

SECRET TIPS

Uncover hidden TV shows and films page 38

PLUS

- Save data when streaming
- Download shows to SD cards
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RED EAGLE™

GAMING ON THE EDGE



24.5" **G-MASTER" G2530HSU** 27" **G-MASTER" G2730HSU**

@75Hz WITH FreeSync SUPPORT, 1920X1080 (FULL HD), LOW ENERGY CONSUMPTION, A+ ENERGY EFFICIENCY CLASS PANEL 27" G-MASTER" GB2760QSU

@144Hz WITH FreeSync SUPPORT, 2560x1440 (WQHD) RESOLUTION FOR 77% MORE ON-SCREEN SPACE THAN WITH FULL HD







Get serious about streaming

ccording to Merriam-Webster's new Time Traveler tool (see What's New Online, page 7), the first recorded use of the term 'binge-watch' was in 2003, in a review of a Family Guy box set. Since then, it's become synonymous with Netflix, as millions of us nestle into our sofas to watch the likes of House of Cards, The Crown and Danny Dyer's Deadliest Men, and don't move again for the rest of the weekend.

In this issue's cover feature, we explain how to expand and enhance your Netflix binge-watching by unlocking the best secret content and tools on the streaming service.

From discovering recently added films and TV shows to improving the picture quality and customising the interface, we reveal how to make the most of your monthly subscription, whether you're an experienced binge-watcher or a Netflix newbie.

If you need something to watch Netflix on, check out our reviews of the latest laptop-tablet hybrids on page 20, for the best of both worlds.

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





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ISSUE 431

6 - 19 SEPTEMBER 2017



NETFLIX SECRETTIPS

Unlock the best tools and content on the world's favourite streaming service









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 NETFLIX SECRET TIPS

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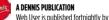
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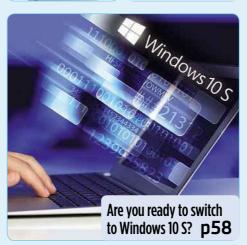
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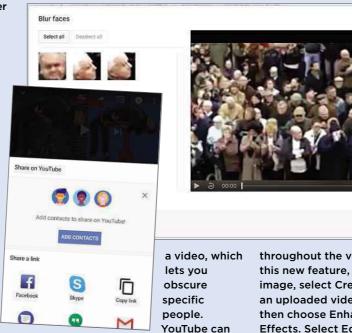


Share YouTube videos with friends

ouTube has made it even easier to share videos with your friends by letting you do so without leaving its mobile apps. Rather than sharing links via WhatsApp, Twitter or Facebook, this new feature lets you choose one of your contacts to share a video with directly. It's simple to use - you just open a video, press the Share button and tap the face of the person you want to send it to. Once they have approved your request, you can chat about the video in both one-to-one and group conversations.

But that's not all. YouTube has also added a dark mode, which works when you have a video playing in landscape mode: double-tap the space above the Play/Pause button and the screen will darken to reduce eye strain.

There's also a better way of blurring faces when you upload



now automatically detect faces, so you can set it to automatically blur a person

throughout the video. To access this new feature, click your profile image, select Creator Studio, find an uploaded video and click Edit, then choose Enhancements, Blurring Effects. Select Edit next to Blur Faces and choose who to blur.

www.youtube.com

Take 360-degree photos in Facebook

bit.ly/360photos431

A 360-degree panoramic photo can be thrillingly immersive, not to mention impressive. Facebook now lets you take your own 360-degree shots using its iOS or Android apps and post them directly to your Timeline, add them to groups and share them in albums. To use the feature, open the app and tap the What's On Your Mind? box on your Timeline or News Feed. Select the option 360 Photo and use the on-screen guidelines while you slowly move in a full circle to create the image. You can't yet use it to create videos but you can

zoom in and tag people in your photos. It's also possible to upload precreated 360-degree images and set them as your





Use Google Allo on the web

allo.google .com/web

Allo, allo, allo! Is Google still promoting the messaging service it hopes will rival the likes of Messenger and WhatsApp?

It certainly



appears so. Previously, you could only use Allo via a mobile app, but the company has now rolled it out to the web. This means you can start chats, use smart replies and enjoy stickers and emoji from your Desktop, even tapping into the delights of Google Assistant if you wish. All you need is an Android device and the Chrome browser. From that point, you just open Allo on your phone, tap the Menu button, select Allo For Web and scan the QR code on your computer screen. The browser-based version of Allo is easily to navigate, with the menu options on the left and messages on the right. You can also start an incognito chat if you wish.

TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

Get help and advice about avoiding

Tips to help Amazon Echo owners

and reporting online scams

make the most of the device

The second series of Stranger Things is on Netflix from

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

Dig a hole through the world

bit.ly/dig431

Have you ever wondered where you would end up if you dug a hole in your garden to the other side of the world? Type your country, city, address or postcode into the Antipodes Map and you'll find out. This pinpoints your precise pop-out point and gives you the coordinates. As you'll see, it's best not to attempt such a feat in real life because you'll probably drown!



Discover the dates of words

bit.ly/words431

When Web User launched in 2001, the words 'selfie', 'thumb drive' and 'vlog' had yet to find their way into print and we were only just becoming acquainted with 'click fraud', 'twerking' and 'bromance'. We discovered such fascinating facts by typing the year



into this new tool dictionary publisher Merriam-Webster. which stretches back to before the

12th century and tells you when specific words were first used in print. Results can be shared on Facebook or Twitter, and you can click any word for a definition. "Whoo-hoo!", as they wouldn't have said prior to 1981.

Let Google predict your doodles

bit.ly/doodles431

Last year, Google produced a clever riff on the board game



Pictionary, asking you to doodle a series of specified images before guessing what you were trying to draw (quickdraw.withgoogle.com). This resulted in millions of doodles, most of which have been used to create a new experiment called Sketch-rnn. As before, you attempt to draw an object, but this time the neural network predicts how you'll finish it. There are various modes including Multi-Prediction, which lets you doodle to the left while showing a variety of predicted results to the right; and Interpolation, which morphs one drawing into another.

@RetroGameMechEx

@actionfrauduk

@Speak2Alexa

@Stranger_Things

27 October

Get the technical lowdown on how classic video were developed

@A single bear

Reflective and often poetic tweets from a chatty but lonely ursine

Enjoy threaded comments in Instagram

www.instagram.com

Instagram now organises its comments into threads so you can easily keep track of conversations. When you reply to a comment, your response will be grouped with it, following a pattern that will already be familiar to Facebook users.

Share colourful WhatsApp updates

www.whatsapp.com

You can now make your WhatsApp status stand out using colourful text and backgrounds. Click the Status tab, start typing and choose a font and colour. Tap the eye at the bottom of a status to see who's viewed your update.

Talk to eBay's ShopBot

assistant.google.com

Google Assistant on Android phones now lets you ask eBay about the price of products (albeit in US dollars). Set up the Assistant (touch and hold the Home button) and say "Ask eBay" followed by your query.

Upload videos to Reddit

www.reddit.com

Rather than have Reddit users jump through hoops to post videos by using links to third-party hosting services, the online community now allows direct uploading. You can either select an MP4 or MOV video from your computer, or record videos or choose pre-records via the Reddit app by tapping Post Something Interesting, Image/Video and either Camera or Library.



Need to Know

Roku battles piracy as boxing fans fear streaming "trap"

What happened?

The battle against online piracy has spread to Roku's TV sticks and boxes, which has shut down features to avoid them being used to access illegal content. Roku streaming sticks are similar to the Amazon Fire TV Stick and Google Chromecast: you plug the device into your television's HDMI port to get smart TV functions such as streaming YouTube and iPlayer. Roku also makes a dedicated set-top box.

This kind of streaming hardware is normally used to access free or paid-for television, but Roku also lets you set up and watch a private channel that's normally used by developers to test a channel before setting it live for a wider audience. However, reports suggest pirates have been using private channels to share streams of copyrighted material.

In response, Roku has started issuing pop-up warnings to users of private channels, which tell them that the private channel they are trying to access is a "non-certified channel" and that if it is found to violate copyright or other laws, Roku may remove it without notice. There's no suggestion that Roku is tracking users who try to access private channels to alert the authorities.

Roku's warning comes as reports suggest anyone who illegally streamed the Conor McGregor and Floyd Mayweather boxing match on 27 August via a Kodi add-on or another dubious online source may have unwittingly stepped into a trap. During the fight, a series of digits appeared on some dodgy



Illegal streamers of the Mayweather vs McGregor fight may have been "trapped"



streams, leading pundits to suggest the code was a way of tracking streams that broke copyright of the event. It's not certain that this is the case but, if it is, the technique could be used to find the person leaking the stream and sharing it rather than those watching it.

A survey by Finder.com suggested one in three respondents intended to find a pirated source to view the match, given the £20 price to watch the match legally and the ease of watching dodgy streams online.

How will it affect you?

It won't, if you only use Roku to access paid-for or genuinely free content. The warning message only applies to private channels, which are a niche feature designed to help developers and are not meant for the general public.

That said, if you're using private channels – whether to watch pirated content or for a legitimate reason – you may see a warning message. So far, the warning message seems to be Roku's only measure, but it may start blocking sources in future, particularly those that are reported as illegal by rights holders. The implication is that you don't have to worry if you use private channels for legitimate purposes, but if you've been using a dodgy stream to watch via Roku, the feature may vanish.

