



Your Complete Guide to... TY STREAMING

- Watch anything, anytime, anywhere everything NEW you need to know p38
 - Every NEW device
 - Every NEW service
 - Every NEW app
 - Every NEW program
 - + Kodi's superb NEW version





PLUS

Stop Software Leaking Your Data

Even 'trusted' tools do it p57

WINDOWS 10 LAUNCHERS

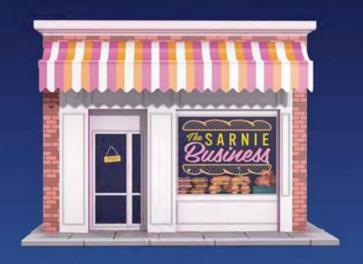
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HACK WEB RADIO!

RECORD ANY TRACK FOR FREE

This software does it automatically for you p54

Business goes up



Business goes down



So our business apps are available on a 30 day rolling contract





Work safely and securely wherever you are with McAfee & Office 365

More for you

Find out more at o2.co.uk/businessapps

O₂ business



Streaming with satisfaction

t's that delightful time of year when people start suffering from streaming colds, the weakened jet stream leads to chilly temperatures and early Christmas shoppers stream onto the high street - possibly to buy party streamers. Yes, it truly is the season of streaming, which is why we've dedicated 10 pages and two different covers to the subject this issue (don't worry, the content is the same inside). Naturally, we're focusing on the best kind of streaming, the type that brings online TV shows and films to your phone, tablet, computer and television.

With so many streaming devices, services

and apps available, it's difficult to know where to start, so we've rounded up the only software and hardware you need to enjoy unlimited televisual entertainment, both at home and on the move. And if you're more of a music buff than a telly addict, on page 54 we reveal how to record songs you stream from online radio.

It's now only 28 days until our 'Best Free Software for 2017' issue. Get ready to party!

Robert Irvine

robert_irvine@dennis.co.uk #webuser





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16 - 29 NOVEMBER 2016

COVER FEATURE

Your Complete Guide to... TY STREAMING

We round up the best devices, services, apps and software



p38





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Six of the best apps for finding any program,
file or folder on your PC

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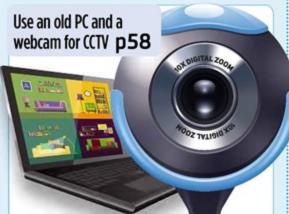
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What's New Online

Connect with Microsoft's IFTTT rival

icrosoft is taking on the popular H service IFTTT (ifttt .com) with its own task-automation tool. Flow allows you to set up custom actions involving 58 services to perform specific everyday tasks. You can, for example, use Flow to email you if a tweet contains a certain word, or post particular Instagram images to your Facebook timeline.

Flow works with services including Dropbox, Google Drive, Blogger, Google Calendar, YouTube and many social networks, and it's very easy to use. You can set up a 'flow' from scratch by searching for a trigger such as 'When a file is created in OneDrive" and an action such as 'Get a Facebook notification'.



But you can also choose one of Flow's many templates, which are great for getting a feel for the service.

The free version of Flow can only be run 750 times per month, at 15-minute intervals. If you want it to be more flexible, you'll need to pay from \$5 (about £4) per month. Still,

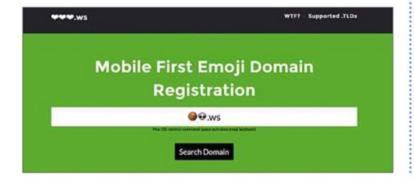
it's worth playing around with and you can sign in using your existing Microsoft account.

As well as the web version, there are also Flow apps for iOS (bit.ly/ iosflow410) and Android (bit.ly/ androidflow410). flow.microsoft.com

Create a domain name using emoji!

https://\\www.ws

Emoji originated in the late Nineties in Japan and have become incredibly popular across the world over the past few years, but did you know there was such a thing as an emoii-based domain name? You won't have seen too many of them because they're rather difficult to register, but GoDaddy has changed that by creating the first domainregistration site that uses the top-level domain '.ws'. It's perhaps best used on a mobile device, where you'll have easy access to an emoji keyboard, and lets you quickly search for available domains and bag them. Each one is compatible with Google and works by converting the images to ASCII text behind the scenes.



View every GIF used on GeoCities

www.gifcities.org

If you used the web in the late Nineties, it's likely that you visited a lot of websites that were built using and hosted on GeoCities. The company was taken over by Yahoo in 1999



and closed in 2007 (except in Japan, where it's still going strong), and you can now relive your GeoCities memories by viewing one of its best features: the animated GIFs that adorned its pages. To browse them, you need to enter a search term, but since there are 4.5 million GIFs available, pretty much any noun that you enter will result in a whole host of GIFs being displayed in all their retro glory.

Even better, if you click one of the GIFs, you'll be directed to a copy of the page on which it originally appeared. That's because the GIF database and a large number of GeoCities pages have been preserved by the Internet Archive (bit.ly/geo410).

TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

Barack Obama will hand the US

presidential Twitter account to

A new bot-powered feed that

retweets astronauts in space

The official account for the

foundation chaired by the diplomat

Police in Lancashire share updates

on how their cute pups are faring

The Oscar-winning Welsh actor is using Twitter to promote his

current TV series Westworld

the new incumbent

@WhoIsInSpace

@KofiAnnanFdn

@LancsPolDogUnit

@AnthonyHopkins

in the Dog Unit

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

Play the Android 404 game

www.android.com/404

When you stumble upon a missing page on the official Android website (www.android.com), you're now challenged to play a fiendishly complex game. Click Play and direct the tasty treats towards the coloured pipes by spinning the central contraptions so they point the right way. But be warned, the pace soon picks up and you can only fail five times.



Try an experimental Chrome browser

bit.ly/canary410

Chrome Canary is an experimental version of Google's browser that is used to test new features and technology, and it's now available for Android (bit.ly/canaryapp410). Just like the Windows and Mac versions, you can use it to try new Chrome tools before everyone else, with the latest updates sent to your device every

night. It's far from the most stable browser around (so don't use it for banking)

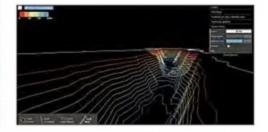


and the updates are quite large, but as long as you run it alongside the regular version of Chrome, you shouldn't experience any problems.

Plumb the

bit.ly/ness410

You won't find any monsters lurking in this elevated map of Loch Ness but it's still fascinating to explore the lake's deep contours in glorious 3D. Using data collected by oceanographer Sir John Murray between 1900 and 1903, the map lets you submerge yourself into the most voluminous body of water in the UK. It's one of four such 3D maps available, the others being Loch Leven, Loch Lomond and Loch Morar, and you can get a sense of the location and scale of each one by switching to the 2D viewpoint.



depths of Loch Ness

Use Google to find cheap

www.google.co.uk/flights

Search for flights on Google Flights and it will use historical flight data to tell you if prices are likely to rise or fall - ideal if you're dithering over whether to book immediately. You can also check if it's cheaper to fly on different days.

Preview photos in Flickr

www.flickr.com

As well as introducing a two-column feed to cram more images onto the screen, Flickr has a new Preview feature to view uploaded photos from people you follow.

Get a 4K glimpse of the space station

bit.ly/space410

NASA has released a beautiful Ultra HD video from the corridors of the International Space Station, Perfect for viewing on a 4K TV or monitor, it was shot using a fisheye lens for extreme focus and depth of field.

Travel back in time to see how places have changed

bit.ly/places410

Select a street-level image on Mapillary, then click the clock icon on the right of the screen to compare it with photos taken at different times in the past. You can then select two of these results to display them side by side and use a 'then and now' slider to switch between them. No DeLorean or Tardis needed!



Discuss web news at forum.webuser.co.uk

Facebook bans insurance firm from spying on users' data

What happened?

Insurance company
Admiral raised eyebrows
with its plan to analyse the
Facebook profiles of young
drivers and use the
information to set carinsurance premiums.

It wasn't only privacy groups that expressed concern about this intrusion into users' personal lives – Facebook did too. The social network has been criticised in the past for its lack of respect for users' privacy, so it came as a surprise that it banned Admiral from using its Firstcarquote app to access customers' data on the social network.

The Admiral app aimed to use Facebook to log into accounts, and then – with permission from the user – offer a discount if their posts and 'likes' were in line with the insurers' standards. The app was designed specifically for young drivers getting their first insurance quote, with no driving record for the company to consider. Its algorithm judged users' organisational skills by checking whether posts inviting friends to events included a specific time and place, making the link that a well organised individual will be a more responsible driver.

The bulk of the quote would still be based on the usual data, such as the driver's age and the type of car, but the Facebook-based "personality test" could equate to a discount between 5% and 15%. Admiral said it wouldn't increase the insurance price based on what it read on profiles. Facebook



Admiral's Firstcarquote plan is aimed at young motorists with no driving history

facebook

Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.



banned the idea, saying using data from its site to make "decisions about eligibility" was against its guidelines.

How will it affect you?

Privacy groups have praised Facebook for refusing to allow user data to be crunched in such a way, but there's no law to ensure Admiral doesn't go ahead anyway, using publicly available information. The Admiral app has since launched without the "personality test" element, instead offering discounts based on the usual application form.

It's worth noting that the young people Admiral targeted with its app pay the highest premiums, on average. Some may well have appreciated the chance to reduce those fees by 15% using their data - because it is, after all, their data.

What do we think?

Admiral is making the assumption that well-planned parties on Facebook lead to safe driving. Many people simply don't use Facebook that way, so why should they have to pay more for car insurance? Handing over decision making to algorithms is riddled with potential problems, because it codifies our assumptions and uses bad data.

Event planning has nothing to do with driving or responsibility, and shouldn't be used to represent either.

Also, it's easy to game the system. Want a cheap quote? Plan a few events in meticulous detail, share 'sensible' activities you've engaged in and tick 'like' on some photos of practical cars. Then take down pictures of you looking inebriated in the pub and 'unlike' news items about F1 racing. Young drivers could save more than £100 on their premium with such a profile cleanup, making it worth an hour of their time.

There's also the issue of data ownership and privacy. Facebook is right to protect our data, but it'd be better to hand over control to us. Some people may be happy to let insurers use their profiles, while others will find the thought horrifying. Admiral would be wiser to offer alternative discount systems for those not on Facebook, or those not wanting to share their profile, but Facebook should let us use our data as we choose.

Better still would be legislation banning companies from harvesting unrelated data – such as our public Twitter feeds or forum posts – to inform insurance costs or credit applications. We don't want this to become the norm. What we think of this fortnight's top tech news stories and rumours, and how they affect you

British Airways offers Wi-Fi on short flights

What happened?

Boarding a plane no longer means losing the internet, even for short flights. From next year, British Airways will offer passengers Wi-Fi access on short-haul flights, alongside its partner airlines Aer Lingus, Iberia and Vueling.

Many airlines, BA included, already offer Wi-Fi for long-haul flights at a cost, but previously eschewed shorter flights. The airlines will be offering 4G-style services via Inmarsat's satellites, which can deliver connections akin to home speeds, and support for Skype, Netflix and Apple's FaceTime.

How will it affect you?

It's not yet clear how much the in-flight Wi-Fi will cost, but you can assume there will be a fee of some sort. It would be great if slower connections for checking emails and updating Facebook were offered for free, and perhaps paid for by faster downloads for more demanding services such as Netflix.

The Wi-Fi rollout begins in 2017, and will take a few years to complete, with

90% of BA flights expected to have the service by 2019.

What do we think?

We're not keen on allowing Skype or FaceTime in the air, because it will surely lead to noisy passengers calling their friends to proclaim "I'm on a plane!", but we'd happily use in-flight Wi-Fi to check a few emails and use the time to look up travel tips about our destination.

That said, there's something appealing about a space without internet access - and there are a diminishing number of those left. While it's certainly handy to message family that our flight took off late or to watch what we want on Netflix rather than the selection of out-of-date shows on aeroplane entertainment systems, perhaps a few hours without the web isn't the worst experience to have to sit through.

It's worth noting that BA in October ditched free food and drinks on its short-haul flights – apparently, web access is more valued than sustenance!



Broadband ads must include line rental

what happened?

New rules came into force requiring ISPs to include line-rental fees in the advertised cost for their broadband packages.

Advertising Standards

Authority is requiring "all-in pricing", which means all the costs for a month's contract must be included in the pricing and ISPs can't advertise broadband as "free for a year", but then charge you £15 a month for line rental.

As of the end of October, both the cost of the contract and the line-rental fee must be presented together for the sake of clarity. Plus, ISPs must also clearly highlight contract length, additional fees and the price it will charge after discounts end.

How will it affect you?

The all-in rules apply across all forms of advertising, so it should now be clearer what price you'd pay for a broadband contract, whether you're seeing it in a TV commercial, poster ad or on ISPs' websites. Previously, it was difficult to compare contract prices because the total cost wasn't clear unless you read the small print - not easy to do on the side of a bus or in a fast-moving



The rules only apply to major ISPs such as BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media, but smaller telecoms firms are following suit.



It's about time! The ASA has frequently tussled with ISPs over broadband advertising, which often appears deliberately designed to confuse. The regulator worked with Ofcom on research that showed a quarter of people surveyed couldn't say what a package would cost after seeing an advertisement – even after a second viewing of the ad.

There's more to choosing a broadband package than price, but it's a key factor for many of us. This move should make ISPs' ads easier to understand and hopefully make it easier to compare your existing contract to those on offer, so you know whether it's worth switching when the time comes. You'll see the all-in price changes reflected in our Broadband Table on page 50.



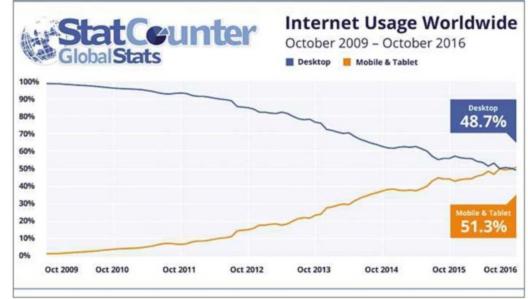
Mobile web browsing overtakes desktop

What happened?

The majority of worldwide internet usage in 2016 came from mobile and tablet devices, exceeding the figures for desktop browsing for the first time, according to new research. Figures from StatCounter (bit.ly/stat410) show that mobile devices accounted for 51.3% of all internet usage in October 2016 - year on year, the highest it has ever been overtaking desktop computers at 48.7%. Although these figures vary considerably in different countries, the research firm believes it should be a 'wake-up call' to companies that have yet to adapt to changing internet habits.

"Mobile compatibility is increasingly important, not just because of growing traffic but because Google favours mobile-friendly websites for its search results," said Aodhan Cullen, CEO of StatCounter. In July, Google released a 'Test Your Site' tool to keep track of how mobile websites are performing in comparison to their desktop counterparts.

What is clear is that many 'mature' economies such as the US and the UK still rely mostly on desktop PCs to access the internet; in the UK desktop internet usage is at 55.6%, with mobile at 44.4%. The majority of the countries in Africa, the Middle East and China have all seen mobile become the dominant mode of internet use.



How will it affect you?

The rise in mobile internet use means you can expect to see more companies creating 'responsive' versions of their websites that display just as well on your phone and tablet as they do on your computer. This is good news if you've ever struggled to navigate a site on the smaller screen of a mobile device, but it also means that websites are adopting simpler designs that can look a bit dull on your Desktop.

What do we think?

We certainly don't find StatCounter's figures surprising: you only have to look around you on the street or on public transport to see the huge number of people now using the web on the move.

However, there are still plenty of websites that work best on a big screen and don't look anything like as good when scaled down to tablet and phone proportions, so we don't think web designers should cater exclusively to mobile users - who, after all, have millions apps they can use.

It's also interesting that developing countries are less likely to use the web on PCs, presumably because phones and tablets are so much cheaper and more widely available.

FIRST LOOK

Lenovo Yoga Book bit.ly/yoga410

The most striking thing about Lenovo's new two-inone Yoga Book is its lack of a physical keyboard. Instead, you get a fancy virtual one with illuminated keys that vibrate when you tap them. This isn't just an aesthetic flourish - the Yoga Book's party trick is its ability to turn the virtual keyboard into an electromagnetic-resonance (EMR) writing surface, letting you draw and scribble notes with the included stylus at the flip of a switch.

The lack of physical keys also means the Yoga Book's aluminiummagnesium alloy chassis is a mere 9.6mm when closed, making it the world's thinnest hybrid. Typing on it feels a little awkward to begin with, but we soon got used to it.

Turn off the keyboard and the Yoga Book excels as a note-taking device. Using its stylus feels perfectly natural, and we much prefer it to writing directly on glass. However, the real stroke of genius is the Yoga Book's bundled magnetic clip. This lets you attach any old A5 notebook to the device and take physical notes, which the Yoga Book

simultaneously digitises and saves. Unfortunately, Lenovo hasn't done quite so well with its display - its overall colour accuracy is a little lacking, which makes it a poor choice for serious graphic work. Still, at just £450. it seems churlish to be too critical.

The Yoga Book offers good battery life, which is particularly impressive since it is so slim, but this also means you get a limited range of ports - just microUSB, HDMI and 3.5mm headphone connections.

There are two types of Yoga Book available - an Android version and a Windows 10 Pro version (for £100) more) - and both come with the same 2.4GHz guad-core Intel Atom x5-Z8550 processor and 4GB of RAM. We recommend spending the extra cash on the Windows version.





WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

Is Twitter in trouble?

It's been reported that Twitter will cut up to 300 jobs as part of a "restructuring" brought on by a period of slow growth and uncertainty about the company's future. Although the precise extent of the cuts is still unclear, the layoffs will see an 8% reduction in staff across the company.

More than 330 employees were made redundant during a similar "restructuring" plan this time last year when Jack Dorsey became CEO of the company. Twitter also announced in a blog post that it is "discontinuing" its popular video-sharing service Vine (bit.ly/ vine410). The news prompted one Vine user to comment: "Why can't we keep Vine and junk Twitter? Twitter is just a cesspool of hatred anyway".

The most recent layoffs suggest that the company is trying to control its spending in an effort to recuperate losses. The social network has had a turbulent year, as a number of failed takeover deals have seen its share price plummet by as much as 40% over the past 12 months. Salesforce, Alphabet and Disney all expressed interest in buying the troubled social network but have all since backed out of any deals.

Despite all the bad news, Twitter posted better than expected financial results, with its revenue rising 8% to \$616m (£506m). Experts attributed this rise to increased advertising revenues.



In other encouraging news, the number of active users on the social network grew by 3% to 317 million.

......

LIKELIHOOD RATING 11111

It's hard to believe that a site with hundreds of millions of users that makes hundreds of millions of dollars could be in financial trouble, but that certainly seems to be the case with Twitter - why else put itself up for sale? However, we think the social network's massive user base and popularity with the media will help it weather this storm.

What's new on Kickstarter

Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

The Time Key bit.ly/timekey410 | From £33

Stop sabotaging your own attempts to save cash by switching from a traditional piggy bank to a Time Key. This forbidding container helps you reach your saving goals by denying you access to your accumulated



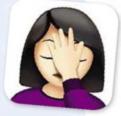
funds until the date you've set. The Time Key mobile app shows a countdown of days until the device is unlocked, tells you how much you've saved so far and reminds you to add more funds. There's no override facility, so if your willpower fails, the Time Key won't. The team hopes to raise £45,000 by 1 December.

WEBOMETER

WE LIKE...

Apple introduces 72 new emoji

72 new emoji are being added in iOS 10.2 including 'face palm', selfie, astronaut and croissant. The update also



introduces new wallpapers and effects that can be used in iOS 10's Messages app.

LastPass makes multidevice access free

You can now sync your login credentials between different devices including phones, tablets, laptops and desktop PCs for free, but it will be supported by more ads. Look out for next issue's workshop on syncing your passwords.



WE DON'T LIKE...

Money stolen from Tesco Bank accounts

Tesco Bank stopped online payments for current-account holders after money was fraudulently taken from more than 20,000



accounts. Customers were still able to use their accounts for chip-and-pin payments and cash withdrawals.

Children addicted to online games

Medical experts and charities are increasingly concerned about the amount of time children are spending playing online games. The charity Action for Children revealed that a quarter of

parents say managing their children's game time is their biggest challenge.



Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

Hacking group exploits Windows vulnerability

A Russian hacking group has been exploiting a recently discovered Windows vulnerability through



a series of phishing attacks, according to a statement from Microsoft. The hacking group, referred to by Microsoft as 'Strontium' and more widely known as 'Fancy Bear', has been blamed for a small number of attacks using 'spear phishing emails'. The news comes after the discovery of a critical vulnerability by Google Threat Analysis Group on the 26 October that affected Adobe Flash and Windows operating systems. Adobe released an update to fix the memory-related flaw that let hackers gain remote access to a user's system.

However, at the time of writing, Microsoft had yet to release a patch for the flaw. According to Microsoft, the vulnerability has been exploited by phishing emails that dupe users into clicking malicious email links or attachments. The company also said it was "disappointed" with Google for disclosing details of the exploit before patches were made available.

bit.ly/microsoft410

Criminals use promoted tweets for phishing

Malwarebytes has uncovered a phishing campaign that uses Twitter's promoted tweets to tempt people with the promise of becoming 'verified' (recognised as an official account) while actually stealing their credit card information. The tweet simply reads: "Get Verified. Go to goo.gl/ [web address]". The link takes you to an official-looking page saying: "Welcome to Twitter Verification. Hundreds of millions of people use Twitter to discover what's happening in the world. Twitter can help you connect with them and

achieve meaningful results. Being verified is more than a cool badge on your profile, it signifies authenticity and ensures the community that you are an official account."

To verify your account, the web page claims that your username, email address, company name, phone

number and password are required, plus other information related to a Twitter Ads account and how many followers you have. It then asks for a card number, expiry date, security code, name, billing address, and contact email, which it claims it uses to verify your identity.

Malwarebytes warns Twitter users that the moment you see a site asking for login credentials and/or payment information, you should think very carefully about your next move, even if the link appears to have been 'promoted' by Twitter.

bit.ly/tweet410

Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: Robert Capps of NuData Security (www.



nudatasecurity.com)

If web users are savvier these days, why is online fraud getting so much worse?

Nigel Goulding, Twitter

Predominantly, because online fraud offers such a lucrative source of income for cybercriminals,

totalling £755m in 2015 in

the UK alone. Cybercriminals have grown in sophistication, posing as banks or suppliers to dupe consumers into revealing personal details.

Also, more fraudsters are willing to commit the crime, there is more data available on the black market and more financial institutions and online stores are vulnerable to attacks. You should always report emails that request security or banking details to your banking provider, because no legitimate organisation will ever ask for such information via email.

