

Watch the Best LIVE STREAMS



ONLINE

- Football
- News
- Animals
- Space
- Cartoons

- Gaming
- Comedy
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- Webcams
- Concerts
- and more p38





Play Arcade Games
On Your PC + Sonic,
Super Mario & Tomb Raider

Stop PC Junk Reinstalling Itself

Delete this hidden folder



IS YOUR PC SLOWER THAN YOUR FRIENDS'?

Benchmark tests that reveal why it's losing speed p64





Ultra Wide-Color

with 4K in an immersive design

Colours like you've never seen before. This brilliant 4K UHD resolution display with Ultra Wide-Color offers the richest and most vivid colours wrapped in an immersive curved design for a your best creations yet.

innovation + you



40" 4K curved display (BDM4037U)











Wake up and stream the coffee

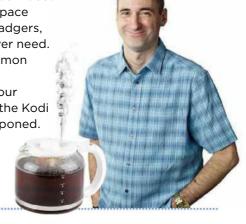
ere's a fascinating fact: the star of the world's first webcam wasn't a busy road or an uninhibited lady, but a coffee machine at the University of Cambridge. Set up to show staff the level of coffee in the pot so they didn't arrive to find it empty, the camera streamed live images from 1991 to 2001, and made the Trojan Room Coffee Pot one of the first web celebs.

These days, faster internet connections and higher-quality cameras allow us to stream much more exciting things than hot beverages, and in this issue's cover feature (page 38), we round up our favourite free

live streams. From sporting events on Twitter and 360-degree YouTube videos to real-time footage of NASA space launches and covertly filmed badgers, we've got all the feeds you'll ever need. We also explain how to fix common streaming problems.

Apologies for the change to our advertised cover feature 'Beat the Kodi backlash', which has been postponed.

Robert Irvine, Editor robert_irvine@dennis.co.uk #webuser





Jan-Dec 2016, 28,298 copies per issue

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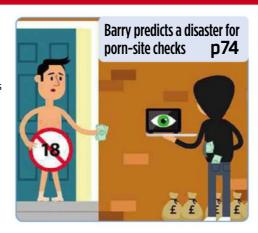






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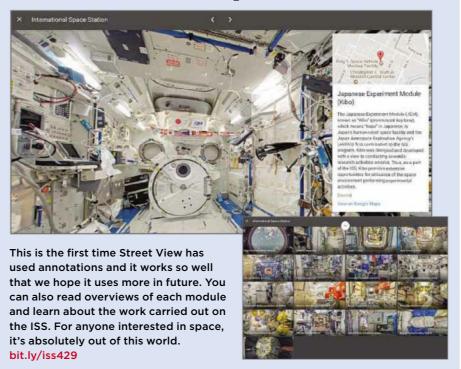


Explore the International Space Station

oogle Street View has rocketed to new heights with its latest launch, boldly going where it has never gone before. You can now see what it's like to live and work 250 miles above Earth by making a flying visit to the International Space Station. It's the first time Street View has left the confines of our planet.

Working with NASA and the European Space Agency, Google asked astronauts including Thomas Pesquet to take a series of still photos inside the ISS. By stitching these together with images taken via cameras already on board, the result is a stunning set of 360-degree images covering the various nodes and modules of the ISS, as well as the joint airlock and docking vehicles.

Aside from seeing how messy everything looks, you can click the many blue dots around the space station to read in-depth explanations.



Find a safe place to park

bit.ly/park429

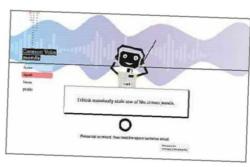
If you've ever parked your car and panicked that it might not be there when you return, steer your way to Park Smart. Enter your postcode or location and this new online tool will show you the car-crime hotspots based on the number of incidents that have taken place over a six-month period (currently November 2016 to April 2017). Created on behalf of Co-Op Insurance, it's an effective way of drawing attention to the company's services and is also a real eye opener, as you see the high levels of vehicle theft and damage in particular areas. The map currently only covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which is shame for those living in or visiting Scotland, but there's a handy page of tips for keeping your car safe, which anyone can benefit from.



Help Mozilla create voicerecognition software

voice.mozilla.org

Voice-recognition software and personal digital assistants are changing the way we interact with technology, but as much as we're becoming accustomed to



the likes of Alexa and Siri, there is a danger that only the biggest tech companies can afford to develop such systems. Firefox creator Mozilla wants to open the technology to all, saving developers from spending huge sums buying voice data to train their algorithms. It wants all of us to help by donating a bit of our own speech to a new project called Common Voice.

The way it works is simple. Click Donate Your Voice and read aloud the sentence displayed on screen. You can also validate sentences recorded by others by listening to them and indicating if what was written correlates to what was said. Mozilla hopes this will aid future innovation and promises it won't use your microphone for anything other than the project.

We pick the 10 best things you must do on the web this fortnight

Find dictionary definitions in Google

www.google.co.uk

Google has long let you discover a word's meaning by typing it next to the word "define" or "meaning". Do that now, however, and a dictionary search function appears along with the result. You can use this to continue looking up words without having to start afresh, and also access the dictionary by typing Google dictionary search.



Browse a 3D map of Google trends

.....

bit.ly/trends429

As the Earth spins on this 3D map, you can see what people around the world are typing into Google. The constantly updating globe displays trending words - just select a country to see a full list of the top searches at any given moment. You can click a trending term to see how many times it's been searched for and read more about the topic either on the map or on the Google Trends page. With options to change the map's colour and embed it on your own website, it puts the world and its interests at your fingertips.



Get free ebooks from Microsoft

bit.ly/ebooks429

In what has become an annual event, Eric Ligman, Microsoft's director of sales, is giving



away a huge number of free computing ebooks. There are about 250 in total, with titles covering Microsoft products such as Azure, Office, PowerShell and Windows apps. Most of the ebooks cover developer and professional topics, and each is yours to keep forever with no strings attached. Just browse the neatly categorised list, click the format you want - the titles are spread across the PDF, EPUB, MOBI, DOC and XPS formats - and open the file to read it. Alternatively, you can download all of them.

See the Web User team on Street View

bit.ly/wuteam429

Following our 'Stop using Google' cover feature last issue, it seems the search giant has tracked us down, because the Web User team can now be seen on Street View. Editor Robert Irvine is even gesturing at the Street View car as it drives by! Have any Web User readers been caught on Street View? Let us know at webuser@dennis.co.uk.



TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

@Setilnstitute

It's the 40th anniversary of the discovery of the 'Wow! signal'. Are aliens out there?

@elvispresley

By sheer coincidence, it's also 40 years since Elvis Presley's death

m007

With a new James Bond movie on its way, spy on the latest events

@LefthandersIntl

Celebrate Left Handers Day on 13 August with this feed for southpaws

@malala

The Pakistani campaigner shot by Taliban gunmen is fighting for girls' education

Quickly list items on eBay

bit.ly/ebay429

Save time when selling items on eBay by using its new quick-listing tool, which lets you copy details from similar sold items, and drag and drop your images. You're also given pricing guidance to help your item sell more quickly.

Use Google's SOS Alerts

www.google.co.uk

Google now provides helpful info following a natural or man-made disaster. It issues an SOS Alert when you search for an incident or location, showing emergency numbers, stories, related websites and maps of roads to avoid.

Make GIFs from videos

bit.ly/giphy429

Enter a URL from YouTube or Vimeo or upload a video from your phone to create an instant GIF. You can add stickers, captions or draw on it, then share it in Giphy's library or download it for your own use.



Google now wants to track you offline as well as on the web

What happened?

Many of us are unhappy about being tracked online, but now behavioural advertising looks set to follow us into the real world, too.

Google's plan to use credit card data to track offline spending was revealed in a complaint from a privacy group to the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The search giant's Store Sales Measurement system gathers data about your offline shopping by buying credit card data so that it can link in-store browsing to online advertising. The idea is that the company can use this data to determine the success of its digital ad campaigns.

The Electronic Privacy Information Centre (EPIC, www.epic.org) argues that this extends Google's dominance to the "real, offline" world, and that US consumers have no way to opt out. The company already tracks and monetises pretty much all online activity, but this new measure extends that dominion into physical shops – something EPIC wants the FTC to investigate.

Google isn't the only company hoping to link your offline shopping with your online persona. Starbucks is set to use artificial intelligence on data from its Rewards customer-loyalty scheme. Algorithms will examine your order history to predict when you might like a coffee, based on the weather, the time of day and even when your birthday is, so it can generate offers or notifications to nudge you into making a caffeine run.

Facebook also buys data on its users from data brokers such as Experian to



EPIC has filed a privacy complaint against Google over its offline tracking



build more detailed profiles and gauge the effectiveness of its advertising. The shift in tracking and behavioural advertising from the web to our offline lives follows the growth in use of ad blockers - 30% of web users have installed blockers to avoid surveillance.

How will it affect you?

So far, Google's offline snooping and Starbuck's latte-prediction system are confined to the US, but if the systems prove successful, it's safe to assume they could head here next.

One easy – if extreme – way to protect yourself against offline tracking is to delete your accounts. If you want these companies to leave you alone, don't use their products. For those who don't want to go that far, Google and Facebook offer limited ways to opt out.

For Google, head to your account page (myaccount.google.com) and check the privacy settings to limit the data you're giving away. However, you can't stop the company linking your profile to any third-party data it buys. Facebook doesn't offer a blanket opt-out system either, but directs you to opt out of data sharing from the companies that sell your data. See bit.ly/optout429 for details.

What do we think?

If you need any proof that targeted advertising is deeply flawed, check your Google settings to see which categories the company thinks you're interested in. They're often way off the mark. Digging into our credit card records is all but an admission that the company can't get enough information about us from browsing alone.

Instead of shoving inaccurate ads in our faces, perhaps Google and other companies would be better off trying a different model. They could pledge to stop buying offline data in return for us answering a few quick questions about what we'd like to see ads about.

Alternatively, companies could admit that we're not buying their coffee or whatever else because we're not in the mood, rather than analysing our behaviour. If you want a coffee, you'll buy one - Starbucks doesn't need to build algorithms and prod us with notifications to try to program us into buying a cappuccino when our caffeine levels are just fine, thanks.

This behaviour annoys many of us online. Extend it offline, and it's sure to irritate even more people. You shouldn't be willing to snoop on your customers just to make another sale.

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

Adobe finally kills off outdated plugin Flash

What happened?

Adobe has said it will stop supporting Flash by the end of 2020, in effect killing off the aged multimedia software. This won't come as a surprise: Flash was surpassed long ago by newer open standards such as HTML 5 and WebGL, which do the same job more efficiently and aren't riddled with security holes. Reports from security experts revealed that Adobe's plugin was the source of six of the 10 worst vulnerabilities in 2016.

Adobe said it will stop distributing and updating Flash at the end of 2020. which means developers have three years to move to a more modern system.

How will it affect you?

Figures from W3 Tech suggest that only 6.3% of websites still use Flash. According to Google, three years ago, 80% of Chrome users visited a site that ran Flash at least once a day. but that number has since fallen to 17%.

make the switch from Flash in the next three years, but those that don't will find that their content stops working. One petition (bit.ly/flash429) argues that this could result in the loss of huge swathes of internet history. To

preserve it, the project

Many websites will

is hoping to make Flash open source. The aim isn't to retain the plugin for modern browsers but to produce a piece of standalone software that can run archived games, animations and other content in the future.

What do we think?

The death of Flash has been a long time coming, ever since Apple famously shunned it: the iPhone and iPad have never supported the software. Google has also made life harder for Flash, requiring Chrome users to click to allow content to play, because it poses such a security risk. We won't be sad to see Flash go, but it's worth remembering that it used to represent the best of the web. Adobe developed the software to bring greater interactivity to the internet. The web would have been a duller place without it.



BT promises 10Mbps broadband for all



What happened?

BT promised to ensure that 99% of Britain has access to a broadband connection of at least 10Mbps by 2020, with 100% coverage following two years later.

The pledge came after the government threatened to implement a universal service obligation (USO), giving people the right to request a line of at least 10Mbps from their ISP. BT's promise could mean that the government abandons the USO and allows the company to solve the issue.

According to BT, extending 10Mbps access to 99% of the UK could cost £600m. Work is set to start next year.

How will it affect you?

Most Brits already have access to much faster broadband - BT says 95% of the country will enjoy 24Mbps by the end of this year - but some users are still stuck on the slowest speeds. This could mean those who are currently left behind would still be struggling to keep up even if BT fulfilled its promise.

Rival company Hyperoptic is rolling out its own faster fibre network, and hopes to reach five million more homes by 2025. Of course, it's not targeting the areas of the UK that are hardest to reach, so by the time those users finally get 10Mbps, the rest of us may be on much faster speeds.

What do we think?

If the government thinks a USO is worthwhile, it should implement one anyway rather than simply trusting a private firm to deliver its promise. The Culture Secretary, Karen Bradley, said that if the government accepts BT's offer, it would be legally binding, but she didn't say what the consequences would be if it fails. We think it should be up to the government to set minimum broadband speeds and deadlines, not BT. Too many Brits have been left with slow broadband for too long. The government should set out the USO now, and let BT work out how to fulfil it.

Apple axes the iPod Nano and Shuffle

What happened?

Apple has decided to kill off the venerable iPod Nano and iPod Shuffle, leaving the iPod Touch as the company's only standalone music player. Both devices have been taken down from Apple's online store already and will soon be removed from the company's physical shops as well. To compensate, however, Apple has bumped up the capacities of its two iPod Touch models from 16GB and 64GB to 64GB and 128GB. The new devices will sell for the same price as the previous models.

The iPod Nano was last updated in 2012, while the Shuffle received a minor update in 2015. Both devices could only play music purchased or imported from iTunes, and neither supported musicstreaming services such as Spotify and - perhaps more importantly - Apple Music. They also lacked support for third-party apps. Apple's secondlargest revenue stream after the iPhone is from Apple Music subscriptions, App Store revenues and iTunes purchases, but the older iPod models contributed little to this because they lacked support for apps and services, unlike the iPod Touch.

The original iPod, which Apple discontinued in 2014 when it found it could no longer source the necessary parts for its manufacture, became



something of a cultural icon thanks to its ubiquitous nature, stylish design and savvy marketing.

How will it affect you?

If you own an iPod Nano or Shuffle, you'll still be able to use it for the foreseeable future. There's no sign that iTunes will stop you ripping your own music files from CDs and syncing songs to your music player, because the iPod Touch, iPhone and iPad still use the same method. However, if you're in the market for a small, portable music player from Apple to use while exercising or in the car, you'll need to

act quickly to get one from the Apple Store before stocks run out.

What do we think?

It's a shame to see Apple retiring the last of its early iPod models, but the move towards streaming services such as Spotify and Apple Music made this almost inevitable. However, we can't help but feel that the death of these smaller iPods leaves a hole to be filled. Apple no longer sells a music player that's light enough to clip to your belt, so we hope a new iPod Touch that's smaller but still supports streaming services and apps could be in the works.

FIRST LOOK

Vodafone Smart E8 bit.ly/vodafone429

The Vodafone Smart E8's SIM-free price of £49 may lead you to think that that its design is as cheap as its price, but we were pleasantly surprised. It's quite chunky, measuring 9.2mm from front to back and weighing 169g, but it's not uncomfortable to hold and slips easily into a pocket, thanks to its 5in display. There's a 2-megapixel camera and LED notification light on the front and a 5-megapixel camera, LED flash and a speaker grille at the rear. Pop off the rear panel to access a removable 2,200mAh battery, a nano-SIM slot and a microSD slot, which lets you expand the phone's internal 8GB storage by up to 128GB.

One of the best things about the



Smart E8 is that it runs Android 7.1 Nougat, and it's a pretty clean installation with no custom Android skin or launcher to get in the way. There's a handful of pre-installed apps, but it isn't overwhelmed by undesirable extras.

On the downside, the phone has no

oil-resistant coating on its display, which means it picks up fingerprints like nobody's business. The screen isn't great, either. It's dim and, combined with the fingerprints that inevitably accumulate, is tricky to see outdoors, even under grey skies.

You can't expect a fast phone for £50, and the Smart E8 is indeed pretty slow. In fact, the only positive aspect of the Vodafone Smart E8's performance is its battery life, which is pretty good. Its camera is typical of a £50 smartphone, which is to say it's not great.

The Smart E8 was never going to provoke admiring gasps but it does a decent job and we prefer it to the Alcatel Pixi 4. If you're on a strict £50 budget, buy the Smart E8, but if you can afford a little more, opt for Vodafone's Smart N8 at £85 instead.



WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

Is Facebook developing a smart speaker?

Following in the footsteps of Amazon, Google and Apple, Facebook is rumoured to be building its own smart home device with a built-in touchscreen and speaker. The rumours were sparked by a DigiTimes report that said sources from the supply chain were claiming that Chinese



iPhone manufacturer Pegatron had started work on the device. Apparently a small pilot run of the Facebookdeveloped hardware has already taken place, and featured an LG touchscreen with a magnesium-alloy casing.

Little else is known about Facebook's connected home hub, but the chances are it's intended to bring your Facebook friends into the heart of your home, allowing you to display a flipbook of photos and videos, and to contact friends easily using voice recognition.

It's unclear whether the device will come with a full AI voice assistant to help you create posts and events, and search through your Facebook feed. Back in September 2016, Facebook's head of Messenger, David Marcus, told TechCrunch that the company wasn't working on voice technology, although it did buy voice-command developer Wit.ai in 2015, indicating that Facebook could be fiddling with the technology in the background.

LIKELIHOOD RATING

Following the launch of the Amazon Echo and Google Home, we can't really see much need for Apple's HomePod, let alone a Facebook-powered device. What's more, Amazon, Google and Apple all have their own music- and video-streaming services to drive subscriptions. which Facebook doesn't.

Despite this, we think it's quite likely that Facebook will release its own smart speaker. The social network currently has no stake in the connected home environment and its lack of development in this area makes it look out of touch. There are lots of unanswered questions about how it can possibly stand out in this competitive market, though.

What's new on Kickstarter Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

The Terminator multimedia speaker bit.ly/terminator429 | From £240

Do you find the design of the Amazon Echo a little dull? Then feast your eyes and ears on this multimedia speaker resembling the endoskeleton skull of ultraviolent time-travelling robot T-800, better known as The Terminator. Standing 45cm (18in) tall, this wireless speaker combines a tweeter and subwoofer to produce crisp, clear sound and powerful bass, and can be controlled using your phone or tablet. As well as offering built-in Alexa technology, the speaker's glowing eyes include a high-definition camera that records video. The creators hope to raise £135,000 by 27 August.



WE LIKE...

Store

Microsoft isn't binning Paint after all An outpouring of support for

Paint after Microsoft announced it was moving the program to its 'deprecated' features list has prompted the company to think again. The app will soon be available from the Microsoft



Next iPhone will have face unlocking

The next iPhone will offer infrared face unlocking, so you'll no longer need to enter a passcode or scan your fingerprint, according to the pre-release firmware for Apple's new HomePod smart speaker. It will also feature a screen that almost totally fills



WE DON'T LIKE...

the front of the device.

Apple bans VPN apps in China

Apple removed apps from its Chinese App Store that enable users to avoid the country's fierce censorship, after Beijing ruled that developers must obtain government licenses to offer VPNs.



Sony to increase cost of playing PS4 online

Sony announced that the price of its PlayStation Plus membership will increase from £5.99 a month and £39.99 a year to £6.99 and £49.99, respectively. Users will be charged

the higher price automatically from next month unless they cancel their subscription.





Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

Google blocks spyware from Play Store

Google has warned that spyware apps are targeting Android. The company found and removed 20 apps carrying spyware from its Play Store and has added new tools to detect spyware-infected apps, according to a post on the Android Developers blog.

The 20 apps in question used spyware called Lipizzan, which the researchers said is connected to a "cyber arms company", known as Equus Technologies. However, they only managed to target fewer than 100 devices, Google said, adding that it has "notified all affected devices and removed the Lipizzan apps".

The tool, which most often disguised itself as a backup or cleaner tool, could take screenshots and photos, steal user data on

contacts and files, record calls, monitor location, and even record from the device's microphone. It specifically targeted Gmail, Hangouts, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, Messenger, Skype and Snapchat, as well as Telegram.

The attackers were quick to respond to Google's efforts, creating a new app soon after the first round of Lipizzan tools were banished from the app store. bit.ly/play429

Wind farms vulnerable to ransomware

Wind farms and factories that use robots are at risk from ransomware attacks, according to new research into the vulnerabilities found within many industrial control systems. Security researcher Jason Staggs discovered that controllers don't always encrypt their messages, reports the Financial Times, and often use default passwords or fail to separate networks.

Researchers have warned that these

major security flaws could force organisations to choose between damaging



operational downtime or paying hackers a ransom in order to resume business. Staggs estimated that shutting down a wind farm for a single day would cost the energy provider up to \$700,000 (around £530,000) and the attacker could cause further damage if the victim does not comply.

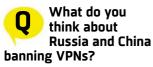
David Emm, principal researcher at Kaspersky Labs, commented: "It's clear that the world isn't ready for cyberattacks against critical infrastructure this includes governments, lawenforcement agencies, those who run such facilities and those who design and build them."

bit.ly/windf429

Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: Marty P Kamden, **CMO of NordVPN** (www.nordvpn.com)





Nicholas Pratt, Facebook

NordVPN doesn't agree with internet censorship by any government and recent moves by China and Russia to outlaw VPNs are indeed

very worrying. We believe that VPNs represent the only window to the world in countries with authoritarian governments, and can save the lives of political activists by providing them with anonymity.

As with China, it's not yet clear how the Russian government is going to implement the ban from a technical point of view. However, we at NordVPN will do everything within our power to enable our users to continue enjoying the freedom of the internet.

We've been very vocal about the need to keep people's private information safe and confidential. Government intrusion into private communications may apear to fight crime, but such

legislation is usually

implemented by people who

crime by breaking

internet access?

Should the UK

able to tackle

encryption and restricting

government be

Alan Fisher, Twitter

f Backdoors bring new security holes and could result in even more crime

don't know how technology works. Backdoors would bring new security holes and could result in even more crime.