Regarding the tracking of boxing-match streams, it's hardly surprising that an expensive, popular event would have anti-piracy measures in place. If you're still seeking illegal streams for your content, you may well get caught out by techniques such as this one or others we've never even heard of - rights holders are rather keen to protect their products, especially when millions of people are paying £20 each to watch. That said, don't panic: the code may be targeting leakers rather than watchers, and could be entirely unrelated to piracy.

What do we think?

Rights holders are methodically shutting down every piracy loophole. They probably can't plug every hole, but the aim is to make piracy not worth the trouble for the average viewer. While there will always be people who indulge in piracy to prove a point - and if you paid £20 to watch that particularly unexciting boxing match, you may sympathise — the improvement in smart TVs, the low cost of devices such as Roku and the wide range of easy ways to buy and watch shows mean piracy shouldn't be your first option. There are smarter ways to watch what you want without falling foul of the law. See our cover feature on page 38 to learn more about one of the best.

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

Samsung TVs bricked by software update

What happened?

A software update has broken Samsung TVs, leaving sets bought only weeks ago showing nothing but a blank screen. The fault happened after Samsung rolled out a software update on 17 August to specific models of its smart, webconnected TVs. A bug caused a small number of televisions to stop working - Samsung has said fewer than 200 were affected.

The smart TVs aren't the only hardware to suffer software issues. Webconnected, app-operated door locks from Lockstate stopped working after a software update. breaking one in 12 of the locks. And drone maker DJI said owners of its products must install a firmware update as soon as possible or their flying toys will stop working, after hackers found ways to meddle with safety settings.

How will it affect you?

The software bug has left some TVs entirely bricked, unable to turn on, while others are unable

to change channel or volume. If your TV was one of the few affected, call Samsung on 0330 726 7864 to get help. The fault is severe enough that it'll probably

engineer visiting your home or taking your TV to a repair shop, because the software solution needs to be installed by an "approved Samsung engineer". The fault affects the MU Series of smart TVs, in particular the MU6, MU7 and MU8 models.

What do we think?

Web-connected TVs are certainly handy, but losing the ability to watch your favourite shows is likely to make anyone affected yearn for simpler times, when TV sets simply worked. It doesn't need to be this way: Samsung made an error and needs to test future updates before rolling them out. But as the Lockstate example shows, Samsung is not the only company to trip up. Smart devices have their benefits, but it's worth thinking twice before connecting appliances — it's one thing to make do without a television, but not being able to get into your own home is more serious, so think before you connect!



Android Oreo arrives with new **features**

What happened?

Google has unveiled the eighth edition of its Android mobile operating system, dubbed 'Oreo'. So what's new?

One intriguing feature in Android 8 is support for picture-in-picture, which lets you continue to watch a video while using another app, such as email. Notifications will be organised into channels. making them easier to manage, and an Autofill feature will let password managers work with Android to fill in login details for you.

The Camera app gets a few tweaks, notably a simpler way to zoom and switch between photo and video modes. Android Oreo should also extend your phone's battery life, because Google is stopping certain background tasks in apps that chew through your battery. Perhaps most importantly, there are 60 new emoji.

How will it affect you?

If you have a Googlebranded smartphone, such as the Nexus 5X or Nexus 6P, you can download and install Android Oreo immediately. Other handsets will receive it once their mobile operators have tested it and rolled it out. If you have a Nexus, you can install Oreo now by heading to Google's

Android Beta page (android.com/beta) to download it. Otherwise, you can simply wait until your operator pushes it out "over the air".

Of course, not all phones will get the update, with older devices likely to be passed over. OnePlus said its OnePlus 5, 3 and 3T will get Oreo - but it will be the last Android update for the older two handsets.

What do we think?

Picture-in-picture is a neat feature, but it's hardly enough reason to buy a new phone. That said, Google's continual upgrades mean those with the latest software always get the best battery life, the most protected operating system and the fastest performance.

Hopefully, those on older phones and less-expensive models aren't left off the upgrade cycle. However, that's more down to the individual operator than Google. Android 7 (Nougat) is only used by 13% of users, with a third still on Android 6 (Marshmallow), which was released back in 2015.



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Government launches app to get Brits walking

What happened?

Official figures from the Government's Public Health England (PHE) department revealed that a staggering 6.3 million British adults fail to walk briskly for just 10 minutes a month (brisk walking is defined as simply "walking faster than usual, at a pace that gets your heart pumping").

In addition to weight loss, regular brisk walking over time helps to reduce the risk of diabetes, cancer, heart disease and stroke, and has also been found to improve mental health.