We have to remember that fraudsters know us better than we think they do, because they've pegged our

Fraudsters know us better than we think they do, because they've pegged our vulnerabilities

vulnerabilities. Here are steps you can take to secure vourself:

- · Shop with well-known companies online, or use safer payment systems such as PayPal, Apple Pay or Android Pay, to avoid providing your payment details directly to an unknown merchant
- · Use strong, unique passwords on each site you register with
- · Change your passwords regularly
- · Don't use public computers

- or free, unencrypted Wi-Fi to conduct financial or retail transactions.
- · Don't fall victim to email and phone scams, where you receive a call asking for personal or financial account information. When in doubt, call your bank directly, using the number printed on the back of your card or on a recent statement.
- · If you suspect you have been a victim of fraud in the UK, report the crime to www.actionfraud.police.uk.

perfectly balanced security

When you want to test the internet to its limits, you need the best protection available.

ESET Smart Security Premium gives you the best balance of speed and award-winning detection, from a top-rated security vendor.

Find out more: www.eset.co.uk/essp



ENJOY SAFER TECHNOLOGY™



Site of the Fortnight

ENTERTAINMENT

RELAUNCH

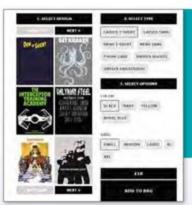
Den of Geek

www.denofgeek.com/uk

For nearly a decade, Den of Geek has delved into the world of cult TV, film, games and comics, while exploring niche subjects such as geek loneliness. However, it was starting to show its age, particularly if you're browsing its cramped pages on a phone or tablet. This first revamp in four years means the site now looks much fresher, with a crisp new look that displays perfectly on any device. Articles are organised into four clearly defined sections and the search engine is faster, too. The streamlined design makes navigation a breeze and better serves Den of Geek's witty and informative writing style.

Our rating





BUY OUR TAT

The online store lets you design your own geeky clothes and phone cases



DEN OF GEEK!

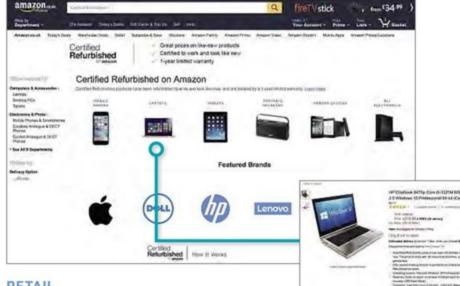
MOVIES



SPEEDY SEARCH Quickly discover more about the films, games and TV shows you love



MOVIES



Amazon Certified Refurbished

bit.ly/refurb410

The cost of electrical goods is rising (Apple and Microsoft have hiked their prices by as much as a fifth), but this new section from Amazon helps you save cash by buying "like new" products and offers a broad range of phones, laptops, tablets, speakers and other electronic items that have been tested, refurbished and repackaged. The page includes useful options to search for lower-cost items, and refine results by manufacturer and those that offer Prime next-day delivery. It doesn't show how much you're saving by not buying new (you have to make the comparison yourself), but the process is clearly explained and you get a one-year warranty on your purchases.

Our rating



NEW



SAFETY

UK Safer Internet

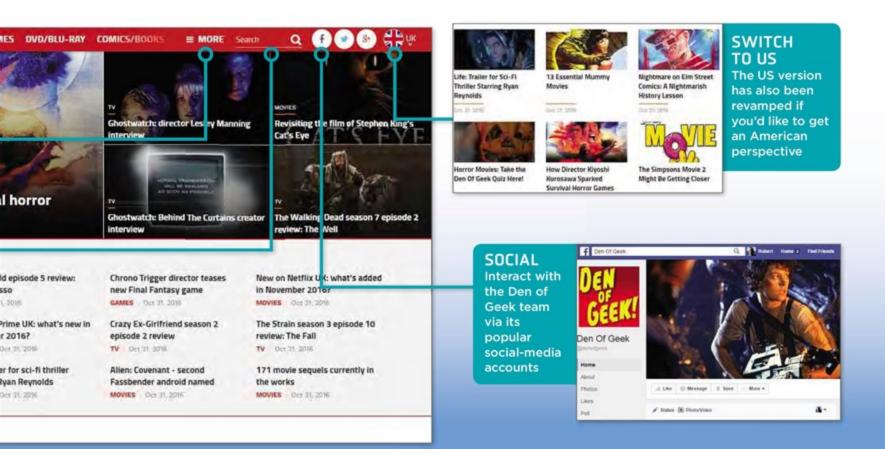
www.saferinternet.org.uk

UK Safer Internet Centre aims to make the web a safer place for children. The old homepage provided a clear overview of the services on offer, but the revamped mobile-friendly design makes you scroll further to get to the important stuff. Even so, it's worth persevering. There are lots of tips and resources for adults and kids, including games, quizzes and films, and details of online safety events. The site has advice on a wide range of issues, from grooming to cyberbullying, and the excellent blog offers up-to-date news about the latest security threats.

Our rating



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





ACCESSIBILITY

Apple Accessibility

www.apple.com/accessibility

It's important that technology is accessible to everyone and that people with special needs know what's available. Apple's beautifully presented website runs through the accessibility features of its products and shows how people are using them in the real world. You can watch short demo videos, accompanied by descriptive transcripts, and view accessibility features for the iPhone, Mac, Watch, iPad and Apple TV. These are organised into categories such as Vision, Hearing, Physical and Literacy, letting you delve deeper to gain a better understanding of the assistance on offer.





WATCHDOG

Ofcom

www.ofcom.org.uk

Ironically, for a regulator that deals predominantly with complaints about communications companies, Ofcom's old website wasn't very user-friendly. This welcome overhaul not only improves the search engine, but makes navigation much easier and clearly explains the watchdog's main functions. The complaints section provides useful advice about nuisance calls, internet providers and postal services, and explains where to address your concerns. You can also browse Ofcom's research to discover which UK companies deliver the best (and worst) performance.

Ourrating





TECHNOLOGY

Lifewire

www.lifewire.com

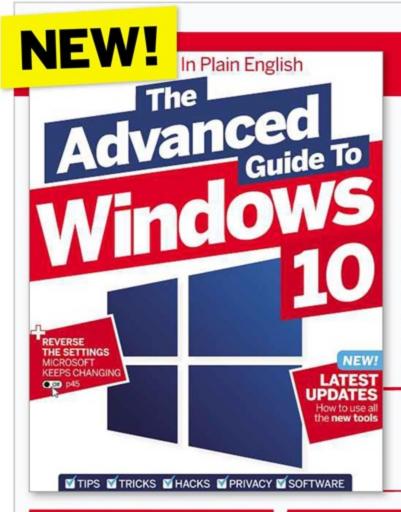
This new technology site from the people behind About.com steers away from covering the latest news and focuses on helping you get the most out of your existing devices. Its content spans tutorials, fixes, ideas and reviews, and articles are divided into sub-sections to make it easy to find specific info. The site provides exhaustive coverage of various tech topics, complete with explanations of jargon. Sadly, the step-by-step how-tos lack accompanying visuals and there is no comment facility, which means users can't share advice. Still, the site looks great and offers a daily tips newsletter.

Our rating





WebUser Bookstore



THE ADVANCED GUIDE TO WINDOWS 10

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

BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON

at bit.ly/advancedw10

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO ANDROID

Get the most from your Android device with our 148-page book. It explains all



you need to know about the latest versions of Android (Lollipop and Marshmallow), reveals the best apps for everything you'll ever want to do, and exposes dodgy ones that slow your device and drain the battery. It also tells you how to stay safe.

BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON

at bit.ly/androidbook2016

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO WINDOWS 10

This 148-page book is the perfect way to get started with Microsoft's fantastic



operating system. You'll learn how to master all the new tools and software, and how to upgrade without losing anything. It has been updated to include fixes for problems that have appeared since Windows 10 launched.

BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON

at bit.ly/guidetowindows10

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO FREE SOFTWARE

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



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

BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON

at bit.ly/guidetosoftware



Gazette NEW



National Campaign for the Arts

forthearts.org.uk

The Arts Council recently announced that it was putting an extra £37m into regional arts - news that will surely be welcome to the people behind this sophisticated site, although the fight to secure more investment continues apace. Here, you can discover more about its four current campaigns: 50p for Culture, I Value the Arts, Hearts for the Arts and Local Heroes. You can also find out what Arts Funding caters for and read quotes from celebrities backing the cause. It's all well balanced and designed with just the right amount of information, plus the offer of a newsletter to keep you up to date.

Newsquest Education Platform

bit.ly/education410

Forget poring over Ofsted reports and league tables, this service takes the homework out of finding the right school or college. Just enter the name and location of a school to discover more about the available options. Each school page is packed with stats detailing the Ofsted rating and showing links to the latest report. There are Key Stage 4 performances and guides to choosing schools, as well as a map and contact details. The idea is that schools can add their own info and parents leave comments - it'll be a great resource when this happens.

Our rating



Know Your Place

www.kypwest.org.uk

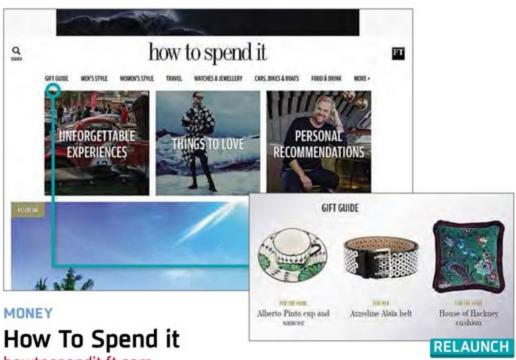
Dozens of volunteers have been working hard on this fantastic mapping project, which covers Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire and the former Avon area. They have scanned and digitised georeference historical maps and allowed users to add details about the local areas. In doing so, they have created a staggering resource that lets you go back in time, using a slider to view present-day and archive maps side by side and apply layers, such as monuments. The enthusiastic blog on this well-crafted site tells you all you need to know and there are details of a touring exhibition that runs until April.

Ourrating









howtospendit.ft.com

Based on the Financial Times' luxury magazine, this high-end website is packed with enticing suggestions on how to spend huge piles of cash. It serves up a dizzying array of content within its swish design, letting you read up on the latest gifts - a £1,945 dressing gown, anyone? - while delving into the worlds of style, cars, food and drink, travel and jewellery. There's so much to discover and each article is short, snappy and readable. The Tech section (hidden under More+) is well worth a gander and we liked the new additions curated by the senior editors: Unforgettable Experiences, Things to Love and Personal Recommendations. Oh, how the other half lives!

Our rating





MONEY

The New Pound

www.thenewpoundcoin.com

Hot on the heels of the new £5 note comes the new 12-sided £1 coin, which is earmarked for circulation in March. One in 30 of the current £1 coins is a fake, so the new coin is designed to be harder to counterfeit. This website gives you the full lowdown of how it has been made and why, with a lengthy Apple-esque video, lots of stats and a timeline of what measures businesses need to implement before its introduction. With a great range of PDF resources, a comprehensive FAQ and lots of cool images of the coin sliding into view, it certainly offers great value - which is currently more than can be said for the ailing pound itself!

Our rating



Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

Top Tips of the Fortnight

Check your website for bloat

Page bloat is when the size of a web page is excessively large for the content it displays. The Web Bloat Score Calculator (WebBS, www.webbloatscore.com) is a new tool for testing how bloated your website is - just type your site's address into the box to check it. You can't judge this by looks alone: some plain-looking



sites are surprisingly bloated, while sophisticated pages can be made more efficient with a bit of care and planning. Enter more web addresses and the service builds a table of results, so you can compare them with your site.

New Website builder

The latest version of Incomedia Website X5 (www.websitex5.com) has a range of new tools for building an impressive website without the need for HTML code. It includes an online management tool, so you can work on your site while you're away from your PC; responsive templates that adjust to the size of a visitor's screen; and parallax scrolling, where your page's background and foreground move separately to give the impression of depth. There are three versions: Start 13, (£14.90), Evolution 13 (£49.99) and Professional 13 (£149).

Deal of the Fortnight

TSOhost (www.tsohost.com) is offering deals on a range of domains including '.tech', '.online', '.me' and '.pro'. A '.tech' site is £1.99 for the first year, down from £34.95.

Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: Reuven Sherwin, VP Product at Wix www.wix.com



Can you make tweaks to improve your position in search engines if you're using a web-building service and don't know how to use HTML code?

Graham Rutherford, via email

Yes. Any good web-building service will give you access to specific tools that can help improve your SEO (search engine optimisation), and will offer both basic and advanced measures.

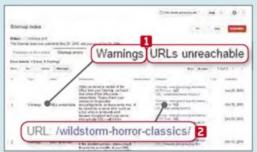
That said, your site's ranking in a search engine doesn't only depend on technical tweaks, but is also affected by the content and value your website offers. This is the area where each website owner has to contribute beyond the technical capabilities of the site's platform and provide useful content for their users.

MINI WORKSHOP | Hunt down errors in your sitemap Google Search Console: bit.ly/search410 | 🕒 10 mins | Any browser

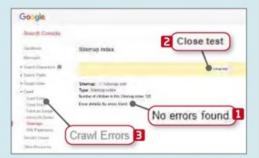
A sitemap helps a search engine find and index your pages. Many tools create them automatically but it's worth submitting them to Google's Search Console and regularly checking them for errors



Log into the Search Console's Dashboard, click Crawl, then click Sitemaps. 11 If you don't already have a sitemap connected to the service, click the Add/Test Sitemap button 2 to upload one. There are services on the web and various plug-ins for tools such as WordPress that will automatically create a sitemap for you.



Scroll down below the graphs and check the Issues column for warnings or errors. Click any warnings links to go to the Errors and Warnings section. Glitches classified as Warnings 11 can be temporary, so test them yourself by clicking any links 2 that Google claims can't be reached. If you have any errors, investigate and try to fix them.



If everything now looks fine, click the Test button. When the test has run, click 'View test result'. Hopefully your sitemap will now come up with no errors. 11 Click the 'Close test' button 2 when you're ready to move on. While you're here, check for Crawl Errors. Click the link [3] and see which pages Google thinks ought to exist, but don't.

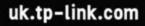


"GAME LIKE YOU'VE NEVER GAMED BEFORE"

AC5400 WIRELESS TRI-BAND MU-MIMO GIGABIT ROUTER

ARCHER C5400









We test and compare the latest products

Amazon Fire HD 8 (2016)

Tesco's Hudl was king of the affordable tablets, and it's yet to be successfully replaced.

Jonathan Bray tests the latest device from Amazon that attempts to fill the gap

ince Tesco stopped producing its much-loved Hudl, Amazon has been the main port of call for low-cost tablets. This latest update of the Fire HD 8 reinforces this position – an 8in tablet for less than £100 is an extremely attractive prospect.

Performance

If you're getting a sense of déjà vu, you're probably remembering the original Fire HD 8, which was released at the end of last year, along with the Fire HD 10 and the 6in Fire. The 2016 HD 8 looks identical to its predecessor but comes with considerably beefed-up internals: it now has a quad-core 1.3GHz MediaTek MT8163 processor; 50% more RAM (now 1.5GB); and 16GB of storage.

This enhanced specification improves the performance noticeably but it still falls far behind more expensive higher-spec tablets. We tested it with Geekbench 3 (geekbench.com) because Geekbench 4 isn't available on the Amazon Appstore. The Fire HD 8's processor delivered a mediocre performance, with scores of 644 (single-core) and 1,854 (multi-core).

It's not a particularly accomplished gaming device, either, returning a sluggish average of 7.1fps in the GFXBench Manhattan test (gfxbench.com), which measures the device's game-playing credentials and

runs at the screen's native resolution of 1,280 x 800 pixels. That said, if you keep your sights low and install only basic and puzzle-based games, you'll be fine.

More importantly, the HD 8 runs Fire OS smoothly. It copes well with streaming Netflix and BBC iPlayer, and it's a reasonably accomplished tool for

The 2016 HD 8 looks identical to its predecessor but comes with considerably beefed-up internals

browsing the web. Amazon's Silk browser does a good job of keeping all but the most media-heavy websites feeling responsive and usable.

Battery life and build

Where the Fire HD 8 shines is its stamina. In our videorundown test - in which we set the screen to a standard brightness of 170cd/m² (candles per square metre), put the device into flight mode and play video continuously until the battery dies - the Fire HD 8 lasted 13hrs 4mins. It's the longest-lasting Fire tablet we've tested, outlasting the larger



Amazon Fire HD 10 by roughly four hours.

Elsewhere, little has changed. Physically, it's the same as last year's Fire HD 8. It's available in the same four colours - black, blue, magenta and tangerine - and is made almost entirely of plastic. Although slim, it's not the most arresting design.

The screen surround is so wide that we initially thought Amazon had supplied the wrong tablet. It also feels chunky and cheap, but then we don't expect a £90 tablet to be shrouded in aluminium.

Despite the plastic construction, the Fire HD 8 feels robust, which is exactly what you want in a tablet that's cheap enough to be handed over to children.

Screen, camera and interface

Where budget tablets usually suffer in comparison with pricier models is screen quality. That's certainly the case with the £50 Amazon Fire tablet, and we expected a similarly disappointing display from the Fire HD 8. But we were pleasantly surprised.

Although the resolution isn't particularly high, at only 1,280 x 800 pixels, its fully laminated IPS panel produces a balanced image



that's easy on the eye. We measured the contrast ratio at a punchy 968:1, with maximum brightness reaching 455cd/m², so it provides good viewing even in challenging conditions, such as the window seat of a train or in the car on a bright day. For a £90 tablet, that's impressive.

But if the screen surpassed our expectations, the 2-megapixel rear-facing camera brought us right back down to Earth with a bump. All our test shots - including those captured in good light - looked grainy and lacked

detail. It's a token effort. nothing more, nothing less.

There are those who don't like Amazon's Fire OS (the software that runs on all its tablets), citing incompatibility with the Google Play Store and a lack of core Google apps. These are valid criticisms but they ignore Fire OS's many strengths, which include superior (and free) parental controls: much tighter integration with Amazon's various services; and imminent support for Amazon's impressive voicedriven Alexa personal assistant (see the box, left).

But even without Alexa, Fire OS on the Amazon Fire HD 8 seems like a good bet, especially if you have an Amazon Prime account and your tablet regularly ends up in the hands of children.

PRODUCT INFO

Amazon Fire HD 8 (2016)

Price: £89.99 Buy from: bit.ly/8hd410

SPECIFICATIONS

- Quad-core 1.3GHz processor
- 8in 1,280 x 800 pixels screen
- 2 megapixels rear camera
- 16GB storage (12.09GB free)
- microSD memory card slot
- Fire OS operating system
- = 214 x 128 x 9.2mm
- = 341q

FOR

- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Fantastic battery life
- Good build quality

AGAINST

- X Mediocre performance
- Disappointing camera

MORE AFFORDABLE

Amazon Fire, £49.99 bit.ly/fire410



LARGER SCREEN

Amazon Fire HD 10, £169.99 bit.ly/10fire410



ALEXA'S ON THE WAY

It looks like we'll soon be getting proper Alexa integration across Amazon's tablet range. The voice-activated digital assistant works in the same way as Microsoft's Cortana and Apple's Siri, helping you out with your day-to-day activities. It has already impressed us on Amazon's Echo device.



With the update expected to launch before the end of the year, the new Amazon Fire HD 8 - along with last year's model, the HD 10 and Fire tablets - will become a portable voice-recognition device like the Amazon Echo.

At the time of going to press, we didn't have concrete details about which specific Alexa features will make an appearance, but we do know what you'll need to do to activate it. First, you'll have to update your tablet to the latest version of Fire OS, then tap and hold the Home button while you're connected to WiFi.

Ask it a question, or tell Alexa to play a song or read a book. It won't be an always-on tool, like the Amazon Echo, but it sounds simple enough to activate on the fly.

OUR VERDICT

The Fire HD 8 isn't the slickest tablet around: its camera is disappointing, its performance is far below that of pricier tablets and its plastic casing does nothing to give it a luxurious, high-end feel. But for a £90 tablet, it includes some pleasant surprises. It's great for media streaming and web browsing; the battery life is exceptional;



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

and we're getting to grips with Amazon's familyfriendly Fire OS software.

With Alexa integration on the way, the Fire HD 8 is an excellent option, particularly for the price.



CHERRY MC 4000 Mouse

www.amazon.co.uk £25.00

With a fast 1000/2000-dpi switchable sensor, indicated by blue and red LEDs respectively, this semantical mouse is a perfect addition to any desktop for left- or right-handed users. High-speed motion detection at 60ips and a 360-degree sliding pad on the base keeps this USB optical mouse moving across the desktop. Six additional, programmable buttons allow quick access to your commonly used functions.







CHERRY MX Board 3.0

www.amazon.co.uk £64.00

The CHERRY MX Board 3.0 offers a perfect introduction to mechanical keyboards, utilising Red, Linear MX switches under each key. The keyboard design is low profile and simplistic, yet robust and hard wearing, with laser-etched, wear-resistant key caps and individual keys tested to 50 million operations. 14-key rollover, Win-Key Lock and anti-ghosting technology, coupled with a removable USB cable make this an ideal gaming keyboard, but it's perfect for both home and office use.



CHERRY DW 5100 Board

www.amazon.co.uk £30.00

Break free from wires! The CHERRY DW-5100 is a stylish and comfortable keyboard and mouse set, using 24GHz technology for an interference-free, 5m range.

The mouse has a switchable 1000/1750-dpi resolution for fast desktop movement, 5 programmable buttons and a rubber side-grip for added comfort. This ergonomically designed mouse also has batteries that will last for up to 2 years between changes. The keyboard is a low-profile design with 10 programmable hot keys and an on/off switch to help conserve power. Supplied with a nanoUSB receiver, the set is simply plug and play with no additional software required.







CHERRY MX Board 6.0

www.amazon.co.uk £142.00

With a solid aluminium case, magnetic quick-snap wrist rest and bright red backlighting, the CHERRY MX Board 6.0 is certainly striking to say the least, but it also hides some incredible features. Backlighting can be adjusted to 100 levels on the Red CHERRY MX's linear switches to find the right intensity, there is full 'N' key rollover off all 109 keys, as well as full anti-ghosting technology and Win-Key Lock. A braided USB cable provides simple plug-and-play connection. Its secret ingredient, though, is the exclusive RK technology, providing analogue processing and the fastest response time of just 1ms, just to give you the edge over the competition.

CHERRY 🐠

PORT Designs Slim emergency battery 5000mAh

www.northamber.com

The POCKET POWERBANK BATTERY 5000mAh by Port Designs "Designed in Paris" provides you with emergency charge for your smartphone for at least two full charges and comes with a 2-year warranty. It comes pre-charged and ready to use, making it easy to charge your phone – or any other USB device – on the go. It's part of the Port Connect range of mobile accessories that are designed for users in both the workplace and during

Specifications:

recreational time.