There's no proof that internet restriction will stop sinister plots. Any backdoor provides access to citizens' private data, placing enormous power in the hands of anyone who wants to take advantage of it, and the backdoor could end up being used by the very people that the government wants to keep track of. The essence of the internet is to be a free space - it was not built to have regulation, censorship or administrators.



OVERCLOCKERSUK



amazon.co.uk



Best New Websites

Site of the Fortnight

RELAUNCH

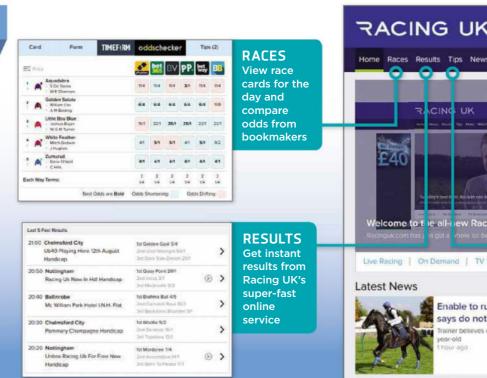
Racing UK

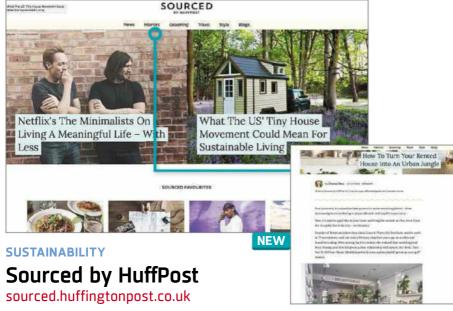
www.racinguk.com

Recognising that most punters now access its website on their phones, Racing UK has undergone a mobile-friendly revamp. Pages are easier to browse, faster to load and perfectly presented on any screen. Welcome additions include a pop-out video player that follows you around the site, so you can watch the last race while planning the next one; a pricecomparison tool showing the latest odds from leading bookmakers; and a tracking service that tells you when your favourite horses are due to run. Some features are only available to Racing UK's paid subscribers, but there's enough great free content to make the site a surefire winner.

Our rating

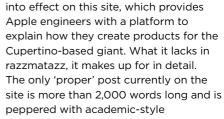






Aimed at people who want to live sustainably, HuffPost's latest offering applies a stark green tint to its daily news and features agenda. The site splits its content between news, interiors, grooming, travel, style and blogs, and seeks to cover issues relating to the environment, recycling, poverty and more. Although the well-presented, easily navigable site isn't updated as often as we'd like, the lively headlines tempt you to click and you're kept reading by the snappy writing style, which makes the serious subjects accessible. There's no denying the passion behind each piece and there are loads of useful tips and insights, each accompanied by good-quality photos.

Our rating



Apple's famously minimalist design is put

Apple Machine Learning Journal

explanatory images that show how the realism of synthetic images can be improved. But it serves as an indication of what is to come and Apple is also inviting questions and feedback.

Our rating

COMPUTERS

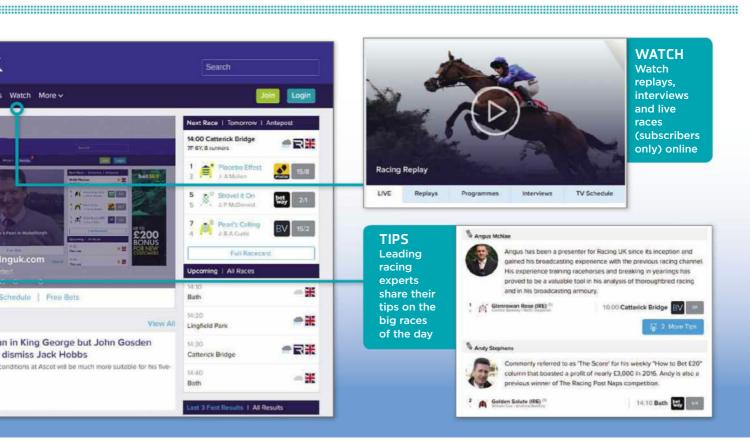
Apple Machine Learning Journal

machinelearning.apple.com



NEW

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





COMPUTING

Synology

www.synology.com/en-uk

Synology specialises in network-attached storage devices (NAS) that let you set up your own server to store and share your files. Its neatly redesigned website makes it easier to find the best NAS for you, with a slick navigation menu, a carousel that flags up the company's latest products and a handy NAS selector that makes recommendations based on the number of people likely to use it, the amount of space needed and the features required. We love the live demo of the web-based operating system and the comprehensive database of articles, downloads and video tutorials.







PHONES

BT Mobile

bit.ly/btmobile429

BT's relaunched mobile-phone store has a useful new set of tools to help you find the right handset for you. Filters down the left-hand side of the homepage let you determine the monthly cost, data allowance, brand, memory and screen size you want. The results then appear, complete with any available offers, and you can click a phone for further details. We like the deal-comparison tool, even though you pay more if you are not a BT Broadband customer, and that you can compare phone specs. However, with only 16 phones available, you're not exactly spoiled for choice.

Our rating





воокѕ

Goldsboro Books

www.goldsborobooks.com

Goldsboro Books in London has been selling first edition and signed books for 18 years and is now embarking on a new chapter with a refreshed website. Looking decidedly classier, this tidies main categories into a drop-down menu, simplifies the navigation and makes a better attempt to organise the books on the homepage. There's a new blog and a relaunched news section along with clearer signposting of its rare and exclusive titles. Each book page also contains a wealth of information and the newsletter keeps you up to date with the latest releases.

Our rating





BACKISSUES DISC 2016



Our **2016 Back Issues Disc** containing all 26 issues from last year is now on sale from Amazon

For more information, visit **bit.ly/wudisc16** or search for 'webuser disc' on Amazon

You can still buy our 2015 Back Issues Disc from bit.ly/wudisc15



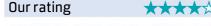


HISTORY

Asians in Britain

www.bl.uk/asians-in-britain

Asians have been a part of British history since the East India Company was founded in 1600 but the British Library is concentrating mainly on the period between 1858 and 1950 with this fascinating site, which is full of interesting articles about global trade, the Empire, activism, culture and the two World Wars. The curators have pulled together scanned items from the Library's vast collection, letting you view photos, magazine covers, adverts and more. Filters let you narrow down by creator, publisher, date and format, and since many images are public domain, you're free to use them in your own work.





Everything Now

www.everythingnow.com

Even if you aren't a fan of Canadian indie rock band Arcade Fire, you'll still dance with joy when you see this retro-styled site for their fifth studio album. Starting with a flashing alert stating: "Your computer may have infinite content", it presents its various sections within boxes reminiscent of early versions of Windows. It's certainly a refreshing way to present a site, eliminating the need for a menu and dazzling you with different elements. Closing a window places it at the bottom of the screen while moving one tells you how far it's travelled. With videos, tour dates, a store and links to songs, it's definitely one to check out.

Our rating





TRAINS

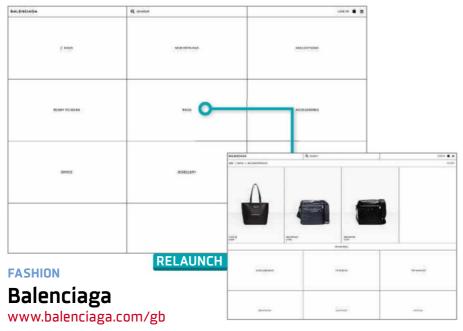
Virgin Trains East Coast

beta.virgintrainseastcoast.com

Virgin Trains is on the right lines with the revamp of its East Coast online booking facility. Although it's still in beta, you can now instantly see the cheapest prices for standard and first-class tickets as well as the quickest route. You can also get a clearer overview of the available times and filter the results by the number of changes. There are more pages to click through but it's now easier to select your preferences and add-ons. Annoyingly, existing customers have to create a new account, but you can save railcards and payments cards to make your future bookings faster.

Our rating





Would you ever spend a couple of grand on a designer tote that looked like the huge carrier bags you get at Ikea? Us neither. But as much as we'd reel at the prices asked by Balenciaga, we fell in love with its simplistic approach to web design. Using little more than rectangular boxes, an Arial font and well-snapped images, navigating the site takes a lot of clicking. But it's unique and fun, giving its product range plenty of space to breathe and making great suggestions to complete your look. If you run out of patience with the site, you can always click the menu in the top-right corner to take a shortcut or else use the fast search engine.

Our rating ****



SPORT

ESPN Cricinfo

www.espncricinfo.com

ESPN wants to bowl over cricket fans with the new mobile-first approach of its relaunched site. This makes it easier to work your way through the large amount of content, letting you quickly read the news, look at the images, catch the latest fixtures and results and get information on players and grounds. Although the Desktop site feels a tad messy, it looks fantastic on a phone or tablet. The menu in particular impressed us with a set of icons for features, videos, statistics and teams down the left and an updated set of keywords on the right. We also love the detailed data presented during live games.

Our rating



Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

Top Tips of the Fortnight

Create your own web apps

Online site builders like those on page 44 offer a limited set of tools and add-ons, which means your site has to conform to the service's ideas of what you want. Wix (www.wix.com) has launched a tool called Wix Code that lets you create your own apps. Code is powered by a database, and vou can use it to create, collect and store data, and link to buttons and other elements on a page. If you know JavaScript, you can even develop dynamic web tools.

Wix Code is currently free but in beta, so you have to apply to use it. Go to bit.ly/code429 and click 'Apply for Beta'.



Ghost reaches 1.0

Although WordPress originally started as a tool for bloggers, it has grown into a fully fledged content-management system, which is great for site builders but detracts from its core blogging tools. Ghost (ghost.org) was launched in 2013 as a back-tobasics blogging alternative and has just reached version 1.0. However, it's not as widely available or as easy to install as WordPress, so if you want to use it, consider a host that specifically supports it. TSOhost, for example, offers the service for £2.99 per month at bit.ly/tso429.

Deal of the Fortnight

With Brexit negotiations underway, you can get great deals on domains with the suffix '.eu'. For example, 123 Reg (www.123-reg .co.uk) is selling them for £1.19.

Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: Lawrence Jones MBE, **CEO of UKFast** (www.ukfast.co.uk)



I have a website that makes money for charity if people perform searches through it. How can I attract new visitors?

Bootz47, via Web User Forums

Never forget that your visitors are human beings. Try building a grassroots audience, and find people who care about the charity and the

cause. You should also nurture your existing users. Let them know the good they're doing and they'll help you spread the word.

Speed is another key factor. A slow website undermines all the other good work you're doing. Google has worked out that fast sites keep people engaged longer because they're less likely to get bored and click away. Google's SEO algorithm rewards fast sites.

MINI WORKSHOP | Host a free WordPress test site Cloud9: c9.io | (1) 10 mins | Any browser

Testing new themes and plugins on your WordPress site can be risky, because you have to run them live. If you'd rather experiment off-site, try Cloud9, which lets you run WordPress on a virtual server for free



Go to the Cloud 9 website (c9.io), create an account and sign in. You have to enter credit card details to prove you're a real person, but you won't be charged. Click 'Create new workspace' and give it a name. 1 Choose Private 2 (the free account has one private space), select WordPress **3** and click 'Create workspace'. 4



The next screen looks complicated but don't let that worry you - just click Run Project. 11 The server will run in the background. Click Preview 2 and select Preview Running Application.

13 The WordPress installation routine will pop up in a Window on the right. 4 You can move this into its own tab by clicking the Pop Out button. 5



The WordPress setup is now just the same as it would be if you were installing it on any other type of server. Fill in the setup form, including a username and password, 11 and click Install WordPress. 2

CREATIVE



Scan & Win a SoundblasterX Katana! T & C apply



SOUND STER PRO-GAMING

KATANA

CUSTOMIZABLE 24-BIT HI-RES GAMING UNDER-MONITOR AUDIO SYSTEM









A small, beautiful-looking soundbar that delivers good audio for under £300



For keen gamers who want something flexible for movies and music as well, it's a great buy.

- PC Pro (source: issue 271, May 2017)



16.8 MILLION **REACTIVE COLORS**



150W PEAK

POWERFUL 150W PEAK. HI-RES 24-BIT/96KHZ AUDIO With integrated sound card/DAC















FLEXIBLE CONNECTIVITY

USB, Optical-in, Bluetooth 4.2, USB flash drive, Aux-in, Mic-in, Headset

DOLBY AUDIO[®]

DOLBY DIGITAL DECODING

For true-to-life 5.1 channel playback with clear dialog



TRI-AMPLIFIED. ONE-PIECE DESIGN

For uncompromised clear, well-balanced, room-filling audio



DSP POWERED 5-DRIVER DESIGN

2 up-firing midbass, 2 high-excursion tweeters, 1 long-throw subwoofer





BLASTERX ACOUSTIC **ENGINE FOR PC**

Customizable enhancements for unprecedented levels of audio realism with 7.1 virtual surround and clear cues



We test and compare the latest products

Seguro Trongle S2

We test a great-value Android media player that you can plug into your TV to stream all your entertainment from the web

mart TVs and set-top boxes bring a range of features to your living-room television including viewing catch-up TV, running media players such as Kodi and streaming vour own content from other devices. However, most of the big brands are tied into a particular service, such as Apple TV's dependency on iTunes or Amazon's Fire TV devices pushing its Prime Video service. If you deviate from these giants, though, you'll find some media streamers are compatible with a broader range of services and provide impressive specifications for a fraction of the price.

One such example is the Seguro Trongle S2. For about the same price as the latest Amazon Fire TV Stick, you get a set-top box running Android 6.0 Marshmallow that's capable of outputting a 4K picture (also known as Ultra HD) complete with HDR (High Dynamic Range – a new television technology that gives TVs better contrast and colours). On the face of it, that's staggering value.

Build and ports

The S2 has a textured, plastic casing that feels well made. It has a similar footprint to an Apple TV but is only about



one quarter of the thickness. At the back, there's an HDMI port to connect it to your TV and a Fast Ethernet port for connecting to a router or HomePlug. We recommend using this port if possible because the S2 only supports 2.4GHz 802.11n Wi-Fi, which

may not be fast enough for streaming the large 4K video files that the device is capable of playing. Rounding off the connections are two USB ports and a microSD card slot. The latter could be very useful for expanding the S2's modest 8GB of storage.

A £40 set-top box running Android 6.0 that can output 4K complete with HDR. On the face of it, that's staggering value

Interface and apps

Seguro has taken Android 6.0 and overlaid its own skin to provide a basic but functional homepage. It's not going to win any design awards but it's slick and fast. The large icons on the homepage let you quickly launch the browser, view installed apps and play local videos, music and photos. You can also add shortcut icons to your favourite applications across the bottom of the screen.

A basic infrared remote is included in the box. Navigating the main screen is easy using the cursor keys and Select button, but other apps don't work as well. Open the Google Play Store, for example, and it's exceptionally hard to select the Search bar. You can get around this by pressing the mouse button on the remote to display a pointer on the screen. Using the remote's cursor keys, we could jerkily move the cursor up to the search box to find what we wanted.

Fortunately, the Trongle is currently being sold with a wireless keyboard that has a built-in touchpad, which makes navigating apps and entering data a lot easier. Alternatively, you can bypass the Google Play Store entirely by using the web interface to send installation files to the





S2 over the internet.

Still, having the Play store available lets you choose from a huge range of apps, including BBC iPlayer, All 4, ITV Hub and My5 for catch-up TV, as well as Sky's Now TV service. That's a better selection than some of the big-brand media streamers.

That said, the S2 can't support all apps and some big names are missing. Google Play doesn't have the Amazon Prime Instant Video app, for example and, even worse, you can't currently install Netflix.

Because the S2 effectively uses the smartphone versions of apps, their interfaces can be tricky to navigate. When accessing BBC iPlayer, for example, the S2's remote doesn't work in normal mode. so we had to use it in Mouse mode instead, which is a frustratingly imprecise tool for selecting something to watch. Using the wireless keyboard's touchpad is a lot easier.

It's also annoying that neither controller has a Pause button. To manage this in iPlayer, we had to hit the Select button, navigate the mouse pointer down to the onscreen button and then press the Select button again. It's fiddly and slow.

This is where Android TV devices, such as the excellent Nvidia Shield (£189.99, reviewed in Issue 417, bit.ly/

Within Kodi, the S2's remote and keyboard work beautifully and the media player's interface is very smooth

webuser417) have the advantage. For these devices, Android and any installed apps are reformatted so they can be used with a remote; the downside is that they are a lot more expensive.

Media streaming

Despite such gripes, the S2 offers a significant plus in that it supports other mediastreaming tools, such as Plex and Kodi. Both applications let vou stream content over your home network, with Kodi able to expand into online services, too.

Within Kodi, the S2's

remote and keyboard work beautifully and the media player's interface is very smooth. We tested it by playing our sample files to the S2 over the network.

Over a Wi-Fi network, the S2 struggled to keep up with and buffer a 4K video, so using Ethernet was a must. Once the wired connection was operational, the S2 proved itself to be a powerful and capable media player. Certainly, if you want a cheap and powerful media player for legal use of Kodi or Plex, it's hard to find anything else in this price range.

PRODUCT INFO

Seguro **Trongle S2**

Price: £39.99 Buy from Amazon: bit.ly/tron429

SPECIFICATIONS

- HDMI 2.0 video output
- 802.11n (2.4GHz) Wi-Fi
- 1 x Fast Ethernet port
- Streams in UPnP and DLNA
- Works with iPlayer, My5, ITV Hub, All 4, Now TV
- 110 x 110 x 11mm

FOR

✓ Supports a good selection of streaming TV and catch-up services ✓ Kodi-compatible

AGAINST

X Remotes not best suited to catch-up TV apps X Interface is a bit clunky

BETTER FOR CATCH-UP

Amazon Fire TV Stick, £39.99 bit.ly/afts429



FASTER AND SLICKER

Nvidia Shield TV, £189.99 bit.ly/ns429







OUR VERDICT

Overall, the quality of the Trongle S2 depends on what you want to use it for. If your priority is a media player that supports catch-up TV and the main streaming services, it's not ideal because the remote controls are infuriatingly fiddly. We recommend that vou buy the Amazon Fire

TV Stick instead or, if you want to connect it to a 4K TV, the Amazon Fire TV.

If, on the other hand, you're after a cheap, high-resolution device that you can use to stream your own content via Plex or Kodi, then the S2 is an excellent choice. In this latter scenario, the inclusion **FEATURES**

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

of the main catch-up services is a handy bonus and the occasionally clunky interface is a worthwhile trade-off for the price.

TP-Link Deco M5

As TP-Link joins the ranks of router manufacturers offering mesh networking, **Jonathan Bray** puts its new Deco M5 to the test

P-Link is the latest networking-hardware manufacturer to jump on the mesh-networking bandwagon, following the lead of the Netgear Orbi (reviewed in Issue 415, bit.ly/ issue415), Google Wi-Fi (Issue 423, bit.ly/ webuser423) and BT Whole Home Wi-Fi (Issue 419, bit.ly/ issue419). Mesh networks use several router-like devices to distribute Wi-Fi around your home and tackle dead spots that regular standalone routers can't reach.

TP-Link's starter kit costs £229.99 and comes with three identical 'nodes', the router-like units you position around your home to boost your network. This is similar to BT's Whole Home WiFi, which also comes with three units for a

PRODUCT INFO

TP-Link Deco M5

Price: £229.99
Buy from Amazon: bit.ly/tpl429

SPECIFICATIONS

- Quad-core processor
- 400Mbps Wi-Fi on 2.4GHz and 867Mbps on 5GHz
- 4 x internal antennas per unit
- 2 x Gigabit ports per unit
- 1 x USB Type-C port
- Bluetooth 4.2
- 120 x 38mm

FOR

- ✓ Great parental controls
- ✓ Three-year antivirus built in
- ✓ Strong wireless coverage

AGAINST

✗ Slightly slow at close range
✗ Pricier than BT Whole Home Wi-Fi

similar price. The Google and Netgear alternatives we've reviewed are more expensive and only provide two units in their starter packs, although Netgear now has some cheaper models with lower specifications, and it now sells Orbi devices in packs of three.

Although more units help spread the network further, devices like the Netgear Orbi create a dedicated background network to link the devices and provide the best possible connection.
TP-Link doesn't have this but the nodes are cheaper, so you can afford more of them.

Performance and software

The Deco M5's close-range performance in our tests wasn't all that impressive (68MB/s), lagging behind the faster BT Whole Home Wi-Fi (99MB/s). We tested the Deco M5's single-node performance at long range, too, to get a feel for how well it performs at the edge of the network, and found it matched the BT Whole Home Wi-Fi. Google Wifi does even better, though.

Unsurprisingly, the Deco performed best in the mesh configuration it's designed for, delivering speeds that matched BT Whole Home Wi-Fi in the kitchen of our test house (35MB/s) and were 8MB/s faster than Google Wifi. With two nodes – a configuration that usually delivers the best throughput in this location – it lagged behind the BT system by

When we added the third node and tested again, to see how much throughput would



What makes the Deco M5 unique is its interesting software tools

fall when adding extra nodes to spread the network, the TP-Link edged ahead by 4MB/s. However, the differences are almost too small to notice.

What makes the Deco M5 unique is its interesting software tools. For example, it comes with Trend Micro's internet security built into the device, with three years of service included. This means

it will protect all the devices that appear on the network, so you don't have to worry about whether individual devices are fully protected. It also has some fantastic parental controls, which let you take charge of which devices can access the internet and when (which is great for enforcing a bedtime Wi-Fi curfew on younger gadget addicts).

OUR VERDICT

The TP-Link Deco M5 is a worthy competitor to the other mesh-networking routers we've reviewed. It's well priced at £230 for three nodes and includes useful network-based antivirus and excellent parental controls.

The BT Whole Home Wi-Fi system is faster

FEATURES
PERFORMANCE
EASE OF USE
VALUE FOR MONEY

overall but if you like the sound of the extra security and control that the Deco offers, then it's well worth the money.

From Apple to Zeiss, and everything in between



For exclusive subscription offers and trials, visit: magazinedeals.co.uk/tech

Whether you're an IT professional or a first time buyer, Dennis technology has a magazine for you, all of which are written and produced by expert editorial teams. We cover the whole spectrum of technology news, reviews and features.

₩eb User's Best Buys

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

HARDWARE

SSD

Samsung 960 Evo

£211.16 from bit.ly/s9e428 Tested: Issue 428



It looks expensive on paper, but the Samsung 960 Evo is an excellent 500GB SSD that came at or near the top of all our performance tests. It comes with Samsung's Data Migration software to clone your existing Windows installation from your old hard drive.