To get more people walking, PHE has teamed up with the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University and the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine (NCSEM) to launch the One You physical-activity campaign and a free app called Active 10 (bit.ly/ active431). Available for Android and iOS, Active 10 claims be the first app of its kind to measure how much brisk walking you do, and how many 'Active 10s' - continuous chunks of 10 minutes - you achieve each day.

The app, which has already been downloaded by more than 50,000 people, encourages you to walk at least one Active 10 a day. Using sensors in the phone, the app measures when you reach a certain speed (about three miles per hour) and when you keep going at that speed for 10 minutes or more.



How will it affect you?

If you're worried that you're not getting enough exercise, the new Active 10 app helps you quantify exactly how much brisk walking you're doing and gives you useful tips on how to build more into your everyday routine. There's no pressure to rush into an intensive and exhausting new exercise regime, because the app lets you set your own goals as you build towards the 150 minutes a week of moderate exercise recommended by the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Dame Sally Davies.

What do we think?

There are loads of free fitness apps available but many of them assume that the user already has a keen interest in walking, running or cycling. We think it's excellent news that Active 10 has set realistic, achievable goals for the 6.3 million unfit adults who fail to walk for a brisk 10 minutes every month. If just walking a little faster can reduce all manner of health risks, the public should be encouraged to do so. And once you've been using the app for a while, you can up your target to an Active 20!

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Samsung Galaxy Note 8 bit.ly/note431

This time last year, we were singing the praises of Samsung's Galaxy Note 7 and were it not for its worldwide recall - following the emergence of a potentially dangerous battery flaw - we'd still be recommending it now. You can bet that Samsung has fixed the battery problem in the Galaxy Note 8, but that's not the only thing it's upgraded.

The phone's attractive bezel-less design is cribbed from the Galaxy S8, allowing the huge 6.3in screen to dominate the entire front of the handset. It continues to use Samsung's Super AMOLED technology which, at this scale, looks amazing.

Turn the Note 8 over and another



12-megapixel cameras. It's hardly an original idea, but it's a first for Samsung, and the company has really gone to town with it, combining an f/1.7 wideangle lens with an f/2.4 telephoto lens with up to 10x optical zoom. As well as giving you a huge range of composition options, the two cameras can work together for cleaner, more

detailed shots, or to create lovely soft-focus backgrounds.

A less conspicuous but still useful improvement is that Samsung's S Pen stylus - the handy pointing device which inspires the Note's name - can now be used to jot things down even with the screen off, for the ultimate in quick note-taking.

There are changes inside the case, too. The processor has been bumped up to Samsung's Exynos 8895 and memory has been increased from 4GB to 6GB. We'll need to spend some time testing the Note 8 before we can deliver a definitive verdict, but our first impressions are excellent. Samsung has taken arguably the best plus-size smartphone ever and made it even better. It's available to preorder now for a whopping £869, so start saving your pennies!



WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

Are self-driving lorries coming to the UK?

Self-driving lorries may conjure up images of the demonic truck in Steven Spielberg's Duel, but the reality might not be quite as terrifying. The government has announced that 'partially driverless' lorries will be on UK roads before the end of next year, and that the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) is testing a number of "platoons".

Reassuringly, humans will be in control of the steering of the semi-autonomous vehicles, which will travel together in close formation in groups of

three. A human driver will control the lead vehicle, with acceleration and braking mirrored by the other lorries using wireless technology.

Transport minister Paul Maynard said that because the front vehicle pushes air out of the way for the others, using self-driving lorries could lead to more efficient travel and low emissions. The AA, however, has raised concerns about the effectiveness of the system on UK roads, warning that a convoy could block road signs for other users.

"We all want to promote fuel efficiency and reduce congestion, but we are not yet convinced that lorry platooning on UK motorways is the way to go about it," said the AA's president, Edmund King, noting the number of exits and entries on the UK road system. "Platooning may work on the miles of



deserted freeways in Arizona or Nevada but this is not America."

The government originally proposed a trial of semi-autonomous lorries back in 2014.

LIKELIHOOD RATING 11111

It seems a bit of a stretch to call the proposed lorries self-driving when they will be carefully controlled by humans, even if only the lead vehicle in a group of three will have its driver's seat occupied. We also share the AA's reservations about platoons of lorries causing more - rather than fewer - problems on the UK's busy roads.

What's new on Kickstarter

Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

Pixel3D 3D Printer

bit.ly/pixel3d431 | From £400

A few years ago, 3D printers were touted as the next big technology must-have, but their high price, bulky build and variable performance put many home users off. There are no such qualms with the Pixel3D, which measures just 45 x 42 x 32cm, and prints at a zippy 80 millimetres per second



- double the speed of most 3D printers - to create models of up to $150 \times 150 \times$ 150mm. It's an easy kit to build - although "not for beginners" - with high-quality plastic parts. The creator hopes to raise £11,900 by 20 September.