- · Lithium-Ion Polymer battery
- · 4 levels LED charge indicator
- · Battery capacity 5000mAh
- ON/OFF button
- Input Voltage: 5V
- Input Current: 2AOutput Voltage: 5V
- Output Current: 2.1A

Promotional feature

mydlink Home SMART Home HD Starter Kit (DCH-100KT)

www.dlink-direct.co.uk £147.98 including VAT*

This clever little smart home kit lets you set, control, monitor and automate your home from anywhere. So whether you're switching Christmas tree lights on or off remotely or keeping an eye on things while at social gatherings this festive season – you're in control of your home and possessions, wherever you are, giving you peace of mind.

The mydlink™ Home smartphone and tablet app is the command centre for the D-Link range of smart home technology devices. There's no better time of year to discover mydlink Home – smart technology working together for a safer, more interactive home.





UrbanearsPlattan ADV Wireless

Charges up to 2 USB rechargeable devices

Flashlight/SOS light included.

simultaneously. Solar panel rechargeable battery

or USB charger. Shock- and splash-proof body.

www.currys.co.uk £80

Move around freely and listen to music without the hassle of cables. Plattan ADV Wireless has all the controls you need on its swipe interface. Pair up with Bluetooth and enjoy up to 14 hours of playtime on a single charge. Includes a washable headband and collapsible structure for easy portability.



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

HARDWARE

BUDGET TABLET

Amazon Fire HD 8

£89.99 from bit.ly/8hd410
Date tested: November 2016



For its low price, Amazon's Fire HD 8 is a pleasant surprise: it's great for media streaming and web browsing, its battery life is exceptional and it's easy to use. Once it's integrated with Amazon's Alexa voice assistant, it will be even better.

KEY SPECS

Quad-core 1.3GHz processor = 8in 1,280 x 800 pixels resolution screen = 2-megapixels rear camera = 16GB storage (12.09GB free) = MicroSD memory card slot = Fire OS operating system = $214 \times 128 \times 9.2$ mm = 341g

CHROMEBOOK

Acer Chromebook R11

£229.99 from www.amazon.co.uk Date tested: October 2016



The Acer Chromebook R11 laptop has a keyboard that flips behind its touchscreen, so it can also be used as a tablet. It's not hugely powerful but it runs all the web apps you might need and its battery lasted over eight hours in our tests.

KEY SPECS

Dual-core 1.6GHz Intel Celeron N3050 processor = 2GB of memory = 11.6in touchscreen = 1,366 x 768 pixels resolution = 16GB eMMC drive = 1 x USB 2, 1 x USB 3 ports = 802.11ac Wi-Fi = SD card reader = 295 x 203 x 20mm = 1.2kg

WINDOWS 10 LAPTOP

Acer Aspire One Cloudbook 14

£199.98 from www.pcworld.co.uk

Date tested: September 2016



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

KEY SPECS

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

E-READER

Amazon Kindle (2016)

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

The highly capable Kindle is lightweight, great for reading and matches its rivals for usability and content. Despite the lack of a front light, it remains the best e-reader you can buy for less than £100.

KEY SPECS

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

BUDGET SMARTPHONE

Motorola Moto G4

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

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

KEY SPECS

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

MEDIA STREAMER

Roku 3

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



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

KEY SPECS

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





Best Free Software

SYSTEM TOOL

Advanced SystemCare 10

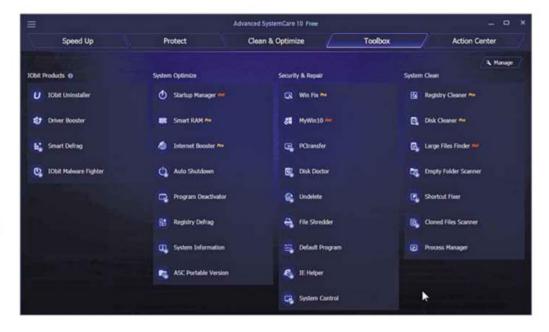
bit.ly/advanced410

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 46.1MB

Advanced SystemCare can fix all kinds of PC problems, boost performance, remove junk and clean up traces of your activities with a single click. Hit the Scan button and the program will run through a series of tasks in sequence. The default selection provides a good, basic clean, but you can add extra options, such as a drive scan, drive optimisation and vulnerability fix for more thorough results.

The tabs along the top of the interface let you switch easily between different sections - Speed Up, Protect, Clean & Optimise, Toolbox and Action Center. There are a lot of tools provided,





although some, such as Internet Booster, Win Fix and Real-time Protector, are only available in the paid-for Pro edition for \$19.99 (£16.43).

This latest version of Advanced SystemCare has a larger database, which makes it even better at protecting your system from spyware, malicious websites and Registry problems. There's a good selection of new features, too, the most notable of which is FaceID. This uses Facial Recognition technology to automatically capture and save images of anyone using your PC without your permission. It requires a camera to work.

Also useful are the new Startup

Optimisation setting in the Clean & Optimise section, which makes your PC boot faster; and the redesigned Homepage Protection feature, which stops unwanted changes being made to your browser homepage and search engine. This works with all browsers, including Microsoft Edge.

Windows 10 users will appreciate the updated MyWin10 tools, which make it easy to fix common problems, update drivers and customise the operating system.

The interface has undergone a minor makeover, too, adding support for large font sizes and high-resolution screens.

MINI WORKSHOP | Speed up your PC using Advanced SystemCare 10



Begin your system cleanup by running a one-click scan. Choose the tools to include from the home screen. II For a full health check, tick Select All. 2 Click the Scan button 5 and the software will work its way through the selected tasks in sequence. You can skip modules or stop the scanning process at any time.

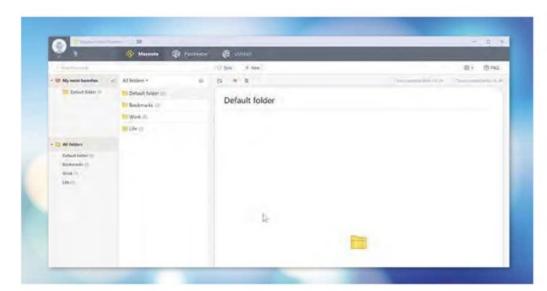


2 When the scan has minor properly screen When the scan has finished, you'll be showing the total number of problems the program has found 🚺 and its ratings for Security, Performance and Stability. You can fix these problems by clicking the Repair button. B Browse and fix individual problems on the left 4 or click Fix to tackle them all. 5



The Speed Up section provides access to performance-boosting options. Turbo Boost 2 stops unnecessary apps and services from running, freeing up resources; Hardware Accelerate 3 manages drivers; and Deep Optimisation 4 can speed up various system elements. The App/Toolbar Cleaner 5 removes items you don't use.

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



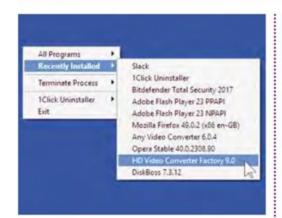
WEB BROWSER

Maxthon 5

www.maxthon.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 46.2MB

Packed with features, Maxthon is one of the better 'alternative' browsers out there. The new version introduces Maxnote, an integrated note-taking tool that lets you easily grab and store web content; and Passkeeper, for generating, remembering, and filling in passwords. The new virtual mailbox UUMail can create virtual email addresses to keep your real address safe. Also in this version, the Quick Access screen has been improved, and split-screen functionality has been reintroduced.

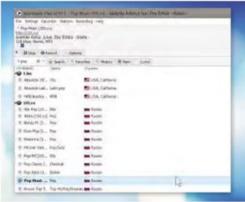


UNINSTALLER 1Click Uninstaller 2

www.softeza.com

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 1.2MB

This tool aims to simplify the process of uninstalling programs that you no longer want. It has a rather odd interface - just a small floating menu that lets you browse your installed software and remove anything with a single click. You can view only recently installed software if you prefer, and quickly terminate any running system processes. 1Click Uninstaller can be customised via its Options screen.



INTERNET RADIO PLAYER TapinRadio 2

bit.ly/tapin410

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 16.9MB

TapinRadio is a very simple internet radio player. Search for a station by name or by genre - such as 'pop' - then sort the list of stations by name, genre or country. Double-click any station to start streaming. You can bookmark your favourites, browse your listening history and even record stations and songs. The new version adds column grouping, favourites import and the ability to search for podcasts.

New Windows Apps

Paint 3D Preview

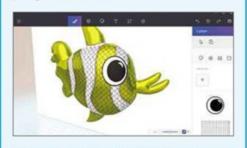
bit.ly/paint410

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 206.86MB

This is a preview of the next generation of Microsoft Paint that focuses on 3D. You need to be enrolled in the Windows Insider

program to use it.



FIFA Mobile Soccer

bit.ly/fms410

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 87.9MB

A basic version of FIFA 2017 that requires a touchscreen to play. You can manage your team, and there are over 30 leagues, 650 teams and 17,000 players included.



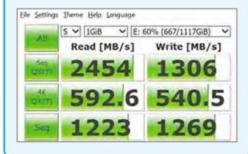
CrystalDiskMark 5

bit.ly/cdmapp410

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 5.2MB

This is a simplified version of the CrystalDiskMark benchmarking program. The app measures the read and write performance of any drives in, or connected to, your PC.



SECURITY TOOL

Avira Free Security Suite 2017

www.avira.com

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

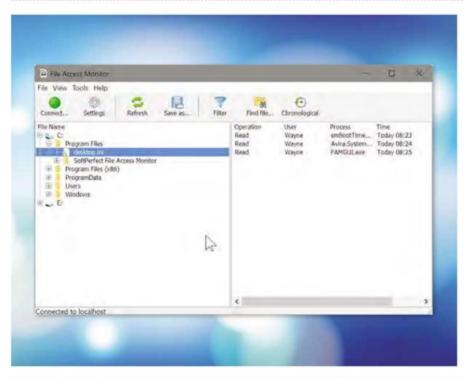
File size: 4.3MB

Avira's Free Security Suite keeps your system safe from threats. The latest version introduces enhanced anti-ransomware protection, and the new Phantom VPN disguises your IP address, so you appear to be browsing from elsewhere. It also encrypts your communications. The free version provides 500MB of VPN anonymity a month.

System Speedup has been improved in the new suite and can remove even more junk than before. Avira plans to introduce new security components and services in the coming year, and these will be made available free of charge.

Good though Avira is, for total PC protection, we recommend Kaspersky Internet Security 2017 see our offer at bit.ly/kaspersky2017.





SYSTEM MONITOR

SoftPerfect File Access Monitor

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

File size: 4.1MB

This program monitors all file system activity on your PC, including file creation, file deletion and reads and writes. SoftPerfect File Access Monitor gives you a good idea of what's happening on your computer, and can be useful for identifying possible problems and even ransomware infections. Naturally, a busy PC will generate a lot of events, but you can filter the list in different ways to show only the information you need. The website has a guide to get you started, and we found the reports produced by the software very easy to understand.

SoftPerfect File Access Monitor used to be a paid-for tool that cost a whopping \$149 (£122) but it's now completely free.

SYSTEM TOOL

EncryptedRegView

www.nirsoft.net

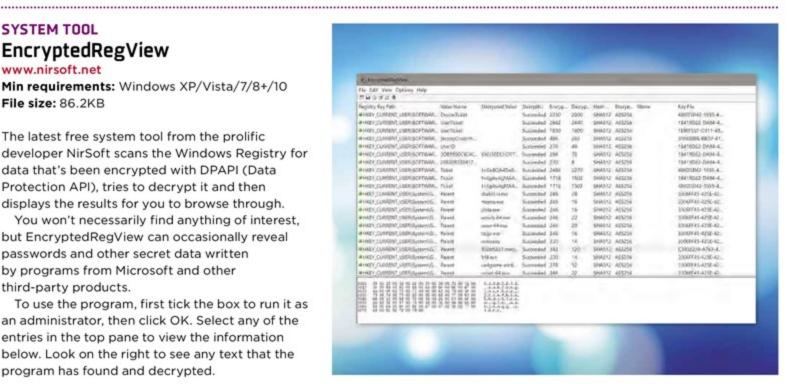
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 86.2KB

The latest free system tool from the prolific developer NirSoft scans the Windows Registry for data that's been encrypted with DPAPI (Data Protection API), tries to decrypt it and then displays the results for you to browse through.

You won't necessarily find anything of interest, but EncryptedRegView can occasionally reveal passwords and other secret data written by programs from Microsoft and other third-party products.

To use the program, first tick the box to run it as an administrator, then click OK. Select any of the entries in the top pane to view the information below. Look on the right to see any text that the program has found and decrypted.





GAME

From Darkness

fromdarkness.net

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

File size: 2GB

From Darkness is an unusual "documentary video game" that takes you on a journey into the turmoil and conflicts that have plagued Eastern Africa. It's a mix of audio, video, adventure and 3D exploration, where you play a Belgian journalist trying to track down her missing daughter. It's a sizable 2GB download, so make sure you have enough hard-drive space!

Don't install...

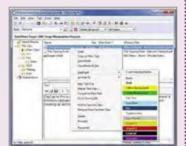
ClipCache Pro

www.xrayz.co.uk

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

File size: 2.8MB

This clipboard manager has been around since 1997 and boy, does it show! Its old-fashioned interface is unnecessarily complicated and cluttered with far too many options for managing the content that you copy and paste. Also, unlike most clipboard managers, you need to pay for it - and at \$29.95 (£24.60), it's far from cheap!



...Install this instead

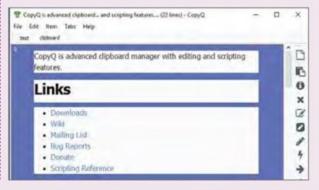
CopyQ

bit.ly/copyq410

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

Mac OS or Linux File size: 9.9MB

CopyQ is a relatively new clipboard manager that comes with a ton of advanced features. One of its most useful assets is that it lets you edit items while they're sitting in the clipboard. Just copy some text and you can view it in the main CopyQ window by left-clicking the icon in the taskbar's notification area. Press F2 or click the Edit button to perform any changes, then save them. CopyQ's interface is refreshingly modern and includes tabs, making it easy to organise and switch between saved items. It brings a whole new level of sophistication to copy and paste.





UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs



PDF TOOL

Foxit Reader 8.1

www.foxitsoftware.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+ File size: 49.7MB

Foxit Reader lets you view, edit and create PDF files and is a good alternative to Adobe Reader. The new version lets you open files stored in the Box cloud service, and adds integration with Foxit Archive, a secure, cloudbased documentmanagement solution.



SYSTEM CLEANER

CCleaner 5.23

www.piriform.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 7.9MB

Piriform's hugely popular system-cleaning tool gets updated on a monthly basis. The latest version gains improved Microsoft Edge and internet-cache cleaning, updated Edge-tab cleaning and better Firefox history and session cleaning. There are also minor bug fixes throughout.



UNINSTALLER

Wise Program Uninstaller 1.97

www.wisecleaner.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 3.9MB

As well as uninstalling programs, this powerful free software finds and removes related leftover files. The latest update lets you uninstall Universal Windows Apps from Windows 10. It also updates translations and applies minor improvements to the interface.



PRIVACY TOOL

DoNotSpy for Windows 10 1.2

pxc-coding.com

Min requirements:

Windows 10 File size: 1.5MB

This program lets you turn off Windows 10's spying features. This new version supports the Anniversary Update and introduces numerous improvements and privacy tweaks, such as disabling lock-screen

tips. Decline the bundled

junk during installation.

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





CHROME

Discover how you spend your time online

There are plenty of Chrome extensions that tell you how many minutes you've been online but for a more detailed analysis of your web activities, you should install TimeYourWeb (bit.ly/time410). This excellent add-on not only reveals how much time you've spent online so far today, but keeps a running total for the week and month, providing an hour-by-hour per-website breakdown of your browsing. TimeYourWeb presents this information in colourful charts that show you at a glance if you've been wasting large chunks of your day on Facebook and YouTube. You can see exactly how long you spent on each site, with additional data available for individual pages. Cleverly, TimeYourWeb can distinguish between 'active' tabs and those running in the background, and displays the length of your current session on its toolbar button. It's an interesting and illuminating tool that could help you use the web more productively by highlighting the sites that take up too much of your time.

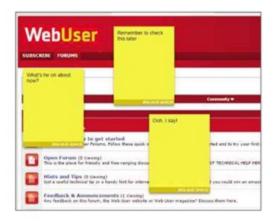
↑ TimeYourWeb				and the same of	
Thu 27th Oct 2016 (Today) 14	Total 1		Active 1		
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http://www.dailymail.co.uk	02ms2s	49.14	02m szs	49.14	
http://forum.webuser.co.uk	Q1m00s	19.71	O1mos.	19.71	
chrome://newtab	60	14.00	631	14.00	
nm http://www.bbc.co.uk	196	5.43	101	5,43	
https://www.facebook.com	154	4.29	15s	4.29	
 II https://w3.cezanneondemand.com 	274	2.00	876	2.00	
► http://subscribe.webuser.co.uk	064	1.71	06s	3.71	
http://www.amazon.co.uk	04s	1.14	04s	1,14	
▶ os http://www.digitalspy.com	04s	1.14	04s	1.14	
a https://www.amazon.co.uk	04s	1.14	04s	1.14	

Use Chrome's hidden Reload options

You probably know that you can refresh a web page to update the information on it by pressing F5 on your keyboard or by clicking the Reload button on your browser's toolbar. But did you know that you can also perform a 'hard' reload that forces Chrome to download every item on the page, not just elements that have changed recently?

To access this hidden option, first press F12 to open the Developer Tools panel in Chrome, then right-click the Reload button to see a new set of options. These are Normal Reload, which simply refreshes the page using cached content; Hard Reload, which downloads updated content but may also use some cached items (similar to pressing Ctrl+F5); and Empty Cache & Hard Reload, which downloads everything on the page from scratch. It's a useful way to see changes that wouldn't otherwise appear.





Leave sticky notes on web pages

Have you ever bookmarked a web page and then completely forgotten why you did it? Or perhaps you spotted an interesting item online but can't remember where you saw it. A solution to both problems is to use a handy Chrome extension called Note Anywhere (bit.ly/note410), which lets you attach sticky notes to web pages. These can contain reminders,

observations, to-do lists and other useful information. You can drag and drop the notes into any position, and change their colour (from the default yellow), text size and font in the settings. Note Anywhere saves your sticky notes automatically when you leave the page, so they're waiting

for you next time you visit, and its toolbar icon helpfully shows how many notes you've stuck to that page. Nobody but you can see your notes, so you can write whatever you like!

Disable Chrome's suggestions on Android

The latest version of Chrome for Android (54) introduces an unwelcome feature that uses your new tab page to 'suggest' websites and articles Google thinks you might be interested in. This looks like another form of advertising to us, so here's how to turn the feature off. Type chrome: flags into your address bar, press Enter and find the entries 'Show popular sites on the New Tab page' and 'Show content snippets on the New Tab page'. Disable both, restart Chrome and you'll be free of Google's so-called suggestions.

	es on the New Tab page Android New Tab page with popular sites.
Disabled •	
Your changes w Google Chrome	ill take effect the next time you relaunch



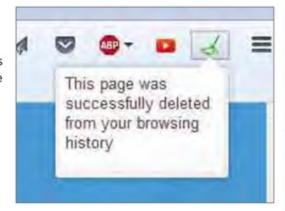
This fortnight's most useful tips and add-ons to help you get the most from Chrome, Firefox, Opera and more



FIREFOX

Delete specific pages from your browsing history

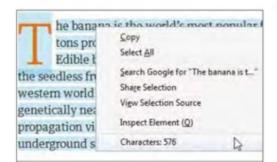
We've all 'stumbled across' web pages that we'd rather didn't appear in our browsing history, but Firefox doesn't let you delete specific entries from its cache - you can only remove all the pages you visited within a set period, such as the past hour, or delete individual cookies, which often have names that make it difficult to identify them. Habitual stumblers will therefore be grateful for a new add-on called Forget That Page (bit.ly/forget410). Whenever

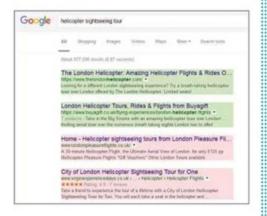


you find yourself on a page you'd rather Firefox didn't save for posterity, simply click the sweeping-broom icon on your toolbar to delete all trace of it from your history. It could prove invaluable when booking a surprise trip or buying a Christmas present for a nosy partner or family member who shares your PC.

Stay within online character limits

Including spaces and punctuation. how many characters are in this question? If you counted (or guessed) 75, give yourself a pat on the back, clever clogs. If you were way off, you might be interested in a nifty new Firefox add-on called Character Count (bit.ly/char410), which lets you find out how many characters are in a selection of online text. Simply right-click it, and the total figure appears in the context menu. This could help you avoid exceeding the 140-character limit when posting text into a tweet or writing too much for an answer in an online questionnaire. Web developers can use the add-on to ensure their lines of code don't overrun and mess up the layout of their pages, and Tumblr users can avoid the site's various character restrictions (see bit.ly/tumblr410). The possibilities are limitless.





Avoid visiting unsecure websites

Google has announced that from next January it will 'name and shame' websites that don't use HTTPS encryption, labelling them as 'not secure'. The warnings will only appear in Chrome, however, and unsecure sites won't be 'shamed' in Google's own search results. That's where HTTPS Highlighter for Google (bit.ly/ https410) comes in. When you search for something using Google, this Firefox add-on makes it obvious which results use HTTPS by shading them green, while unencrypted HTTP sites are marked red. That's all there is to it, but it's certainly worth installing if you're worried about inadvertently sharing your data over an unsafe connection.

OTHER BROWSERS

Reopen tabs up to 86% faster

Unlike other browsers,

Opera (www.opera.com) saves your tabs automatically when you close it, then reopens them all when you next start the browser. This can really slow you down if you had lots of tabs open, so we're pleased to see that Opera has fixed the problem in its latest version (41). Now, when you launch the browser, it prioritises recently active and pinned tabs over less important ones. Opera claims

this tweak made the browser start 86% faster in tests with 42 open tabs.



while for a session involving 10 open tabs, its performance was boosted by more than 50%.

Watch web videos in cinema mode A new addition to the

slowly expanding range of extensions for Microsoft's Edge browser is the excellent Turn Off the Lights (bit.ly/turn410). Long available for Chrome and Firefox, this popular add-on

makes watching videos on YouTube and other sites pleasant by fading



out everything on the page except the media player. The effect is similar to being at the cinema, because it helps you focus on the action by removing the distraction of surrounding elements. The Edge add-on works the same way as the versions for other browsers just click the lamp button to turn the lights on and off.