KEY SPECS

250GB - 1TB capacity ■ AES-256 encryption ■ M.2 connection ■ 200TBW write tolerance ■ Samsung Magician, Samsung Data Migration software

£500 PC

Mesh Home PC

£499 from www.meshcomputers.com Tested: Issue 426



The Mesh Home PC is compact and quiet, with a great processor. It has a premium operating system in Windows 10 Pro and includes an SSD and a dedicated graphics card.

KEY SPECS

Quad-core 3.4GHz Intel Core i5-7500 processor ■ 8GB memory ■ 120GB SSD, 1TB hard drive ■ 2GB Asus GeForce GT710-2-SL graphics card ■ 6 x USB 2 ports; 2 x USB 3 ports ■ Windows 10 Pro ■ Lifetime labour warranty, two-years parts, one-year collect-and-return

INKJET PRINTER

Brother MFC-J5330DW

£125.78 from bit.lv/brot425 Tested: Issue 425



Provided you can find space for this bulky printer, you won't be disappointed, because it's very reasonably priced, cheap to run and produces great-looking prints - especially photos. You won't have to wait long for them to print, either.

KEY SPECS

4,800 x 1,200dpi maximum print resolution ■ 1,200 x 2,400dpi maximum scan resolution ■ 250-sheet input capacity ■ 100-sheet output capacity ■ Double-sided printing = 802.11n Wi-Fi = 530 x 398 x 304mm = 16.9kg

TABLET

Apple iPad

From £339 from bit.ly/ipad424

Tested: Issue 424



Apple has reduced the price of its new standard 9.7in iPad, making this tablet the cheapest it's ever produced. Battery life is excellent, performance is swift and the screen and build are top quality.

KEY SPECS

Tri-core 1.5GHz processor ■ 8-megapixels rear camera ■ 9.7in 2,048 x 1,536 pixels-resolution screen ■ 1.2-megapixels front camera = 32/128GB storage = 2G RAM = iOS 8.1 = 240 x 169.5 x 6.1mm ■ 437g ■ One year return-to-base warranty

SMART ASSISTANT

Google Home

£129 from bit.ly/home422



High-excursion speaker ■ Supports HE-AAC, LC-AAC, MP3, Vorbis, WAV, FLAC and Opus ■ Far-field voice recognition ■ microUSB, DC power ports = Android 4.2+ and iOS 8+ = 477g ■ 142.8 x 96.4mm ■ 802.11b/g/n/ac Wi-Fi (2.4GHz/5GHz)

good-quality speaker. It's simply designed to enrich your life.

GRAPHICS CARD

Asus AMD Radeon R7 250

£78.59 from bit.ly/250amd416 Tested: Issue 416



This graphics card provides enough power to make less challenging games run smoothly in 1080p resolution with high-detail settings enabled. It's very cheap and benefits from plenty of speedy stream processors.

KEY SPECS

2,048 stream processors ■ 128 texture-mapping units ■ 32 render-output units ■ 926MHz GPU frequency ■ 4GB RAM ■ Supports up to six displays ■ 4,096 x 2,160 pixels resolution ■ DisplayPort, DVI-D and HDMI video connectors

SOFTWARE & SERVICES

CLOUD BACKUP

CrashPlan

£49 per year from www.crashplan.com Tested: Issue 420



If you've got a substantial archive of data, CrashPlan is an impressively versatile and cost-effective way to keep it safe.

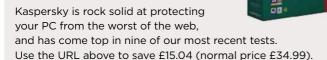
KEY FEATURES

\$59.99 (around £49) per year for 1 PC I Unlimited storage I Back up external drives ■ Compatible with Windows 7/8+/10, MacOS 10.9+, Linux, Android 3.2+ and iOS 7+

INTERNET SECURITY

Kaspersky Internet Security 2017

£19.95 from bit.ly/kaspersky2017 Tested: Computeractive Issue 493



KEY FEATURES

Antivirus and firewall tools ■ Protects online shopping and banking ■ Identity and privacy tools ■ Advanced ad blocking

ONLINE STORAGE

Google Drive

From free from drive.google.com Tested: Issue 389



Google Drive is easy to use and has lots of free storage, and syncing files is like keeping them in any other PC folder.

KEY FEATURES

16GB free storage ■ Web-based office software ■ Works with XP, Vista, 7, 8+ and 10 ■ Chrome browser add-on ■ Android and iOS apps ■ Extra paid-for storage available

Web User Gold Award winners

ONLINE VIDEO EDITOR

YouTube Editor

Free from www.youtube.com/editor

Tested: Issue 428

This editor's easy-to-use tools and direct connection to the biggest video-hosting site in the world make up for shortfalls in its interface.

ONLINE IMAGE EDITOR

Pixlr

Free from pixlr.com

Tested: Issue 427

PixIr is a sophisticated image

editor that's stuffed with useful features that rival the tools you find in Desktop software.

ANDROID CALENDAR

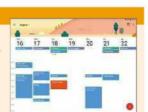
Google Calendar

Free from bit.ly/googlecal426

Tested: Issue 426

Google Calendar offers the perfect combination of usability and

features, making organising your schedule incredibly easy.



STREAMING MEDIA RECORDER

ActivePresenter

Free from bit.ly/active425

Tested: Issue 425

ActivePresenter does a great job of

capturing streaming video and has an exhaustive set of tools.

TO-DO LIST TOOL

Todoist

Free from todoist.com

Tested: Issue 424

Todoist is the ultimate to-do list tool. Adding new tasks is simple, whether managing small projects or complex ones.

INTERESTED IN MAGAZINE STANDARDS?



If so, IPSO, the regulator of magazines and newspapers, is looking for people to join their Readers' Advisory Panel. The panel - which will meet three times a year - will support IPSO's work and give readers the opportunity to share their views on media issues. No experience is required, just an interest in editorial standards. IPSO will cover travel expenses and pay you £200 for every meeting you attend.

If you are interested, please go to: www.ipso.co.uk/about-ipso/vacancies/

Best Free Software

CLOUD-BACKUP TOOL

Google Backup and Sync

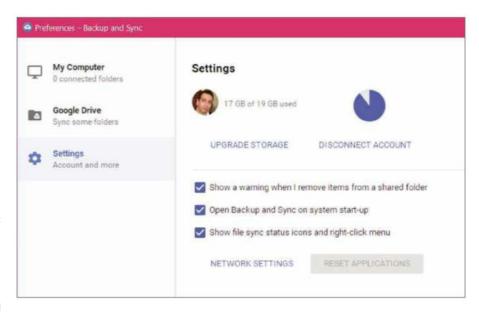
bit.ly/gbackup429

Min requirements: Windows 7/8+/10

or MacOS File size: 1.1MB

This new free tool from Google replaces both the Google Photos desktop uploader and Drive for PC and Mac, and makes it easy to back up your important personal files to the search giant's cloud-storage services. It's easy to use and particularly useful if you don't already back up your PC on a regular basis. However, the tool isn't currently available for mobile devices so you'll still need to use whatever existing backup





solutions you use in those instances, such as the Google Photos app.

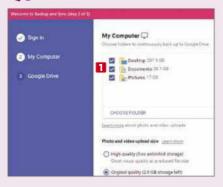
You will of course need a Google account to use Backup and Sync but it's easy to sign up for a new one. Even if you already have a Google account, it may be worth creating a separate one just to make sure you have enough space to back up everything important on your system.

A wizard guides you through the setup process and you can choose whether to back up only photos and videos or all file types. You can choose

which folders to back up and which to sync, and if you're already using Google Drive, it will merge the files, beginning the process once you've completed all the steps in the wizard.

The program is accessed from the system tray and from there, you can open the Drive folder on your PC, or Drive or Photos on the web. and pause or stop the backup/sync process. The Preferences section gives you access to the options for My Computer and Google Drive, as well as the Account Settings screen.

MINI WORKSHOP | Back up your files using Google Backup and Sync



Run the program and click the Get Started button. Sign into your Google account or create a new one. Choose which folders you want to continuously back up to Google Drive. The software automatically selects three locations - Desktop, Documents, and Pictures. 11 You can untick any you don't want to include.



To add more locations, click Choose Folder 🚺 and navigate to the first directory to add. Google gives you unlimited storage for images, provided they are uploaded at 'high' quality rather than 'original'. Tick this option. 2 You'll also want to tick the option to upload photos and videos to Google Photos. 3



Click Next, then choose which Google Drive folders you want to sync to your PC - everything in My Drive or selected folders. 11 If you go for the latter, you'll be able to pick the folders you want to include. 2 You can change the sync folder location on your PC. 3 Click Start 4 to begin syncing.

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



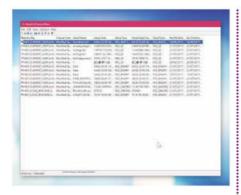
BACKUP TOOL

Iperius Backup Free 5

bit.ly/iperius429

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 28.1MB

An alternative to Google's new Backup & Sync tool (see opposite), this program provides everything you need to back up and restore your PC so your personal files are kept safe. It can back up to various locations; run full, incremental, differential or scheduled backups; compress files to ZIP format; and much more. Getting started is just a matter of clicking 'Create new backup' and then choosing what to include. The new version can back up your files to more locations and cloud services.



REGISTRY TOOL

RegistryChangesView

bit.ly/rcview429

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 92.3KB

The latest portable free tool from the prolific software developer Nirsoft lets you identify changes made to the Windows Registry. You can take a Registry snapshot with the tool and compare it against another snapshot. Any changes can be exported to a REG file and then imported into your Registry, which is handy if, for example, you delete something from the database by mistake.



EMULATOR

Stella 5

bit.ly/stella429

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10, MacOS or Linux **File size:** 2.3MB

The Atari 2600 Video Computer System (VCS) was the most popular games console of the late Seventies and early Eighties, and you can relive its glory days with this emulator. You'll need some ROMs (games), which you can get from AtariAge (atariage.com). This latest version fully matches the original hardware and has a new phosphoremulation mode which is closer to real TV output.

New Windows Apps

Sudoku Central

bit.ly/sud429

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 18.9MB

This app is a Windows 10 version of the popular Sudoku puzzle game, which lets you play six variants including Killer Sudoku, Windoku (Hypersudoku), Jigsaw Sudoku and Diagonals. You can choose from three different puzzle sizes.



Free Invoice Generator

bit.ly/freeig429

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 12.53MB

This free app from Zoho lets you quickly create and share invoices. You can email the finished document, upload it to OneDrive or save a PDF version.



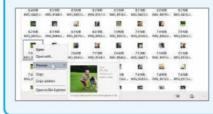
Landiskape

bit.ly/land429

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 18.1MB

Landiskape is a drive-usage analyser that can show you where all your free space has vanished to. You can switch between displaying a tree or map views of your chosen folders.



Best Free Software

ANTI-MALWARE TOOL

Malwarebytes AdwCleaner 7

bit.ly/adwc429

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

File size: 7.8MB

The powerful AdwCleaner can remove toolbars, adware, hijackers and PUPs (potentially unwanted programs) from your web browsers. This is the first new version since AdwCleaner was acquired by Malwarebytes last year, and it's been completely rewritten with an updated interface and database. Scans are much faster now, and clean-up is more thorough. It's as easy to use as before - just run it (no installation required), then click the Scan button and it will present you with its findings. Expand each result to find out more about it, and click Clean to remove any found junk. See our feature on page 46 for more advice on removing junk.

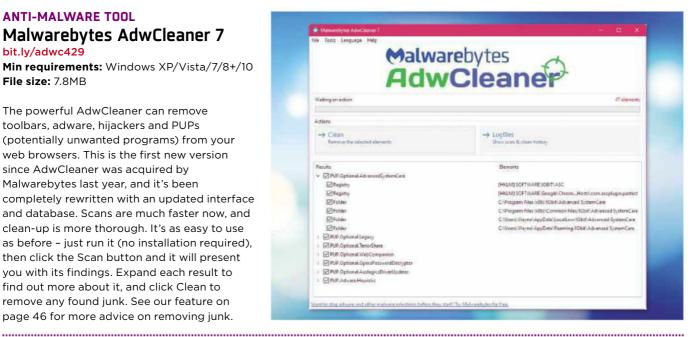




IMAGE TOOL Fotowall

bit.ly/fotow429

Min requirements: Windows 7/8+/10 or Linux

File size: 10.1MB

Fotowall lets you create original art, wallpapers, postcards and covers. Just add some content, such as images (from your computer or the web), live video from your webcam, internet content and/or text; then play around with it using the program's tools. You can reposition the items; rotate, resize and caption them; add borders; apply filters and effects; and change the background colours. There's also a feature called 'wordcloud' that you can use to generate a collage of words from any text file.

Creations can be saved as an image, wallpaper, PDF or SVG file, or as a poster. You can also send them straight to your printer.

IMAGE EDITOR

Luminar Beta

macphun.com

Min requirements: Windows 7/8+/10

File size: 201MB

Originally only for Mac, this versatile photo editor is now also available as a beta for Windows. It includes most of the features of the Mac version, such as a user interface that adapts to your skill level and preferences, Al-powered photo filters, more than 50 pre-defined one-click presets and a RAW-file converter.

You need to supply an email address to download the software, then use the activation code you're sent to begin using it. Luminar is currently free but it's likely this will change when the software launches officially later in the year, although the price has yet to be confirmed.





GAME Gone Wandering

bit.ly/gw429

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

File size: 110MB

In this relaxing game, you play a happy little girl riding around in a speedboat and collecting different types of butterfly. You control the boat with your keyboard or a joypad, and there's lots to see as you steer the craft around the islands heading for the next group of lepidoptera. Sometimes you have to bump your boat to get them to move!

Don't install...

EaseUS Partition Master

www.partition-master.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 49MR

EaseUS Partition Master is a fine program for partitioning your hard drive, but it now comes bundled with Install Core junk, which foists offers for third-party applications on you when you install the software. EaseUS offers several paid-for versions of Partition Master, so we don't know why it needs to 'monetise' the free edition in this irritating way.



...Install this instead

MiniTool Partition Wizard Free

www.partitionwizard.com

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

File size: 49.4MB

Windows comes with its own partitioning tool for dividing a hard drive into separate drives but Partition Wizard Free is a more powerful alternative that lets you easily create, delete, wipe, copy, resize and move partitions; clone drives; convert disk types and file systems; recover partitions and master boot records; and more. The latest version introduces more options for different drive formats and can copy an entire system drive or just a required partition. It can even migrate an entire operating system to an SSD. You can upgrade to the paid-for version from \$39 (about £30) to get additional features.





UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs



DISC-AUTHORING SOFTWARE

BurnAware Free 10.4

www.burnaware.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+

File size: 7.3MB

BurnAware Free can write to all types of optical disc. The latest version gains a new disc-burning engine, and a new method of file extraction in the datarecovery tool. It also checks for free space before saving an ISO file.



SYSTEM CLEANER

CCleaner 5.32

www.piriform.com/ ccleaner

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+

File size: 9.3MB

The hugely popular systemcleaning tool (now owned by Avast, which bought Piriform in July) gets updated on a monthly basis. This latest version improves Firefox and Chrome History cleaning. It also restores support for cleaning 'Last download location' in Firefox and Edge.



IMAGE EDITOR

Paint.NET 4.0.17

www.getpaint.net

Min requirements:

Windows 7/8+/10

File size: 6.9MB

Paint.NET is one of the best and most powerful free photo-editing tools around. This latest release adds a new 'Fluid mouse input' option and improves performance and battery usage, along with high-DPI support for users with large monitors. It also includes a range of bug fixes.



MONITOR TOOL

SunsetScreen 1.26

bit.ly/sunset429

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 891KB

The highly customisable SunsetScreen changes the colour of your monitor display in the evenings, reducing the harsh glare and the 'blue light' so it's easier on your eyes. The updated version gains new certificate signing and a disable mode for day/ night.

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



Best New Browser Tools



CHROME

Replace Facebook ads with vintage ones

Are you tired of Facebook pestering you with products and services it thinks you might like, and groups it thinks you should join? We know we are, but using an ad blocker on the social network leaves pages looking bare and gappy, which is why Social Ads - Vintage Edition (bit .ly/social429) is such a great idea. It replaces Facebook's pushy promotions in your news feed with retro Eighties adverts for fondly remembered products such as Coca Cola, the Sony Walkman, Casio synthesisers, the Betamax video recorder and Fisher Price toys. There's a US bias to the commercials but you're sure to get a nostalgic buzz from the random selection and, because the products are no longer available, you won't be persuaded to part with your hard-earned money!



Discover the technology behind any website

You don't have to be a professional web designer to be interested in the type of software a developer has used to create a particular site, the service that hosts it and which advertising tools it uses to make money. Now you can discover all this information and more by installing a clever new Chrome extension called Whatruns (bit.ly/

Message Board Hosting Panel Message Board Hosting Panel Message South Analysis Prok Message South Analysis Message Analysis Message

whatruns429).

This handy browser tool uses special algorithms to detect the technology behind any website you're viewing. Simply click

its toolbar button to view a wealth of details about how the site was built, including its content-management system (CMS), programming language, frameworks, widgets, fonts, analytics tools, web servers and miscellaneous elements. You can click the Know More button next to an entry to see other websites that use the same software, and 'follow' the current site to receive a notification when it starts using different technology. It's geeky but interesting stuff.



View time-lapse videos on your New Tab page

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever," wrote Keats, which is why we have no hesitation in recommending the stunning Chrome extension Chrome Delight (bit.ly/delight429) again. Last featured in Issue 386 (back then it was called Delight for Chrome), this amazing add-on displays breathtaking time-lapse videos on your New Tab page. In the past, we found that its high-quality moving images were a bit of a memory drain, but this latest version runs much more smoothly and displays a greater variety of videos - from billowing clouds above rugged landscapes to waves crashing against picturesque shores. You can also access your most-visited sites from a row of icons in the top-left corner of the page, as well as view the time and weather for your location, and access your bookmarks and browsing history.

Turn every web image into a party parrot

From dancing hamsters to Nyan Cat, the web has long been obsessed with animated animals, and the latest to join their ranks is a dancing bird-emoji called Party Parrot. Particularly popular on Reddit and the workflow app Slack, the parrot has many colourful and characterful variations - conga, upside-down, sad, gentleman, blond sassy and many more - and even has its own cult (cultofthepartyparrot.com). Now you can bring its non-stop avian gyrations to your browser by installing Party Parrot Party Time (bit.ly/parrot429). This add-on instantly turns every image on a web page into a party parrot at the click of its toolbar button, transforming even the most boring sites into squawking good fun.





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



FIREFOX

Block inappropriate content on YouTube

As we discussed in last issue's cover feature, there's a lot of unpleasant stuff on YouTube, and not just in the videos but in the comments beneath them, too. You can protect your children, grandchildren or sensitive spouse from some of this inappropriate content by scrolling to the bottom of any



YouTube page and setting Restricted Mode to On, then locking the mode in your browser to stop anyone bypassing it. For a second line of defence, a new add-on called YouTube Safemode (bit.ly/safemode429) goes further than Restricted Mode by disabling all comments sections on videos, blocking "known inappropriate" content creators and filtering videos that have been tagged with or contain negative and offensive keywords. As with all tools of this kind, it can be overzealous, but we found that it worked surprisingly well.

Add useful features to Google Play

Are you an Android user who prefers Firefox to Chrome on your desktop computer? If so, the good news is that Mozilla's browser now has its own version of the excellent Toolbox for Google Play Store (bit.ly/toolbox429), as recommended in our 'Secret hacks for Google Play' feature in Issue 420

☆自 ♥ + ★ ¥ Enable APKMirror button Enable Android Police button Enable Appbrain button Show info about app testing program Fix '&' symbols not displaying properly on Play Store device list OPEN SETTINGS PAGE

(bit.ly/ webuser420). This add-on enhances the Android app store by adding several useful options to each app's page. These include a button for downloading

an app's APK file to your PC, one that links to information on the alternative app store AppBrain (www.appbrain .com) and another that takes you to coverage of the app on the Android Police blog (www.androidpolice.com). Toolbox also tells you if an app offers a beta-testing programme that lets you try the latest version before everyone else. You can choose which options to show or hide in the add-on's settings.

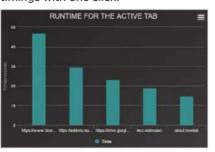
Time how long you spend on tabs

Time flies when you're trying to avoid boring tasks - such as working -

by engaging in less important ones, such as checking Facebook. browsing Amazon and watching YouTube. A new Firefox add-on called



Time Speaks (bit.ly/time429) tells you how long you've spent viewing each tab you have open, so you can identify where your procrastination problems lie. As well as listing how many seconds each tab has been active, Time Speaks displays its stats as a bar chart and lets you clear its timings with one click.



OTHER BROWSERS

Download videos from Vimeo In last issue's

controversial 'Stop Using Google' feature, we recommended Vimeo (vimeo.com) as our

favourite alternative to YouTube,

but we have to concede that there are many more third-party tools



available for downloading videos from the world's most popular videosharing site. That's why we were so pleased to discover Vimeo Video Downloader (bit.ly/ vvd429), which adds a Download button to every Vimeo video page. It lets you grab clips in a choice of four quality settings, right up to the maximum 1,080p resolution. Just remember to keep your downloads for personal use only.

Expand your downloads in Edge Opera isn't the only browser to get a new video downloader this issue, because Video Downloader Professional has just been released for Edge. This useful extension for lets you easily download and

Microsoft's Windows 10 browser play videos from YouTube, Vimeo and other sites. Also new and just as impressive is GetThemAll, which lets you simultaneously download every media file - music, video, photo or PDF - from a web page. Both extensions are available from the Windows Store (bit.ly/edge429).





Best Free Apps 🗯 🚅

App of the Fortnight

REMOTE PC

Roamit

bit.ly/roamit429
4.4 10 Mobile

Roamit lets you instantly send a web page from your Android phone or tablet to your Windows 10 PC. Its link-casting feature is a delight to use: just fire up the app on your device, then with one tap you can beam your last-copied web link – or your most recent clipboard text – to the computer screen in front of you, over your Wi-Fi connection.