WEBOMETER

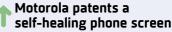
WE LIKE...

Google Assistant comes

Apple iPhone and iPad users in the UK, Germany and France can

now try Google's answer to Siri. Google Assistant was first announced in May 2016 and has since formed the AI backbone of

Android handsets and the Google Home smart speaker.



Motorola has patented a way to heal a cracked phone screen by applying heat to the damage, which means that expensive

smartphone screen repairs could soon become a thing of the past.

WE DON'T LIKE...

Facebook Messenger scam spreads malware

A virulent malware campaign

has hit Facebook Messenger, linking users to malicious sites and downloading software to their computers. The format of the

message is the user's first name, followed by 'video' and a shortened Bitly or Tcn link.

NHS Lanarkshire hit by ransomware

The Scottish health board has confirmed that a new variant of Bitmayer was behind a cyberattack that led to a number of appointments

and procedures



being cancelled on 25 August.

Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

Screen repairs create hacking rísk

Phone users have been warned that getting their devices repaired could leave them vulnerable to being spied on. Security researchers at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel discovered that replacement screens could harbour malware on a chip integrated with the display. This could allow hackers to remotely

control a phone or eavesdrop on conversations and messages.

In a YouTube video, the researchers set up a demonstration of the vulnerability using a Huawei Nexus 6P and an LG G Pad 7.0.



Both were fitted with a screen modified with a chip that allowed them to access data on the devices. The modified screen could snoop on text entered on a keyboard, direct victims to phishing websites and install rogue apps, as well as use the phone's camera to take pictures. Other attacks allowed researchers to control the operating system of the devices. The modified screens appear identical to those made by the phone manufacturers themselves. bit.ly/screen431

Hackers can edit emails in your inbox

New research has thrown light on an email exploit that hackers can use to change the content of a message, even after it has been delivered to your inbox. Dubbed Ropemaker by security company Mimecast, the attack scenario allows malicious parties to alter what is displayed in an email, such as editing

text or swapping a harmless URL with a link to malware.

The exploit is based on the idea that an attacker sends an HTML email to the victim. but uses the CSS code

- normally used to direct the presentation style of a web page - to link to a remote file hosted on the attacker's server.

In a couple of examples given by Mimecast, a remote CSS code is first used to switch a URL address in an email message, then to send a matrix of ASCII text that can be selectively controlled to change what is displayed. This latter scenario would essentially allow an attacker to edit the text of an email, adding or removing sentences and external links.

bit.ly/email431

Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT: **Darren Guccione.** CEO of **Keeper Security** (keepersecurity.com)





A decade ago. a five- or sixcharacter

password was enough to beat most hacking programs, but computers are much faster now and a six-character password can be guessed by a brute-force attack. Your passwords should therefore contain at least 12 characters.

Substituting numbers for letters used to be effective but the criminals' software is on to that trick and 'Spr1ngst33n' doesn't survive a determined attack any more. Additionally, '1qaz2wsx' may seem like a pretty tough password to guess until you look at your keyboard and notice the pattern. A random series of letters and numbers must be truly random to have a chance.

It may seem like a good idea to store your passwords in plain text in a spreadsheet

or mail them to vourself, but this leaves them vulnerable to ransomware the fastest-growing category of malware, where criminals hold your data hostage until you pay them a ransom. While they wait for you to pay, they can scour your hard drive looking for anything that resembles a password list. Once they find it, the ransom payment is the least of your problems.

You may have the strongest password in the world, but if you share it with someone who stores it in an email account protected by 'qwerty', it won't make a bit of difference. Your passwords



are for your eyes only.

Your best bet is to use a password manager protected by strong encryption. The best ones generate secure passwords for you and give you total protection with two-factor authentication.