UPDATED

App of the Fortnight

PRIVACY

IObit Applock

www.applock.tech

4.0.3

IObit is best known for its system and security software for desktop PCs, but it has moved into the Android world with this set of virtual keys for locking your apps and settings.

IObit Applock's latest release adds a couple of features. New Fake Lock screens disguise locked apps with a dummy cracked screen or incoming call, which is fun, but hardly groundbreaking. More impressive is the new



Face Lock, which lets you secure apps and settings by snapping a selfie. If you've checked in at an airport recently, you'll be familiar with the drill: fill the circle with your face, try not to giggle, then wait a moment while the app's neural network technology decides it really is your face and waves you through. If someone tries to pose as you, Applock snaps an Intruder Selfie and sends it to your email address. If the intruder tries to use a photo of your face, they won't get far - IObit uses advanced artificial intelligence to distinguish photos from real faces. We show you how to set up Face Lock in our Mini Workshop on the right.

Like other security apps, Applock also lets you use a lock pattern to keep prying eyes out of WhatsApp, for example, or to ensure children can't make in-app purchases. You can activate a Delay Lock so you don't have to unlock apps



constantly. We particularly like the Notification Lock, which hides message previews to prevent those awkward moments when friends and family see personal messages on your lock screen.

Applock is small, fast and easy to use. There are no in-app purchases and we didn't see any adverts. We'd have liked to be able to lock specific photos and albums rather than just locking the entire Gallery

app, but that's our only criticism of this excellent tool.



MINI WORKSHOP

Lock apps with your face using IObit Applock

Install and launch Applock. Connect at least four dots with your finger to create a default pattern lock. You'll then see a list of apps and settings that Applock highlights as 'Recommended to Lock'. 11 Tap one to lock it using your default pattern. In Android 5.0 and above, you'll be taken to Settings to enable 'Usage data access'. When that's done, you'll see a closed padlock icon next to your app. 2



Tap the menu icon and then tap Face Lock, followed by Enable Now. In the permissions box. tap Allow to let Applock access your camera. Hold up your phone and position your face in the circle. 1 Turn your head slightly to the left or right when requested. Once Applock has successfully captured your face, you'll briefly see a green tick.



The Face Lock screen now displays the same apps and settings you locked in Step 1. 11 To lock one of these using Face Lock rather than your default pattern, tap its face icon so that it changes colour. 2 To open one of these locked apps, position your face in the circle as before. To disable Face Lock, tap the switch. 3



Our rating



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

VIDEO

Crop Video bit.ly/ crop410 8.2

The 'crop' element of this app refers to trimming the length of a video, rather than



reframing the picture, and Crop Video does this with far greater precision than Apple's built-in Photos app. Choose a recorded or saved video, then drag the anchors to your desired start and end points to perform the crop. You can also remove sections and join clips. You're prompted to give the app five stars in the App Store in return for a free 'pro' upgrade

(normally £2.99) ironically this annoyed us enough to knock a point off our rating!



Our rating

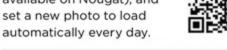


CUSTOMISATION

Wallpapers bit.ly/ wallpapers410 4.1

Google has been so busy inventing things lately automated homes, selfdriving cars, expensive Pixel phones - that

we're amazed it's still got time to search the internet. Its latest creation is this relatively modest app that offers dozens of glorious wallpapers, including photos sourced from Google Earth's satellite archive and the 500px photo community (500px.com), or from your own gallery if you prefer. You can choose different photos for your home and lock screens (this is only available on Nougat), and



Our rating

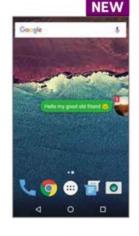


NEW

MESSAGING

Flychat bit.ly/flychat410 # 4.4

You'd be forgiven for assuming that Flychat is yet another new messaging service, but it's actually a tool that adds a useful function to vour existing



services by showing incoming messages in bubbles that float on top of other apps. For example, if you receive a WhatsApp message, Flychat's 'floating bubble' lets you read it while you're watching a YouTube video or using your camera app, without having to switch windows. It also lets you see notifications from all your installed messaging apps in one window. Flychat supports

most of the big names, including Telegram, Skype and Facebook Messenger.



Our rating



PHOTOS

Instagram

bit.ly/instagram410 10

The photo-based social network is six years old (we reckon that's around 60 in app years) and has 500 million users, split 50/50 between iOS and Android. Now that figure's set to rise because there's finally an Instagram app for Windows. The "new" app includes familiar Instagram features - add filters to your photos, then



extra tools such as Stories, where you create threads of photos and videos that self-destruct after 24 hours. You can also share threads exclusively with specific users via the new Direct tool.

The app works on PC as well as mobile, but many key functions require a touchscreen. What's more, it's optimised for tablet. Poor old iPad users, by contrast, are still lumbered with a stretched version of the iPhone app. Maybe it's time to invest in that Windows 10 tablet.



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
- Order it now from Amazon at

bit.ly/androidbook2016

Best Free Apps

NOTES

Squid

squidnotes.com



10 Mobile

Use your finger to create handwritten notes with this beautifully



designed app, now available for Windows Mobile as well as Android. It offers several virtual paper types, including lined A4 and graph paper, and even lets you import photos to write on. You can edit your scribbles by copying and pasting; assemble notes into notebooks; and share your work via other apps or export it as a photo file or PDF. The Android version has been updated to let you print from the app. Certain features, such as cloud backup and importing PDFs, require the Premium version (£1 a month), but the free version is still

Our rating



KIDS

The Beano

bit.ly/beanodroid410 bit.ly/beanoios410 4.1 8

British comic legends Dennis the Menace, Gnasher and Minnie live on inside your phone and tablet. This is no nostalgia app for grown-ups - it's made for kids, and belongs firmly in a world where everything is "awesome, LOL". Like the new Beano website (www

.beano.com), the app is based around

a regularly updated feed of funny videos, interactive puzzles, competitions, comic strips and topical content, all rendered in eye-popping colour to the accompaniment of

rude noises. We may not be the target audience, but we thoroughly approve of this affectionate attempt to keep the Beano name alive, and there are no in-app purchases to trick young users.



NEW

BEANO

Ourrating





APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

EDUCATION

Tinkerblocks

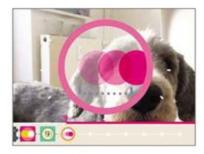
bit.ly/tinker410

49

Price: £2.29 Learn to code by completing interactive puzzles. Today's kids may be tech-savvy, but teachers

good enough to score the full five stars.

and parents often aren't - which is why apps like this, created by MIT and Tokyo University, are so valuable. Suitable for age four and up.



FOOD

Substitutions

bit.ly/subs410

68

Price: £1.49

If you need to follow a strict diet, or you're vegan or

vegetarian, this respectful and well-researched app has a database of 1,200 food substitutes and counting.



MUSIC

Spoticast

bit.ly/spoticast410

10 Mobile Price: £3.89

This third-party Spotify player still has a few bugs



to iron out, but we already prefer it to the main Spotify for Windows Mobile app (bit.ly/spotify410). Spoticast lets you play videos and radio as well as songs, and supports casting devices including Chromecast.

Health Data Importer

bit.ly/health410

\$10

Price: £2.29

This app lets you export XML Health data (Fitness, Sleep and so on) from one iOS device to another - a simple task that Apple's native app can't perform on its own.



GAME

Mini Metro

bit.ly/minidroid410 bit.ly/miniios410

4.0.3 88

Price: £4.29 (Android), £3.99 (iOS)

Design an underground rail network for 11 real

cities including Paris and Berlin, then maintain it while the city changes and grows, using this amazing subway simulator. It's like creating your own Tube map without having to go anywhere near London.



Substitutions

Health Data Importer



Spoticast





Tinkerblocks



Best New TV Apps

MUSIC

Spotify on Samsung TV

bit.ly/spotifytv410

Min requirements: Samsung Smart TV with Tizen

Using Spotify to stream music directly to your TV eliminates the need for a separate hi-fi, but you previously needed a Premium subscription to do so on a Samsung smart TV. Now things have changed and you can enjoy the streaming service's 30 million songs on the big screen without paying a penny. Spotify has opened its app for Samsung TVs to free users as well as subscribers. so you can get all the music you want without having to pay £9.99 per month. True, you'll have to put up with a few adverts, but you can always go and put the kettle on while they're playing. Note that you'll need a Samsung TV from 2015 or later, which runs the Tizen operating system, to stream Spotify for free.



TELEVISION

BBC iPlayer

bit.ly/ipandroid406 bit.ly/ipios406

Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 7, Windows 10 Mobile



The BBC's latest update to its iPlayer app is more about addressing reported problems than introducing new features. For the Android version, this entails restoring the Chromecast icon that many users reported as missing (check out the angry reviews on the Play store). Its absence meant affected users were unable to stream their favourite BBC shows from their phones and tablets to their TVs over their Wi-Fi connection, but thankfully service has now been restored. Improvements have also been made for devices running Android Nougat. Meanwhile, on the iOS app, the Beeb has fixed an annoying problem that caused downloaded programmes to jump back to the start during playback.

KIDS TV

Sky Kids

bit.ly/skykids410

Min requirements: Android 4.1, iOS 8 with Sky+ Family or Variety bundle or Sky Q

Sky's tablet app for children aged three to nine has been updated with some useful new features to keep the kids entertained. For example, they can now swap their 'profile buddy' for a different character and dress it up. There's also a new 'Just watched' feature that shows young viewers what they've recently watched, and lets them resume playback of programmes they haven't finished. Similarly, they can use the new 'Up next' feature to play the next episode of a series straight away. Best of all is the news that plasticine legend Morph has arrived on Sky Kids, with 15 new episodes available exclusively on the service.



X Don't install...

Boot Sale Buddy

bit.ly/boot410

If you want to find car boot sales in your area. you're better off checking the local paper than installing this shoddy app. Its information is several years out of date, you can't enter your



postcode to view nearby sales and the interface looks like it was thrown together in two minutes. Worst of all. some security apps flag it as malware. It clearly needs to be 'booted' out of the Play store.

...Install this instead

Shpock Boot Sale & Classifieds

shpock.com

Min requirements: Android (varies),

Shpock offers all the excitement and variety of rummaging through car boot sales and flea markets, without having to elbow timewasters out of the way or find somewhere to park. Launched in the UK earlier this year, it's already tempted many bargain hunters and product sellers away from Gumtree and eBay, with its attractive interface that makes it easy to browse "beautiful things" in your neighbourhood. Listings are arranged by proximity to your location, and

place photos and prices upfront to save you wading through boring text. It's free to sell your own items through Shpock, and you can arrange collection directly through the app's chat facility.







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

Nintendo Switch

Is it a games console? Is it a tablet? And why should you care either way? David Crookes takes a look at Nintendo's new Switch device

What is it?

Four years after releasing the ill-fated Wii U, Nintendo has finally confirmed the details of its forthcoming new games console. Called the Nintendo Switch (www.nontendo.com/switch), it's a cross between a traditional console and a handheld device, which means you can use it to play games both at home and while you're out and about. Nintendo hopes the Switch will help it win back a large slice of the gaming market.

How does it look?

It's very smart. The main component of Nintendo's new device looks similar to a tablet, thanks to its large, shiny display. This is sandwiched between a pair of detachable 'Joy-Con' controllers, which are equipped with an array of familiar-



Slip the Nintendo Switch into its Dock to stream games to your television

looking buttons, including a directionalpad, option keys and a pair of thumb sticks for precise movement. In addition, there's a Dock that connects to your television. You can place your Switch into this Dock whenever you want to enjoy some console gaming on your TV.

So how does it work?

Let's say you want to play a game while you're out of the house. Just keep the Joy-Cons connected to the tablet and the action will take place on the device's high-definition display. If, when you get home, you decide you'd rather play the game on your TV, you can remove the Joy-Cons, insert the main unit into the



Dock and then play, holding a controller in each hand. This turns the Switch into a home games console, with the Dock providing an output to the TV while also powering and charging the device.

Can I play games using a more traditional controller?

The Joy-Cons can be slotted into a Joy-Con Grip accessory that holds them side by side, so you can use them more like a traditional gamepad. Alternatively, you can splash out on a bespoke gamepad called the Nintendo Switch Pro Controller, which looks similar to the controllers for the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One consoles.

What about multiplayer gaming?

You'll be able to hand one of your Joy-Cons to a friend to play games against each other or cooperatively. Nintendo says players will also be able to hook up multiple Switch consoles to play one another.

What's the benefit of this new hybrid device?

The whole point is that you can decide how and where you want to play your games. For example, you could start a game on the Switch while waiting for a train, then once you're on board, use the kickstand to prop it up on the table, detaching the Joy-Cons so you can play



The Switch's two Joy-Con controllers attach to the sides of the device



You can play the Switch anywhere and impress people with trendy jeans

more comfortably. Then, when you get home, you can switch the action to your TV. Every game will be designed to work just as well in each of the Switch's configurations, so you won't need to buy two copies of the same title to suit the different experiences.

Will it have any online capabilities?

Nintendo hasn't revealed any details yet, and says it will make everything much clearer next year. We know that the games will be sold on cartridges rather than discs, but it would be a strange move if Nintendo decided not to include a wireless internet connection and allow for downloads. We would also expect the console to be able to stream music and video to apps for services such as Netflix, but we'll have to wait and see.

Won't people just stick with their tablets and phones?

It's possible. You can already play Android and iOS games on a TV, and controllers are available for tablets and phones. Nintendo isn't totally shying

away from mobile devices, though. Pokémon Go. which Nintendo owns a small stake in, proved to be a smash hit on iOS, Android and Apple Watch, Meanwhile, Nintendo is due to release the sidescrolling platform game Super Mario Run for iOS in December, marking Mario's first appearance on phones and tablets.



Play Super Mario Run on your phone while waiting for Switch to launch

Is Nintendo hedging its bets, then?

There's no denying that Nintendo has suffered lately, with sales down 33% in September compared with the same time last year, which led the company to issue a profit warning in October. The Switch gives Nintendo a chance to show that it can still be a major player in the video-game hardware market, while also testing new ground in the market for mobile games.

Does this spell the end of the Wii U?

It certainly does. Nintendo launched the Wii U console in 2012, but it has been a major flop, selling just 13 million devices to date - a tenth of the 101 million sales of its predecessor, the Wii. While the Wii introduced Nintendo's motion-sensing remote controller, which was easy and fun to use and lent itself to a host of new applications, the Wii U gave the world the GamePad - a cumbersome



Remember the Wii U? Probably not because it was a load of rubbish

controller with an embedded touchscreen and dual-screen gaming. It simply failed to ignite the imagination.

So why should the Nintendo Switch succeed?

Nintendo has tried to simplify things with its latest device. Not only has it dropped the Wii branding - a wise move, since many Wii owners believed the Wii U was an add-on rather than a new console - it is also increasing the processing power with a custom version of the Nvidia Tegra processor used in smartphones and tablets. The company plans to offer lots of third-party games, too, rather than relying on its own library of titles. Nintendo has already made efforts to distance the new device from the Wii U by confirming that it won't allow dual-screen gaming. This means you won't be able to play games on the Switch display and a TV at the same time. Even more surprising is the fact that the Switch probably won't have a touchscreen.

When will the Switch be released?

You can expect the Switch to appear in shops from March 2016. There are no details yet as to how much the hardware or games will cost, but you can expect to pay at least £300 for the console.

> Intriguingly, Nintendo has been busy filing patents that cover motiontracking technology, image recognition, GPS and a built-in projector, so

who knows what other tricks the Switch will have up its sleeve when it eventually goes on sale?

WHAT CAN I PLAY ON THE SWITCH?

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The Switch won't be physically compatible with Nintendo 3DS or Wii U games, so you can't simply insert a 3DS cartridge or Wii U disc into the device. That doesn't mean Nintendo won't offer its back catalogue as downloads, however. There's already a feature called the Virtual Console on the Wii, Wii U and 3DS, so hopefully the new device will follow suit.

We already know there will be a wide selection of new games on offer. Chief among them are the hotly anticipated Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild and Dragon Quest 11, but you can bet your house



The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild will be one of the first Switch games

on there being some Mario titles, too. In fact, a 3D Mario title appeared in the First Look trailer released for Switch (bit.ly/switch410). Dozens of third-party developers have pledged their support, including top names such as Ubisoft, Activision, Sega, EA and Capcom.

Your Complete Guide to... TV STREAMING

COVER FEATURE With so much viewing choice these days, it's hard enough to decide what to watch, let alone where and how to watch it. **Wayne Williams** explains everything you need to know about streaming TV

t's fair to say that we live in a golden age of television.

Long gone are the days of a measly three or four channels that closed down for the night and offered a heavy dose of repeats. Not only are there now hundreds of channels to pick from - depending on which TV platforms you have - but the likes of Netflix and Amazon are also joining the party with their own original programming, and are seriously outspending traditional broadcasters.

On the downside, knowing what's available to watch, and what you need to be able to watch it (legally), is a minefield. For example, while Roku and Apple TV give you access to the majority of streaming TV, they won't let you enjoy Amazon's growing raft of original content on the big screen. For that you need a Fire TV device. Even when you've decided which company to buy from, you may need to choose whether you want a box or a stick.

Over the following 10 pages, we outline the pros and cons of the various available streaming devices and round up the best new software, apps and services available. We also look at the legal side of streaming TV and provide solutions to all your streaming problems.



Best devices for streaming TV



Which streaming device you should buy? Read our guide to the best options

Roku

www.roku.com

UK shoppers have a choice of three Roku streaming products - Roku 2, Roku 3 and Roku Streaming Stick.
Although the Roku 3 is the top-of-therange model, you shouldn't automatically choose it over Roku 2 because the two boxes are almost identical. In fact, the only thing the Roku 3 offers over the Roku 2 is an enhanced remote with a built-in headphone jack and motion control for games. If you don't need that, save yourself £10 and go for the Roku 2.

All Roku's devices connect to your TV via HDMI (offering up to 1080p resolution playback) and provide access to more than 2,000 streaming apps – or 'channels', as Roku calls them – and 100,000 movies and TV episodes. You can search by name, actor or director to find content to watch, but remember that some channels, such as Netflix, require a subscription. Unlike its main rival Amazon, Roku doesn't create its own



The Roku 3 is the company's top-of-the-range streaming product

card slots. All Roku's devices come with a remote, but you can also control streaming via the free Roku app, and mirror the contents of your tablet or smartphone screen on your TV.

Roku 2 and 3 have been discontinued in the US (the Streaming Stick is still available), as has the Roku 4, which never made it to the UK. American shoppers now have a choice of numerous new Roku products, including the Roku Express (\$29.99 - around £24.50) and Express+ (\$39.99 - about £32.70) sticks; Roku Premiere (\$79.99 - around £65 - with 4K support) and Premiere+ (\$99.99 -

about £81.70 - with 4K and HDR, plus an advanced remote); and Roku Ultra (\$129.9 about £106 - with 4K and HDR, and faster innards). Some, if not all, of these

devices are likely to make their way over here eventually.

Best for: Roku 2 is best for viewers with unreliable Wi-Fi, because of its Ethernet connectivity.

(\$79.9 supplements of the control of

If you don't need advanced features, opt for a Roku Streaming Stick

content, but the vast choice of apps means you'll never be stuck for something to watch.

The Roku 2 and 3 connect to your network wirelessly or via Ethernet. You can plug in and play content from a USB memory stick, and expand Roku's storage via microSD. The Streaming Stick is half the price of the Roku 2 and offers many of the same features as the Roku boxes, with the exception of the Ethernet, USB and microSD

Now TV

www.nowtv.com

Now TV is available for other streaming devices, but if you're on a budget, the Roku-powered Now TV Box is a great option for watching live and catch-up TV. For just £14.99, you get access to 50 apps including YouTube, Sky Store, iPlayer, ITV Hub and All 4. It comes with a basic remote control and offers 1080p streaming.

You can get extra programmes and channels by paying for Now TV passes for Entertainment (£6.99 a month), Sky Cinema (£9.99 a month), Kids (£2.99 a month) and Sky Sports (from £6.99). There's a 14-day free trial available for all the non-sports passes, and you can cancel at any time.

You can also purchase the box with your choice of passes, and save quite a lot of money by doing so. For example, buying the box with a six-month Entertainment pass will cost you £39.99, saving you 30%.

In addition to the Now TV Box, there's a Now TV Smart Box available for £39.99, which lets you pause and rewind live TV and includes over 60 Freeview channels, and 15 HD channels. It has a faster processor and is nearly twice the size. You can also install a Now TV app on your phone or tablet - see page 44 for details.

Best for: Casual TV viewers who occasionally like to watch films and sport.

Apple TV

bit.ly/appletv410

Apple's latest streaming box (priced from £139) offers 1080p viewing (no 4K support yet, sadly) and a smart Siri Remote with a glass touchpad. You can control the device by swiping and using the buttons on the remote, or ask Apple's personal assistant Siri to find content to watch. Your requests can be quite broad – "Show me popular TV programmes", for example.

Unlike Siri on your iPhone or iPad, she doesn't talk to you all the time, which means she won't be prattling over TV shows or movies. There are



You can control Apple TV using the built-in voice assistant Siri





some clever touches, too - if you miss some dialogue in a programme, you can ask Siri "what did they say?" and Siri will replay that scene with subtitles.

This being Apple, you can add new apps via the built-in App Store, but it's not as comprehensive as you might hope. Still, you can access services including Netflix, iTunes (naturally), iPlayer, YouTube, Plex and Now TV. Apple will also be introducing more original content in the near future, including a Carpool Karaoke series based on a popular section of James Corden's The Late Late Show. Despite this venture into original

programming, the tech giant has no plans to compete with Netflix or Amazon - not yet, at least!

You can play

games on Apple TV, but if you want to get the most from them, it's worth buying the SteelSeries Nimbus Wireless Gaming Controller (£44.95) gamepad from Apple because the supplied remote isn't brilliant for gaming.

At its recent "Hello Again" event, Apple announced a new app for Apple TV, iPhone and iPad, called TV. This makes it easier to find things to watch and lets you switch seamlessly between viewing on the big screen and your mobile

device. Apple also introduced a new feature called 'Live tune-in with Siri', which lets you ask the digital assistant to show you live sports or news using plain English requests, such as "Show me the Manchester United game". Annoyingly, both new additions are currently US-only.

Best for: Apple fans who like simplicity and style, and for Siri to do the hard work.

amazon

The Fire TV Stick is less than

half the price of its boxy

Amazon Fire TV

bit.ly/amazontv410

There's a lot to love about Amazon Fire TV, including a ton of free and original content for Prime subscribers that make the £79 annual subscription cost seem like an absolute bargain. If you're a fan of Clarkson, Hammond and May, then Amazon Fire TV is the place to watch their new show, The Grand Tour, in all its 4K glory. You can watch Netflix, iPlayer, ITV and more on Fire TV, too, as well as play games, listen to music and install further apps.