In fact, you don't even have to launch the app. Once it's installed. Roamit

appears among the other Share options (Tweet, 'Save to Drive' and so on) in your mobile browser or any other supported app. Roamit has released beta versions of Chrome and Firefox extensions for sending links back to your Android, but we couldn't get them to work – hopefully, just teething troubles.

You can also send photos, documents and other files from your device to your PC using the Roamit app, but that's where it starts to get frustrating. To share files, you have to install Roamit's Windows 10 app on your PC and go through the rigmarole of signing into your Microsoft account. You're then prompted to grant some hair-raising file-access permissions – after doing so already in the Android app. What's more, you can only share up to 5MB of data at once,

which rules out videos and large photos. To share more, you have to stump up a one-off fee of £1.29 via the Windows 10 app.

Welcome to Roamit!

Swipe to continue, or tap skip to skip the tutorial.

But once you've endured the palaver of signing in, and if you stick to sub-5MB files and web links, this app does work well. It's useful for continuing to read web pages on your PC that you started on your mobile, and you may find it a great help if your phone

screen is too fiddly for browsing websites.





· C

MINI WORKSHOP

Send content from your phone to your PC using Roamit

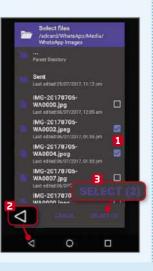
Install and launch
Roamit. Tap Skip, then
Sign In and enter your email
address followed by your
Microsoft account
password. Press Yes, then
Authorize, then Yes. Finally,
you'll arrive at the main
Roamit screen, which
displays other PCs and
devices connected to the
same Wi-Fi network
and the most recent web
link you copied to your
Android clipboard.



To open the web link in your PC's default browser, press Open This Link On The Device.
This automatically sends the link to the PC or other supported device at the top of the list. To move a device to the top, tap it.
The link opens instantly on the destination device. There's no need to install the Roamit Windows 10 app or browser extension.



To send a file from your Android device to your PC or vice versa, you'll need to install the Windows 10 app. Once that's done, tap Send File to open Roamit's file manager. Select a folder to see a tick-list of files inside it. 11 Tick one or more to select them, up to a total of 5MB. Tap Back to select more. 2 Finally, press Select. **B** When the transfer is done, you'll see a file-download notification on your PC.





Our rating



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

BOOKS

LibraryThing www.librarything

.com



Have you amassed so many books, records, DVDs and CDs over the years that you can never find the one vou're



looking for? If so, there are a couple of ways forward. Either alphabetise everything and obsessively maintain order or - and this is our preferred option - log your collection with LibraryThing, which uses data from Amazon and more than 65 million library records to help you virtually file your stuff and make it searchable.

Features include hi-res cover photos, wishlists and a barcode scanner. New to Android after a few months on iOS.



KIDS

SeeSaw seesawapp

.com

🆷 (varies with device) 9.3

If you're a parent, grandparent or childminder, and you've run out of ways to

keep the ankle-biters amused over summer, use this new app from Netmums (www.netmums.com) to find family-friendly days out and clubs in your local area. Search by location, age and interest to narrow down more than 140,000 activities - which also include activities for adults - then use the built-in calendar, maps and weather tools to get organised.

You have to sign in (you can use Facebook if you prefer) but it's completely free.



Our rating



NEW

Block WiFi Thief

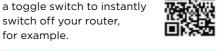
bit.ly/thief429 **4.0.3**

Are your neighbours piggybacking on your Wi-Fi? You can find out by using this tool, which



reveals details of all the devices connected to your home network and then lets you block freeloaders by changing your router settings. Block WiFi Thief is also useful for finding out which of your own home devices, such as smart TVs, may be slowing down your broadband. We found the scanner quick and easy to use, but we wish it provided a faster way to block intruders -

switch off your router,



for example. Our rating

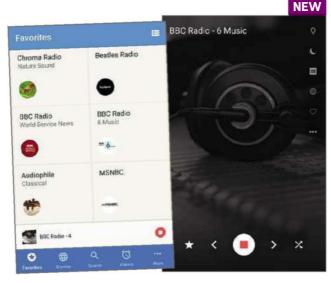
RADIO

Replaio Radio

Our rating

repla.io 4.0.3

Stream 30,000 radio stations - AM, FM, digital and online - from all over the world, then create lists of favourites and even playlists of songs you've heard. Start by searching for stations or browsing selections such as BBC Radio and 'Talk & News', plus curated lists such as Nature Pillow -



a collection of stations that can help you fall asleep. Then tap a station to start streaming. Everything you hear is saved in your Songs list from which you can then create playlists in Replaio or Spotify. You can also scrobble your listening to Last.fm and stream over Chromecast and Android Auto. Certain features, such as an alarm, a sleep timer and ad-free screens are reserved for Replaio Premium (£1.99 via in-app purchase).



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

SHOPPING

KReview

bit.ly/kreview429

(varies with device)

Spot bogus Amazon reviews using this new app, which uses data from the Fakespot website (fakespot.com). After you install KReview, go to the Amazon app or site on your device, find an item, tap Share and select 'Analyze reviews!' to run its listing through KReview's filter. A high grade (A or B) suggests most of its reviews are 'high quality' and trustworthy; C or

below advises greater scepticism. It's a great idea but the grades don't come with explanatory notes or evidence, so they could lead you to believe a product is poor when it's actually just garnered brief ('low-quality') reviews.







Our rating



VR

BBC Taster VR

bit.ly/bbcdroid429 bit.ly/bbcios429

4.4 10

The BBC's Taster service (www .bbc.co.uk/taster) lets you rate experimental content and this new app - created with virtual reality (VR) developer EEVO - focuses on VR content including 360 photos, 3D stereo sound and immersive videos. There's a wealth of content promised but currently there are only two items on offer: a BBC

Three documentary and a stunning clip from Planet Earth II. You have to download before viewing and the process is frustratingly slow then playback is temperamental. It all feels rather unfinished, sadly.





Our rating



NEW APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

TEXT TOOL

Text Converter Pro

bit.ly/text429

Price: 59p **4**

MUSIC

The Snail

Price: £1.99

bit.ly/snail429

Turn boring old text into ASCII, Morse code, reverse text, crossedout text and dozens more styles. This wonderful open-source app couldn't be easier to use: you simply type a word or phrase, choose an output style, then paste

See with your eyes what you hear

audio visualiser and instrument tuner. The new version (2.0)

different sounds and tracks.

with your ears using this fascinating

includes a guitar-tuning mode and

a split window, so you can compare

the results into other apps.





Price: £8.39

10 Mobile

Shred sensitive files using militarystandard technology so no one including you - can ever access the data again. Works on Windows 10 PCs, too.

DOCUMENTS

SignEasy

bit.ly/sign429

Price: From £5.99 after free trial

Sign documents without having to print anything. SignEasy supports multiple formats including PDF, Word and JPEG, and integrates with services such as Gmail and Dropbox.



REMOTE PC

GoToMyPC

https://get.gotomypc.com

Price: \$20 (£15.35) per month after free trial

1 2.3.3 **1** 7

Get instant access to your home network, files and programs

from anywhere in the world, plus 24/7 global support. From reputable remote-PC firm LogMeIn.





SECURITY

Quantom

bit.ly/quantom429

Text Converter Pro





The Snail



SignEasy



GoToMvPC



Quantom

UPDATED



Best New Mobile Games

UPDATED

Snoopy Pop

bit.ly/snoopy429 4.1 9



Everybody's favourite daydreaming beagle takes centre stage in this cute game, strategically popping coloured bubbles to set Woodstock and his avian pals free. Help is at hand from other members of the Peanuts gang, including Charlie Brown and his kite, and Linus and his blanket. As ever, there are power-ups to collect, obstacles to avoid and new worlds to unlock, but it's the adorable graphics and music, and familiar environments such as Lucy's Psychiatric Booth that

Our rating

make this a winner.



PUZZLE

4.1 6 7

Calculator: The Game

bit.ly/calcdroid429 bit.ly/calcios429



This calculator that "dared to become a game" achieves the impossible by making maths fun. Hosted by a cheerful character called Clicky, the aim is to reach a numerical target in the specified number of moves. It starts off easy - even we managed to get 2 by tapping the +1 button twice - but as things get trickier, you have to put all your mathematical powers into play. You get a free hint every day, with more available to buy as in-app purchases. It's

Our rating

extremely addictive and

educational to boot.



...Install this instead

NEW : QUIZ

Pictoword

bit.ly/pictodroid429 bit.ly/pictoios429





Look at the screenshot above: if you're instantly thinking "sandwich", you'll love this game in which you select letters to spell out a word that corresponds to the photo pairings. Some of the visual puns are very tricky so it's just as well the letters are provided. Correct answers win you coins, as do other achievements such as finishing a set number of puzzles or watching a video ad, and you can then use these to unlock hints or skip tough puzzles. It's fun to play

could be clearer. Our rating

but some of the images

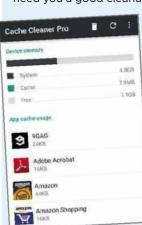


X Don't install...

Cache Cleaner Pro

bit.ly/cache429

If your phone is running out of space and you want to clear out some hidden junk, then you need you a good cleanup app. Sadly, this isn't



the one. It's very slow, looks dated and fails to perform its main job, which is to free up space on your phone or tablet. Although it (eventually) provides a quote for how much space it can clear, it fails to actually remove the junk files. Plus it costs 50p. Don't waste your money!

Norton Clean bit.lv/norton429

4.1

Most cleanup apps for Android phones and tablets are blighted by annoying ads and questionable permissions. Norton Clean is thankfully from a name you can trust (Symantec) and works like a dream. As soon as you install the app, it scans your device for junk files, shows you where they're located and tells you how much space you can save by deleting them all - which you can do with a single tap. Other features let you easily uninstall unwanted apps and get notifications when you're low on storage. It's not the most sophisticated cleanup tool but it's fast, friendly and ad-free.







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

Our guide to eSports

Fancy playing games for a living? David Crookes explains how you can make millions by becoming a professional eSports player

What are eSports?

As you can probably guess, eSports is short for electronic sports and describes the professional staging of competitive video gaming. It has rapidly grown in popularity over the last few years, attracting huge numbers of competitors and spectators, and now the launch of a new worldwide tournament looks set to catapult eSports into the mainstream.

How does it work?

Players compete in organised tournaments either as individuals or as part of a team. They play a particular game and try to beat their opponents, seeking to knock them out, reach the final and ultimately be crowned champion and handed a prize. As they do so, spectators watching at home or in large-capacity arenas cheer them on.

Who runs these tournaments?

The biggest organisation is the Electronic Sports League (ESL,

www.eslgaming.com) which not only operates professional international and national leagues and tournaments, but amateur competitions, too. Major games publisher Electronic Arts launched the EA Competitive Gaming Division in December 2015, while Take Two Interactive is set to launch the NBA 2K eLeague Overwatch is the gaming in 2018. The UK national body is the British Esports Association



ESL is where all the biggest eSports gaming stars come out to shine



Which games are involved?

The games span a range of genres but particular favourites include first-person

shooters such as Call of Duty,

Counter Strike, Quake and Battlefield, and sporting games such as FIFA and NBA 2K. Fighting games including Street Fighter and Super Smash Bros figure highly and many players knuckle down for realtime strategy games of StarCraft or multiplayer online battles within

League of Legends and Dota. However, the big one to check out is Overwatch, which is attracting a lot of interest.

What's so special about Overwatch?

sensation that's shaking

the eSports nation

Created by games developer Activision Blizzard, Overwatch has grown into a worldwide league of professional teams battling to clear objectives and take down opponents. The difference is that teams are not formed by players simply hooking up and competing. Instead,

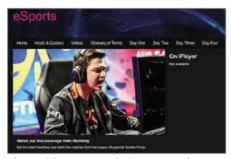
Overwatch League organises the teams geographically so that they represent cities. As such, there are Overwatch teams based in San Francisco. Seoul, Shanghai, Boston, New York and many other locations. The hope is that fans get behind a team in the same way as they would a local football or rugby club.



Cheer your local Overwatch team to global victory

Where can I view live Overwatch tournaments?

Currently, only in an eSports arena in Los Angeles, although it is possible to watch streams of matches online. This has proven to be a very successful model tens of thousands of people pack arenas across the world to watch eSport competitors, viewing the action on huge screens, while up to 320 million watch tournaments online. In the UK last year, the total eSports audience was 6.5 million). Matches have been screened by the BBC (bit.ly/bbcesports429), but



The BBC has screened eSports matches on BBC Three, of course

online streaming services such as Twitch (www.twitch.tv) - bought by Amazon in 2014 for \$970m (£744m) - are even more popular.

So there's big money in eSports?

You bet! Competitors may not be able to kick a real ball, but their earnings would make some footballers weep. Saahil Arora, from the USA, has won more than £2m from playing Dota 2 and the main eSports team in which he competes has earned in excess of £11m from hundreds of tournaments over the years. Indeed, prize pots consist of millions of pounds and the overall revenue from eSports is set to rise to £841m by 2019.

Where does the cash come from?

As with most sports, eSports draw cash from ticketing and advertising, along with broadcasting rights, sponsorship and various merchandising, food and drink sales. Overwatch team owners have to stump up an eye-watering £15.5m to take part but they'll earn 50% of the future earnings generated by the League for the games they are competing in. Activision Blizzard is also targeting major consumer brand sponsors.

Surely eSports won't be as popular as football?

Don't be so sure. Experts reckon it could eventually overtake traditional sports,



eSports are very lucrative, especially from the merchandising and food

if not in hearts and minds then certainly in revenue. It's no accident that Manchester City has begun signing up players of EA's FIFA football games, or that Paris Saint-Germain has a progaming team called PSG Esports (psgesports.com/accueil). FC Copenhagen has a Counter-Strike team and West Ham's number 50 - Sean 'Dragonn' Allen - is a professional FIFA player.

Shouldn't these people get out

Ooh, don't even go there. BBC Breakfast ran a segment on eSports in May this year, speaking to various players, but when presenter Sally Nugent quipped: "I really want them to just go outside and get some fresh air," she was criticised not only by gamers but by the head of Britain's gaming trade industry body, UKIE (ukie.org.uk), for compounding stereotypes. In truth, competitors train



French football club Paris Saint-Germain has its own eSports team

as hard as those taking part in traditional professional sports, given the exhausting nature of the games they play.

But it's not really a sport, is it?

Well, the Olympic Council of Asia (www .ocasia.org) says eSports will be a medal event at the 2022 Asian Games in China so yes, it is, especially given that these Games are recognised by the International Olympic Committee. The big problem is that the US doesn't consider it a legitimate sport and fails to recognise competitors as athletes. This has caused problems for players seeking

P-1 visas and makes it tricky for them to compete for cash. It's a bit of a mess with some competitors being approved and others not. But with the huge amounts of cash involved, there



eSports is a recognised Olympic sport, just like floorball and bandy

is confidence that the US will eventually classify eSports as a "proper" sport, giving it a huge boost.

Are competitors not tempted to cheat?

Some are. A German company called Bossland developed tools that let players of Blizzard games see other players' positions, health scores and other data. In April, it was ordered by a Californian court to pay Blizzard £6.8m for 42,818 counts of copyright infringement. In 2015, a top player admitted to using the stimulant Adderall during a competition in which \$250,000 of prize money was at stake, leading the ESL to implement an anti-doping policy.

HOW CAN I BECOME A PROFESSIONAL eSPORTS PLAYER?

Assuming you have a competitive streak, a desire to play games for a living and a good level of fitness (bashing buttons is tougher than you think), here's what to do

- Familiarise yourself with the most popular eSports games and go for one that you feel comfortable with - 30 million people play Overwatch so you'll be in good company if you play that one.
- Muster the drive to keep playing until vou become an expert in the gaming mechanics, bearing in mind that you'll be competing against players who dedicate up to 16 hours each and every day to their
- Work your way through grassroots tournaments or achieve greatness online in the hope of being noticed and invited to join a team. At this point, you'll need to be prepared to give up the day
- Get inspiration by visiting the pop-up eSports store in Shoreditch, London - the first of its kind, Fnatic Bunkr lets you play games, learn about eSports and at least attempt to look like a pro by buying branded merchandise.



Watch the Best LIVE STREAMS ONLINE

COVER FEATURE Wayne Williams rounds up the most interesting and entertaining new video streams you can watch live online, and reveals the best and most reliable ways to enjoy them

ith so much video content available and a vast array of devices to view it on, we're spoilt for choice for entertainment nowadays. DVDs are on the wane – in fact, most modern computers no longer even provide a built-in drive – and although millions of us still download movies and TV shows from the web, recent reports show that streaming is now the most popular method for viewing digital content.

It's easy to see why. Streaming live videos is now easier and faster than ever before with less of the buffering and freezes that used to make viewing over the web so frustrating.

In this feature, we pick the best content you can watch live online - legally, of course - ranging from Facebook and Twitter streams to webcams, live concerts, rocket launches, 360-degree videos, live gaming streams, classic TV marathons and more.

We also explain how to stream video smoothly in the best quality possible, and recommend the hardware you need to get the most from your streaming content.



Best Live Streams On The Web

There are loads of sites that let you stream live video, many of which you may not be aware of. Here, we pick our favourite ways to stream content in real time

SOCIAL STREAMING

Watch live videos on Facebook

Anyone can "go live" on Facebook. If you want to stream something, just tap the Live button under the status-update box in the Facebook mobile app. When someone you



know starts broadcasting, you should see a message to this effect.

If you want to just watch live streams – not necessarily from your own friends, but from around the world – Facebook has a dedicated section that caters for this. In the Facebook app, tap the three-line hamburger button in the bottom-right corner and select the 'Top live' option. You'll be presented with a scrolling list of live streams, with the top one playing automatically (complete with sound, so be warned!). As you scroll down the list, the current video will stop playing and the next one will start. You can switch to full-screen for any streams that grab your interest.

View local streams on Facebook Live

Facebook began rolling out live video streaming to all users worldwide last year, and while this makes it a fascinating resource for viewing far-flung locations around the globe, it's also useful and entertaining to see what's happening on your doorstep. Facebook now provides an interactive map that displays all the streams that you can tune into live. Access the map at bit.ly/fbmap429 and use the controls or the scrollwheel on your mouse to



zoom in and out. Live streams are marked as blue dots on the map and clicking one opens a pop-up window in which you can watch the video. As with other Facebook live streams, you can see the number of people watching at the same time as you.

Watch live 4K 360-degree video on Facebook

If you're a regular Facebook visitor, there's a good chance you'll have encountered live 360-degree video in your feed. The social network has now made it possible to broadcast and view this live content in 4K, and it also supports this resolution in streams viewed on a Samsung Gear VR. However, you can't yet use the Oculus Rift - Facebook's own VR device. To find out more about Live 360 video, visit bit.ly/360fb429.



Chat with friends during live streams

Viewing a live video on Facebook is even more fun if you can watch it with a friend and chat about what's happening on screen. Facebook recently introduced a feature called 'Live Chat with Friends', which lets you do exactly that. You can talk privately about a live public broadcast and invite friends who are already watching - or who you think might be interested - to join your conversation.

Join a live Facebook video

If a friend starts broadcasting a video on Facebook, they can invite you to join them in the stream – even if you're in totally different places. Called Live With, this feature lets you and a friend share the screen. Once the live stream has started, your friend just needs to select a guest from the Live Viewers section, or tap a comment from the viewer they

want to invite. The other person can choose whether or not they want to join the broadcast. If you're viewing a Live With stream from two people, you can watch it in portrait mode (for a picture-in-picture experience) or landscape mode (for a side-by-side display).

Catch live Instagram videos

Instagram users can stream videos live as part of the platform's Stories feature. Followers are informed whenever someone goes live, so you can tune in – although it's possible to turn off these notifications if you don't want to be bothered. Once a stream has ended, it will disappear from the app, unless the person broadcasting the video has tapped Save.

See 360-degree live-streams on Periscope

The Twitter-owned Periscope was one of the first services to offer live streaming on a social network but it took until late December last year to add live 360-degree videos to its provision. Live 360 videos are marked with a badge, indicating that you can change the point of view by moving your phone or tapping and scrolling around the screen.

Play live streams on YouTube

Anyone with a verified channel on YouTube can stream content live to their audience. To find a stream to watch, visit YouTube's Live page at bit.ly/ytlive429. The myriad sections to explore include Live Now, Recommended, Mobile Live Streams, Recent Mobile Live Streams, and Live Now Sports, Gaming, News, Technology and Animals.

Clicking or tapping Play All brings up a playlist of live content.



ENTERTAINMENT & SPORT

Watch live concerts on **Amazon Prime**

The many benefits of an Amazon Prime subscription include free next-day delivery and free streaming of TV, movies and music. Prime Subscribers can now also watch performances from major artists such as Robbie Williams and John Legend and buy tickets for these live events from bit.ly/prime429, although they aren't cheap. Tickets for Blondie, for example, cost from £150 each, but the venues are more intimate than your usual enormodome, so you're much nearer the performers than you would normally be. The performances aren't streamed live but you can watch them for free afterwards.

To avoid missing out on future live performances, you can subscribe to receive news about upcoming events.



Enjoy live concerts and playlists on LiveList

LiveList (www.livelist.com) lets you know when your favourite band or artist streams live, so you don't miss their



performance. It's also a great way to discover new music. Install the free app on your Android or iOS device, and you'll be able to see what's being streamed at any time. You can create your own lists of

favourites and search for specific live concerts, then tune in when it starts from wherever you are.

LiveList offers recommendations based on the type of artist or channel you follow so the more you follow, the better the suggestions should be.

Stream 360-degree 4K videos on YouTube

YouTube has supported 360-degree



videos since 2015, and introduced live 360-degree videos last year, starting with music and arts festivals and sporting events. It's now possible to stream these live immersive videos in 4K, which really takes you into the heart of the action.

Watch TV marathons on Twitch

Twitch (www.twitch.tv) is best known for streaming live gaming but it occasionally features TV content on its ShoutFactoryTV channel (www .twitch.tv/shoutfactorytv). It streamed a six-day Mystery Science Theater 3000 marathon (38 episodes) in June, and is planning to stream 123 episodes of the Eighties video-arcade gameshow Starcade in late August. An Events tab on the ShoutFactoryTV channel keeps you informed about future live TV marathons.



