out of my ears.

I'm probably clumsier than the average person, but I'm sure I'm not the only person this happens to. It can actually be quite painful, especially if you're jogging.

But that's all in the past now because Apple's AirPods will allow me to do any amount of hand jiving while listening to music. Eat your heart out, John Travolta!

Keith Elliott, via email

Acer's Cloudbook: not snazzy, but great battery life

I want to echo everything you said about the Acer Aspire Cloudbook 14 laptop, which won the Gold Award in Issue 407's Group Test. In particular, you were spot on about its battery life. In fact, it's better than you say - I got 12 hours out

of it, 40 minutes more than you did! You also make a good point about how ordinary it looks. Not all laptops need to look "snazzy", as you say. The Cloudbook certainly doesn't and I'm glad because otherwise it would have cost much more than the £194 I paid for it. A total bargain.

James Leighton, via email

Web User says: It's even more of a bargain now - £159 on Amazon when we last checked: bit.ly/acer407.





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

Malware-ridden USB sticks popping up down under

In Issue 407's Inbox section, Bruce Ward asks whether we can trust USB stick backups. I'd like to mention another aspect of USB security, and that's sticks containing malware being posted through letterboxes. It's not happening in the UK yet - at least, I've not heard about it - but it is a problem in Australia. My cousin down under lives in Melbourne, near an area where some sticks were posted. He told me about it and a day later I saw this BBC news report on the subject: bit.ly/usbaus408.

I guess the criminals behind the attack are hoping that their victims can't resist the temptation to see what's on the sticks. But curiosity doesn't just kill the cat; it can kill computers, too.

Paul Underwood, via email

Four months of hell trying to leave Vodafone

Having read Keith Meldrum's letter in Issue 406, and how badly he was treated by Vodafone, I was provoked to write this email. Early this year, I decided to close my account with Vodafone due to the cost of calls within the EU. I asked Vodafone to close my account after being with them for seven years. What I thought would be a simple operation turned into a long and protracted four-month wrangle of backwards-andforwards telephone calls and online chat.

The agreed date arrived for closing my account, but the direct debits still continued to leave my account, with extra amounts added over and above the normal fee. This went on for over three months after the closing date. After speaking with customer services via India a number of times, they agreed a



date. But when the mobile contract was cancelled, I took out the SIM card and they still continued charging me! How

that works, I don't know.

They appeared to be operating the never-ending 'internet circle' syndrome, which is to keep you in a loop and make it impossible to find the exit. I did eventually find a solution and cancelled my direct debit. I also told my bank, who took action by recovering the money Vodafone took out of my account. Vodafone needs to clean up its act or it will lose more customers.

Keith Botilier, via email

HP's printer cartridge 'robbery'

I'm absolutely outraged by what I read on the bottom of page 11 in Issue 407: "HP printers to stop you using 'unofficial' cartridges". I don't have

an HP printer, but what the company is doing is totally unlawful. Can you imagine your car running strictly on Esso petrol and not working if you switched to another garage? I hope that Web User readers will react strongly to this outrage and that HP (and other manufacturers) will not use this as an excuse to raise the price of their printers.

Claude Legrand, via email

Web User says: Claude wasn't the only person enraged by HP's actions - we received several emails from readers complaining about the company.

Happily, HP has since backtracked on its decision to block third-party cartridges, and apologised. It said: "Although only a small number of customers have been affected, one customer who has a poor experience is one too many." Read more at bit.ly/hpsorry408.

Phonics app also available for iOS

I just want to let you know that the Phonics Spelling Dictionary app (which teaches young children to read and spell through phonics) - as recommended on page 34 of Issue 406 - is also available for Apple devices. You can get it from the Apple App Store (bit.ly/phonics408), price £4.99. I recently bought it and initial impressions from our five-year-old are very positive. It seems to be a very well thought-out and child-friendly app! Mike Farrington, via email

Windows 10 has hit the 'terrible twos'

Robert Irvine came up with a wonderful analogy in his letter in Issue 407, describing Windows 10 as a 14-monthold baby. Please permit me to take it further, and say that Windows 10 is actually very advanced for its age, and has skipped ahead to the terrible twos.