•See page 44 for our comparison of password



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Best New Websites

Site of the Fortnight

RELAUNCH

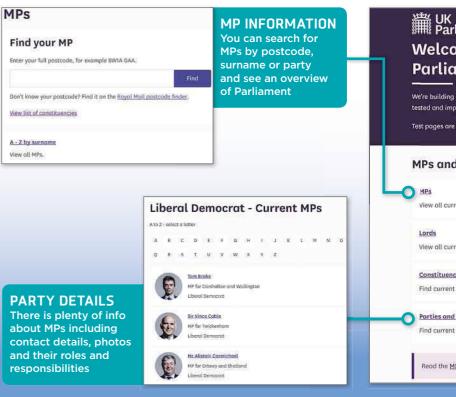
UK Parliament

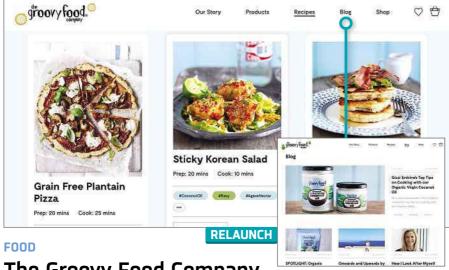
beta.parliament.uk

These are testing times for politicians and also for Parliament's website. As MPs return after their summer break, we've been checking out this beta version of its imminent relaunch and we like what we see so far. The design is simple yet effective - there's less clutter and info is easier to access. Clicking MPs displays a prominent search engine that lets you enter a postcode to see a breakdown of contact details and past roles. You can also click letters to find lords and constituencies. It's a big improvement on the current dated, mobile-unfriendly site. We're surprised you can't vote on the changes, but you can give your feedback.

Our rating







The Groovy Food Company

www.groovyfood.co.uk

If you're keen to eat healthily, The Groovy Food Company's new site serves up a delicious number of tasty recipes that make great use of its product range. It splits them into various categories including Trending, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Sweet Treats, while also inviting you to submit your own recipes via a simple online form. We love the clear layout of the recipe pages, which you can download and print in PDF format, and the impressive detail of the product pages with their health benefits, ingredients and nutritional information clearly displayed. Buying items is a doddle and the blog looks promising but it could do with being updated more regularly.

Our rating



VisaDB

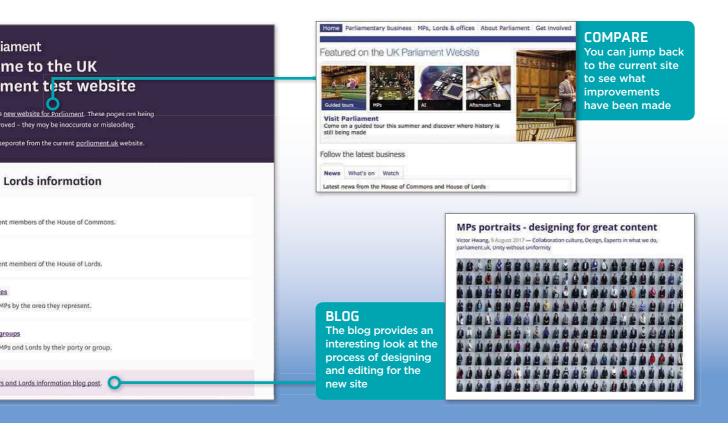
visadb.io

If you want a quick holiday getaway, choosing a country with a visa restriction is unlikely to get your trip off to a relaxing start. This site makes things easier by letting you specify where you're from and want to go, to see instantly which countries require the documentation. Each result tells you how long you can stay and whether you can apply for a visa when you arrive. You can also check the cost of eating, sleeping and travelling, and the typical weather conditions. VisaDB is fast and slick, but be aware that it's still in alpha so you should doublecheck the information before you go.

Our rating



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





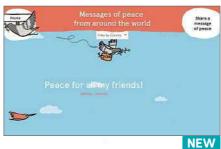
BBC Sport

www.bbc.co.uk/sport

You'll have to be on the ball to spot the difference between the old and new BBC Sport site, but look a little closer and you'll see it has a new logo and graphics. To save some cash, the Beeb has adopted a fresh font called Reith, which is named after the BBC's founder, Lord Reith. Whether or not it makes the text easy to read is rather subjective: it certainly feels more striking but perhaps too much so. Other than a different shade of yellow, there's not much else to note, but the changes affect both desktop and mobile, and they'll be rolled out to the entire website in due course.







COMMUNITY

Imagine Peacebook imaginepeacebook.com

Imagine there's a website that allows you to share messages of peace with the world. Well, imagine no more, because the Imagine Peacebook - inspired by John Lennon's famous song - not only lets you write 101-character messages but also read those left by others. Created to mark both International Day of Peace on 21 September and the launch of Amnesty International's new fundraising picture book, the site lets you filter the messages by country and read those written by celebrities. You can also watch a video, listen to snippets of the song and buy the book itself.

Our rating





MUSIC

Guinness Jazz Festival

www.guinnessjazzfestival.com

Cork has held its jazz festival every October since 1978, attracting more than 400,000 music lovers each year. If you fancy attending, you can visit this informative site to see who is playing, find accommodation and arrange your travel. But even if you can't make it, there's plenty to see. Each artist page has a brief biog and a video so you can get a flavour of their music. There's also a Jazz Playlist showcasing musicians from the line-up, which you can stream via Spotify. Tickets can be booked via links to third-party sites and you can watch some acts for free at the Festival Club.