Stream live games on Mixer

In an effort to compete with Twitch, Microsoft bought the Beam platform in August 2016 and rebranded it Mixer (mixer.com). You can watch games streamed live on the website and check out up-and-coming streams. Microsoft says its streaming is closer to real-time than those offered by other platforms, and gamers can stream directly from Windows 10 PCs and Xbox One. You can watch streams on the web, as well as on Android and iOS devices, once you've installed the free Mixer app.



Enjoy live sport on Twitter

All the major social networks are scrambling to offer top-quality live video to their users, including Twitter which recently signed new deals to stream several sports leagues. It's so far streamed Wimbledon highlights and clips, a live weekly show from the Canadian Football League and 19 games for the 2017-18 season from the National Women's Hockey League (NWHL), as well as American football and baseball games from the MLB. You can see what's coming up and watch live content at bit.ly/twittersports429.



Watch live sports in virtual reality

Intel True VR, available free for the Gear VR (bit.ly/intelvr429), streams US sports including Major League Baseball (MLB) matches, live and direct to the Samsung Gear VR headset. A deal with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will allow Intel to stream live from both the future winter and summer Olympics.



Watch live news in virtual reality

Earlier this year, CNN launched CNNVR (bit.ly/cnnvr429) - a virtual-reality platform within CNN Digital that covers major news events in 360-degree video. It can be viewed on the web, through CNN's iOS and Android apps, or on VR headsets such as Samsung Gear VR, Oculus Rift and Google Daydream.



Watch the Best Live Streams Online

Despite promising loads of live content, CNNVR doesn't have many live streams, but there's plenty of 360-degree content to enjoy, much of it in the archives. The CNN app also provides you with the option to tune into the broadcaster's live news videos.

Sing along to music videos with friends

Vevo (www.vevo.com) is an excellent resource for high-quality music videos but it also has a fun feature called

Watch Party (www.vevo.com/party) that lets you build a video playlist with your friends, watch it together and chat at the same time - all from different locations, but entirely in sync. You can choose the videos to play yourself or build the playlist in collaboration with your friends, and can join other people's Watch Parties.

In addition, there's Watch Party Live, which lets fans join playlists created by artists and interact with them while the videos play.



AROUND THE WORLD

Watch live feeds on Google Earth

Google Earth received a huge update earlier this year, which means you can now run it in your browser (so long as you use Chrome). Earth's interactive storytelling platform, Voyager, delivers live content, and its first offering was live webcam footage from the Katmai National Park in Alaska (bit.ly/earth429). You can - at the time of writing, at least - still enjoy this live footage, which features brown bears dining on darting salmon. Expect more fascinating streams from around the world to be made available soon.



Stream from space with NASA

NASA streams a lot of content live, including rocket launches, ISS resupply missions and even colourful cloud experiments. These aren't just everyday live streams, either - in April, the space agency streamed the first 360-degree video of a rocket launch filmed just 300 feet away from the craft. NASA airs regularly scheduled, pre-recorded programming live, too. The best place to tune into this live content is NASA's YouTube channel at bit.ly/nasa429.



Watch live webcams from around the world

EarthCam's website (www .earthcam.com) may look a bit dated but there's no arguing with the quality of the content. It offers a vast number of live webcams from around the world, so you can see what's happening in any country in real time. Select any of the options from the Live Webcam Network, which includes Paris, Toronto, Chicago, and Times Square in New York; browse the Editor's Choice, Popular, Top Ten or New sections; and check out categories such as Entertainment, Animals & Zoos, Weird and Bizarre. Traffic. Weather and Personal. You can also use the map to browse webcams of the world.

Tuning into the different live webcams can get quite addictive, and you'll soon build up a collection of your favourites. The quality these days is excellent.



See animals up close in real time

If you live in a city, you probably don't get to see much wildlife aside from pigeons and maybe the occasional rat. Simon King Wildlife (bit.ly/wildlife429) brings you a lot closer to nature by letting you spy on the UK's wild-animal population via webcams. There are several live cameras to choose from (as well as video highlights from the feeds), including Badger Feeder Cam, Bat Cam,



Fox Family Cam, Lake Cam and Mini Critter Cam. Superb positioning of the cams means you're sure to see something interesting if you wait a few minutes.

Watch your home over the internet

A decent home-security camera will let you tune into its feed, live from any location. This is handy if you're out at work or away on holiday and want to make sure everything's okay at home. Dedicated security cameras come with their own software, but if you're just repurposing a webcam as a security hub, then a tool such as Angelcam (www.angelcam.com) will suffice. It's a simple web-based service that works with most cameras and lets you tune in live over the web or on a smartphone or tablet. iSpy (www.ispyconnect.com) is also very good: it works with unlimited cameras and offers a wealth of advanced features.



Improve Your Live Streaming

Nothing ruins a live stream like a poor connection that keeps buffering, crashing or displaying video in such poor quality that you can't see what's going on. Here's how to ensure smooth streaming

Free up your bandwidth

These days, there are all manner of devices competing to use your internet connection, including computers, games consoles, phones, tablets, set-top boxes, smart TVs, wearables and any number of smart home devices. When streaming content, make sure you

disable as many of these potential connection-leeching devices as possible, and don't download (or upload) large files at the same time as trying to stream content.

For UHD 4K streaming, you'll need to be able to comfortably download at a rate of at least 25Mbps.

Go wired when streaming

Most of us access the internet over a wireless connection, but using wired Ethernet (where possible) will deliver faster streaming speeds and a more solid connection than Wi-Fi. Most smart TVs and streaming devices, such as Amazon Fire TV and Apple TV, have

BEST DEVICES FOR LIVE STREAMING

Provided you have a reliable and fast internet connection, any webenabled device will be able to stream high-quality live video. But to get the most from it, you should consider the following options

Best monitor

If you regularly watch streams that pack in lots of onscreen content such as a live gaming feed on Twitch, which displays a chat window alongside the video - then you'll want a monitor that's large enough to comfortably show all the elements. A 24in screen will be fine.

If you want to watch 4K live streams, you'll need a screen capable of that resolution (3,840 x 2160 pixels), but be aware that this costs a lot more. If you're not particularly bothered about 4K streams, the 24in ASUS VG248QE (bit.ly/asus429) is a good choice and will set you back around £240 on Amazon.



Best tablet

Generous screen size coupled with portability makes tablets ideal for watching video, but their limited storage means they are better suited



to streaming content than downloading it. If you're an Android fan, the Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 (bit.ly/tab429) is available in 8in or 9.7in screen sizes, and costs from around £283. For Apple fans, the 10.5in iPad Pro (bit.ly/ ipad429) costs from £769 for Wi-Fi only, or £899 if you want a cellular connection for streaming while away from home.

Best phone

The bigger a phone's screen size, the better it is for watching video. The Samsung Galaxy S8 - or better



yet, the larger S8+ - has an excellent screen with eye-popping colours. If you want to stream games from it - to Twitch, Facebook or YouTube - you can do so using the Game Live app which is available to download from Samsung's Galaxy Apps store. Unlocked, you can buy the Galaxy S8 (www.samsung. com/uk) for £689. You can get an even better deal as part of a contract.

Best VR headset

If you enjoy playing video games and money is no object, then a proper high-end VR setup like the Oculus Rift is worth a look. However, if you own a Samsung smartphone, then you should definitely get the Gear VR, which is powered by Oculus (bit.ly/gearvr429). It costs around £119 and gives you access to loads of VR content, including live 360-degree streams.



Best TV

Smart TVs have streaming features built in and let you download and install third-party streaming apps such as YouTube and Netflix. The TV you choose will depend on a wealth of factors, such as size, price and preferred operating system, but it's worth getting a 4K-compatible model so you can watch the UHD content offered by the likes of YouTube, Amazon Prime Video and Netflix, and other sources in the future. Our sister site Expert Reviews has a round-up of the best current deals on 4K smart TVs at bit.lv/4ksmart429.



Watch the Best Live Streams Online



Ethernet ports built in. Unfortunately, smaller devices such as the Fire TV Stick and Google Chromecast don't.

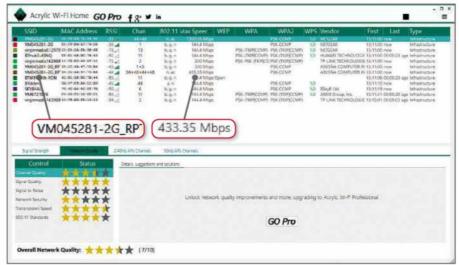
Upgrade your Wi-Fi

If you can't use Ethernet, make sure your wireless router is capable of delivering fast Wi-Fi speeds. It should, preferably, support the IEEE 802.11ac standard, which offers much faster transfer rates over greater distances. The devices that you watch your streams on will need to also support IEEE 802.11ac.

Test your wireless speeds

You can test the speed of your wireless network and identify weak Wi-Fi spots in your home using OOKLA Speedtest (www.speedtest.net). Install the app on your phone or tablet (or use the web version on your laptop) and run the test. It's worth running it at different times of day - and in different locations around your home - to get a reliable average.





live streaming

You Tube

For a really quick speed test, you can use Netflix's own Fast tool (www.fast .com), which runs automatically to give you an instant measurement.

Change your wireless channel

Wireless routers transmit on different channels. If you and your neighbours are all broadcasting on the same channel, it can negatively impact your Wi-Fi signal. Use the Acrylic Wi-Fi Home

(www.acrylicwifi.com) scanner to find the best, least congested channel.

Adjust Quality of Service

Some advanced routers offer a QoS (Quality of Service) setting that lets you prioritise certain types of web traffic - such as streaming video - over others. Log into your router's settings (check the manual or look on the router itself for instructions on how to do this) and look for a QoS option.

Configure your streaming service

Each streaming service - including Netflix, YouTube and Amazon Prime Video - will automatically adjust its quality based on your internet speed, but you may be able to manually adjust the settings yourself if you're not happy with the result. In YouTube, click the cog button under the video and change the quality there. For other streaming services, look to see if there's a quality option anywhere in settings.





Free WYSIWYG online site builders

It's now cheaper and easier than ever to build a website, and plenty of services provide all the tools you need for free.

Andy Shaw tests six free WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) tools to see which one offers the best results



Wix | www.wix.com | ★★★★★

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

What we liked:

WebUser GOLD AWARD

Wix is a veteran of online site-building tools and it's also the service that's putting the most time and effort into innovation. Its most

recent addition - an app-building tool - is still in beta, but you can read about it in Build a Better Site on page 18.

Wix provides two ways to design a site: there's an ADI (Artificial Design Intelligence)

system, which designs a site based on your responses to a series of questions about your personal tastes; or you can use its more standard Editor, which gives you more control over your site but may take you longer to get started.

The site-builder is flush with tools but its excellent layout and organisation ensure you won't be overwhelmed. For example, most of the elements on a page are contained in boxes: just click one to display a row of buttons for editing and even animating its contents.

Page items such as text boxes can be edited directly on the page, in full WYSIWYG style. The side menu provides all the tools you need in a series of trays that pop out when you



it easy to tell what each option does.

Everything about Wix just works. We particularly liked the blog creator, which doesn't just create new text pages for you to fill but sets up a database of posts that can be easily edited and organised.

How it can be improved:

Wix offers a generous range of tools for free but you're reminded that there are premium versions available. The basic free site only comes with 500MB of storage and 500MB of monthly bandwidth (the amount of downloading that your visitors can do on your site). Free sites also show

adverts promoting Wix to visitors, though they're far from obtrusive, appearing as a small but ever-present tag in the top-right corner.

OUR VERDICT

Wix occasionally taps you on the shoulder to remind you of its superior paid-for service, but the free offering is generous enough. Its site-creation tools are brilliant, with loads of templates to choose from, and Wix's continued development puts it at the forefront of site-building innovation.

Jimdo | www.jimdo.com | ★★★★☆

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

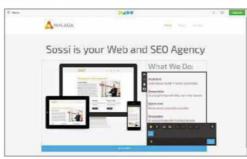
What we liked:

Jimdo provides a modest number of templates for creating a standard website, web store or blog. However, there's also a blank template, which

allows you free rein to create something completely original.

The free version of Jimdo provides you with 500MB of storage space, 2GB of bandwidth and a www.[yoursite].jimdo.com website address. For a very reasonable £5 per month, you can upgrade the storage to 5GB, the bandwidth to 10GB and get extra tools for site statistics, search-engine optimisation and widgets.

Jimdo's system is genuinely WYSIWYG. The workspace displays how your final page will look, highlighting the element you're editing by surrounding it with a black border. The tool icons on offer vary depending on what kind of element you're editing. Clicking one lets you perform its action - editing text, for example - directly on the page.



How it can be improved:

Jimdo has fewer options and tools than Wix, particularly in its selection of templates and add-ons. This restricts your choices when designing and building your website, though it's not missing anything essential.

OUR VERDICT

We love how Jimdo lets you edit your site as if you were making changes to the page itself. Its black border system isn't particularly attractive but you certainly won't lose track of what you're editing. There's a bit of a learning curve but it's a clever, effective system.

BEST OF THE REST

Yola

www.yola.com

Yola certainly looks the part and its 16 templates ooze sophistication and simplicity. The free version has a tiny bit of Yola branding at the bottom of the page, inviting other people to use the software to make their own site for free, but we can forgive the intrusion since it's so subtle. When it comes to the crunch, though, it's not as easy to use as our three award winners.



DoodleKit

www.doodlekit.com

DoodleKit only offers 100MB of storage in its free version, which is too limited. The Simple upgrade provides 3GB of storage but the price jumps to a monthly \$10 (around £7.67). Its website templates have an old-fashioned look and they don't shrink to fit the screens of mobile devices.



SiteBuilder

www.sitebuilder.com

SiteBuilder's clean design and many templates make it look promising, but there are lots of limitations in the free version that nag you to upgrade. For example, it blocks you from performing even basic actions such as clicking the mobile preview button to see what your site will look like on a smaller screen.



Weebly | www.weebly.com | ★★★★☆

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

Web BRONZE

What we liked:

Weebly is a welldesigned tool that lets you edit directly on the page you're designing. Simply drag the type of element you

want to use (text, image, map, slideshow) to the page, then click it to fill it with content. It certainly makes building your website very simple.

The basic service provides 500MB of storage and displays ads from Weebly. You can get rid of these by upgrading to the Starter package for a monthly \$8 (around £6), for which you get unlimited storage and a range of extra options, including a bespoke domain name.

The free service includes a selection of templates, some of which are designed for businesses and others that are more suitable for personal blogs and other non-commercial sites.

How it can be improved:

The drag-and-drop design is convenient but it's not always accurate: dropping



elements above or below other items is straighforward but it starts to get fiddly if you want them side by side. The charcoal-coloured buttons are functional but make the interface look a bit gloomy and dull.

.....

OUR VERDICT

There's lots to like about Weebly, particularly if you want to produce a great-looking website in a relatively short space of time, and are happy to simply fill the blanks in a preset template. It's not so great if you want to fine-tune your layout, though.

Stop boomerang junk coming back <<<

Some stubborn software keeps reinstalling no matter what you do to remove it. Robert Irvine explains how to prevent persistent pests from boomeranging back

Stop junk Chrome extensions reinstalling

It's easy to uninstall extensions in Chome: either right-click the toolbar icon and select 'Remove from Chrome'; or click the menu button, choose 'More tools', Extensions and click the dustbin icon next to the offending item. But some stubborn add-ons refuse to be removed permanently in this way and try to reinstall themselves when you next launch Chrome. We've experienced this problem with McAfee WebAdvisor and PropertyWizza, for example.

To make matters worse, extensions don't usually appear in the Windows Control Panel's 'Uninstall or change a program' section, which means you could be stuck with them constantly 'boomeranging' back into your browser. Fortunately, there's a solution: open Chrome's Extensions page, tick the 'Developer mode' box at the top and you'll notice that an ID number and other details appear below each add-on. Look for a 'Loaded from' entry below the unwanted extension, which tells you its location, then find that



Find out where a rogue extension is loading from and delete that folder



The Chrome Cleanup Tool removes persistent PUPs from the browser

folder on your hard drive – it's usually something like C:\ProgramData\ iodfjkodegnfidngbfdgsjdsk\ – and delete it. This should stop the add-on reinstalling itself.

If you can't see a 'Loaded from' entry, try running the official Chrome Cleanup Tool (bit.ly/cleanup429), which finds and removes potentially unwanted programs (PUPs) that cause problems in the browser, including infamous pests SearchProtect, SmartWeb and Conduit. This tool isn't particularly thorough, but it's fast, free, easy to use and certainly worth a try.

Remove adware and other PUPs permanently

Any security software worth its salt will detect and remove adware and other annoying junk along with more dangerous threats, but because its main target is malware, it won't always scour deep enough to stop the pests reactivating themselves when you next start your computer. Step forward Malwarebytes AdwCleaner (bit.ly/adwcleaner429), which is specifically

designed to find and blitz adware, PUPs, toolbars, hijackers and other unwanted elements that keep coming back.



Malwarebytes Adwcleaner is an effective way to prevent boomerang junk

AdwCleaner couldn't be easier to use - simply click the Scan button to locate junk, then click Clean to remove the selected items. You need to close all other programs and restart your PC to complete the clean-up process, but that's a small price to pay for giving junk the heave-ho. The software keeps logs of every scan to show you what it found and where, and lets you delete leftover traces and restore altered settings that



Remove leftover settings and reset changes to stop pests coming back

Stop boomerang junk

could allow PUPs to sneak back in.

Coincidentally, a new version of AdwCleaner has just been released see our Best Free Software section on page 26 to find out what's new.

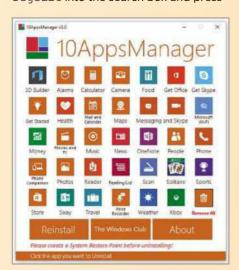
Prevent Windows 10 apps from reinstalling

Many Windows 10 users have found that unwanted apps they've removed mysteriously reappear when they restart their PCs or install the latest update for the operating system. This happens most frequently with pre-installed promotional apps such as 3D Builder, Get Office and Candy Crush Saga. There are a few solutions you can try to prevent this unwanted reinstallation - with varying degrees of difficulty.

The easiest way to banish preinstalled apps is to use the free program 10AppsManager (bit.ly/10apps429). This tool lists every app that's built into Windows 10 and lets you uninstall them with a single click. There's no guarantee they won't reinstall in future, though.

A better option is to delete the app's package from the operating system, to stop it boomeranging back (you can reinstall it manually if you choose). Type PowerShell into the search box and press Enter to run the command. When Windows PowerShell opens, type the command Get-AppxPackage to see all the apps you have installed. Locate the app you want to banish permanently and note or copy its package name - for example 'king.com. CandyCrushSaga 1.93.1400.0 x86 kgqvnymyfvs32'. Type the command Remove-AppxPackage followed by the package name, and press Enter to get rid of the app for good.

Alternatively, you can tweak the Registry to stop Windows 10 downloading apps automatically. Type regedit into the search box and press



10AppsManager lets you remove preinstalled apps with a single click



Tweak the Registry to prevent Windows 10 from reinstalling junk apps

Enter, then navigate to the key HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\ SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\ CurrentVersion\WindowsStore\ WindowsUpdate

In the right-hand pane, you should see a value called AutoDownload - if not. right-click, choose New, DWORD (32-bit) Value and create one. Doubleclick the value and set it to '2' to stop apps installing without your permission. You can still install them manually.

You should always create a restore point before making any changes to the Registry.

Don't let bad updates boomerang back

Windows updates aren't technically 'junk', but they've been known to cause performance problems in Windows 10 and if you remove them to get your PC working properly again, they simply

reinstall themselves. Microsoft provides a troubleshooter that temporarily prevents drivers from reinstalling until a fix is available, which you can download from bit.ly/ update429.

Open the file, click Next. then choose 'Hide updates'. Select the updates that you don't want to install, then click Next to apply your choices.

If you later decide that you need those updates, run the troubleshooter again and select 'Show hidden updates'. Alternatively, you can toggle all Windows updates off and on as you please using the excellent free Windows Update Blocker (bit.ly/blocker429). This has a Protect Service Settings option that stops the operating system overriding your update block.

To undo the bad updates in the first place, open the Control Panel, go to 'Programs and Features', 'View installed updates', then right-click an update and choose Uninstall.



You can stop Windows 10 reinstalling updates that cause you problems

STOP ANDROID APPS REINSTALLING THEMSELVES

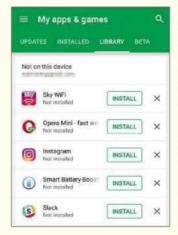
If you've just bought a new Android phone or tablet, or you're planning to perform a factory reset of your current device, the last thing you want is useless apps you've installed in the past reinstalling themselves automatically on your fresh operating system. You can stop this happening by declining the option to restore your apps and data, but this means you won't get the apps you do want and will lose your precious contacts.

To solve this problem, you should remove all unwanted apps from your Google account before you set up your new device or run the factory reset. Annoyingly, you can't do this through your Desktop browser. Instead, open the Google Play app on your old phone or tablet, tap the menu button and choose 'My apps & games'. On the Installed tab, review every app on the current device, tap any you

don't want and press Uninstall. Next, select the Library tab to see apps you've installed across all your Android devices in the past and tap the 'X' next to any items you have no wish to reinstall.

You'll probably find several entries you don't even recognise, either because you've forgotten about them or they were installed by other apps.

·_____



Delete Android apps from your Google account to stop them reinstalling

Play retro games on any device



It's never been easier to play classic games from the Seventies, Eighties and Nineties. **Edward Munn** shows you how to get your fix of video-game nostalgia on your PC, smartphone or tablet

Sonic the Hedgehog and other classic Sega games

Sega has made its 1991 classic Sonic the Hedgehog available to play for free as part of its Sega Forever (forever.sega .com) collection, along with other retro titles including Virtua Tennis Challenge, Altered Beast and Kid Chameleon. The games have been released for Android and iOS devices, and you can compete with other players on online leaderboards and even use an external Bluetooth controller if you don't like using fiddly onscreen controls.



Sega says it plans to reintroduce "nearly every Sega game ever released from every console era", so it's worth checking the site regularly to see what's been added. The only major downside to providing the titles for free is that

they're supported by intrusive ads, but buying the premium versions for just £1.99 each removes these and also unlocks the option to play offline, which is ideal when you want to play on the go and don't have a reliable network connection. You might think that playing on a small screen would be very fiddly, but we were impressed



by the swipe gestures Sega has developed for Virtua Tennis, and there's a handy guide to help you get to grips with them quickly.