Amazon offers two streaming products - Amazon Fire TV with 4K Ultra HD (for £79.99) and the Amazon Fire TV Stick with Alexa Voice Remote (for £34.99). The latest version of the box lets you watch some programs in 4K (provided you have a 4K telly, of course) and 1080p HD. The new box boasts 75% more processing power than its predecessor (which itself was no slouch), a dedicated graphics engine and 2GB of memory.

You can search for something to watch by speaking into the remote or the mobile app, and a clever processing trick called ASAP learns which Amazon movies and TV episodes you like and buffers them in advance so they start right away. The box has dual-band, dual antenna 802.11ac Wi-Fi, so if you have the right router, you can enjoy fast streaming. There's a microSD slot so you can expand storage, and a USB 2 slot.

If you don't have space for a box under your TV, opt for the Fire TV stick instead. This can stream video at up to 1080p, has 1GB of RAM and offers dual-band, dual-antenna,

802.11a/b/g/n Wi-Fi connectivity. There's no USB port or expandable storage, but the latest version has a voice-enabled remote control, and all for under half the price.

Best for: Prime subscribers and people who miss the old Top Gear team.



Your Complete Guide to... TV Streaming



Chromecast

bit.ly/cc410

Google's original Chromecast had the appearance of a standard dongle, but it has since been redesigned to look more like a hockey puck. However, its looks are slightly irrelevant because it's likely to be dangling out of sight from a rear HDMI port. That said, the new design is unquestionably more stylish. It's also incredibly cheap, costing just £30, which makes it ideal if you can't afford the more sophisticated streaming devices.

The Chromecast is extremely easy to set up and can be powered from a USB port on your TV, or the included power supply. Content is streamed - or rather 'cast', as Google calls it - to your device via the Google Home app (formerly called Google Cast). You can add TV and movie apps to Google Home for easy viewing, and also cast content from other Chromecastcompatible apps. Streaming happens in the background, so you can use your phone for other things while you're watching a show or movie on the big screen. Google says there are over 200,000 TV shows and movies, as well as 30 million songs available to enjoy,

Chromecast Ultra offers higher quality and can stream from your PC

Google's Chromecast is the smart option for TV addicts on a budget

from services including YouTube, Netflix, iPlayer, Now TV and Spotify. You can also mirror your Android phone or tablet on your TV via Chromecast.

If you have a 4K TV,

If you have a 4K TV, it's worth getting the Chromecast Ultra for £69. This lets you stream content in up to 4K Ultra HD and HDR, and comes with Ethernet support in addition to Wi-Fi, so you can stream over a wired connection. Google also promises

ultra-fast load times from this newest member of the Chromecast family. Best for: Phone and tablet users who don't want to buy a pricey set-top box.

TV-STREAMING DEVICES COMPARED

			2	STV M		2	
	Roku 3	Roku Streaming Stick	Now TV Box	Apple TV	Amazon Fire TV	Amazon Fire TV Stick	Chromecast
Website	www.roku .com	www.roku .com	www.nowtv .com	bit.ly/ appletv410	bit.ly/ amazontv410	bit.ly/ amazontv410	bit.ly/cc410
Storage	256MB (expandable via microSD)	256MB	256MB (expandable via microSD)	32GB or 64GB	8GB (expandable via microSD)	8GB	256MB
RAM	512MB	512MB	512MB	2GB	2GB	1GB	512MB
Ports	HDMI, Ethernet, USB	HDMI, micro USB (for power)	HDMI, Ethernet, USB	HDMI, Ethernet, USB-C	HDMI, Ethernet, USB	HDMI, micro USB (for power)	HDMI, micro USB (for power)
Networking	802.11a/ b/g/n	802.11a/ b/g/n	802.11a/ b/g/n	802.11a/ b/g/n/ac	802.11a/ b/g/n/ac	802.11a/ b/g/n	802.11b/ g/n/ac
Video Output	720p, 1080p	720p, 1080p	720p, 1080p	720p, 1080p	720p, 1080p, 4K	720p, 1080p	720p, 1080p
Dimensions (mm)	88.9 x 88.9 x 25.4	82.55 x 22.86 x 12.7	89 x 89 x 25	98 x 98 x 35	115 x 115 x 17.8	84.9 x 25.0 x 11.5	51.9 x 51.9 x 13.49
Price	£69.99	£29.99	£14.99	£139	£74.99	£34.99	£30

Best services for streaming TV

So many streaming services, so little time. Here are the main ones to know about

BBC iPlayer

www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer

You're probably very familiar with iPlayer, which lets you watch the BBC's channels live, catch up with past programmes, and enjoy original vet-to-be-broadcast content. It's available as a program, on the web and as mobile apps for all the major platforms (see page 44), and can also be found in streaming-media boxes such as Amazon Fire TV. You can stream content, download it, mark favourites and queue up programmes to watch later.



From comedy and drama to sport and documentaries, the iPlayer has it all

Netflix

www.netflix.com

Most people have heard of Netflix, and many will be subscribers. The service, which is available on all major platforms, offers an unrivalled selection of movies and TV shows, including plenty of original content such as House of Cards, Stranger Things, Orange is the New Black and



Netflix includes some excellent original series and is great value for money

Marvel's Daredevil. It costs from £5.99 a month (although the £7.49 standard plan offers greater value because you can stream to more than one screen, and in HD resolution) and you can try it free for a month.

Amazon Prime

bit.ly/prime410

Amazon Prime costs £79 a year, or £7.99 a month (there's a 30-day free trial with all plans), but for that you get unlimited free next-day delivery, special deals, access to Prime Music and Prime Video, and more. Prime



You no longer need a full Prime subscription to stream Prime Video

Video is available on Amazon's Fire streaming products, and also as mobile apps for Android and iOS. You can stream and download movies and TV programmes, as well as original Amazon content such as The Man in the High Castle, Transparent and The Grand Tour. If you only want Prime Video, you can now sign up for only that for £5.99 a month.

YouView

www.youview.com

YouView is available as part of a BT, TalkTalk or Plusnet broadband package, and on Sony Bravia TVs for a one-off payment. There are also YouView set-top boxes available to buy, priced from £159.99.

All versions of YouView offer 70 free TV and radio channels, including BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5, and free catch-up TV. If you get the service from BT or TalkTalk, you can get additional TV channels. YouView also lets you subscribe to Netflix and Now TV.



There are lots of ways to get YouView and plenty of channels to enjoy

Now TV

www.nowtv.com

Now TV provides an easy way to access Sky content without being tied to an expensive subscription. You just buy the passes you require (Entertainment, Sky Cinema, Sky Sports and Kids) to watch live and catch-up content on your TV, computer, mobile phone or tablet, or a Now TV box.



Now TV provides a cheap and easy way to get Sky without a contract

IS IT LEGAL TO STREAM TV?

Until recently, you only needed a TV licence for watching live broadcasts. Catch-up and ondemand TV, viewed through the likes of iPlayer, was exempt, which meant that if you never watched live programmes, then you didn't need a licence. However, the government has now closed this loophole.

From September, you need a TV licence to watch anything on iPlayer. And this covers all devices - TVs, tablets and mobiles. You will also need a licence to watch or record live broadcasts on any channel, not just the BBC. However, you don't need a licence if you only watch non-live

streaming content from broadcasters other than the BBC, or movies and TV shows you've paid for.



Best free software for streaming TV



Turn your PC into the ultimate media centre using one of these excellent programs



If you're not using Kodi to watch TV on your PC, you're missing out!



Plex lets you stream all your TV shows and films to multiple devices

certain features - such as recording

in the Premium version, which costs

£3.99 per month

OpenElec

openelec.tv

from TV channels - are only available



The versatile MediaPortal offers much more than just video streaming

improvements. It supports skins and

up and configure. As well as playing

local media, it can stream videos, act

as a PVR, play radio and bring you the

There are several versions and add-ons

latest weather reports for your area.

available, including aMPdroid for

plug-ins, and is straightforward to set

Kodi

kodi.tv

Formerly called XBMC, Kodi is the perfect free media-centre software. It can play locally stored video and music files, stream web content and, if you have a TV tuner installed, you can watch and record live television. It's highly customisable, too.

You can change the look of Kodi with skins and add functionality via addons. It's available for Windows, Mac, Linux, Android and iOS, and there's also a new, custom version of Kodi called FreeTelly available from www .tvaddons.ag, which comes with all the best add-ons pre-installed.

 Look out for an in-depth workshop about making the most of Kodi in the next issue of Web User, on sale 30 November.

Open Embedded Linux Entertainment Center (OpenELEC) is a small Linuxinto a dedicated Kodi media centre. It can even be installed on a Raspberry Pi. As you'd expect, it offers the same functionality that Kodi does.

based OS that can turn your computer

Android (bit.ly/ampdroid410), and the CouchPotato remote app for iPhone and iPad (www.couchpotatoapp.net). Windows Media Centre Microsoft dropped Media Centre

from its latest operating system, but you can install it using WMC for Windows 10 which you can download from Google Drive: WMC 32-bit (bit. ly/wmc32-410) or WMC 64-bit (bit.ly/wmc64-410). Scan the download for malware before extracting the folder to your system drive (it should be clean) then open it. Right-click the file '_TestRights.cmd' and choose to 'Run as administrator', then right-click

Installer.cmd and run that as an administrator, too. Exit when prompted. Windows Media Centre can do most of the same basic tasks as Kodi, but it's obviously a much older and less frequently updated program.



OpenElec lets you stream web video from your Raspberry Pi

Plex

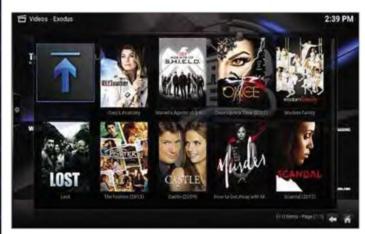
www.plex.tv

Plex Media Server is available for Windows 7 onwards, Mac and Linux, and there are apps for streaming to iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Android TV, Xbox One/360, PlayStation 3 and 4, Chromecast and more. The idea is you store your media on a central repository, then stream it to other connected devices. Plex is free to download and use, but

MediaPortal

www.team-mediaportal.com

MediaPortal is an attractive, easy-touse media centre that, like Kodi. originated from XBMC, but has since undergone a lot of changes and



Avoid the hassle of installing add-ons by using Kodi's pre-equipped FreeTelly version



If you miss Windows Media Centre, there's a way to get it back

Best free apps for streaming TV

We pick 18 of our favourites apps for streaming TV to your phone or tablet



BBC iPlayer

bit.ly/iplayer410

There's a good chance you already have this app installed on at least one device, but remember that you now need a TV licence to watch programmes on catch-up as well as live TV. We love the new feature that lets you rewind and restart live BBC programmes on your phone or tablet.



Netflix

devices.netflix.com

Rumours suggest that Netflix will soon let you download its original series and watch them offline, as well as stream them. Bookmark the brilliant site New on Netflix UK (uk.newonnetflix.info) to discover

the latest additions to the service.



Now TV

www.nowtv.com/devices

You don't need a set-top box to enjoy Sky's contract-free streaming service because it's available for most mobile platforms and games consoles. It costs from £6.99 per month for the Entertainment Pass, and a free 14-day trial is available. There are also packages for sport, films and children's programmes.



BT Sport

bit.ly/btsport410

BT Sport is proving a worthy contender to Sky for live and on-demand coverage of Premier League matches and other big sporting events. Its recently redesigned app is much slicker and easier to use. The service costs from £5 per month.



All 4

bit.ly/all4410

Unlike ITV Hub and My5, Channel 4's streaming app supports Chromecast and offers a huge free archive of

> classic series, as well as live and on-demand streaming. Android and iOS users can download shows, too. Be prepared to sit through lots of adverts before programmes start, though.



BFI Player

bit.ly/bfiplayer410

Watch classic and contemporary films from the BFI **National Archive** on your mobile device



or Samsung smart TV. Full-length movies cost from £2.13 to rent, and there are plenty of 'Britain on Film' shorts that you can stream for free.



Google Play Movies & TV

bit.ly/play410

This app lets you buy and rent from Google's massive library of competitively priced films and TV programmes. You can stream your purchases to your Chromecast and share them with up to five other people through Google Play's Family Library feature. Regular special discounts are available.



JustWatch

bit.ly/just410

This excellent app for Android and iOS lets you browse and

search for films and TV shows across all the main streaming services at once. You can create a 'watchlist' and set up price-drop alerts to buy and rent the latest titles for less.



bit.ly/tedtalks410

Watch something more cerebral on your phone, tablet or TV, courtesy of TED. You can stream and download more than 2,000 talks from

"remarkable people" about technology, entertainment and design, with optional subtitles.



Your Complete Guide to... TV Streaming





FilmOn Free Live TV

www.filmon.tv

Available for most devices, including Roku and LG TV, FilmOn lets you stream live and on-demand TV from

hundreds of channels around the world. The free app is supported by ads, and unlimited HD content costs £14.95 a month.



Vimeo

vimeo.com/everywhere

Vimeo is a video-sharing site that offers higher-quality content than YouTube, both in production terms and resolution. There

> are no annoying ads, and the Android and iOS apps support Chromecast so you can stream its 1080p HD videos to your TV with ease.



Reuters TV

www.reuters.tv

Powered by 2,500 journalists in 200 locations around the world, the

brilliant Reuters app provides a personalised news experience that lets you specify the type of stories you want and the length of bulletin. You can also watch videos offline.





Google Home

bit.ly/cast410

The official Chromecast app detects which other apps on your phone or tablet are compatible with Google's streaming devices, and highlights new and notable content available for them. You can also access special offers such as extended free trials for streaming services through the app's menu.



Vevo

bit.ly/vevo410

Now that MTV and VH1 favour reality TV over music videos, Vevo is the best place to watch new and classic pop hits. Select three artists you like and the Chromecast-compatible app creates personalised playlists.



Qello Concerts

gello.com/devices

With this app installed on your mobile device or games console, you can stream the world's largest collection of music documentaries and concerts. The app offers free tracks from every show and 30 channels of "continuous concert moments". Unlimited access costs \$7.99 (about £6.53) per month.



ToView Live TV

www.gzero.com

ToView lets you stream live TV from BBC, ITV and other Freeview channels to your Android, iOS or Windows 10 device. It includes a 24-hour programme guide that you can browse without interrupting your viewing, and you can set reminders to alert you when a programme is about to start.



YouTube

bit.ly/youtube410

This is another app you're probably well acquainted with already, but make sure you have the latest version installed because it makes it a lot easier to access your favourite channels. A new app called YouTube Go that lets you download videos to view offline will be available soon.



Amazon Video

bit.ly/amazon410

Amazon Video has an impressive choice of films and TV shows on offer.



including high-quality original series, and useful features such as offline viewing. It's just a shame you have to jump through hoops to use it on non-Amazon devices.

Your TV streaming problems solved

Edward Munn explains how to overcome the most common technical hitches

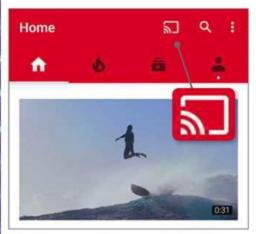
CHROMECAST

Why can't I connect to my Chromecast?

One of the most common complaints from Chromecast users is that they can't stream content to the device because the Chromecast icon doesn't appear in their favourite apps. Assuming that the app actually supports Chromecast in the first place (you can find a full list of compatible apps at bit.ly/apps410), there's usually a quick, easy solution to this problem.

Before you even try to cast anything, make sure your smartphone or tablet is connected to the same Wi-Fi network as the Chromecast (unless you're using Guest Mode – see the box below for instructions on setting this up). Check, too, that your TV is switched on and the Chromecast is receiving power, either from its mains adapter or from a USB port on your TV.

It's also important to make sure



The Chromecast icon won't show if your device isn't connected to your Wi-Fi

you're running the most up-to-date version of a cast-enabled app. Do this by opening the Google Play Store or Apple App Store and checking for updates. This advice is especially pertinent if you're experiencing problems with BBC iPlayer for Android, because this was recently updated to patch a problem where users couldn't see the Chromecast icon (see page 35 for details).

When you've followed each of these steps, reopen the cast-enabled app and tap the Cast icon in the top-right corner. Select the device to which you want to cast, and the icon will change colour to indicate that you're connected. You can now play the media you want to cast to your TV.

ROKU

Why won't Netflix work on my Roku device?

According to Netflix's support pages, if your Roku device freezes on the Netflix loading screen, you should first try restarting it. Simply unplug your Roku from the power for at least 10 seconds, then plug it back in, turn it on and wait for a minute before trying the app again.

If Netflix still doesn't work, try deactivating it from your device. Select Netflix in the Roku home menu, press the star key on your remote and select 'Remove channel'. To reactivate it, open the Streaming Channels menu and



Try disconnecting your Netflix account from the Roku device if the app won't load

select 'Movies & TV' followed by Netflix.

If you've tried these troubleshooting steps and it still doesn't work, there could be a problem with your home network. Try switching off all your home-network equipment and turning each device back on, one by one, to see if that fixes it. Otherwise, try connecting your Roku directly to your modem or router using an Ethernet cable.

APPLE TV

Why can't I hear any sound from my Apple TV?

Alf you hear static or no sound at all from your Apple TV, Apple has a number of suggestions that might fix the problem. Sound faults are often caused by the HDMI cable coming loose, so unplug both ends of the HDMI cable and plug them back in firmly to see if that helps. Next, try turning off your TV and AV receiver and unplugging Apple TV from the power.

If, when you turn all the devices back on, the sound still isn't working, try connecting your Apple TV directly to the TV to eliminate the possibility of problems with the receiver. From your Apple TV, choose Settings, then Audio & Video, and make sure Audio Out is set to Apple TV. Finally, change the Audio Mode from Auto to 16-bit and, if you have a second- or thirdgeneration Apple TV, try switching the Dolby Digital Out setting to Off.



Make sure your Apple TV's Audio Out is set to 'Apple TV'

CHROMECAST: HOW TO SET UP GUEST MODE

With Guest Mode, you can let your friends and family cast music, films and TV to your Chromecast without connecting to your wireless network. To set it up on your Chromecast, open the Google Home app, tap Devices on the home screen and select the device on which you want to enable Guest Mode. From this screen, tap the three-dot menu button, choose Guest Mode and slide the switch to On. Now, guests will see a Chromecast icon in any castenabled apps without needing to connect to your Wi-Fi. They can



Turning on Guest Mode lets friends and family use your Chromecast easily

simply tap the icon and choose 'Nearby device', then follow the prompts to connect.

Your Complete Guide to... TV Streaming



AMAZON FIRE

Why does my Amazon Fire TV show a blank screen?

As with many streaming boxes, most problems with Amazon Fire TV can be fixed simply by restarting the device. If your Fire TV is showing only a blank screen, for example, unplug it from the power and plug it back in, or press and hold the Select and



A restart often solves Fire TV's screen issues

that is also switched on.

input source, and that the HDMI cable is connected securely. If your Amazon Fire TV is connected to an AV receiver, make sure

TV is

the correct

Next, check that you're using the correct output resolution. Pressing the Up and Rewind buttons together for five seconds on the remote will cycle through the available resolutions, pausing at each one for 10 seconds. When you find one that's compatible with your TV, select Use Current Resolution.

NOW TV

Why won't my Now TV box connect to my Wi-Fi?

Many Now TV users have reported a problem where they can't connect their box to a wireless network, and in particular a fault that produces the error code '014'. If this is something you've experienced, try this fix, which involves quickly pressing a button combination on your Now TV remote.

First, press the Home button five times, then press Fast Forward, Play, Rewind, Play and Fast Forward to load the Platform Secret Screen. If you have the black Now TV box, select Systems Operation Menu, then Disable Network Pings. If you have the white box, just select Disable Network Pings. Next, press Back on your Now TV remote until the Connection Setup menu appears, then try connecting to your Wi-Fi network again.

If it still doesn't work, reset the Now TV box by pressing a pin into the reset hole on the back of the device for 30 seconds, then try again.



Disabling network pings can fix problems with connecting to Wi-Fi



The Maintenance Tool lets you free up precious space occupied by Kodi's cache

KODI

Why is Kodi using up so much storage space?

Over time, Kodi takes up more and more space on any device it's running on. That's because its cache and packages folders, where add-on updates are downloaded before they're installed, become progressively larger. Fortunately, there's an easy way to clear them so your device has plenty of room for the files you want to save.

First, navigate to the Programs menu, then open Addon Installer and select the Program Addons category. Select Maintenance Tool, then Install Maintenance Tool and click Install to confirm. Once the tool has installed, click OK and open Programs from the main menu. Launch Maintenance Tool, select Continue and OK to clear the notifications that are onscreen. Inside Maintenance Tool, choose General Maintenance and Clear Cache. Once the process is complete, click Purge Packages. Now you can exit the Maintenance Tool and run Kodi as you normally would.

NEXT ISSUE

on sale Wednesday 30 November 2016

Unlock Google's secret new tools

The best features you've never tried in the services you use every day



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Best free Windows launchers



Windows launchers help you find any program, file or folder on your PC in an instant. **Edward Munn** rounds up the six of the best tools

Listary | listary.com | ★★★★

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

WebUser GOLD AWARD

What we liked:

Listary 5 is a fast, powerful
Windows search tool and
launcher that runs
discreetly in the
background and can be
summoned at a moment's
notice with two taps of the

Ctrl key. The software keeps an up-todate index of all the files on your PC, which is how it's able to deliver comprehensive search results much more quickly than Windows. It also records your search and launch history, which helps it improve over time as it learns to offer more relevant suggestions to your queries.

Once Listary has found the file or folder you're looking for, you can click to open it or press the right arrow to view a list of useful actions, including Copy, Cut and 'Send to'. Unlike Wox, our Silver Award winner (see opposite), Listary's search bar offers useful shortcut buttons for browsing your recently accessed and favourite folders, which you can set up in the options menu. You can also use handy commands to perform actions such as opening the last File Explorer window. The same shortcuts are available if you double-click any empty space on the Desktop or in a File Explorer window.



Unlike some of the other launchers we tested, Listary integrates well with File Explorer. If you have File Explorer open, simply type your query to use Listary's impressive search tools. This method works from almost anywhere in Windows, making it even quicker to find important files and programs.

Like Wox, Listary lets you preform a Google search in your default browser simply by typing gg at the start of your search query. There's a range of keywords you can use to search other sites, including Wikipedia, Facebook and Amazon. You can even type a command to launch Command Prompt or shut down your PC.