The problem was the arrival of the Anniversary Update on my PC. From the moment it was installed, my computer started to throw tantrums worse than any spoilt toddler in a supermarket. It booted very slowly, then crashed for seemingly no reason at all. I was happy with the existing version of Windows 10, so I just

> rolled back to it. I would encourage all Web User readers to do the same if they are having problems - but remember that you've only got 10 days to do so.



Our 2015 Back Issues Disc is on sale now from Amazon, visit bit.ly/wudisc15







I lasted three days before throwing in the towel. My PC is now a well-spoken, obedient child, just like it was before. Maureen Moffat, via email

Stop nannying us, Google

I'm fed up with Google nannying us on the internet. My blood boiled in Issue 407 when I read that Chrome (and Firefox, but does anyone still use that?) is blocking The Pirate Bay because it contains harmful programs. Well, give Google a diploma for stating the bleedin' obvious! That kind of warning is as pointless and patronising as saying 'May contain nuts' on a packet of peanuts.

Listen Google, I'm aware of the risks posed by The Pirate Bay. But I'm also an adult (32, since you ask) who can make up his own mind about what to download. If Google doesn't lighten up, I'm going to switch to another browser that doesn't babysit its users. Now, what's the URL for Opera?

Jack Robertson, via email

Web User says: While we understand Google's reasons for blocking The Pirate Bay, we agree with Jack that the company, along with other tech giants, is quilty of overkill. We explain how to beat some of the most ridiculous internet restrictions in the Cover Feature of our next issue - out Wednesday 2 November.

It's official: Web User subscribers are lovely

My latest copy of Web User, Issue 406, was apparently stuck to another subscriber's copy and delivered to an address some five or six miles from me. The kind reader drove over and delivered my magazine to my door. I would like to convey my sincere thanks.

Vernon Mason, via email

Get real about virtual reality

It was disappointing to read such negative and ill-informed views from readers on virtual reality in Issue 407. Grant Saunders calls it a '10-minute wonder', which I think will go down as one of those laughable predictions like 'the car will never replace the horse'. Max Skinner complains that £700 is too expensive. Well, yes, it's not pocket money. But I'm confident it'll soon reach a tipping-point price cheap enough to become a mainstream product.

Louis Flynn, via email



RE YOU ANNOYED THAT FROM 2017 YOU'LL NEED TO LOG INTO THE IPLAYER TO WATCH IT?

No, it's great news. I'm sick of people leeching and not paying their way. Some people have a ridiculous sense of entitlement.

Jenny Jacks @JenJacks3

If it's a 'log in once and get remembered', then fine. If they expect me to log in every time I watch, I may change my mind!

Claudia Ridley

Couldn't care less, I rarely use it now. Most of what I watch isn't on the BBC anymore.

Wolf Simpson @Dark Wolf

I'm not surprised the Beeb are doing this. In fact, I'm only surprised they have not done it sooner. I'd rather not have to sign in - it's more tracking of people - but, sadly, this is the way the web is going.

Chris Cole

AVE SAMSUNG'S EXPLODING PHONES PUT YOU OFF **BUYING DEVICES FROM THE** COMPANY?

I recently bought a Samsung A5 phone and a Samsung tablet. They are both excellent items. I will not be put off by the exploding battery incidents.

Geoffrey Boow

I bought a Samsung Ace phone in 2011 and I love it. I will not be put off buying another.

Colin Wallace

No, I don't care. I think if you like a brand then you'll still get its products. Jack @imthegoldmaster No, the price of the S7 put me off more, to be honest. I want a Google Pixel phone next, though I hear it won't be cheap.

Stephen Perry

NE IN THREE BRITS CHECK THEIR PHONE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. DO YOU?