Super Mario Run

Nintendo's first smartphone app, Miitomo, launched in 2015, but it was an avatar-based social-networking app rather than a game, so anyone looking for their fix of classic Nintendo



characters was left disappointed. That changed with the release of Super Mario Run, a brilliant game for iOS (bit.ly/ smario429) and Android (bit.ly/smarioa429) starring the iconic Italian plumber.

To make Mario easier to control on touchscreen devices, Nintendo decided that he should run

automatically. We were sceptical about this at first, but it has enabled Nintendo to create some spectacular gameplay. As in the Super Mario games of old, the aim is to reach the flag at the end of each level, collecting coins on your way, and there isn't a moment of the game that isn't enjoyable. The only catch is that you need to pay £9.99 to unlock anything after the four levels in World 1, but we think it's worth every penny. One other slight gripe is that there's no offline mode, so you'll need to have a network connection at all times.

Nintendo has promised to release two or three mobile games a year, so we expect to see the return of more classic characters soon, hopefully including a Legend of Zelda game.

Tomb Raider

Believe it or not, Tomb Raider celebrated its 20th birthday last year. Now, thanks to open-source developer XProger, you can play a remake of the original release in your web browser at bit.ly/openlara429. The aptly named OpenLara looks and feels just like the 1996 game that was released for PC, PlayStation and Sega Saturn, but it has been modernised with higher frame

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Play retro games on any device



BUY A RETRO GAMES CONSOLE

The best way to play retro games is to use the original console with its purpose-built controller. If you don't have a collection of vintage games machines boxed up in the attic, the good news is that some manufacturers have decided to relaunch their classic consoles.

Nintendo launched its NES Classic Mini last year, although it quickly sold out, leaving many fans disappointed. Now the company is getting ready to release the SNES Classic Mini (bit.ly/ snes429) in the US and Europe on 29 September, loaded with 21 classic games including The Legend of Zelda and Super Mario Kart. Several retailers including Amazon, Game and Argos were accepting pre-orders until they too became oversubscribed, but Nintendo promises there will be no availability problems this time.

To rival the SNES Classic Mini, AtGames is releasing its Sega Genesis Flashback console in September, It comes with an impressive 85 titles built in, including games from the Sonic and Mortal Kombat series, and also has a cartridge port that supports most Sega Genesis and

Mega Drive cartridges. If your original console no longer works but you kept the games in the hope of playing them again one day, you're in luck.

After emerging from bankruptcy in 2014. Atari has announced a comeback

Relive an iconic era of video games!

with the Ataribox, a console for playing both classic and modern games. We don't have any information on games, prices or release dates, so you'll have to wait for further details

......



rates and the option to play in firstperson view. To see the controls, simply press H and a guide appears. In no time, you'll be drawing Lara Croft's dualhandguns to tackle fierce wolves, bears and bats, and swimming through underwater tunnels. The game even works in a mobile web browser, although trying to use the fiddly touch-based controls is probably more trouble than it's worth. Unfortunately, the developers haven't yet recreated the entire game, so you can only play the City of Vilcabamba level (Level 2). However, OpenLara is still very much under development, so expect to see more updates in the future. The easiest way to follow the project's progress is to check the Tomb Raider forums at bit.ly/tombraider429.

Pacman, Space Invaders and other arcade classics

Remakes of a range of arcade games from the Seventies and Eighties, including Space Invaders, Pac-Man and Galaga, were released earlier this year through Facebook's 'Instant Games on Messenger', allowing you to play against your friends on your phone, tablet or PC without installing any software.

To play a classic game in the Facebook Messenger app, open a conversation with the person you want to challenge, then tap the '+' button and select Games. Tap the game you want to play and select Play Now. If you're playing from your web browser, you'll see a

button to 'Play a game' in the chat window. Click this, then click the Play button next to the game you want to play. In most cases, you'll be invited to take your first turn and your opponent will then receive a message challenging them to beat your score. It's great fun if you can't spare large chunks of time to play games but you still want to challenge friends online.



Almost every classic console game

If you're beginning to regret selling all your old consoles, the easiest way to get your fix of classic games from the Eighties and Nineties, including Tetris, Super Mario, Donkey Kong, Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time and the Pokemon series for Game Boy, is to use an online emulator such as



those available at emulator.online and emulatoronline.com. The games are grouped by console and, as long as you have Flash installed and enabled, you can start playing in your browser at the click of a button. Both sites even let you save your progress, which should help you finally complete those games you didn't quite manage to conquer all those years ago.

A range of other classic titles including Sim City, Street Fighter, Prince of Persia and Bust-A-Move can also be found online at bit.ly/ archive429.



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3	8	EE: Broadband	£28.50 (£21.00 for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	wunlimited	£252.00
4	Virgin media	Virgin: Broadband	£40.00 (£29.00 for 12 months)	12 months	50Mbps max speed	wullimited	£348.00

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

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Take a Screen Break

Give your eyes a rest from your computer by taking our fortnightly challenges. Can you guess our pop-act emoji and solve our word puzzle?

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CAN YOU GUESS THE BANDS & SINGERS FROM THE EMOJI?



WEB USER WORD PUZZLE

Enter the answers in the grid to reveal a tech-related term in the highlighted column

- Queen of the Iceni tribe, lived AD30 - 61
- Dog with black or brown spots on a white coat
- Game of Thrones continent
- 4 Capital of Romania
- 5 Biscuit named after 19th-century Italian general
- US actress, star of Arrival and Nocturnal Animals (3,5)
- Scottish cyclist, won three gold medals at the 2008 Olympics (5,3)
- Glastonbury 2017 headline act (2,7)

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COMPETITIONS

WIN A... iFi nano iOne

The iFi nano iOne is a convenient, high-quality digital audio hub that can boost sound quality from all manner of digital devices, including smartphones, tablets, PCs, Macs, TVs,

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Master PixIr Editor's tools

PixIr is a high-quality image editor that works in your web browser. Here's how to get the most from some of its advanced features

Pixlr Editor: pixlr.com | @ 20 mins | Any browser

ixlr Editor is the advanced, more sophisticated big brother of Pixlr Express and it won the Gold Award in Issue 427's round-up of best free online image editors (bit.ly/webuser427). It offers a lot of high-end tools such as levels, layers, masks and a spot-heal tool that you wouldn't ordinarily expect to find in a free online image editor.

Although it runs in your web browser, you'll be hard pushed to tell the difference between this and a regular image-editing program such as Photoshop Elements or Paint.net, especially if you use full-screen mode. The downside is that it displays adverts, but these are relatively unobtrusive and you can close them if you wish.



The opening splash screen lets you create a new image (from scratch or from the clipboard), a open an image stored on your computer, a import a picture from another website or open an image from a library (such as PixIr or Facebook). Close the splash screen by clicking the 'X' in the top-right corner.



PixIr Editor's interface looks like any normal image editor, with a toolbox on the left, 1 a menu bar above 2 and Navigator, Layers and History panels on the right. 3 You can zoom in and out of your image using your mouse's scroll wheel, the Navigator slider 4 or the Zoom tool. 5





PixIr offers a large selection of effects that you can apply to your images, accessible via the Filter menu. 1 These include blurs and sharpens, noise and deformation filters, art and colour effects, and edge-based selections. 2 Most of these effects don't have any settings but some can be tweaked using sliders. 3



There are more filters available to apply under Adjustment, 1 including Sepia, Old Photo and Posterize. You can adjust the brightness, contrast, hue, saturation and colour balance from this menu, too, and automatically correct an image's tonal range and colour balance by clicking 'Auto levels'. 2



For finer control, there's a manual Levels option. The Input levels histogram has black (shadows), grey (midtones) and white (highlights) sliders to change the appearance of your image. There are black and white sliders under the Output levels which set the darkest and lightest tones in the image.





PixIr also supports layers - separate image pieces layered on top of each other. To add a layer, Click the New Layer button 11 in the side panel (or open the Layer menu 2 and select New Layer). You can paint or draw on the layer or paste in a separate image, without making changes to the original picture.



The Layer menu also lets you open an image as a layer. 11 All layers are shown in the right-hand panel. 2 Double-click one to change its name. You can adjust the opacity of a layer by clicking the Toggle Layer Settings button 🖪 and using the slider. 🛂 Unticking a layer will hide it. 5



You can create advanced composite images using layer masks. Select a layer in the panel and go to Layer, 'Add layer mask'. 11 The contents of that layer will no longer be displayed in the main window. Select the paintbrush tool 2 and you can paint hidden elements back in. 🖪 When done, select 'Apply layer mask'. 4



Create a hidden, encrypted partition on your hard drive

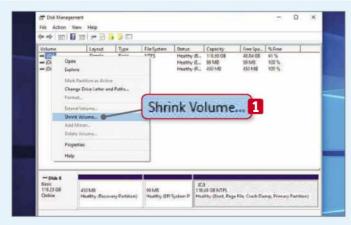
any tools that offer to password-protect partitions on your hard drive won't encrypt any data, which means your private photos, documents and other sensitive files are left vulnerable to hackers and snoops. In this Workshop, we show you how to create a new partition using Windows' built-in tools, then apply industry-standard encryption to it using VeraCrypt. This protects your data against even the most advanced attacks, so you can be certain that (unless someone knows your password) your protected files won't end up in the wrong hands.

For especially sensitive files, we show you how to go a step further and create a hidden volume on the encrypted partition. Would-be attackers will have no way of knowing the hidden volume exists, even if they obtain the password to the outer volume. There's no better way to store your sensitive files and once you've created the hidden volume, accessing it is as quick and easy as any other encrypted partition.

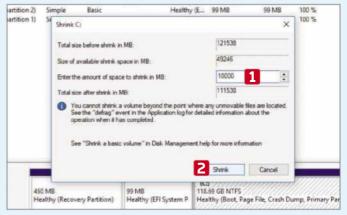


EXPERT TIP

To decrypt a partition, right-click it from This PC in File Explorer, then select Format and Start. Doing this will delete any files you have stored on the partition. To remove the partition altogether, right-click it from Disk Management and select Delete Volume.



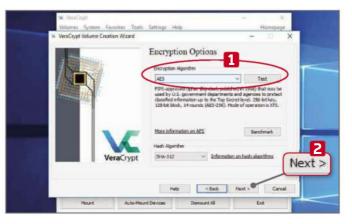
Click Start and type disk management, then click 'Create and format hard disk partitions'. Right-click the hard drive on which you want to create a partition, then select Shrink Volume. 1 The wizard shows the total drive size and the available shrink space.



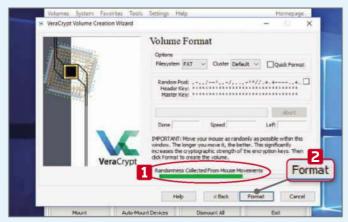
The 'Enter the amount of space to shrink in MB' box 1 automatically contains the maximum amount of space, but you should adjust this to a smaller number before clicking Shrink. 2 After making space for your new partition, click the drive again and right-click the area marked Unallocated before choosing New Simple Volume.



Follow the wizard to create a new partition. When it's finished, run VeraCrypt and select Create Volume, then 'Encrypt a non-system partition/drive'. Click Next, then Standard VeraCrypt Volume (not Hidden VeraCrypt Volume) before clicking Next again. Now, choose Select Device, 1 then click your newly created partition 2 and OK.



Leave 'Create encrypted volume and format it' ticked, click Next and leave the default encryption options selected before clicking Next. Click Next again and enter a volume password. This can be shorter than the one you create for the hidden volume (see step 9), but should still be unique and difficult for anyone to guess.



Click Next and Yes if VeraCrypt warns that your password is too short. Then select the appropriate options when asked if you intend to store files larger than 4GB on the volume. Click Next again, then move your cursor around on the Window to improve the strength of the encryption keys. 1 Choose Format 2 and Yes.

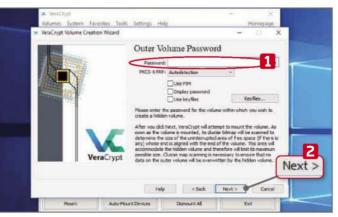


Click OK twice, then select Exit. Select any drive letter in the list, then choose Auto-Mount Devices. Enter your password in the appropriate box and click OK. Once mounted, double-click the volume 1 to open it in File Explorer. If you only want to create a password-protected partition, you can now start using this encrypted volume as you please.

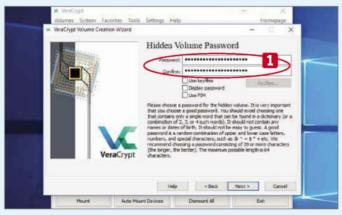


To create a hidden partition, add some files to the outer volume (use files that appear sensitive/private but you aren't worried about someone getting their hands on).

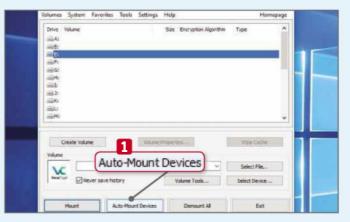
Select Dismount All, (2) then click Create Volume. Select 'Encrypt a non-system partition/drive', then click Next and Hidden VeraCrypt Volume. Choose 'Direct mode', then Next again.



Click Select Device, pick your new partition, then click OK and Next. Enter the password to mount the volume, then click Next then click Next three times. Choose the size of your hidden volume, allowing enough space for more files to be written to the outer volume (in case someone tries to do this), and click Next again.



Now enter a very secure password 1 for the hidden volume – ideally 20 characters or more – and follow the wizard as before, clicking Format when prompted. Click OK, read the warning that explains not to write any more files to the outer volume – to avoid overwriting content on the hidden partition – and select OK again.



Click Exit. To mount the hidden volume, select Auto-Mount Devices, 1 then enter only the password for the hidden volume (not the outer volume) and click OK. If you're ever asked to show someone the contents of your encrypted partition, you can enter the password for the outer volume and the hidden volume will remain hidden.



Produce a podcast from your mobile phone

elf-publishing radio app Anchor originally launched as the Instagram of audio - a social network created around voice recordings you can make on your phone. A recent update means you can now take these audio snapshots, link

them together into a podcast and publish them through Apple and Google's massive podcast networks, making your recordings accessible far beyond the Anchor website.

Anchor: anchor.fm | (4) 20 mins | (6) iOS (6) Android







Install the app, go through the setup procedure and sign in. The welcome screen lets you scroll through its recommended collections of other people's content by swiping left. 11 However, if you swipe right, you'll get to your 'station', 2



Tap the red button to get to the recording screen. You can either hold your phone up to your ear to start recording; or press and hold the red Record button 11 to speak into it like a microphone. The menu along the bottom lets you add music, 2 audio interludes, and even phone interviews, **3** where both sides of a phone conversation are recorded

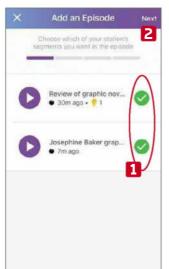




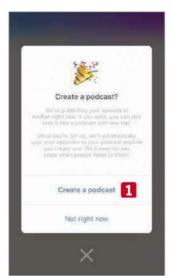
When you've finished, the audio will play back and you can swipe to add a background track, if you wish. Press the Done button. Choose whether to add this to your station 11 as a standalone recording. You can add a caption to the recording 2 and, if you've registered your Twitter or Facebook accounts, E automatically create a post with a link to the Anchor site.



If you aren't sending your audio to social sites but still want to share it with friends, tap the 'Get listeners' button, then choose an app 11 to share the link to the recorded file. This and Step 3 provides instant links to the file on the Anchor website. Use these if you want to share your recording immediately rather than recording more material to gather into a podcast.



Individual recordings only remain public on the site for 24 hours but you can make 'episodes' from several recordings, which can be accessed indefinitely. From your station, tap the Episodes tab then tap 'Create first episode'. Tick the recordings you'd like to include in the episode 11 then tap next. 2 Give the episode a name, preview it if you want, then Publish it.



Once you've made an Episode, you're given the option to convert it into a full podcast. Tap 'Create a podcast', 11 then choose a name and a description, tapping through the options using the Next button as you make each selection. You can also add your own identifying image. Publishing a podcast can take up to 48 hours but you'll be informed by email when it goes live.

Improve your smartphone's battery life

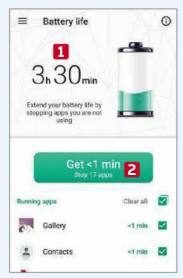
aspersky Battery Life helps you get more use out of your phone between charges by preventing stubborn apps from consuming battery power in the background. The free tool notifies you if your favourite apps are draining too much power and gives you accurate details of how much longer you'll be able to use your device before you need to charge it.



Kaspersky Battery Life: bit.ly/battery429

(1) 10 mins | |

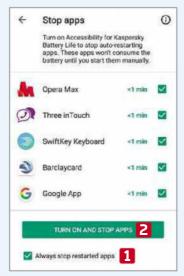
Android 4.1-6.0.1



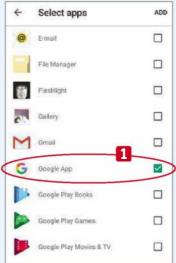
When you download. install and run Battery Life, it displays your remaining battery time on the main screen. 1 Under this, it shows you how much longer you can make the battery last by stopping apps that are running in the background. 2 Swipe up to see which apps it will stop, and untick any that you'd prefer to keep running in the background.



Tap the green button to stop the background apps. Battery Life tells you how many apps it successfully stopped 1 and whether any restarted. 2 Tap Details 1 to see which ones. You'll need to change Battery Life's Accessibility settings if you want to stop these apps running in the background.



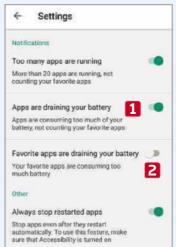
Choose whether you want Battery Life to always block apps that restart in future. 11 Next, choose which restarted apps you want to stop and tap Turn On And Stop Apps. 2 On the Settings page that loads, swipe up until you see Kaspersky Battery Life. Tap it and switch it On before tapping OK and Back.



Tap OK to leave the results page, and the app will inform you that 'Battery usage is optimal'. If you stopped an app by mistake and you'd like to let it run in the background again, open the main menu and select 'Favorite apps'. Tap Add and select any apps 1 you'd like to whitelist, then tap Add again.



You can remove apps from the Favorites list by tapping the appropriate red cross. To configure Battery Life to warn you when lots of apps are running in the background, tap to return to the app's main menu. From here, select Settings and check that 'Too many apps are running' is switched on.



By default, Battery Life alerts you when apps are draining too much of your battery, 1 with the exception of your favourite apps. To set the tool to warn you when your favourite apps are also draining battery life, **2** enable this option.

Weekend Project

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





Improve maps of your local area

Wayne Williams sets off to check the accuracy of his local maps and shows how you can correct and embellish maps of your own area



Improve Google Maps

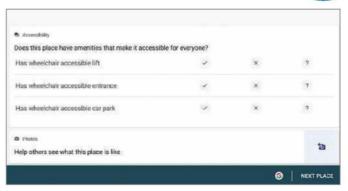
Google does a fantastic job of keeping Maps up to date, but there's a lot of world for the search giant to keep on top of, and for that reason it requires contributions from users to help improve the information it offers. At the moment, Android users have more scope for making contributions to Maps than iPhone and iPad owners, but both can verify user-submitted information.



Android users can check facts, uncover missing information and add photos to Google Maps



Select 'Uncover missing info', then find a place near you on Google Maps to add information about it



Help disabled people know whether a location will suit their needs by filling in accessibility details for it

To get involved, launch Google Maps and tap the three-line menu button in the top-left corner. You'll see a 'Your Contributions' option in the sidebar. Tap this to open the Contribute page. What you see will vary depending on your operating system and whether location history is enabled or not.

The 'Check the facts' option is available to everyone and will give you the opportunity to provide information about local businesses around your current location. Select a nearby firm and you'll be asked whether it's still in business or permanently closed (the wording varies). You can answer Yes, No or Not Sure. If you answer yes or no, you'll see a thank-you message from Google. Once you've submitted an answer, you'll be taken to another business and asked the same guestion. You'll also have the option to rate and review places, such as local restaurants, and add your own photos to Maps.

Android users have an even more useful ability to 'Uncover missing info'. Tap this option and select a local business. You can fill in missing

information that you know or can find out, such as a phone number. If it's a place to eat, you'll be asked details such as whether it's child friendly, offers fun things to do in the evening, is suitable for people with dietary restrictions and is a good place for a quick lunch or for food on the go.

There's also a new Accessibility section. While it's a legal requirement for all public buildings in the UK to have disabled access, there's no guarantee that a place that allows entry for a wheelchair will also offer suitable elevators or seating. And what about wheelchair-friendly parking? By providing accessibility information, you'll be helping disabled Maps users and may well save them a long trip to a place that doesn't cater for them.

Improve Google Street View

Google Street View shows photographic images of an area, although sometimes they can be a bit dated. You can use your phone, tablet or a Google-friendly 360-degree camera to create your own Street View scenes that can be published to Google Maps.

Google is keen to have people contribute photography for places that aren't currently covered by its maps, but that doesn't necessarily mean trekking to a remote South American jungle or a tiny tropical island, and there's a good chance that locations on your own doorstep also need covering. To get involved, you first need to install the Street View app on your Android (bit.ly/ gsvan429) or iOS (bit.ly/gsvap429) device. We'll show you what to do next in our Mini Workshop, below.

While that's the easiest way to contribute to Street View, it's also possible to apply to Google to borrow a Street View camera - either a Trekker backpack or an app-compatible device - that you can use to properly capture 360-degree footage. This program is only open to professional photographers, travellers and organisations, but if you plan to photograph areas of cultural, historical or touristic significance, or the interior of a building, then Google will consider your application as a nonprofessional. You can apply to borrow a Street View camera from bit.ly/svl429.

MINI WORKSHOP | Contribute to Google Street View



Install and open the Google Street View app. Tap the Contribute tab to display the top nearby 'opportunities' - locations that need 360-degree photos. 2 Scrolling around the map, and zooming in and out, will change the number of opportunities available to you. Select a place to find out more about it.