How it can be improved:

Some of Listary's advanced features, such as the ability to set keywords for your favourite programs and folders, are only available to users who pay a one-off fee of \$19.95 (around £16.50) for a Pro licence. We'd also like the ability to search Control Panel options as well as programs and files.

OUR VERDICT

Listary offers lightning-quick access to programs and files, and its simple, intuitive interface makes it a joy to use. It also complements File Explorer better than any other launcher, making it the obvious candidate for our top spot.

Wox | www.getwox.com | ★★★★☆

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

What we liked:

Like Listary, Wox uses a simple search bar to help you find programs and files quickly on your

PC. Press Alt+Space to summon the launcher, then start typing, and a list of suggestions appears, thanks to Wox's comprehensive index of the files on your hard drive (powered by indexing tool Everything, www.voidtools.com). You can use Wox to search Google, Wikipedia, Twitter, Facebook and DuckDuckGo, among other sites, by adding a keyword to the start of your query (such as g for Google). You can also turn on suggestions for even quicker Google searches.

Add-ons provide a range of tools that aren't available from many of Wox's competitors. Out of the box, it can open URLs, perform system commands such as shutting down or locking your PC, execute commands in Command Prompt, access Control Panel options and perform calculations. Click 'Find more plugins' on Wox's Settings page,



and you can download additional add-ons for currency conversions, translations and other tricks.

How it can be improved

Wox lacks Listary's shortcuts for recent and favourite folders, and it doesn't include Windows 10 apps such as Edge and Calculator in its search results. Installation is tedious, too, because you need to install both Python and Everything for Wox to work properly.

......

OUR VERDICT

With its add-ons, Wox offers the widest range of options possible from a launcher, but we prefer Listary's handy shortcuts and superior integration with Windows.

BEST OF THE REST

Keybreeze

keybreeze.com

Keybreeze lets you carry out a wide range of tasks from its search bar, including searching for files and folders on your PC, opening URLs,

searching the web and even performing calculations. Unfortunately, the tool only indexes your



Desktop, Documents folder and Start menu items by default, so it doesn't offer the comprehensive, lightning-fast search results of Listary or Wox. We also found it slightly trickier to use than some of its main rivals.

Launchy

launchy.net

Like Wox, Launchy helps you find any program or file on your PC with just a few taps of the keyboard. You

can install add-ons to perform a wide range of other functions. including calculations, killing processes and



even shutting down your computer. However, the launcher was discontinued several years ago so although it still works in Windows 10, you'll get better performance and more up-to-date tools from one of our award winners.

Executor

bit.lv/executor410

Executor is another search-based launcher that you can summon

instantly (in this case, by pressing Windows+Z) and use to find programs and files, and open URLs. You can also set custom keywords for your favourite programs and



websites to launch them even more quickly. However, like Launchy, Executor hasn't been updated for several years, so it lacks the tools of our award winners and looks dated.

Classic Shell | www.classicshell.net | ★★★★☆

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

WebUser BRONZE WARD

What we liked:

Classic Shell differs from our other award winners in that its Classic

Start Menu aims to replace rather than supplement the Windows Start menu.

Once it's installed, you can choose from three 'classic' styles, each of which provides quick, straightforward access to your important programs, documents and settings. Whichever style you choose, Classic Start Menu lets you enable (or disable) shortcuts to your favourites, recent documents and frequently or recently used apps, helping you find what you need without any typing. If you choose the 'Classic style' and install Everything, you can register it as your default search tool for fast file searches.

If you ever need to access the default Windows Start menu, you can do so by



holding Shift while clicking the Start button or pressing the Shift+Windows keys. The Classic Shell package also includes Classic Explorer, which adds some useful action buttons to File Explorer.

How it can be improved:

Classic Shell's search tool can't compete with those of our other award winners unless you install Everything and stick with the compatible Classic menu style.

......

OUR VERDICT

If you don't like the tiled Start menus of Windows 8 or 10, Classic Shell is a simple, customisable alternative. You can even use it alongside one of our other award winners.



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3	TalkTalk For Everyone	TalkTalk: Broadband	£22.95	18 months	17Mbps max speed		£275.40
4	Virgin media	Virgin: Broadband	£40.00 (£31.00 for 12 months)	18 months	50Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	£372.00

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Data supplied by www.broadbandgenie.co.uk. Correct as of 01 November 2016.



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

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

WEB USER WORD SEARCH

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

ANDROID PAY **GOOGLE ALLO GO LAUNCHER** JUST EAT **POKEMON GO POWER CLEAN** PRISMA SHAZAM **TINDER** UBER

В S D Е

CAN YOU GUESS THESE SONG TITLES FROM THE EMOJI?

WORTH

£199

Get the answers online at bit.ly/quiz410

COMPETITIONS

WIN!

Wireless HDMI Sender (SV1760)

One For All's Wireless HDMI Sender (SV1760) lets you stream music, TV and films from any device with an HDMI output to another. It's compatible with all

Sky, Virgin and Freeview boxes (with an HDMI socket), and can stream Full HD from Blu-ray players. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'sender' in the subject line. For more info visit www.oneforall.co.uk, and watch its YouTube channel: bit.ly/tube410.

WIN 1 OF 5

MAGIX Photostory 2017 Deluxe

The latest version of Photostory Deluxe, MAGIX's outstanding slideshow software, has a brand new modernized interface, which works on

touchscreens. Also new is 'Shot match'. which matches the colours and tones of two separate images to each other.

To enter, email your address to

webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'photostory' in the subject line. For more information visit www.magix.com/ gb and follow @MAGIX_INT on Twitter.





Practical WebUser

16 pages of workshops, tips, projects and problem solving

Download and convert video for any mobile device | tencoder.sourceforge.net

TEncoder won the Gold award in last issue's round-up of video downloaders and converters. Here's how to use the program

odern mobile devices are perfect for watching videos while you're away from home, but streaming video quickly eats up your mobile data allowance. You can save bandwidth by downloading videos from sites such as YouTube to your PC, converting them to the best size and format for your phone or tablet and loading them to your device before you head out.

In Issue 409, we tested video-download and conversion tools. Our favourite, TEncoder, is free of adware and unwanted extras and provides a quick and simple way to download your favourite videos, either individually or as an entire playlist or YouTube channel. You can then convert them to any size and format you like to ensure they don't hog too much of your device's precious storage space.



When you've found a YouTube video you want to download, highlight its URL and copy it. Open TEncoder, then select the Video Downloader tab and paste the video's URL into its Link box. Choose the appropriate link type - 'Single video/audio' in this case - and click the Add button.



You can download a batch of videos by adding more links in the same way. Alternatively, click the Add Link button 1 to add several links at once, pasting each one on a separate line. 2 You can also add a link for a playlist or user 1 to download more videos in one go.





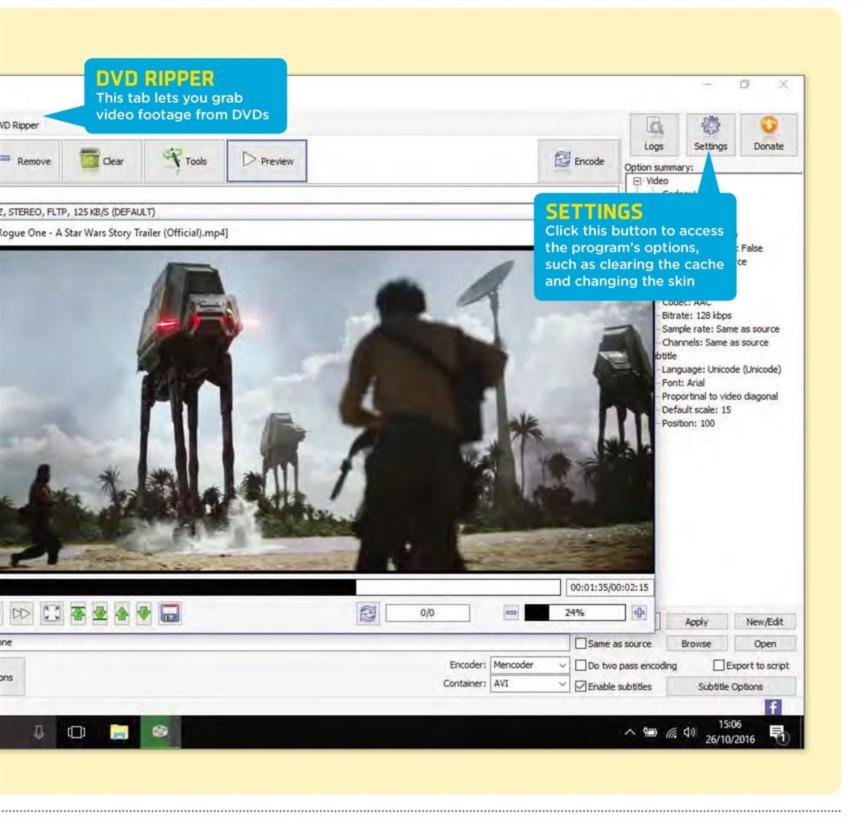
Once you've added all the videos you want, click Download and Tencoder will start saving them. The videos will be saved in whichever format YouTube keeps them in. To check the video's resolution and other information, right-click the file in Explorer, choose Properties, then select the Details tab.

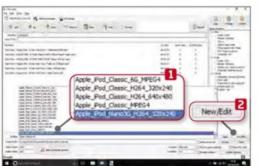


You can transfer these files straight to your mobile device - they should be able to play on most models. However, you can save storage space by converting the file to the size and format that's best supported by your phone or tablet. Switch to the Video/Audio Converter tab.



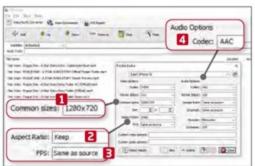
Click Add 1 to add the files you've downloaded to the conversion list. You can add files individually, or add every video in a folder or tree if they're grouped together. 2 Your downloaded videos will be in the TEncoder folder 1 in your Documents folder, unless you chose to save them elsewhere.



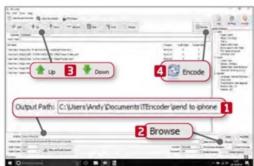


If you don't know the best resolution and format for your device, visit your phone manufacturer's website and check its specifications. You may find an appropriate preset in the pop-up menu, 1 but these are a bit out of date, so we'll make our own. Click the New/Edit button

2 to create a new profile.



Our video is 1,920 x 1,080 pixels but our phone's screen is just 1,136 x 640 pixels, so we can save space by shrinking it. We've chosen the closest size from the 'Common sizes' drop-down. 11 If you can, choose Keep 2 or 'Same as source' 1 to stop the picture being stretched. Select your device's preferred audio type. 🔼



Once you've selected all the settings, check the Output path 11 or change it with the Browse button 2 to save the files elsewhere. You can prioritise files by reordering them with the Up and Down buttons. El Finally, click Encode. 4 The software will process the video files, showing its progress as it goes.



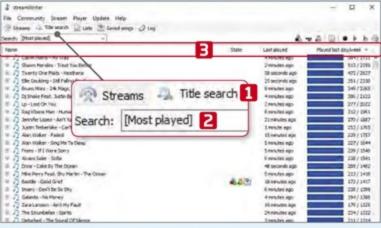
Record your favourite songs from internet radio stations

StreamWriter: streamwriter.org | 🕒 20 mins | 🎥 XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10

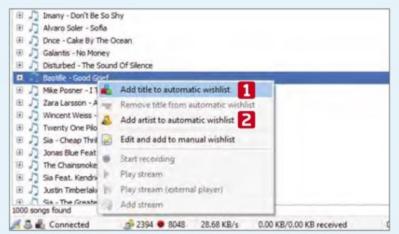
ecording the radio isn't legal but many of us have dabbled over the years, whether it's recording the Top 40 on a Sunday afternoon (desperately hitting pause as Tony Blackburn started babbling) or saving internet-streamed concerts to listen to again. Digital technology makes it easier than ever, but finding and recording the songs you want to hear can be hit and miss. StreamWriter simplifies the process, letting you add artists and songs to a wishlist, then automatically recording them when they're played on one of over 8,000 internet radio-station streams.

There are various options to select when you install the software. These aren't adware traps for PUPs, but you might need to select English to avoid installing the German version, and choose where you'd like your music files to be saved. This is important, as the songs stack up very quickly and you'll need to be able to find them to properly manage them. There's also a portable version if you'd prefer not to install SteamWriter.





Install and run the software. Click the 'Title search' tab. 1
The Search box shows [Most played] 2 which lists the 1,000 most played songs on the service's selected radio stations. Sort them in various ways, such as alphabetically or by number of plays, by clicking the column headings. 3



If you see a song you'd like to save in this collection, right-click it and select 'Add title to automatic wishlist'.
You can also add the artist to an automatic wishlist to record every song of theirs played on any of the monitored stations.



You can also search for a song or artist by typing the name into the Search box 1 and pressing the Enter key. All the recently played songs are listed below. 2 You can add a song or artist to your wishlist from the right-click button, as in the previous step.



Click the 'Saved songs' tab. Here, you'll find the songs that have been downloaded so far. You can listen to them by highlighting a song you want to hear and clicking the Play button. It behaves like a playlist, so when a song has finished playing, it will move on to the next one.

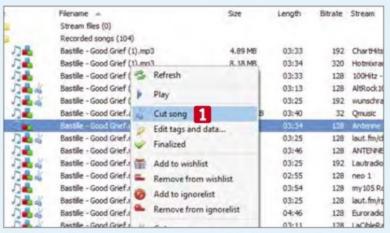




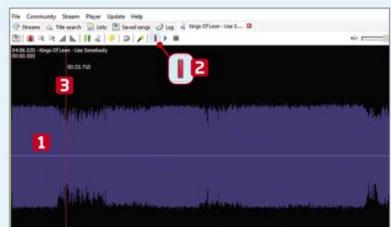
EXPERT TIP

Andy Shaw says

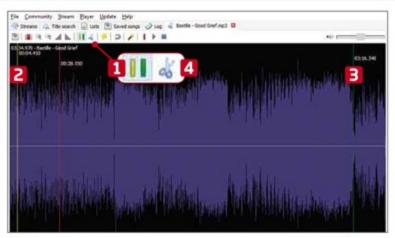
All the radio stations come pre-installed in the software. You can add your own favourite stations by copying and pasting that station's feed. However, you'll have to record the entire stream and perform your own editing because you can't schedule the recording of individual tracks. There's a database of feeds available for lots of UK radio stations at www.radiofeeds.co.uk.



If you're happy with your song, skip to Step 9. Sometimes you'll find that the track overlaps with the previous or next song played. To solve this, right-click a track and select 'Cut song'. 1 You may need to download an add-on but all the add-ons used in StreamWriter are free and open source.



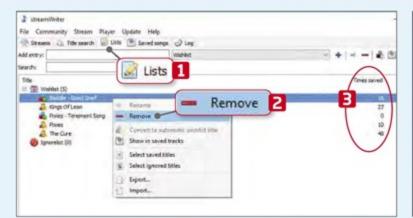
A waveform of the song appears. 11 This can help you isolate gaps between songs - you'll see valleys in the wave where the volume drops. To play the song from a different point, use the 'Set playposition' button 2 and click the wave to set the vertical marker.



To cut the song, click the 'Set cutpositions' button. 🗓 Leftclick where you want the song to start 2 and right-click the end. B Click the 'Cut song' button d to isolate the section. It's best to start with too much and perform several incremental trims rather than trying to get it spot on first time.



You can also fade the song in or out, to help mask problems at the start or end. Click the 'Select area' button 1 and drag to highlight the section you want to fade, 2 then click the 'Apply fadein' or 'Apply fadeout' button. El The first time you do this, another add-on will be downloaded.



When you're happy with the edited version of your song, go to the Lists tab 🗓 and find the song again. Right-click it and select Remove 2 to stop the software downloading a new version of the song every time it's played. You can see how many versions you have in the 'Times saved' column.



Click 'Saved songs'. The version of a song that you've edited will be marked with a green tick. [] Select all the other versions of the song, then right-click and choose 'Delete files'. 2 To find the edited file and move it to a different folder, right-click it and choose 'Show in explorer'.

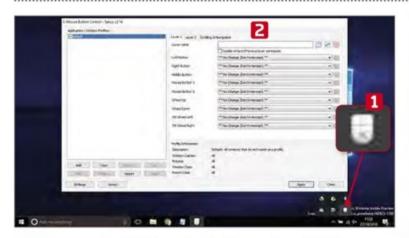


Add new tools to your mouse buttons

ice can have several buttons but most of us only use the left and right click and scroll wheel. X-Mouse Button Control can put your redundant buttons to better use. This powerful free program lets you assign hundreds

of different commands to your mouse buttons, which can be set to change depending on the specific program you are using.

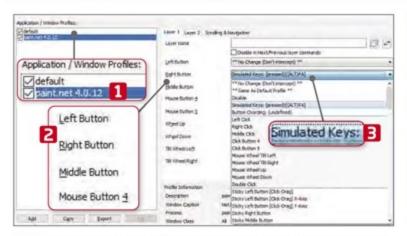
X-Mouse Button Control: highrez.co.uk | 🕒 10 mins | ಶ XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10



There are installable and portable versions of X-Mouse Button Control: the installable one will start with Windows; the portable one needs starting manually. Once it's running, double-click the icon in the taskbar's notification area 1 to open the Settings.



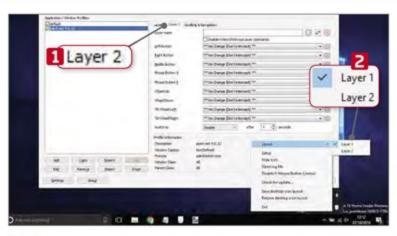
Make sure the application you want to create a profile for is running in the background. Click the Add button 🗓 and find the program in the list of running applications. 2 If it's not listed, or you want to use a specific sub-window, select it with the Specific Window button.



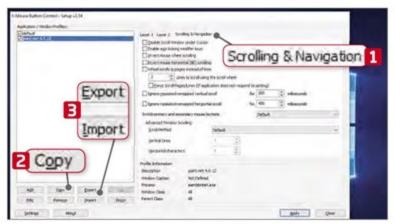
Select the profile in the Application/Window Profiles box, then open the drop-down menu next to the mouse button you want to assign an action to. 2 There's a long list of available options, including Simulated Keys.



Simulated Keys lets you assign a keyboard shortcut to a mouse button. Here, we've added {ALT}FA 11 to Paint.net's right-click button, which brings up the File menu, then the Save As dialogue box. Use the guide 2 to help you construct the instruction.



If you want buttons to do different things at different times, use the layer tabs 11 to build new sets of alternative functions. You then select which layer is active at any time by right-clicking the icon in the notification area and selecting the layer you want to use. 2



The 'Scrolling & Navigation' tab 11 lets you adjust settings including the speed and direction of scrolling. To create a new profile based on an existing one, use the Copy button. 2 The Export and Import buttons 1 let you share your profiles.

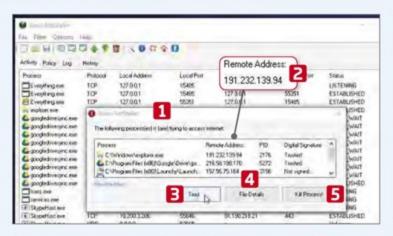
Stop software sharing private information

etStalker lets you control which programs on your PC can share your information on the web. It identifies all new network connections from your PC and gives you the option to approve or block them.

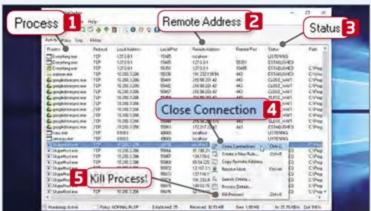
Its handy network-monitoring tool also helps you to see how much data you've transferred during each session, along with your current download and upload speeds.



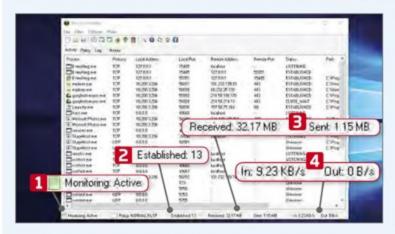
SterJo NetStalker: bit.ly/net410 | 🕒 10 mins | 🎥 XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10



Download, install and run NetStalker. Pop-ups 🚺 show the processes currently using the internet, along with details of the remote servers they're connected to. 2 Click Trust 🖪 if you recognise them, File Details 🛂 to find out more and Kill Process 5 to block them completely.



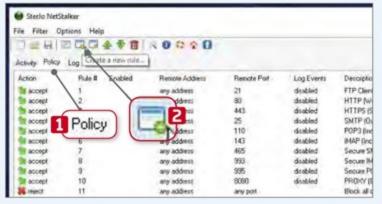
Once you've cleared the pop-ups, you can view all current connections in NetStalker's main window. These can be sorted by name, 🚺 remote address, 🔁 status 3 and more. Right-click a process to close a connection 4 or kill a process. 5



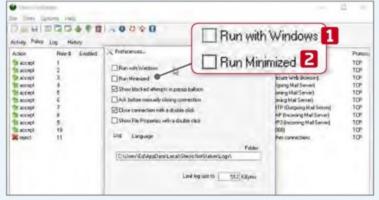
A green icon at the bottom of NetStalker's main window indicates that monitoring is active. 11 You can also view information about the number of connections, 2 data sent and received 3 and current bandwidth speeds.



Further pop-ups appear when new connections are made, at which point you can opt to kill the processes or add them to the trusted list. To review your trusted list, click Filter, 1 then Filtered Processes. 2 You can also opt to Filter Traffic B or Block All Traffic. 4



Filter Traffic automatically blocks connections that don't meet NetStalker's network rules, except those in your trusted list. To view these rules, click the Policy tab. 1 The 'Create a new rule' button 2 lets you add your own rules. File, Open, 'Policy file' lets you pick a stricter policy.



If you want NetStalker to run whenever you boot your PC, click Options, choose Preferences and tick the box to 'Run with Windows'. 11 You can also choose the option to 'Run Minimized', 2 which lets you open the tool from the notification area of the taskbar when required.

Weekend Project

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





Use an old PC and webcam to create a home-security hub

Wayne Williams shows you how to set up a home-surveillance system that stores its footage in the cloud



What you'll need

For a basic security system, a webcam built into a laptop or connected to a PC via a USB cable will suffice. It's not ideal, because it means everything has to be in plain view at all times and may end up being stolen by the intruder. However, the beauty of a cloud-based system is that any recorded images and video are uploaded to the web, so you'll still be able to view the evidence, even if you no longer have the hardware that shot

the images.

If you don't already have a suitable camera, any webcam will do. Shop around and buy the best you can afford. Alternatively, if you're happy to spend more money to create an advanced security system, see our Upgrading section on page 61.