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





FOOTBALL

NEW WASTE

RELAUNCH

MUSIC

Yahoo Sports Daily **Fantasy**

bit.ly/fantasy431

Could you do better with £200m in your pocket than Mourinho or Conte? Then pick 11 players in this Yahoo-branded fantasy football game and you may find yourself quids in. Offering the chance to take part in one-day contests over the coming season, the Sports Daily Fantasy game tempts you with big-money prizes, but be warned: to take part, you need to link a credit card and add funds. Still, if you fancy a flutter there are worse gambles. It takes a while to work out what to do but the site is neatly laid out and there are free and cheap contests to try, as well as a welcome Fair Play policy.

Go Skip Compare

www.goskipcompare.com

If you don't fancy wasting your time phoning skip-hire companies for a quote but still want the best price, this beautifully presented comparison site could be the answer. Enter your postcode and the dates you want the skip to be delivered and collected, then indicate the type of waste and whether or not a permit is required, and choose a skip size. You should get a range of quotes and be able to sign up and book one online, though some areas had no results and others only one or two skips. Still, the site is easy to use and there's a comprehensive FAQ. It also promises to recycle as much waste as possible.

Our rating



www.statesiderecords.com

Stateside Records

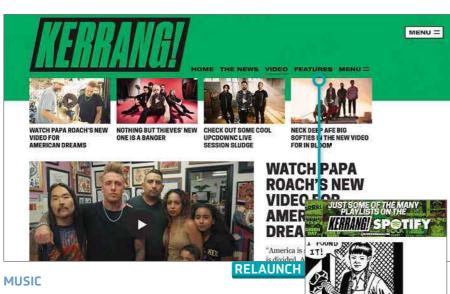
Stateside Records (or \$tateside, as it's written) is a British record label dating back 55 years. It was originally launched to release licensed American recordings but it's now dedicated to classic jazz, soul and R&B releases. The label's spruced-up site shines a spotlight on some of its key artists, letting you listen to songs via Spotify and get involved through social media. By tagging images on Instagram, you can be featured on the homepage, and signing up to the email newsletter keeps you up-to-date with the latest releases. Getting around the site is a breeze, thanks to easy navigation, and an online store is coming soon.

Our rating



Our rating





Kerrang!

www.kerrang.com

Rock bible Kerrang! nearly beat its last drum at the end of 2016, but here it is with a wonderful relaunched website, hoping for a long-lasting encore. Adopting a bold, clean design, this splits its content across news, videos and features, attracting readers with bold, non-clickbaity headlines and vivid imagery - a refreshing approach backed up by a healthy mix of interesting, insightful articles. As expected, each piece is tagged and shareable on social media, and there are some nice extras such as embedded Spotify playlists and a newsletter that promises no spam. It's undoubtedly one of the best and freshest music sites around. Rock and roll is here to stay!

Our rating





ALCOHOL

Drink Finder

www.drinkfinder.co.uk

With more than 4,000 alcoholic drinks to choose from, this site is sure to get your head spinning. Thankfully, it makes light work of helping you find what you want to imbibe through a series of menus and submenus covering whiskey, wine, spirits, gin, rum, beers and more. An effective filtering system quickly narrows down your choice by price, age, type, vintage and style, while new and sale products are also flagged up. There's a wishlist and a handy compare function, but the bottle descriptions feel too brief and lack customer reviews. PayPal checkout is a good addition, though, and there's next-day delivery for most of the week.

Our rating



Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

Top Tips of the Fortnight

Edit web pages without code

Visual Inspector (bit.ly/visual431) is a new Chrome extension that lets you inspect and edit web pages quickly within the browser without launching the DevTools console or indeed writing any code. It doesn't replace the standard developer tools, but the interface makes previewing design changes such as position, colour, opacity, fonts and typography much easier than digging through lines of code. You can change text just by clicking the appropriate section and typing. Once you're happy with your tweaks, you can export a PNG of the new design to share it. In future, the plugin



promises to let you export CSS from your changes.

Check if your site is mobilefriendly

It's now easier than ever to test whether your website is mobilefriendly thanks to a tool built directly into Google. Type mobile friendly into the search engine, enter your website's URL and click Run Test. Google tells you whether your site is mobile-friendly and if not, why it isn't. With more than half of all web searches now being performed on phones, it's vital to check that your site works perfectly on smaller screens.

Deal of the Fortnight

Krystal (krystal.co.uk) is offering users a first month's hosting for only £1, before the price rises to £2.99 a month. All packages come with a 60-day money-back guarantee.

Web-building Helpdesk

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



eUKhost (www.eukhost.com)



Is it possible to add voice search to my website for visitors on mobile devices?