••••••

I don't check my phone because I am busy trying to sleep. My phone is switched off and downstairs.

Ian Phipps

I try to read a book at night in bed, but sometimes it is hard to resist looking at your phone. If I do pick up my phone, I use a filter to reduce the brightness.

Chris Armstrong

I don't - it goes on the desk when I go to bed.

Paul Wallace

Never. It gets switched off.

Colin T Head

ILL TWITTER BE BETTER OR WORSE IF IT IS **BOUGHT BY GOOGLE?**

.....

Probably worse because we would see even more promoted tweets.

Martin James

Worse. Look at Google's past attempts at social media.

David Robinson

Considering Google has made YouTube more difficult to use for creators, I doubt they would improve Twitter. They certainly failed with Google+.

Lewis Karl Flood @LewisKFlood

I'm a Google fan and an avid user of most other Google products, so I'm not bothered. Besides, I use TweetCaster (http://tweetcaster.com). You get zero adverts using most third-party apps.

Gary Olsen @Gary_Olsen

A Page 404

Make companies pay for every email address they leak from their systems, says Barry Collins

Time to hit data leakers where it hurts

ere you a victim of the attack on Yahoo? If you've ever been a Yahoo, Flickr, BT or Sky customer, it's almost inconceivable that you weren't (Yahoo provided the email service for both BT and Sky).

In what appears to be one of the biggest data cock-ups of all time, Yahoo has managed to lose the personal details - email addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth and even passwords - of 500 million accounts. Half a billion. Just stop and think about that for a second: that's roughly the population of the US, the UK, France and Germany combined.

It's a staggering loss, and what's even more astounding is that Yahoo either didn't realise - or failed to admit - that this data was stolen in 2014. In the meantime, hackers have had two years to run amok with your data: poking into your inbox, ploughing through your photos, clawing through your contacts. And if you were careless enough to reuse the same password on other sites,

they too may have been hacked. Yahoo belatedly forcing everyone to change their password isn't so much closing the stable door after the horse has bolted as waiting for the horse to

be shuffled off to the glue factory before fixing the lock!

The scale of the Yahoo breach may seem shocking, but it shouldn't be. Take a look at the list of hacks on the brilliant HavelBeenPwned.com - a site that lets you check if your credentials have been leaked in any major attack (I'll save you



the bother - they have). MySpace leaked 360 million account details, Adobe 152 million, Dropbox 68 million, Tumblr 65 million and Last.fm coughed up 37 million. The site lists almost 1.5 billion compromised accounts, and these are just the attacks that have been made

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public. Many more will have slipped under the radar.

Will Yahoo suffer any great punishment for its shoddy security? Sure, it's endured a few days of embarrassing headlines, and it

might even knock a slice off the price Verizon was due to pay for the company, but it won't suffer any irreparable damage. It will simply dust itself down and carry on in the same way Adobe, Dropbox and all the other data leakers have done. Just as supermarkets write off a slice of their

revenue to shoplifting, so internet companies accept the risk of reputational damage from data leaks. It's just one of the costs of running a business - and not a particularly hefty one.

It's high time the data watchdogs made these firms pay for their carelessness. Yes, security is difficult and expensive, and it's easy to forget that Yahoo's been the victim of a crime here as much as anyone else. But it's not the companies who'll have their bank accounts emptied, their identities ripped off, their credit limits zeroed. The only real victim of these attacks is you.

If you sold my personal details to a third party, the buyer would have to pay for them. Firms that leak people's email addresses and other details should be fined whatever the commercial rate would be for selling that information. You can bet your life that Yahoo would take more care of security if it was fined \$0.10 for each of those half-billion email addresses it leaked.



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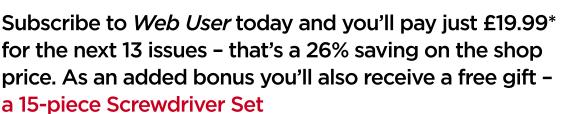
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