Free monitoring software

Any webcam or security camera you buy or already own should come with their



Angelcam lets you connect to your camera over the internet, and watch it live or store recordings in the cloud



State-of-the-art video surveillance software system ZoneMinder can be tricky to set up

own dedicated software, and some may also provide security tools or a cloud-storage option. If you don't have the software you need - or you have different devices that use different tools - there are plenty of free alternatives to choose from.

ZoneMinder (zoneminder.com) is a state-of-the-art video surveillance tool that works with most popular webcams. It's entirely free, and lets you monitor cameras over the web or by using apps for Android or iOS. However, it's only available for Linux, so if you don't already have a PC running a Linux operating system, you'll need to dedicate a PC to it. Setting up the software can be quite complicated - there's a guide at bit.ly/zmind410 to follow if you fancy giving it a go.

Alternatively, if you'd rather settle for something simpler, ContaCam (bit.ly/con410) runs on all versions of Windows, offering motion detection and 24 hours' digital video recording. Our Mini Workshop on page 61 tells you how to use ContaCam to save your footage to the cloud.

WebcamXP (www.webcamxp .com, which runs on all versions of Windows including Windows 10), lets you monitor up to two video sources. However, it has a couple of restrictions: you can't record continuously or remove the video watermark.

Our personal free favourite is iSpy (www.ispyconnect.com), which works with unlimited cameras and offers motion detection, scheduling, remote access, cloud uploading (including YouTube) and real-time alerts via email (including visual framegrabs), text message and Twitter. You can install add-ons to expand it with extra tools, such as facial and car number-plate recognition.

While the software itself is free, iSpy charges a monthly or annual fee for cloud uploading, alerts and many of the other features you might want, which costs



lvideon lets you keep an eye on your cameras using desktop or mobile applications



WebcamXP works with all versions of Windows, but it has some annoying restrictions

from \$7.95 (around £6.50) a month. Our Mini Workshop, below, shows you how to get started with iSpy.

Ivideon (www.ivideon.com) is a video-surveillance system that lets you watch live video feeds and video archives over the internet. The free version is limited to two cameras and includes basic recording and event storage in the cloud for the previous 24 hours. You get an unlimited local archive and can export video to a file. It also provides smart notifications when motion or sound is detected. The paid-for version costs from \$5 (£4.11) a month and adds full recording of all events to the cloud.

Finally, you could consider Angelcam (www.angelcam.com), which is a simple web-based service that doesn't need any specific hardware or software. It works with most cameras and lets you watch footage on a smartphone or tablet, or over the web. The free version can store up to three days' worth of footage and there's no data limit. If you require



WORKSHOP | Set up and use iSpy home monitoring software



Launch the iSpy software and click Add. 1 Select the type of device you are using, such as a local camera (webcam) or IP camera (connected via the network). Select the video device in the drop-down box and pick the video resolution to use. El Click OK and the camera view will appear in the background. 4

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The Edit Camera window opens. Here, you can configure the settings for the video 1 and audio 2 sources; click the Motion Detection tab 1 to set it up; and go to the Alerts tab to choose the type of notifications you want. <a>I You'll need a paid subscription for email, SMS and Twitter alerts.



You can move the video window [] around by clicking and dragging, and resize it by pulling on the corners. The menu lets you switch on or turn off the camera, and start and stop recording. Click the cloud or YouTube buttons El to upload recordings (you'll need a paid-for subscription to do this, though).

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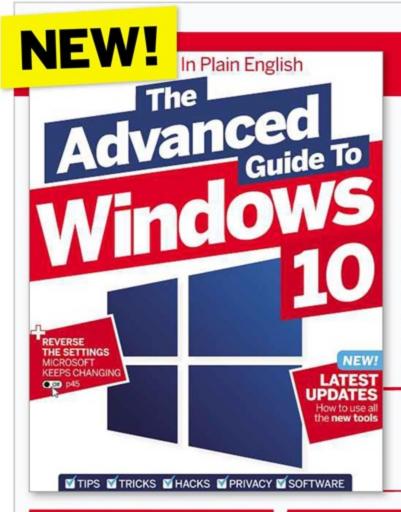
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THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO FREE SOFTWARE

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



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

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additional storage for longer captures; easy download of video clips; and status information for your camera, you can upgrade, which costs from \$4.99 (£4.10) per month, per camera.

Completely free cloud storage

You can use your existing online storage service to save your footage to the cloud by redirecting saved snapshots or videos to sevices such as Dropbox (www



The DCS-932L Day/Night Cloud Camera is an affordable wireless model

.dropbox.com), Google Drive (drive .google.com) or OneDrive (onedrive.live .com). All these services can be used to create a folder on your hard drive that automatically syncs with the online service. Windows 10 comes with OneDrive by default, and the folder is located at:

C:\Users\username\OneDrive (replace 'username' with your actual username).

If you set your software to save your camera footage to this folder (see our Mini Workshop, below), it will upload to the cloud automatically. You can then view your images and footage from anywhere via the web interface or mobile apps.

Upgrading the system

If you want the easiest route to home security, there are three systems that currently offer free cloud storage with their cameras. Y-Cam (www.y-cam.com) has a range of indoor and outdoor cameras, starting at £129.99 each, which come with seven days of free cloud storage. We've reviewed these devices in previous issues of Web User – you'll find our Group Test in Issue 373 (bit.ly/webuser373).

Netgear's Arlo range (bit.ly/arlo410) offers a similar service, with indoor and outdoor cameras and seven days of cloud recording included for free. One of the benefits of the Arlo range is that it includes wireless cameras, which don't even need to be mains-powered. We reviewed the latest Arlo Q model in Issue



Humax Eye cameras can send footage wirelessly to the web, mobile apps and even your TV

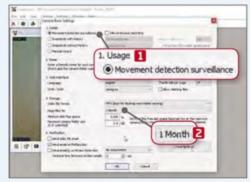
392 (£159.99, bit.ly/webuser392).

The latest manufacturer to enter the market is Humax, better known for its set-top boxes. Its Humax Eye camera (£129, bit.ly/humax410) also comes with seven days of free cloud recording and the added benefit that you can view the footage on a free app that's available for Humax's TV devices.

If you're prepared to use your own cloud storage, you can buy cheaper cameras. D-Link has a great range of affordable home-security cameras (bit.ly/dlink410). The DCS-932L Day/ Night Cloud Camera (£36.59 on Amazon, bit.ly/dlnk410) is particularly good value for money.

*

MINI WORKSHOP | Record video from your webcam to the cloud using ContaCam



ContaCam doesn't include the option to save recorded footage to its own cloud service, but you can use a different one. Click Capture and select your camera from the list. You can choose how it should record any detected movement, and how long you want to keep recorded files for.



A video window opens. 1 You can access settings; 2 and take a snapshot or record a video; 2 add or remove movement-detection zones; and enable or disable motion detection. 4 Click the Browse Files button 5 to see the captured footage.



Everything is stored locally. To make it available in the cloud, close your camera and open 'Global settings'. I Find 'Parent directory of all cameras', click the three-dot icon and change the default directory to a folder that syncs with a cloud service, such as OneDrive. Click OK and reconnect your camera.

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Web User's Top Tips

Would a Chromebook suit you better than a Windows laptop? Our experts reveal their best Chrome OS tips

TOP TIPS FOR CHROMEBOOKS

Find all the keyboard shortcuts for Chrome OS

hrome OS, the operating system that runs on Chromebooks, has lots of useful and timesaving keyboard shortcuts. We don't need to list them all here because there's a keyboard shortcut you can use to show all the other keyboard shortcuts! Just hold down Ctrl+Alt+?.

A keyboard appears on the screen with all the keys labelled. If you then press the Shift, Ctrl and Alt keys in various combinations (try Shift on its own, Shift+Ctrl, Shift+Alt, Ctrl on its own and so on) the keyboard shortcuts are displayed on the keys. For example, hold down the Alt key and you will see that Alt+1 runs the first item in the shelf at the bottom of the screen. Alt+2 runs the second and so on.

There are too many keyboard shortcuts to remember them all, so just learn the ones you think might be useful.



Pressing Ctrl+Alt+? brings up a help screen that reveals all the Chromebook's secret keyboard shortcuts

Customise the appearance of Chrome OS

Like the Windows Desktop, the Chrome OS Desktop can be customised, with themes available that change the colour scheme and images. To change the Desktop wallpaper, find an image you like on the web and download it (if you're short on inspiration, search for 'desktop wallpaper' and you will find thousands of images). Close Chrome, right-click the Desktop and select 'Set wallpaper'. Click the plus button and click the 'Choose file' button, Select the Downloads folder and double-click the image to use. Choose Centre, Centre

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. Cropped or Stretched, depending on what's best for your images.

Chrome itself can also be customised with a theme. Go to Settings and click the 'Get themes' button in the Appearance section. This opens the Chrome Web Store and displays the available themes. Browse them, click

one and click the Install button.

You may find that the theme also changes Chrome on your Windows PC. If you don't want this, go to the Chrome menu on your PC, choose Settings and click 'Advanced sync settings'. Set it to 'Choose what to sync' and then clear the tick against



Change the look of the Chrome OS Desktop and browser with a custom theme and wallpaper

Themes. In Settings, Appearance, there's an option to reset the default Chrome theme.

Perform calculations

Click the launcher to open a search box at the top of the panel. It does more than just find information, it can also perform calculations. Click in the search box and type 23.78 * 54.12. Chrome opens to show the answer and also displays a calculator keyboard, so you can use the answer to carry out further calculations.

Convert units

The search box in the launcher panel can also be used to convert quantities from one unit to another. For example, it can convert miles to kilometres; pounds (in weight) to kilograms; and pounds (in money) to US dollars using the current exchange rate. Enter conversions such as '\$50 in pounds' or '1 lightyear in miles' or '3 tablespoons in ml' (millilitres). It can convert between almost any compatible units.

Move or hide the shelf

Chrome OS has a bar at the bottom of the screen that works a bit like the Windows taskbar. It contains the search button, app launcher and icons for commonly used apps. Right-click an empty part of the Desktop and a menu appears. Set the shelf position to the left, bottom or right as you prefer. You can also set it to automatically hide when it's not being used.

Play and manage music

Get the Google Play Music app from the Web Store. With a monthly subscription, you can have access to a music library consisting of millions of popular tracks from all music genres. Just browse and play, create playlists and more.

If your music is currently stored on another computer, you can transfer it all to Google Play Music and listen to it on your Chromebook. On your PC, go to music.google.com in Chrome. Open the menu on the left and click 'Upload music'. You may be asked to add the Google Play Music app (chrome.google .com/webstore) here, too.

You can then drag music files - or even whole folders - from Explorer and drop them into the Chrome window to upload them to your personal music library, MP3s and other common music file types can be uploaded.

There is sufficient space online for 50,000 tracks and they are automatically organised into albums with artwork added. All these tracks can also be played on your other Chrome OS devices.

TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

Get a free Chromebook

Would a Chromebook suit you for your next computer? Is the Chrome browser and its apps sufficient for your needs? Try one for free and find out. First, go to bit.ly/crvb410 and download the VirtualBox file from CloudReady. Then, if

you don't already have VirtualBox, go to www.virtualbox.org and download it. Run it and accept the offer to install the extensions. Once this is done, go to File, Import Appliance, Click the folder icon and select the file downloaded from CloudReady.

When it has imported, select CloudReady_Free_x64 and click the Start button in the toolbar. Click in the window to enable the mouse and select UK for the language and keyboard. After a minute or two, during which the window may go black, Chrome OS starts and runs in a window on the Desktop. Sign into your Google account to bring up the Desktop.

Click the search button in the bottom-left corner to go to the Chrome Web Store and get free apps; or click it and then click All Apps to access those bundled with Chrome OS. Remember to press the Ctrl key to the right of the spacebar to access Windows again.

Missing Caps Lock

It's easy to accidentally hit the Caps Lock key and end up typing entire sentences in capitals. For this reason, Chromebook's designers decided not to include a Caps Lock key, and replaced it with a Search button



Change the action of Search, Alt and Ctrl keys, and add Caps Lock



Run Chrome OS within Windows to try it for free

showing a magnifying-glass icon. This key, along with Ctrl and Alt, is programmable, so you can choose what it does.

If you want to get back the Caps Lock key, click your account picture in the bottom-right and click Settings. Click the Keyboard Settings button in the Device section, then click Search to display a list of options. Choose Caps Lock from the list and click OK.

Lock your Chromebook

When you switch on your Chromebook, you're prompted to sign in. There's a link to allow a guest to sign in, so other people can use the computer.

If you don't want this option, click your account image in the bottomright corner and click Settings. Click 'Manage other users' in the People section and clear the tick against 'Enable Guest browsing'.

You can boost security by ticking 'Restrict sign-in to the following users'. Your account is already listed as the owner, but there is an option to add other people by entering their names or email addresses.

Access Gmail offline

Gmail usually requires an internet connection to work because your email is stored online. If you don't have an internet connection, use the Gmail Offline app to access your email offline and write new messages.

Click the search or app-launcher button and click the Web Store. Select Apps on the left and By Google below. Click Gmail Offline and click the Install button. Run it and you'll see an option to make Gmail available offline. Select it and set up offline mail. It's a useful tool if you travel with your Chromebook and have to spend time offline.

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



HARDWARE

Boot an unbootable PC

I've been a victim of a scam and I now think they have control of my computer (an Asus X553MA laptop) because I can't get it to boot up. I've tried everything but it just won't start.

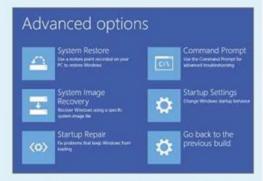
Dave Tansley, via email

The problem could be caused by malware from a scam but it's more likely a fault with Windows, such as corrupted startup files. You don't say how far the PC gets in the boot process, which makes a difference to the possible fixes, so we'll briefly cover all your options.

If your laptop is running Windows 7, press the F8 key a couple of times just after switching on the power to access the startup menu. Select the option to boot into safe mode, where you can run repair tools such as antivirus and System Restore.

There is also an option to repair the computer. Select it and log in. In the window that appears, try Startup Repair. If that doesn't work, use System Restore to return to a point when the computer was working.

With Windows 8 and 10, if you can get to the login screen, click the power button, hold down the Shift



Hold down Shift and click Restart to access the Windows repair tools

key and click Restart. This provides access to safe mode, repair tools and so on. The menus are different to Windows 7, but the tools are similar.

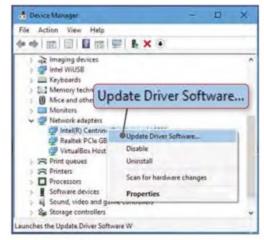
Click Troubleshoot and select 'Advanced options' for Startup Repair and System Restore, either of which could solve the problem. Continue to Startup Settings and click Restart for a list of options, such as starting in safe mode.

If the Windows 7, 8 or 10 repair tools can't be accessed, you'll have to boot with a CD, DVD or USB memory stick. Use a second computer to download Windows 10 (bit.ly/ win10410) or Windows 8.1 (bit.ly/ win8410) and create the boot disc or USB stick. Plug it in and use it to start your laptop. This was once a simple process, but it's far from easy on modern PCs. You'll also find help on the Asus website at bit.ly/asus410.

Right-click the Start button and select Control Panel. Switch to 'Small icons' view if necessary, then click Device Manager. Expand the 'Network adapters' section to list the PC's components, then right-click each one and select Update Driver Software. After updating the drivers, right-click each item again and select Properties. On the Power Management tab, clear the tick next to 'Allow the computer to turn off this device to save power'.

Right-click the power icon in the notification area of the taskbar and select Power Options. Click 'Change plan settings', then 'Change advanced power settings'. Expand Wireless Adapter Settings, then Power Saving Mode. Set the Settings option to 'Maximum performance' using the drop-down menu that appears when you click the link. Reboot the computer and try sleep mode again.

It's worth trying a driver-update tool, such as IObit Driver Booster Free (bit.ly/ driver410), which may find more recent network drivers than those supplied by Microsoft. Be sure to decline the optional extras during installation, though.



Problems waking from sleep can be solved by updating network drivers

HARDWARE

Wi-Fi disappears after sleep and hibernate

I've been using Windows 10 all year without a problem. This weekend, an update installed (I suspect it was the Anniversary Update because it took a while). Since then, I lose the internet connection to my laptop when I restart after putting it into hibernate or sleep. Pop-ups state that there's no connection to any network and no visible networks available. All my wireless connection details have disappeared, yet my BT Home Hub 5 is working fine on my iPad.

To regain the connection on my laptop, I have to restart it. I have tried everything but it appears that the sleep and hibernate options are now useless.

James Davies, via email

This is a well-known problem and is not specific to Windows 10. Sometimes, after a Windows update, the laptop no longer wakes from sleep correctly and one or more functions most often but not exclusively Wi-Fi - do not work. There are a couple of possible solutions: update the drivers and change the configuration settings.

Export contacts from webmail

My ISP is Plusnet (www.plus.net) and I have a Plusnet email address. I recently set up a Gmail account but when I try to import my contacts from Plusnet to Gmail, it says "Gmail couldn't identify your POP server." I have tried to manually enter my POP server details but this doesn't seem to work. Other than copying and pasting each contact, which is time consuming, is there an easy way to import them all at once?

Neil Howells, via email

The best way to transfer contacts is to use the export and import features. Log into Plusnet webmail and go to your contacts. Click the first one to select it, then Shift+click the last to select them all. Click the Export button and the contacts will be saved to a file and downloaded. Open Gmail in your browser and switch to Contacts in the top-left corner. Click Import Contacts at the bottom of the left panel, then click Import. Select the file you downloaded from Plusnet.



Gmail imports contacts in the two most common file formats: CSV and vCard

SECURITY

Alarming text from BT

I received a text claiming to be from BT, saying my BT web account had been blocked because of suspicious activity. I left BT over two years ago, because I was hacked and was not happy with BT's response.

The web address quoted in the text is subtly different from any of my old accounts. I'm concerned that my personal details have been stolen and used by a hacker to set up an account.

I do not know how to proceed because I presume BT will refuse to talk to me as I am no longer a paying customer.

John Halsall, via email

Some people have reported strange messages from the number you received this text from. It is a BT number, but the message could be a fake and may contain links to malware or phishing, so you're right to be cautious. If the username, email or web address is different, as you say, then it's not your account. Just one wrong character will make it a completely different email or website URL.

When an internet account is hacked. any personal information it contains can be stolen and used by the hacker. There

isn't anything you can do about this except to change whatever you can, such as passwords for websites and services you use. It's worth contacting BT to see if they can shed any light on this and put your mind at rest.

HARDWARE

A monitor for a Surface Book

I'd like to buy an external monitor to match my Microsoft Surface Book, which has a resolution of 3,000 x 2,000 pixels. John Lewis has told me that the Samsung SF350 (23.5in, 1,920 x 1,080 pixels) would be adequate but I have seen a Samsung with 3,840 x 2,160 pixels, which may be a better match.

Does it matter what resolution I use? I don't play any games and I'm only using Microsoft Office and browsing the internet.

Bruce Thomson, via email

Monitors and the graphics chips in computers have a maximum resolution, and the sharpest image is obtained when both match. However, 3,000 x 2,000 pixels is an uncommon resolution for monitors and TVs. They are usually 1,920 x 1,080 pixels (HD resolution) or 3,840 x 2,160 pixels (4K resolution).

The Surface Book works with both resolutions and your choice will be down to personal preference. Go to a computer or TV store and compare the HD and 4K displays. The Surface Book will not run a 4K display at its maximum resolution, so it's not a perfect match,

but it's a good idea to buy the best monitor you can afford. You can swap your computer and keep the same monitor for years, and your next computer is likely to offer 4K output.

You may need a Mini DisplayPort adapter to connect the monitor or TV. Some models aren't compatible so if you can't get a picture, try a different adapter.

WEB BUILDING

Trade an unwanted domain name

Do you know of a website where I can list and possibly sell domain names?

John Wait, via email

There are several places to buy and sell domain names, and Sedo (sedo .com) is one of the most popular. It's free to sign up and browse, and its domain names cost from a few pounds to a quarter of a million. Alternative services include Afternic (www.afternic .com), Flippa (flippa.com) and Empire Flippers (empireflippers.com).

These are all auction sites and you will be charged various fees. Like eBay, there is a listing fee to sell your domain and you may also be charged a percentage of the final sale. Check the fees that each site charges and the protections offered for your sale or purchase. For example, Sedo acts as an intermediary, handling the money to ensure the buyer has paid before the domain is transferred to them.

BROWSERS

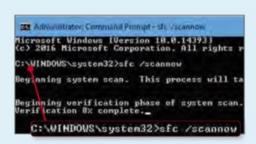
Edge won't print

When I try to print from the Edge browser, I get the following message: "We couldn't reach this printer, make sure the printer is on and you are connected to the printer's network or try a different printer."

The printer works fine with both Internet Explorer and Opera. I've searched the web for a solution but haven't found anything that works.

Barrie Guild, via email

This won't fix the problem, but you can circumnavigate it by sending anything you want to print to Internet Explorer. Click the menu button and select 'Open in Internet Explorer'. You can then print it from a browser that works.



Check that Windows system files are working by using a command prompt

We can think of three things that might fix the fault. First open Settings, 'Update & security' and make sure Windows is up to date. Next, rightclick Start and select Command Prompt (Admin). Type DISM.exe /Online /Cleanup-image /Restorehealth with a space before each '/'. Press Enter, then, type sfc /scannow and press Enter again. These commands repair corrupt and missing Windows files.



This fortnight Roland has been been helping friends and family remove malware and speed up slow PCs - again!

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

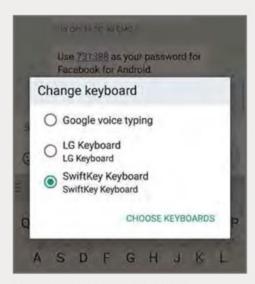
Mug/ winner WebUse

ANDROID

Dictate text messages with Google

Last week, as I was cooking dinner, an urgent message appeared on my smartphone, but I was at a critical point in my recipe and didn't want to drop everything. Normally, I would use SwiftKey's Flow tool (bit.ly/swiftkey410), which lets you type by dragging a finger between letters instead of tapping them individually. But SwiftKey also has a microphone icon above the comma and long-pressing the comma key activates 'Google voice typing', which lets you dictate your message instead of typing it. After you press the button, you'll hear a tone and you're then free to start speaking. All the words you say appear on screen, so you can check that it's heard you correctly before sending, but it's perfect in instances when you need to send a message but don't have two hands spare.

If you don't have SwiftKey installed on your phone, you should still be able to switch to 'Google voice



Google's voice-typing feature lets you dictate text messages

typing' by using the method you would normally use to choose another keyboard. On my Samsung S6, you do this by opening the notification tray and tapping the option to 'Choose input method'.