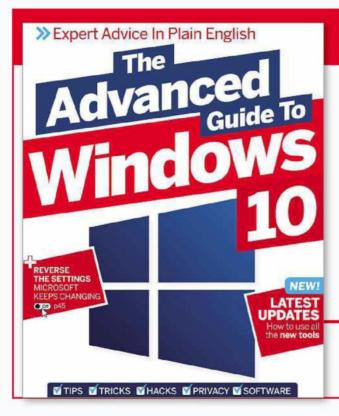


Physically visit the place where you want to capture some photographs, then click the Camera button at the bottom-right of the app. You'll have the option of linking to an external 360-degree camera, importing 360-degree photos or using your phone or tablet's camera. Select the Camera option, 11 then tap Open Camera.



Follow the instructions to capture the scene around you in a series of photos, then tap Done. The 360-degree image will be stitched together and saved to the Private tab. Select the place you've captured images for and tap the 'Publish your photos' link 2 to upload the images.

WebUser Bookstore



THE ADVANCED GUIDE TO WINDOWS 10

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

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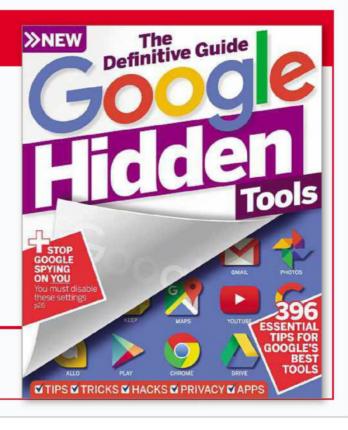
at bit.ly/advancedw10

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO GOOGLE HIDDEN TOOLS

In the new and updated Definitive Guide to Google Hidden Tools, the experts at Web User and Computeractive lift the lid on Google's most popular services to reveal more than 390 ways to make them even more efficient, useful and tailored to your needs. You'll find clever new add-ons for Chrome, smart hacks for YouTube, and handy tools and tricks for Google Maps, Drive, Gmail and more. It's an essential guide to unlocking the hundreds of secret settings, options and tools that Google offers.

BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON

at bit.ly/defguidegoogle



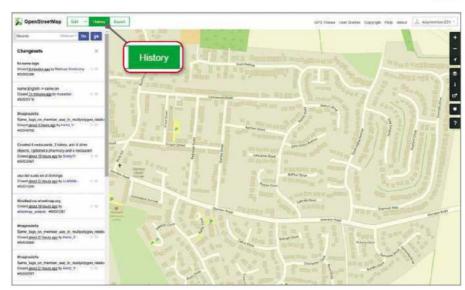
Contribute to OpenStreetMap

Google Maps isn't the only service that wants contributions from the general public. OpenStreetMap is created and updated by ordinary would-be cartographers and getting involved is easy. Once you've signed up to the service and watched the interactive tutorial, you can begin making your own contributions.

You'll be presented with a large aerial map and can add details of places, including buildings and streets. The latter lets you add elements such as a road's name, whether it's one-way, the speed limit and what type of traffic is allowed on it (cars, pedestrians, bikes, horses or all). If a road or pathway is missing, you can add it, as well as any buildings that haven't yet been mapped. You can zoom in and out of the aerial image, and pan around. We'll show you how to make changes in our Mini Workshop, below.

If you don't have time to make major contributions, you can add a note to any map without even signing in - other mappers will investigate the suggestion or make the change on your behalf.

OpenStreetMap also lets you contribute GPS recordings to the map. While a GNSS Receiver with the ability to save your location (like GPS, Galileo or GLONASS) is the preferred option, you can use your smartphone provided it has GPS. The problem with using a phone is that its accuracy can be variable. It's worth checking your results with those



OpenStreetMap has a History section that lets you browse changes made by other users

from other GPS sources. and making sure it's smooth and doesn't jump all over the place.

To get started using GPS, you'll first need to install a good-quality app for the task. Go to the Software/ Mobile page on the OpenStreetMap Wiki (bit.ly/ gpsapp429) and select your operating system - Android, iOS, Windows Phone or BlackBerry. Scroll down to Track Recording and find a suitable app.



You can use your mobile's GPS to create tracks to upload to OpenStreetMap

MINI WORKSHOP | Contribute to OpenStreetMap



Go to the OpenStreetMap editor (www.openstreetmap.org/edit). It should open on your current location and give you options to either watch the walkthrough or begin editing. Select the latter. You can navigate around the map 11 by clicking and dragging. Hover over something to see information about it appear in the 'Edit feature' sidebar. 🔼



Tap a feature and it will be selected on the map and pulse in red. 🚹 You can change the type of feature (Building, in this case) 2 by tapping it and selecting a different option. The panel's other sections provide spaces where you can give it a name, El enter an address and more. You can also add tags. 4



You can find anything, anywhere on the map by using the Search bar on the left. 11 The Line button at the top lets you draw new paths and roads on the aerial image, while the Area button [3] lets you mark elements such as buildings, parks and lakes. Click Save 4 to upload your changes.

NEXT ISSUE

How To... Hack your keyboard

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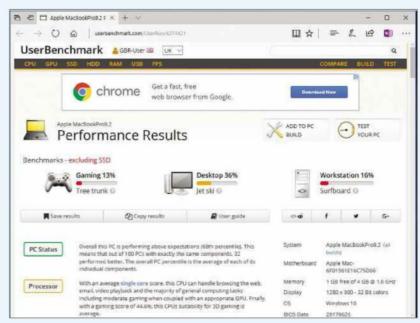


Web User Masterclass

Benchmark your computer, compare it to your friends' PCs and see how upgrades boost performance with tips from our experts

Speedy benchmarks

serBenchmark (www.userbenchmark .com) is a small tool that benchmarks your computer in less than two minutes. The 5MB program is quick to download and doesn't need installing - just run it by double-clicking it in the Downloads folder. Start the benchmark and, when it has finished. a browser window opens to display the results. At the top, it rates your computer for games, Windows applications and as a workstation. More details are provided below and it comments on how your PC compares to others like it, the graphics performance, whether there is enough memory and so on. Scroll down for charts and more detailed performance figures. You can use it to find your PC's weaknesses and consider upgrading those components if possible.



UserBenchmark shows you the strengths and weaknesses of your PC

Prepare for benchmarking

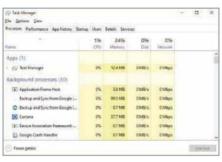
Before running a benchmarking program to measure the performance of your computer, you must first prepare it. This is because speed test results can be affected by a variety of things and you need to make sure the PC is ready to give its best performance.

Wait at least five or even 10 minutes after starting the computer, because Windows performs many tasks on startup, such as checking for updates. Press Shift+Ctrl+Esc to open the Task Manager. On the Processes tab, wait until the CPU, Disk and Network values are low, preferably in single figures. Make sure no programs are running in the background by right-clicking on any icons in the notification area to the right

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.

of the taskbar and selecting Exit or Quit. Some icons are hidden in a pop-up tray, so open it and close those, too.

Some benchmarking software takes a long time to run, so make sure the computer doesn't turn off the screen or enter Sleep mode. Right-click the power/battery icon in the notification area and select Power Options. Select the 'High performance' power plan because others limit the speed of the CPU and other components. Click 'Choose when the computer sleeps' and under 'Plugged in' select None for turning off the display and putting the computer to sleep.



Wait for the CPU, Disk and Network figures to drop before benchmarking

Don't touch the computer while the benchmark is running because this could affect the results. On a laptop, don't run benchmark software when it's running on battery power because the performance is deliberately limited to reduce the battery drain.

However, to see how much your computer is restricted when it's running on its battery, you could run a benchmark program on battery power and mains power to see the difference. You could also compare benchmark results when the computer is set to the 'Power saver' and 'High performance' plans. You might be surprised.

The ultimate PC test

How powerful is your computer? Is it good enough to render special effects for Hollywood movies? Maxon produces software that has been used for creating special effects in movies including *Iron Man 3*, *Oblivion*, *Life of Pi*, *Prometheus* and others, but can your computer run it?

The company has a benchmarking app called Cinebench that tests



Use Cinebench to measure the performance of the CPU and graphics card

whether your hardware is up to the task of special-effects production. It tests the processor performance by rendering a photo-realistic scene that contains 2,000 objects with lighting, shadows and so on. The graphics card is tested by displaying a 3D car-chase scene with transparency, lighting and around a million polygons.

Download Cinebench from bit.ly/ max429 and unzip the archive. There is no installation - you just run the Cinebench Windows 64 Bit.exe file. There are two Run buttons in the top-left corner. Click one and wait for it to finish, then click the other. The first runs the car chase and the result is displayed in fps (frames per second). The second is the CPU test and the result is a benchmark score. In the bottom-left corner is a table that shows how your PC compares to other PCs.

Test your hard-drive speed

If your hard drive has been replaced or upgraded, you may want to know how much faster the new one is. Run CCSIO Benchmark (ccsiobench.com) to measure the read and write speed for very large files. The results are in Megabytes per second (MB/s).

Benchmark your internet connection

There are many internet benchmarking services but one you might not have discovered is Google's secret test. Go to the Google homepage and search for 'test internet speed'. Click Run Speed

Internet speed test CANCEL

Test in the highlighted box at the top of the results.

Search Google for 'test internet speed' and click the button to test your download and upload speed

TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

Benchmark with PCMark 10

PCMark is one of the most widely used and quoted benchmarking programs. Unlike other tools for measuring a PC's speed, this application models real-world tasks. For example, it simulates web browsing and video conferencing, measures how long it takes for apps to start up, simulates word-processor and spreadsheet applications, and contains games-emulating software in which it performs tasks similar to those used in modern games.

There is a free version of PCMark 10, which has just been released. It has a few limitations, but none that will prevent you from measuring your PC's performance. Go to www.futuremark .com and click Benchmarks, then PCMark 10 on the PCMark menu. Download the Basic Edition for home users. Be aware, however, that it downloads a 2.6GB zip file, which writes another 2.9GB to your hard drive when it is unzipped and then installs about 3.5GB of software. You therefore need 10GB of drive space to get it up and running, although 6GB can be recovered by deleting the zip file and unzipped installer afterwards.

Running the benchmark is simply a matter of clicking a button. You're then free to go off and do something else for half an hour while it runs. When you return, the benchmark results will be displayed on the screen. They can't be saved, so on Windows 10 or 8 press Windows+Prt Sc (Print Screen) to save a screenshot to the Pictures folder. In Windows 7, press Prt Sc, run Paint, press Ctrl+V to paste it, then save it.

The big number in the circle on the results screen is the overall score, which is useful for comparing with other computers (your friends' and family's, say) and comparing before



PCMark 10 is a popular benchmarking program. Can you beat this score?

and after upgrades. Click the 'Detailed scores' switch on the right to show more information about the tests that were run and the scores on each test. Only the headings are shown at first, but clicking them reveals individual test scores. Take a screenshot to save them or buy the software to activate the Save facility.

Compare benchmarks live

Benchmarking your computer with PCMark 10 is fine, but what does the result mean? Go to bit.ly/tick429 to see a live display of a map of the world that shows people reporting benchmark results as they happen.

Look in the panel on the right for results from PCMark 10 and ignore the other benchmarks. Results arrive every few seconds. At the top of the results panel on the right are two display options to show compact and expanded results. The expanded view shows the specification of the PC that's been tested.

How fast is your DNS?

When you type a URL into a browser, the DNS (domain name system) converts it into an IP address such as 127.43.201.8. The faster it responds, the faster your experience of the web. DNS Benchmark (bit.ly/grc429) measures the speed of DNS servers and shows if there are better options than the one you're currently using.

Google and OpenDNS are usually fast and switching to them can make the web more responsive. Right-click the Wi-Fi icon and select 'Network and Sharing Centre'. Click the network link next to Connections, then click Properties. Double-click Internet Protocol Version 4 and select 'Use the following DNS server addresses'. Enter 8.8.8.8 and 8.8.4.4 to use Google's DNS servers.



This tool measures DNS performance. The shorter the bars, the faster it is

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

Return sound to a silent laptop

I seem to have lost all sound on my HP Envy Notebook 15-ah150na. It's running Windows 10 64-bit and has Bang & Olufsen speakers. Device Manager shows drivers loaded from Realtek and also AMD High Definition Audio (dated 30-11-2016) marked 'not loaded'. The Realtek audio has a visual volume bar that's fluctuating as the live tennis I'm watching creates noise, but I can't hear anything at all. I have used Troubleshooting more than once, but nothing happens.

Arthur Bestente, via email

Did the problem start after a Windows update? Windows 10 often disables software and drivers that it believes to be incompatible. Try some basic tests first, such as clicking the speaker icon on the taskbar and turning the volume up to maximum. Plug in earphones or speakers and see if there is any sound.

Right-click the speaker icon in the notification area of the taskbar, select Volume Mixer and drag all the sliders to maximum. Right-click the speaker icon again and select 'Playback devices', then right-click Speakers and select Test to play sound through the left and right speakers. Click the



Poor sound or no sound? Check and configure the sound properties

speakers, then click the Configure and Properties buttons. Go through each of the tabs to make sure everything is set correctly.

If the problem persists, it's most likely due to the driver. Right-click the Start button and select Device Manager. Expand 'Audio inputs and outputs', right-click each item and select 'Update driver'. Repeat this with the items in the 'Sound, video and game controllers' section. Open the Control Panel, then Troubleshooting, and click 'View all'. Run 'Hardware and Devices' and Recording Audio.

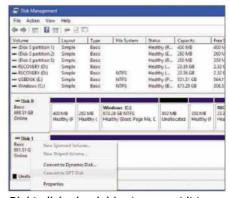
Go to support.hp.com and enter your computer model into the search box. Click 'Software and Drivers' on the product page, then click Go. Expand the Driver-Audio section and download and install the latest driver. That should fix it. If it doesn't, repeat this occasionally to see if new drivers have become available.

As you've already surmised, the solution is to partition the hard drive using GPT, which can count much higher. However, there are compatibility problems with old computers and some can't handle GPT and its large drives.

Here's how to prepare a drive for GPT. Click Start and search for 'diskmgmt .msc'. Right-click it and select 'Run as administrator'. The Disk Management tool shows all your PC's drives and partitions. A brand new, unformatted hard drive must be initialised before it can be accessed and Windows displays a pop-up window asking whether you'd like to use MBR or GPT. Select GPT. The space on the drive is then listed as unallocated. Right-click it and select New Simple Volume. Select NTFS for the format, give the drive a name and you should then have 4TB of free space. If the drive has already been prepared for MBR. right-click the disk label in the first column and select 'Convert to GPT Disk'.

This all sounds very straightforward, but there are many rules and exceptions that can get in the way. For example, a USB hard drive can't use the GPT format, only MBR; and the BIOS system in an old PC can't start from a GPT hard drive - it has to use UFFI (Unified Extensible Firmware Interface). This is only scratching the surface of potential complications.

Your best bet is to connect it internally as a second drive, not the boot drive, then try converting it to GPT. However, it might simply be the case that your PC isn't compatible.



Right-click a hard drive to convert it to GPT. This isn't always possible, though

HARDWARE

Use a large hard drive's full capacity

I upgraded my PC and tried to install a 4TB hard drive with a Gigabyte motherboard ER45-DS3R and Windows 7 installed. My other hard drives (1.5TB and 2TB) work, but the 4TB model only lets me access 2.2TB. All the drives are NTFS formatted and I have tried to set it up as GPT (GUID Partition Table, a way of partitioning larger hard drives) but it is greyed out! Can you help?

Paul Finch, via email

This is a problem that affects old computers, which are not fully compatible with hard drives larger than 2TB. The problem is that until recently, drives used the MBR (Master Boot Record) partitioning scheme, which stores files in one or more blocks. The number of blocks is stored in 32-bits and therefore can't be bigger than 4,294,967,295. Multiply this by the size of the block (512 bytes) and the result is 2.2TB. MBR hard drives only use the first 2.2TB because they literally can't count any higher!



INTERNET

Connection problems

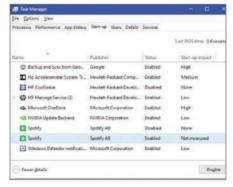
I recently bought an Acer ES1-132 laptop but I am having problems with my internet connection which is really slow. Both Wi-Fi and Ethernet appear to be working and I am able to connect to the internet after waiting for several minutes, but the screen goes white before the web page opens. Some websites give an error message, saying that the page can't be reached. I have no problems connecting to the internet with my older Toshiba laptop.

I've tried turning off the Windows Firewall but it makes no difference. I also uninstalled McAfee because it was nearly out of date and I thought it might be causing the problem. It's very frustrating and I don't know what else to do. I can't set up the customersupport software because of the internet problem and I can't seem to send emails from my Hotmail account, even when I am eventually connected.

Irene Roberts, via email

Plugging in an Ethernet cable is a great way to test whether the problem is related to your Wi-Fi. Because your problem persists with Ethernet connected, the Wi-Fi can be ruled out. Testing the internet with another computer is another good idea, because it shows you that there's nothing wrong with your internet connection. This narrows the problem down to your Acer laptop.

New computers often have to perform a lot of maintenance tasks when they're first used, which can make them run slowly. For example, your computer may need to install Windows updates and with the Creator's Update not long out, it may have 5GB of updates to download and install. Go to Power Options in the Control Panel, click



Check for startup items in Task Manager and disable any you don't need

'Choose when the computer sleeps' and set it not to sleep. Leave it running overnight so it can perform maintenance tasks, download updates and so on.

Sometimes, a lot of unnecessary and unwanted software is bundled with new computers and it needs to be cleaned up before it's fit to use. Go to 'Programs and Features' in the Control Panel and uninstall any software you don't need. Press Windows+i and select Apps. Click any apps you don't want and aren't needed for running Windows, then click Uninstall.

Get Malwarebytes Anti-Malware (www.malwarebytes.com) and scan the computer. It's free of charge and is good for removing malware and PUPs (potentially unwanted programs).

Check for programs running in the background by pressing Ctrl+Shift+Esc to open Task Manager. Select the Start-up tab and examine the list of items starting with Windows. Select suspicious items and click Disable.

Lastly, open Troubleshooting in the Control Panel and click 'View all'. Run the following troubleshooters: 'Hardware and Devices', Internet Connections and Network Adapter.

SECURITY

Block the spies

I have a significant security problem. I believe that my family have been spying on my devices for a very long time. They appear to be aware of my activities from things like my online status in Skype, banking alerts and Facebook Messenger messages.

I have three Window 7 laptops, one new Android smartphone, two Windows Phone 8.0 smartphones and an Android tablet. They appear able to spy on all my devices, taking screen captures, knowing all my accounts and passwords, recording sound and preventing access to websites. This happens whether I'm on the mobile network or Wi-Fi.

I've tried buying new devices but it hasn't worked. How can I get my privacy back?

Name withheld, via email

It is possible to spy on someone's activities on their computer, phone and tablet, but it's usually some form of malware rather than

your family that's spying on you. However, the solution is the same: reset the devices and change the passwords to your accounts.

Here is the easy method: buy a new computer, phone and tablet, then log into each of your accounts, such as Facebook, Google, Microsoft, online banking and so on, and change your passwords. You will then have clean devices with no spyware and no-one else can access your accounts.

If you are technically minded, you can clean your old devices. If a Windows DVD was provided with your computer, put it in the drive and restart Windows. If not, download it from bit.ly/os429 and use CDBurnerXP (cdburnerxp.se) to burn it to a DVD. A few steps into the Windows setup, it asks you to upgrade Windows or choose a custom install. Select Custom, then select the hard drive and click 'Drive options (advanced)'. Format the hard drive and install Windows.

This erases everything on the drive so before starting, copy any files you want to keep (such as photos, music and documents) to another drive or store them in OneDrive or Google Drive.



Use the reset functions in Android settings to wipe everything on a phone

There is a reset tool on Android phones and tablets in Settings. Settings apps and menus vary but on our model, you go to Settings, 'General management', Reset, 'Factory data reset'. This clears everything, so make sure you have backups of photos, music, contacts and so on. Google automatically backs up most things and signing in after a reset restores them. There is a similar reset option on Windows phones. Don't forget to change the passwords on your accounts.



This fortnight Roland has been installing OS previews but he can't decide: Fall Creators Update or MacOS High Sierra?

Your Top Tips

Our pick of the best advice from our readers. To get help or offer it to others,

visit forum.webuser.co.uk

TOP TIP

GENERAL PC

Speed up your boot time

Yesterday, a relative asked me why her PC was taking longer and longer to boot. I explained that many programs launch at startup if you give them permission to do so when you install them, and that this naturally means the PC takes longer to boot. I looked at her startup list and it included printers, cameras, on-demand scanners and a number of other unnecessary items.

To check the startup list in Windows 10, right-click the taskbar, select Task Manager and 'More details' before clicking 'Start-up'. On older PCs, right-click Start, select Run and type msconfig before clicking OK.

I disabled most of her startup items (by right-clicking an item and selecting Disable), which greatly reduced her boot time. For a few items I wasn't sure about, a quick Google search provided further advice as to whether they were needed at startup or not. It's important to be careful what you disable,



Disabling unnecessary startup items can help to speed up your boot time

because antivirus, firewalls, network adapters and other items are essential to the smooth running of your PC.

I recommended that in future she should look out for programs that ask to run on startup to stop the problem building up again.

tornado, Web User Forums

APPS

Fix incorrect Swiftkey suggestions

I've been using the SwiftKey keyboard app (bit.ly/swk429) ever since I saw it recommended in *Web User*. I love it, but one thing was bugging me. Whenever I made a note in Google Keep, the word I entered would automatically be given

From adward municidemis.co.uk

Te

Sottee:

| Remove Prediction?
| Do not predict 'hungryyyy' again.
| CANCEL QK

Long-press to remove a suggestion from SwiftKey's dictionary

a capital letter -Haircut, for example. That wasn't a problem, but I found that when I used one of these words in a different context, SwiftKey would capitalise it automatically even when it appeared in the middle of a sentence.

I put up with this for months until one day I accidentally long-pressed a word and SwiftKey gave me the option to 'Remove Prediction?'. I tried this trick when the next incorrect capitalisation appeared, and SwiftKey fixed it! This method works for any word you've added to your SwiftKey dictionary.

Lauren Cray, via email

which is great for holidays and events such as parties, weddings and so on. We both have Android phones but I understand it works on iPhones, too.