Rory Bright, via email

GENERAL PC Clear out the junk I have noticed lots of small changes in

the Windows 10 Anniversary Update, and one of them is in the 'Update & security' section of the Settings app (press Windows+i to launch it). Select the



When you need a fresh start, Microsoft has a tool to help clear out the junk

Recovery tab and, down at the bottom, you'll see 'More recovery options', Click the link to 'Learn how to start fresh with a clean installation of Windows'. It opens your default browser and goes to the Microsoft website, where you can download a tool that reinstalls Windows.

I've not had to use it but I've kept a copy in my Downloads folder in case I need it. It could be useful for clearing out the junk on an old PC or removing the crud bundled with a new one.

Colin Guest, via email

SOFTWARE

Capture multiple screen grabs

I've always used IrfanView (www .irfanview.com) for taking screenshots, because it offers the perfect combination of speed and control. Open the program,



press C on your keyboard, click Start and you can capture what's on screen at any moment by pressing Ctrl+F11. Once you've captured the screen, it loads in IrfanView where you can crop or edit it as necessary, before clicking File and Save As to choose where it's saved.

However, I recently discovered that the Capture tool is even handier than I first thought. By clicking 'Save captured image as file' in the Capture Setup menu (the one that appears when you press C), you can avoid having to manually select the same location every time and you can take multiple screenshots in quick succession.

Because of this option, I now automatically save my grabs to a folder in Dropbox so they're available to view on all my devices almost as soon as they've been taken. In the Capture Setup menu, you can also opt to save only the foreground window instead of the full Desktop area, if you prefer.

Ed Wright, via email

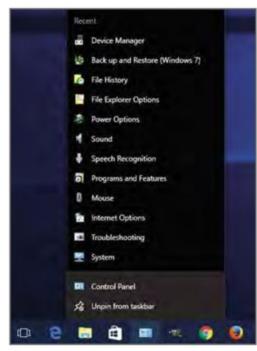


IrfanView's Capture Setup menu lets you choose where screenshots are saved

GENERAL PC

Control Panel links

If you frequently access the Control Panel, it can be useful to pin it to the taskbar. Click or right-click Start and select Control Panel to open it. It appears



Add Control Panel to the taskbar and right-click for the jump list shortcuts

as an icon on the taskbar, just like any other program, and you can right-click it and select 'Pin to taskbar'.

After adding the icon to the taskbar, you can then right-click it to go straight to its most commonly used sections, even when the Control Panel is not open. For example, right-click the Control Panel icon in the taskbar and select 'Programs and Features' to uninstall programs. You can also access the Power Options, Sound, Mouse, Troubleshooting and more.

Simon Davies, via email

PHOTOS

Separate work and personal photos

Whether you have an Android phone or an iPhone, I'd recommend the Google Photos app. However, it has an irritating problem which I only recently managed to solve.

I use Google Drive for work-related files as well as personal ones, which meant that images I need for work were appearing in my Google Photos stream. I guess some people might find it useful to show all images on Drive and Photos in one place, but I need to keep them separate.

Fortunately, you can switch this off. On the photos.google.com website, click the menu button, then click Settings. Turn off the Google Drive switch and you will no longer see your Google Drive images in Google Photos.

Roger Curtis, via email

INTERNET

What's hot on the web

If you want to know what everyone is reading online, go to www.google.co.uk/ trends (or www.google.com/trends for

the US version). Half of the most popular stories on the UK site are about football!

Tom Coyle, via email

GENERAL PC

Block the Windows 10 lock screen

I don't like the Windows 10 lock screen and have tried various options to stop it appearing, but none have worked. I have now found a solution that's easy to achieve. Search for: C:\Windows\ SystemApps. Look for 'Microsoft LockApp_cw5n1h2txyewy' and rename it with 'Block' at the start of the name, so it reads Block Microsoft LockApp cw5n1t2txewy.

Now, when your PC is locked, you won't see the screen with the time and number of unread emails: instead, it jumps straight to the login screen.

Note that if you restart your computer, it'll clear this option and you'll need to repeat the instructions again.

FratPark, Web User Forums

SOCIAL MEDIA

Post video comments

You don't have to type comments on Facebook - you can post a video instead. I didn't realise this until someone commented on one of my posts with one. If you click the camera icon next to the comment box while using Facebook on your PC, you can select a video clip from the hard drive. If you press it on a phone, you can record a live video.

I'm not sure I want a lot of these appearing in my Facebook feed, but occasionally it might be useful, such as wishing people happy birthday in a short video instead of boring old text.

Ryan Gray, via email

WEB

Hide night-time hours from Google Calendar

Have you ever found it frustrating that the default view in the web version of Google Calendar shows every hour of the day, even though you're unlikely to be awake for many of those hours? You can easily fix this problem using one of the app's handy Labs features. Simply click

the Settings cog, select Labs, enable the top option to 'Hide night and day' and click Save. When your calendar next loads, there are markers that you can drag to

determine which hours of the day are minimised by default. Any events that take place during this time will still be summarised in the main view, but you can click the hidden section to expand it and add or edit events.

I find this handy trick makes the web version of Google Calendar less confusing and much easier on the eye.

Dominic Peters, via email

SOFTWARE

Enhance small images

Some time ago, I created a logo for my website that consisted of two colours yellow and a transparent background. However, the problem was that it was too small, so when I enlarged it, the image became pixelated and looked awful.

My various efforts to improve it failed but then I read about Reshade (reshade .com) in Issue 407 of Web User (bit.ly/ webuser407), which makes small images larger without affecting their quality. After using Reshade to upscale my logo, I was able to edit it to add more detail. Now I have a large, high-resolution version of my logo.

If you need something for editing logos, I'd recommend this program because it worked a treat for me!

Jack Gold, via email

Web User says: Pleased to be of assistance, Jack! We'll be looking at other ways you can resize your files (both larger and smaller) without affecting their quality in our next issue.

GENERAL PC

Hide other users' notes

If you share your computer, you might get annoyed by other users' Sticky Notes being left all over the screen. Here is a quick way to hide them. Click one of the notes, then press Alt+F4. This clears all the notes, but they are saved and can be restored by clicking the Sticky Notes program. Alternatively, you could try Stickies (bit.ly/stickies410), which only shows notes on the user accounts they were created in.

> FratPark and Madeline, Web User Forums



'Hide night and day' lets you tidy up Google Calendar's web interface



Readers' Helpdesk

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

SECURITY

Can Windows firewall work alongside other firewalls?

I have the paid-for version of Avast antivirus, which comes with a firewall. However, when I turn on my laptop, a message flags up that the Windows and Avast firewalls are turned off. It also says this in the Windows Action Centre, yet Avast is definitely on.

Do I need the Windows firewall? The Avast system has been installed for several months but this problem has only just occurred.

Rayblundell, Web User Forums

If you have Avast's firewall, then you don't need the Windows one. In fact, when you installed Avast, it should have disabled Windows Firewall automatically. That your antivirus and Windows Firewall are both showing as disabled could be a sign that your PC has an infection. Try booting into 'Safe Mode with Networking', then download and run the free version of Malwarebytes Anti-Malware (bit.ly/malwarebytes410), or run a scan with Sophos (bit.ly/ sophos410). If that all looks fine, you should try reinstalling Avast.

FratPark and Cantrel, Web User Forums



See if Windows Firewall is enabled in Control Panel, 'Security and Maintenance'

GENERAL PC

What's wrong with my PC?

Last year I had problems with my 18-month-old desktop PC, so I did

HARDWARE

Why is the web so slow on my laptop?

I just did a test of my broadband using Speedtest (www.speedtest .net) on my laptop and Nexus 7 tablet: the tablet showed a speed of 15.16Mbps, while the laptop only achieved 6Mbps. I don't understand why there is such a huge difference. Might there a problem with the laptop's wireless card?

seanoc, Web User Forums

Put simply, different hardware can produce different results. There are also numerous external factors that can have an impact on speed tests, so I wouldn't worry too much. If your download speeds remain consistently low, you can try reinstalling the driver for your wireless network adaptor from Device Manager. To check if anything on your

inSSIDer3 is a great tool for Wi-Fi

troubleshooting

computer is dragging down your speeds, you can perform a clean boot (in Windows 10) or boot into 'Safe Mode with Networking' (Windows 7 and earlier) and retry the speed tests. The channel setting on your router may also be the problem. Download inSSIDer3 (bit.ly/inssider410) to establish which channel is the best for your home.

> Peru, Helmut and Cantrel, Web User Forums

a reset and things were fine for a while, until at some point the same problems began occurring again.

First, the DisplayPort connection for the monitor stopped working, then the mouse cursor would disappear off the screen and now, every time I get back to the computer after a period of inactivity. everything stops working. What is the problem and how can I resolve it?

mcdon47, Web User Forums

I assume you've run an anti-malware scan? A frequent cause of this sort of problem is that a program is in conflict with Windows. The fact that everything worked for a while after you performed a reset tends to confirm this. At some stage, you must have reinstalled the conflicting program or, maybe inadvertently, installed an update that reinstated the original problem.

Open Search, type msconfig and run System Configuration. Under the General tab, select 'Diagnostic startup' and click OK. Restart your computer

and if Windows then runs correctly, open Task Manager, go to the Startup tab and work your way through the list until you find the culprit.

You could also install Who Crashed (bit.ly/whocrashed410), to see if that solves the problem. Reliability History might also help. Type rel into the Start menu, then click 'View reliability history' and click the red icons (critical events). to see what it tells you.

calimanco and Helmut. Web User Forums



Use Diagnostic Startup to see if startup items are causing your PC to crash









Star Email

Mug/ winner

Hold TalkTalk accountable for data breach

couldn't agree more with Barry Collins in Issue 409 when he calls the £400,000 fine levied on TalkTalk "inexplicably soft" and "pitiful". When we sign up with these companies and hand over our personal details and bank account numbers in exchange for their services, we should be able to trust them to protect that data. It's not just a legal or privacy issue but a moral one.

How difficult can it be for a company - especially a business that makes its money from technology - to implement proper security measures to stop its customers' data falling into the hands of cybercriminals? I think TalkTalk has demonstrated a shocking lack of common sense alongside its slack business practices. All big firms

......



these days must be aware that they are potential targets for hackers, so they should take the proper steps to keep their customers' data safe. After all, without those customers they wouldn't have a business in the first place.

I'm not a TalkTalk customer but I know several people who are, some of whom are stubbornly sticking with the ISP despite the data breach. They seem

to think that the bad publicity arising from the leak and the fine TalkTalk was punished with means it will be more careful in future. I'm afraid I think the opposite - if a company can make such a horrific blunder once, then I'm certain that it will do it again. Especially, as Barry says, because the penalty for not doing so is merely the equivalent of a slap on the wrist from the regulator.

It's becoming increasingly difficult to trust any company these days to look after our data, even though encryption technology is widely available and - from what I understand - relatively easy to apply. If companies aren't held responsible for their lax

practices, they put us all under threat.

Katherine Warren, via email

Plugins aren't so easy to remove

In the Your Top Tips section in Issue 408 (bit.ly/webuser408), you published a tip of mine which was originally posted on the Web User Forums, entitled



'Remove stubborn plugins from Pale Moon' (bit.ly/plugins410). This explained how to use CCleaner to get rid of plugins from Pale Moon and Firefox.

However, I later discovered that this tip wasn't correct because the item I used CCleaner to remove was an add-on rather than a plugin. For some reason, the program had listed it under both extensions and plugins in Pale Moon and Firefox. I've never seen this happen before and it was obviously misleading. My apologies for this and for any negative feedback you may get from vour readers.

Incidentally, to avoid making a similar mistake in future, I downloaded Wise Plugin Manager (bit.ly/wiseplug408), which you gave a link for on page 41 of the same issue, so thank you for that.

Madeline, Web User Forums

Epson also blocks thirdparty cartridges

I read with much interest Web User's reply to Claude Legrand in Issue 408, in reference to HP backtracking on its original decision to block third-party cartridges. Can Web User pursue Epson to do the same? I am unable to use compatible cartridges with my Expression XP-435 printer, because it comes up with the message: "Unrecognised cartridge".

If HP can backtrack, surely Epson can do the same.

Anthony Rushforth, via email

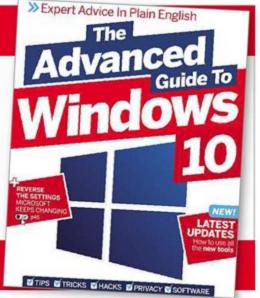
Claude Legrand suggests that HP is acting illegally in its policy of forcing users to use high-priced HP-branded cartridges. I agree, but it gets worse because Epson has started doing it as well, certainly with its XP-345 model.

I took mine back to the supplier and demanded a refund on the grounds that

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the printer was not "fit for purpose", to use the legal term. I suggest Claude does likewise. My supplier gave me a full and immediate refund.

Next, I plan to send
Epson a bill for the
unusable cartridges. I can't
blame my supplier as there is no
evidence that there is anything wrong
with their cartridges.

lan McGarrigle, via email

My unhappy Windows 10 anniversary

Maureen Moffat's letter in Issue 408, 'Windows 10 has hit the terrible twos', echoes my own sentiment and scenario regarding Microsoft's operating system.



The Anniversary Update served only to upset many settings, programs and capabilities on my PC, from being unable to download from the Windows Store to malfunctioning programs and glitches. I too have returned to the earlier version.

Luckily, I have Windows 10 Pro, so I can "defer" the Anniversary Update from attempting to install itself again. Is it time to ask Microsoft if fixes to the Anniversary Update problems are in progress and when a fixed update may be due?

Paul Gregory, New Zealand

Malwarebytes can go to hell

After being installed for more than six months, my Malwarebytes

my Malwarebytes
Anti-Malware
suddenly told me I
have a PUP and
identified Driver
Booster as the culprit.
Web User has

recommended both

these programs and I have the paid-for version of Driver Booster, so it's hardly a PUP.

I managed to get the software to ignore Driver Booster, and I sent Malwarebytes an email about it. They replied saying that they consider Driver Booster to be a PUP. I'd understand this if

I had downloaded the program for free, or it installed because I failed to untick a box when installing another program, but I paid for it by credit card over the internet, which I certainly wouldn't have done if it was a PUP.

I asked Malwarebytes to explain this properly for the benefit of Web User readers but they refused. Instead, they referred me to a web link outlining the way Malwarebytes works. Well, they can go to hell.

My conclusion is that they are classifying Driver Booster as a PUP either because IObit is a rival company or because Malwarebytes is too stupid to use common sense. Nobody buys a PUP except a real one that barks.

Malwarebytes insists this is not a false positive. It damn well is! Maybe you should have a liaison with these idiots and ask them to explain themselves because they have made me very concerned that they are not as good as Web User thinks they are.

Martin Fletcher, Thorpe Hesley

Disappointed by Driver Talent

I would like to comment on the Cover Feature in Issue 408, 'Uninstall Anything Completely'. I usually enjoy these major features but in this particular article, on page 42 in 'Delete old drivers and updates', I disagree with Jane Hoskyn's advice. She recommends using a program called Driver Talent (bit.ly/driver408) to remove obsolete drivers, but forgets to mention that to access most of the software's "useful" features, one has to pay \$16.95 (£13.94) for the

Pro version! I tried it and found it useless compared to IObit Driver Booster.

Do ask Ms Hoskyn not to recommend something without first warning us that you have to pay to get the best bits. It reminds me of the old saying: "There's no such thing as a free lunch".

T Ansel, Tamworth

Web User says: You are correct to point out that certain features in Driver Talent, such as fixing driver problems, are only available in the paid-for edition. However, for the purposes of our cover feature, the free version of the program offers all the options you need to find and uninstall obsolete drivers, and to create backups in case anything goes wrong during uninstallation.

Virtual reality from a Victorian viewer



I'm knocking on 80 years old and I have collected a lot of junk over the years. My grandson called by the other day with his new smartphone and was anxious to show me the latest VR (virtual reality) technology. He explained that to see the effect properly, he needed a viewer. I got my old Victorian stereoscope out (see photo above) and put his phone's camera where the usual lens for taking double images would go. Hey Presto it worked! Old and new had a great time.

Brian Bicknell, Bognor Regis

on sale now from Amazon, visit bit.ly/wudisc15











Not laughing myself horse

Barry Collins goes too far in his column in Issue 408 when he compares Yahoo to a horse being "shuffled off to the glue factory". This is made even worse by said sick simile being used as the basis for the

accompanying illustration. I find nothing amusing whatsoever about the notion of elderly and



infirm animals being slaughtered and converted into adhesive. In fact, I find it rather distasteful and unnecessary in an opinion piece ostensibly about the demise of an internet company. Mr Collins may regard horse murder as amusing, but I'm sure that many of your readers (including myself) do not.

Miriam Holden, via email

Gadgets are getting too expensive

A few years ago, it seemed that tech companies were making a concerted effort to appeal to the 'budget' end of the market. You could get a decent phone for less than £200 and a good tablet like the Tesco Hudl for under £100 (using Clubcard points), while cheap Chromebooks were supposed to provide an antidote to overpriced Windows laptops.

Now prices have gone through the roof, with Apple, Samsung and Google apparently competing to see who can offer the most expensive smartphones. while Microsoft comes out with a new Surface PC that costs £3,000. Who do they think they are kidding?

And don't blame these price hikes on Brexit, either, because this stuff was already getting more expensive before we voted to leave the EU and now that decision is being used as a smokescreen to increase prices further.

Well I won't be 'splashing the cash' just to have the latest gadget, and I'd encourage the more scrupulous companies to remember that 'budget' needn't mean rubbish.

Colin Beesley, Bath



O YOU AGREE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION THAT POORER PEOPLE SHOULD RECEIVE SUBSIDISED BROADBAND (bit.ly/lga410)?

Broadband access should be free with your line rental and if you require super-fast fibre you should pay extra. I don't believe it should be free for people in poverty. Life essentials such as food are the priority.

Jason 'Boz' Bowyer

I'd have thought it highly unlikely that people living in poverty could afford a computer/laptop or broadband. Probably the least of their problems!

Steve Hamilton

The question is rather, do taxpayers want to subsidise a social tariff?

Patricia Groom @TriciaGroom

Yes, if there is no access through local libraries. The internet can provide a way out of poverty.

Lewis Karl Flood @LewisKFlood

PPLE'S IPOD RECENTLY CELEBRATED ITS 15TH BIRTHDAY. DO YOU STILL USE ONE?

I have an iPod Video and a 20-watt amp that was made for the iPod. I use them every month to blast out music in a local club I run.

David Batty

My Classic 120GB is still going strong. I believe it was bought for Christmas 2008, so it's nearly eight years old.

John Moore @ondrive

Never owned one. There have always been better portable music players.

Stephen Bingham

I still have my iPod from 2006. It works and is in very good condition. I love it to death

Tmckinnin @Tmckinnin

HY DO YOU THINK SALES OF SMARTWATCHES ARE PLUMMETING?

......

When you consider that the Apple Watch costs upwards of £279, it's really a niche market. I wear my original Pebble smartwatch because, once synced, it keeps time even when you switch off Bluetooth.

Phil Graham

The cost is prohibitive. I know you can get cheap smartwatches, but the latest Apple or Samsung devices cost a lot.

Paul Emsley

Simple - they're expensive, not useful enough and battery life is no good.

Steve Ellis @gb022621

You can carry a phone in your pocket and it keeps time and lets you set all manner of alarms. This was bad news for the watch industry.

......

Chris Armstrong

WITTER HAS CLOSED VINE (bit.ly/vine410). DID YOU **EVER USE IT?**

Yes, but it wasn't something I got into. I watched some football-related content but very little else. I don't think it will be a great loss. Something else will fill the gap.

Derek @dlee1

Don't even know what it was so no, never used it. Was it anything to do with Jeremy?

Gary Olsen @Gary_Olsen

Yep, I made some short shorts, but GIFs are almost the same idea.

Si Mellor

Never used it. It never really took off, did it?

Chris Cole

A Page 404

Barry Collins uses technology to get one over on his old enemy: second-hand car dealers

Get revenge on the used-car salesmen

t's bad news, we're told by the sombre-sounding chap from the garage, as he informs us that our Ford C-Max has flunked its MOT so badly we'll have to pay him danger money just to reverse it off his forecourt. Bad news indeed, not only because of the financial agony we're about to experience, but also the psychological torture we'll endure dealing with my least favourite category of human being: second-hand car dealers.

I know nothing about cars. As far as I'm concerned, ABS is a mid-Nineties boy band, the head gasket works in one of Jamie Oliver's restaurants and Torque is the name of Jeremy Clarkson's Labrador. It took me seven attempts and 10 years just to pass my driving test. I am genuinely clueless.

The second-hand car dealer can, of course, smell ignorance from 50 yards. Which is why, as soon as I walk into the showroom, I'm swiftly directed to the "Manager's Specials", the row of vehicles they "don't just let any customer see" - namely those people who know something about cars.

However, since we bought the C-Max of Doom back in 2012, technology has started levelling the playing field for

the hapless car punter. What's the last thing Trevor from Frankie's Bargain Car Factory wants to see you pull out of your pocket while you're browsing the rows

of ridiculously well-polished old bangers? Your smartphone - because now you have a choice of apps and web services at your disposal that deliver a wealth of critical information about your prospective purchase.



Take the Vehicle Smart app (www .getvehiclesmart.com - see Issue 407), which I downloaded for my Android phone (there's an iOS version, too). Simply punch in the car's registration number and it presents you with a battery of details, including the car's MOT history, its mileage recorded at each of those tests and any faults and advisory notices the MOT centre made. So if the car passed its MOT but the

garage warned that the suspension (something to do with springs, I'm told) would be kaput within a year, you'll find out about it before Trevor can distract

The app also reveals the car's CO₂ emission levels, which is of interest not only to those who are concerned about drowning polar bears on the school run, but even those who think global

warming was dreamt up by Bono. That's because this figure usually determines how much road tax you pay. I wish I'd found that out before we were fobbed off with the 19-year-old salesman at the dealership we eventually bought the car from, because although he told us the tax would be just £30 a year, it turned out to be £130. Not clever, Trevor.

The web also proved a valuable ally when it came to haggling over the price. Despite Trevor sucking his teeth and telling us he couldn't knock much off the ticket price when we first offered a deal, he soon changed his mind when presented with a detailed valuation from the What Car website, which told me what I should expect to pay at a dealership or through private sale.

This is precisely what Tim Berners-Lee must have had in mind when he first envisaged the world wide web: empowering people by providing access to free information we would previously have been denied. If Sir Tim ever needs a lift, he knows where to find me.

you with the heated seats.

f The second-hand

car dealer can, of

course, smell ignorance

from 50 yards





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