I added my wife and she added me, and

now we can both see the photos we take,

I understand it works on iPhones, too.
Open the Google Photos app and press
the menu button. You'll see a new 'Share
your library' menu item. Press this and
you can choose who you want to share
it with, such as your partner. You can set
a date to limit how far back your shared
photos go, so you can keep your old
photos private but share any you take in
the future. It seems perfect for families.

Kevin Murphy, via email

APPS

Check where you were at any time in the past

If you've ever wondered where you were at a particular time in the past, you can retrace your movements using Google Location History. Open the Google Maps app on your phone, select 'Your timeline' and use the calendar button at the top of the screen to choose the date you want to look at. The app can track not only the places you've visited but also the routes you took to get there.

Looking back at the data is fascinating but it can come in handy, too. If you've parked your car in an unfamiliar place, for example, or want to check the route you used to get somewhere in the past, retracing your steps can be really useful.

MOBILE

Share your photo library

It's always been possible to share albums in Google Photos, but a recent upgrade to the Google Photos app lets you share your entire photo library with someone.



Google Location History lets you track your past movements



I've been using Google Location History for a while, so I'm not sure if it's enabled by default but if you'd rather disable it, go to bit.ly/gtl429 and select the option to Pause Location History.

Ed Wright, via email

GENERAL PC

A different type of backup

In Issue 427 (bit.ly/webuser427), Roland Waddilove recommends using an external drive or cloud-storage service to back up your computer. This is, of course, good advice but I wonder what he thinks of my backup solution, which I don't think I've seen covered in Web User.

I have cloned my C: drive (an SSD) to another SSD of exactly the same size. It's a perfect copy and I've tested it by swapping it with my existing drive - the machine started perfectly with exactly the same Desktop, documents. programs, files and so on. This must be a good way of guarding against corruption of the main drive, and you won't have to spend tedious hours copying your backed-up files to your PC, because you can simply take out one drive and insert the other.

James Gourley, via email

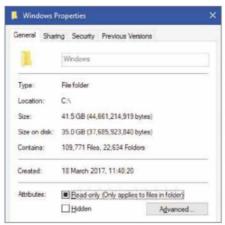
GENERAL PC

Save gigabytes by compressing Windows

Did you know there's a new tool in Windows 10 that can save gigabytes of hard-drive space? The option may not be enabled on your PC by default but it's worth checking because I managed to recover an extra 6GB of space.

Right-click the Start button and select 'Command Prompt (Admin)'. Type compact /CompactOs:query and Windows will tell you if the system is in the 'compact' state. If it's not, type compact /CompactOs:always and wait for the process to finish. This compresses the Windows system files so they take up less hard-drive space.

Once you've done that, close the



Save drive space by compacting Windows files. Compare Size with 'Size on disk'

command prompt window and open Explorer. Click drive C: on the left, then right-click the C:\Windows folder and click Properties. Compare the Size figure with 'Size on disk' and you'll see how much space you have saved. Windows works just the same as it did before.

M Berry, via email

SOCIAL NETWORKING

View larger Instagram photos

I enjoy looking at photos on Instagram but most phone screens are too small to do them justice. There are a couple of ways to remedy this, one of which is to use the service on a tablet. There's no Instagram app for the iPad, but if you search for it in the Store app, tap iPad Only in the top-left corner, then switch to iPhone Only, you can download the Instagram app for iPhone and run it on the iPad. Press the 2X button in the bottom-right corner to make the app fill the screen.

Another way to make Instagram images larger is to use the Windows 10 app, which is available from the Windows Store. This works the same way as the phone app but runs on your computer



Use the Instagram app on your PC to see photos on a big screen

and looks great on a big screen.

You can also share photos from your computer's hard drive on Instagram. To do this, place some photos in the Camera Roll folder in your Pictures folder, then press the plus button at the bottom of Instagram to add a photo. The photos won't scroll on my laptop (which may be a bug) but I can swipe up and down using the touchscreen.

Chris Levey, via email

BLUNDER OF THE FORTNIGHT

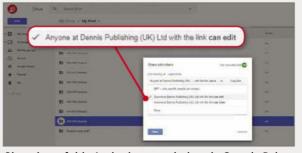
GOOGLE APPS

Share editable Docs more quickly

I use Google Apps for all my work because I love how easy it is to share documents and collaborate with others. Until recently, however, I found one particular aspect of it frustrating. If you right-click a file in Google Drive, you can select 'Get shareable link' and it generates the link instantly and

copies it to your clipboard, but this link only lets the recipient view your document and not edit it. To share a document that others can edit, I had to follow the more long-winded process of selecting Share and choosing the option 'Anyone with the link can edit' from the drop-down menu, before choosing 'Copy link'.

I have now discovered that Google Drive lets you set the sharing permissions for entire folders as well as individual files, so if you're working on a project with someone, it makes sense



Changing a folder's sharing permissions in Google Drive changes the permissions of all the files in it

to set the whole folder as editable so that any files you share from within it (including any you make in the future) are also editable. Just right-click the relevant folder and choose Share, then 'Anyone with the link can edit'.

To check that a file is editable, rightclick it, select Share and the 'edit' option should be selected instead of 'view'. If you then decide you only want someone to view a file from this folder - and not be able to edit it - you'll need to select this option manually.

Scott Holland, via email

Have you managed to fix a PC-related disaster? If so, please send your story to webuser@dennis.co.uk





Readers' Helpdesk

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

SOFTWARE

What's the best document format?

I've been using Microsoft Word for a long time but something tells me I've been saving documents in the wrong format. At present, most of my files are saved in the ODT format. Should I be using DOCX instead?

sjw, Web User Forums

DOCX is the default Word format. OpenDocument (ODT) files are compatible with both Word and opensource applications, such as OpenOffice and LibreOffice, but you may see formatting differences and some of Word's tools aren't supported. For more information on the differences between the formats, see the Microsoft article at bit.ly/docx429. It's worth noting that if you open an ODT file in Word, it won't be converted to DOCX unless you select Save As from the File menu and select the appropriate format from the dropdown menu.

New files should be saved in the DOCX format but you can change this by clicking File, Options and Save, then choosing another format. Be wary of using formats that others can't easily open, though. I have worked in a human resources office in the past and it was common practice to delete CVs that weren't saved in a Word or PDF format.

Sneakybeaky, Stewart40, lizzygraham, Web User Forums



Change the format of your document by selecting Save As

GENERAL PC

Does Windows 7 support large memory sticks?

Is there a maximum size of USB memory stick that Windows 7 supports? I have a 128GB USB 3 Kingston stick, which works fine on my Windows 10 PCs but doesn't always work on my Windows 7 PC. Does anyone have any ideas, please?

dave1510, Web User Forums

A I have a 128GB USB 3 SanDisk which hasn't given me any problems in Windows 7. The fact you've only had problems with the stick some of the time might suggest a problem relating to its format rather than your Windows 7 PC. If it's formatted as FAT32, then you will only be able to transfer files of 4GB or less. If you want to use files



Drives that use the FAT32 format can't read or write files larger than 4GB

larger than this, you should format the stick as exFAT. There's more on the differences between the different formats at Make Use Of (bit.ly/ format429) and you can learn how to format your device on the same site at bit.ly/drive429.

> Stewart40 and Sneakybeaky, Web User Forums

GENERAL PC

How do I rename files in the Windows 10 Photos app?

I am fairly new to Windows 10 and I'm not sure how to rename photographs in the Photos app. I have always been a user of Google's Picasa and find it a pity that Google has withdrawn support for it.

Guyfawkes, Web User Forums

You rename photos in exactly the same way you rename any other file. You need to find the files using Windows File Explorer, right-click them and select Rename. Once you're happy with the new name, press Enter. Alternatively, click the photo to select it, then click its name (with a long enough pause between the clicks for Windows to know you're not trying to double-click) and rename it as above.

If you're not sure where a photo is stored, click it in Photos, select the three-dot button, choose 'File information' (Alt+Enter) and look for the entry marked 'Folder Path'.

You can rename a whole batch of photos in Windows by selecting the first one with the mouse, holding down the shift key and then clicking the last photo in the list. Once they're selected, press F2 and type a name. The selection will be renamed, adding a number in brackets for each image, such as Jamie(01).jpg, Jamie(02).jpg and so on.

alanrwood, MeesterChris, Web User Forums



Click 'File information' to see the folder path for where your photos are stored



You can let us know your views via:

Star Email

Mug/

Why it pays to downgrade your connection

lot has been written recently regarding internet speeds and what we can expect to achieve from our ISP packages.

I have been enjoying 200Mbps from Virgin Media for the past few months but last week I decided to halve my package and downgrade to 100Mbps - for two reasons.

The first, most obvious reason is to shave a few guid off my monthly Virgin Media bill. The second reason is that, me being a little tech-savvy, I have two laptops that both connect through Wi-Fi. However, they can only connect to my router's 2.4GHz network (they are getting on a bit now) so the maximum speed they can enjoy is 50Mbps, a far cry from the



potential 200Mbps.I also have an iPhone and an iPad, and so does my wife. These devices are newer and happily connect to the 5GHz band

on my router, but they can only run at their maximum speed of 100Mbps.

This means that I am paying for a 200Mbps service that, in theory, I can't use. Of course, I could easily connect my laptops via a LAN cable and enjoy the top speed, but this is a bit cumbersome with all the messing around involved. If I do upgrade my gadgets for devices that can use the full 200Mbps. I can just call Virgin Media to upgrade my package back to the

So I say to other readers: have a look at what you're paying for and if you're not using the full potential of your superfast fibre connection it might be worth downgrading until vou can.

Simon Mellor, via email

Thanks for the batterycharging advice

Our two-week holiday is approaching and, among the many preparations, I'm ticking off various precautions that I need to take with my electronic devices. One of these is to ensure that my laptop will be secure.

Then, in Issue 427 of Web User (bit .lv/webuser427).

I saw that the Masterclass offered advice to 'Prepare your battery before going on holiday'. Thank goodness I read it through! I was intending to charge

my laptop's battery to 100%, shut it down and leave it in its hiding place.

Wrong, said Masterclass: charge it to 100%, then use it until you run down the battery to about 50-70%, otherwise I could come back to problems.

Many thanks Web User! For me that's advice well worth the price of the magazine on its own.

George, Web User Forums

All encryption ciphers are breakable

No doubt you have received many replies regarding your encrypted 'challenge' on the cover of Issue 426 (bit.ly/webuser426), to which the answer was: "Web User is the only magazine you need". It was a simple substitution cipher using a reversed alphabet. Using a keyword often adds to the difficulty, but the most difficult part here was that the

text, font and colour were hard to read!

Although a cipher may be secure, it will not be unbreakable. When PGP (Pretty Good Privacy) was first demonstrated, it was claimed to be unbreakable, yet they continued by saying how many years it would take to break! It was assumed that a would-bebreaker would start at the beginning and step through all possibilities - but the first 'guess' might work, of course.

Quiz Answers: Issue 428 WINNER! 1 Hamlet Neil Hall was the first to email Measure For us the correct answers and Measure WebUs wins a Web User mug King Lear A Midsummer Night's Dream **WORD PUZZLE** The Winter's Tale Ethernet The Comedy



Mobile providers will have millions of records of Brits' filthy viewing habits

viewing habits Turn to page 74 to find out what's making Barry mad this issue

Of the 60 or 70 common types of cipher, all are 'breakable' using methods generally known. Substitution may be easiest, and transposition can be attacked with known methods.

Sorry, I shouldn't go on so!

Wilf, via email

Microsoft's meddling

messed up my monitor

Since performing an update to Windows

earlier this year, I've noticed that screen

rather expensive monitors. I have tried

fonts look terrible and jagged on my two

different fixes that I found on the net and

have also installed a brand new graphics

machine. It looks so bad that it reminds

me of the type of display we had in the

card, all without any luck. I have also

noticed this on another Windows 10

After many months, I found the

following advice on a Windows forum:

"It has nothing to do with your

graphics card or anything else in your

hardware. Microsoft changed the way

Windows smooths the edges of screen

fonts. As a result, text looks blurry and/

or jagged on desktop-sized monitors. To

subpixel rendering to greyscale subpixel rendering. And there is nothing you can

do about it. Microsoft's position on this is

that greyscale anti-aliasing looks fine on

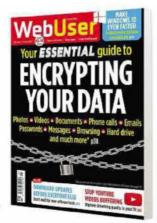
very high-resolution displays on phones and tablets, and they refuse to do

anything about it for desktop users.

be precise, they changed the anti-

aliasing method for fonts from RGB

Eighties and Nineties.



day, Windows 10 may give you eyestrain, and will make a £500 desktop monitor look as bad as one costing £80."

So if you read and write text all

So, Microsoft has shafted all those desktop users who originally made the company all its money. Can I sue Microsoft for a faulty operating system?

Michael Chappell, via email

To stop using Google would be oxymoronic

Do you know what an oxymoron is? According to the Google dictionary, it's a figure of speech in which contradictory terms appear in conjunction. Well, this can be applied to the great oxymoron that is Issue 428 of Web User (bit.ly/

webuser428). In its cover feature, you list

all the reasons why we shouldn't use Google's services. Then you list lots of handy workshops, tips and other articles about... Google's services and how great they are!

Let's start from the beginning...

On page 11, your Webometer lists the new YouTube previews as a "We Like" feature, but you seem not to like YouTube on page 41, even going to the point

of calling it "yucky". On page 25, you list the best Online Storage option as Google Drive, all while criticising it and recommending others on page 39. On page 30, you list new tips for Google Chrome (or Crummy Chrome, according to page 43) filling an entire page, with other competitors earning smaller boxes. On page 33, in the lower right-hand corner, you advertise your guide to Android, claiming we can "unlock the full potential of our phones", while on page 42, you label it Arrogant Android, listing all its flaws and promoting rivals such as OxygenOS and Tizen. On page 44, you award the YouTube Editor a Gold Award in a mass review of online video editors. And finally, on page 56, you give a tutorial on getting Google's Pixel Launcher on Android, which you, again, criticise heavily on page 42.

Phew! That was a lot of oxymorons.

Bro Shack, via email

The new issue arrived today and the cover feature is about not using Google. So I had to smile when on page 6 you recommend using Google Earth and, on page 46, it says "Gmail is one of our favourite webmail providers".

On a separate note, on page 71 the answers to the quiz in Issue 427 are given. Even with these answers, I cannot work out the films from the emoji.

However, the mag looks to be an enjoyable read, so no complaints.

FratPark, Web User Forums

Web User says: Thank you for your comments on our 'Stop Using Google' cover feature in Issue 428. As we point out in the introduction, we don't seriously expect Web User readers to abandon Google, but wanted to explain why you might consider doing so, and to reveal

the best alternatives to its most popular tools. But yes, we realise, the oxymoronic nature of the idea!

Regarding the emoji quiz, on this occasion the emoji provided plot details of the films rather than word clues!

Tor is overkill for everyday browsing

I had to laugh at John Lockett's letter in Inbox, Issue 428, 'Tor is no shield against ISP spies'. He says he only uses torrent sites to find

"out-of-print books", but claims he needs to use both Tor and a VPN to stop anyone knowing he does so! Perhaps Mr Lockett doesn't realise that torrent programs are not illegal to use, but are an acceptable

and useful means of downloading large files.

Yes, if you use them for obtaining copyrighted material, then you

will risk getting in trouble – as Mr Lockett found when he received a letter from his ISP because "another person downloaded a certain film". But to use both Tor and a VPN merely to find public-domain books seems like overkill to me.

On the other hand, I also disagree that a VPN such as CyberGhost is ineffective at stopping your ISP seeing what you're doing online. My VPN works very well, but then I pay for a subscription. Perhaps











Mr Lockett is using the free version of CyberGhost, which might not offer the same privacy and security as the paid-for option. As for Tor, I don't really see the need to use it but as far as I know, it's one of the most airtight ways to browse the web and download files anonymously. I just don't see the need to use it for everyday activities.

Brandon Flynn, via email

Broadband speed tests are unimportant

As usual, Barry is right in his column, on this occasion when he writes about the unreliability and unimportance of broadband speed tests. There are so many different variables to consider - the time of day, your distance from your broadband exchange, the number of other people in your area with the same internet provider and the quality of service, among other factors - that we shouldn't take published speed figures at face value. As Barry says, they can either be far too high or far too low.

My daughter lives in Chiswick and she often complains that her broadband speed is very slow, yet her home is in one of the nicer parts of London. When we checked online, it said the average broadband speed for Chiswick is about 50Mbps - hardly what I'd call slow, but I have no reason to doubt my daughter's iudament!

Likewise, I'm sure there are people living in Ryedale and Purbeck who get perfectly fast broadband, but the latest Which report says they're living in a broadband ghetto.

As long as you can do everything you want to online without having to wait around, I don't understand why there is so much focus on broadband speeds. More important to me is when I'm left without service for three days - thank you, Virgin Media!

Alistair Bishop, via email



What you say...

HE GOVERNMENT IS **INTRODUCING 18+ AGE CHECKS FOR PORN SITES. IS** THIS A GOOD OR A BAD IDEA?

Bad. It invades people's privacy and increases the chances of blackmail. Kids will find sites that don't have age checks

grumpyboy @grumpyboy

It's education of children and their parents that's required.

lain Loudon

The UK has gone crazy with its nanny state. Is this to make up for the fact that parents are not checking what their kids look at online?

Heather Hear @heather_hear

Age verification by credit card won't work. Kids will steal or borrow cards without parents noticing.

.....

David Brown @therealzedman

OOGLE GLASS IS BACK (bit.ly/glass429). WILL IT CATCH ON THIS TIME?

Not unless there's a cast-iron business use for it. Maybe call centres? Or financial traders? I haven't seen many people wearing immersive headsets, so for the general public it may come up short.

lain Kenworthy-Neale

No, for the same reason it didn't catch on last time. Eyewear out of specific situations is just not comfortable or fun to engage in.

Dario @dario006

I bet it does. I'd use it if it could be incorporated into the specs I wear all day. Or I could devise a hat that would support my phone at eye level.

Jenny Jacks @JenJacks3

ACEBOOK IS PLANNING A PAYWALL FOR SOME NEWS STORIES (bit.ly/ paywall429). WÖULD YOU PAY TO READ THEM?

Don't be silly! There are better sources elsewhere that are free. Besides, Facebook sucks.

Sir Cumference @Gary_Olsen

Pay to read headlines like 'You need to stop THIS now'? I would never pay to read such misleading trash.

Andrew Wakeman

With false news the norm these days, it wouldn't interest me. Facebook should concentrate on improving the whole site and making it crash-free.

Marty A Lderton

Of course not, bearing in mind that there is news out there for free, and it's aimed at grown ups.

Richard Morgan

Certainly not. There are lots of free news streams available. Facebook makes billions from advertising as it is.

.....

Brian Brown

HOULD BOSSES BE BANNED FROM LOOKING AT THE **SOCIAL-MEDIA ACCOUNTS** OF POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES?

No, because if your profile settings are configured right and you only accept friend requests from people you know, no one can see anything about you.

Paul Adrian

Research away. Properly curated settings will garnish nothing more from a Facebook investigation than a Google search.

Nat Grove

Yes. A Facebook profile may not portray them as themselves. People act differently outside social media!

Gavin Stephen Green

Yes, because what they put on Facebook is their private data.

Iori @gadgetgal16

The government's plans to protect children will put adults at risk, warns **Barry Collins**

Porn-site checks will leave us all exposed

remember the first time we tried it, like it was yesterday. Rumour had it that the old boy who ran Candy Stores wasn't too fussed about ID, so long as you actually paid for his top-shelf mags rather than stealing them. So my mate Taff, the tallest among us and with the faintest of five o'clock shadows creeping across his 14-year-old face, reached up to the top shelf, whipped down a copy of *Mayfair* and proffered the £3.50 in loose change that we'd pooled together outside.

"Alright, son?" the newsagent asked.
"Want to put that back or should
I deliver it with your mum's *Daily Mirror*in the morning?". Taff passed on *Mayfair*,
advanced to Go and none of us set foot
inside that shop for the next six months.

If only internet porn sites had Mr Patel guarding them. Instead, they're an open door, the most demanding of which ask you to tick a box to prove you're 18, an obstacle even a five-year-old could

clear. Which is why the government plans to force porn sites to introduce compulsory age checks from as soon as next April. Any smutty site not bothering to verify the age of its visitors

ff What better means of

blackmail is there than an email

demanding £100 to keep your

spouse or boss from knowing

which sites you visit?

will be added to a blacklist that ISPs will be forced to block. It all sounds fair and reasonable, until you get to the tricky issue of how visitors prove they're 18,

where it falls apart faster than Taff's *Mayfair* shopping spree.

One gobsmackingly stupid idea is that visitors to porn sites will be forced to enter their credit card details. This is Christmas come early for fraudsters. Those that aren't setting up fake porn sites to steal credit card details will be hacking the 'legitimate' porn sites,

attempting to steal their user databases. Because what better means of blackmail is there than an email demanding £100 to keep your spouse or boss from knowing which sites you visit?

Even if you've never visited such sites, some people will pay up to avoid any potential embarrassment: people such as teachers, social workers and police officers whose

careers could be threatened if they are exposed for viewing porn sites, especially at work.

Another bright idea is to verify your age via your phone, because your network knows how old you are. So the next time you visit SaucyGirlsWithWhips .com [note to subs - not an actual porn site], you'll enter your phone number and receive a code by text, which you enter in the site to proceed.

Not only will this mean thousands of websites have databases of British mobile users waiting to be stolen and blackmailed, but the mobile providers will also have millions of records of Brits' filthy viewing habits, too. How long will it be before BT, Vodafone or O2 are hacked and millions of people are getting text messages demanding payment to keep their dirty little secrets? I'd give it less than six months.

The government may have announced this clampdown with the best of intentions, but the proposals risk making the internet a far *more* dangerous place, rather than a safer one. Until someone devises a technology that's capable of detecting your true age as stringently as Mr Patel, this is a disaster waiting to happen.





Illustration: Andrew Torrens



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hank you for reading this issue of *Web User* – we hope you found the tips and advice useful. The good news is that you don't have to wait too long for the next issue. If you subscribe to *Web User* by Monday 14 August (8pm)*, you'll receive it through your letterbox before it's available in the shops!

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