•••••

Ray Farmer, via email



By far and away the easiest option is to integrate Google custom search into your site. This is a customised

Google search box that searches your site,

but if you add a speechinput tag to the search box, then the microphone will also be visible and



active. Unfortunately, this only works in the Chrome browser and I don't know of a simple cross-platform solution.

MINI WORKSHOP | Try the new Wordpress mobile editor

🕯 Wordpress.com Beta Editor: apps.wordpress.com/mobile | 🕒 10 mins | 👘 📽





It's important to keep your WordPress blog or website up to date. Thanks to the app's powerful new beta editor, it's never been easier to edit posts on your phone or tablet, so you can update your site from anywhere

Open the WordPress app and when prompted to try the new beta Wordpress Editor, tap Try It. If you've already selected Not Now, tap the account button, then



App Settings. From this list, tap 'Set editor type' 1 and choose Beta, then tap the WordPress button and select Blog Posts.

You can create a new post or tap Edit next to an existing post to open the beta editor. Type some text and a new Undo button 1 appears that lets you undo your changes one step at



activate the Redo button. 2 Try pasting a large chunk of text into the new editor - you should notice it's processed much faster than in the previous version.

Scrolling up and down through the text is also much quicker and smoother, and the spellcheck should be more reliable. You can now enter text using your keyboard's



dictation function, too. 11 If you notice a bug when using the new editor, tap Beta, 2 then press the Bug icon to report it to WordPress.



Deco M5 Whole Home Wi-Fi System

Connect to your Wi-Fi seamlessly throughout your home.



TP-Link HomeCare™

Protects devices from viruses and malware, with easy-to-use parental controls. Powered by Trend Micro®.



Easy Setup

The Deco App helps you to locate the ideal spot for each unit.







TP-Link ART™

Adaptive Routing Technology automatically assigns your devices to the best Deco unit and Wi-Fi band.

Available from July 2017 at

amazon.co.uk









We test and compare the latest products

Tablet-laptop hybrids for less than £600

Do you want a Windows 10 laptop or a Windows 10 tablet? With these versatile hybrids, you can have both at the same time!

hoosing between a laptop and a tablet can be tough. Sometimes you want the convenience of a touchscreen device that you can control with your fingers, which is great for browsing the web and answering email. Other times you need a keyboard and trackpad, so you can do some serious work.

With Windows 10, however, you don't need to make that choice. Here, we've reviewed four hybrid devices that have a touchscreen and a removable keyboard, so you can use them in tablet mode or as a laptop. All four devices are available for less than £600, and the least expensive costs less than £300.

HOW WE TESTED

We put each of the devices through its paces using our 4K Windows benchmarking tools. This gave us an overall score based on a series of tests including office tasks, image editing and video encoding. We also tested the quality of the screens using a colorimeter, and the battery life by charging each laptop completely and timing how long it could play a looping video.

Lenovo Yoga Book | £548.97 | Buy from Amazon: bit.ly/lenw431

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

Lenovo's Yoga Book is unique, even among these innovative hybrid devices. For a start, it doesn't have a physical keyboard. Instead, you get a fancy virtual one with illuminated, futuristic-looking keys that vibrate when you tap them, giving you a reassuring (and much-needed) sense of physical feedback.

This isn't merely an aesthetic touch, however, because the Yoga Book can also turn that virtual keyboard into a full-blown electromagnetic-resonance (EMR) writing surface, so at the flick of a switch you can be drawing pictures or jotting down notes with its bundled stylus. Simply press the small button in the top right-hand corner and the illuminated keys instantly disappear. This makes the Yoga Book incredibly versatile as an artistic, design or note-taking tool – and even more so than most other hybrids. You can even add a magnetic clip to a standard pen or pencil, then attach an A5 pad and the Yoga Book will digitise anything you write or draw on it.

The tablet runs Windows 10 perfectly well, as long as you don't try to do too many things at once. Its score of 11 in our benchmark test put it in third place overall, although it was only one point behind the second-place Asus Transformer

WebUser GOLD AWARD

Mini. The screen is adequate but not brilliant, producing just 81.2% of Microsoft's standard sRGB colours. It's battery life is good for the price, though, lasting seven hours and 22 minutes in our video-playback test.

There are two options available: the Windows version we've reviewed here, and an Android version, which currently costs around £150 less from Amazon (bit.ly/lena431). If you're thinking more in terms of a tablet you can use as a laptop, rather than laptop you can use as a tablet, this alternative version is well worth considering.

VERDICT ★★★★

Despite a couple of minor problems, the Yoga Book is an exceptional note-taking device that does an excellent job of bridging the gap between laptop, tablet and paper notebook. Lenovo should be applauded for pushing the boundaries because

the Yoga Book feels like a genuine step forward, with its virtual keyboard and fantastic writing surface. The Windows 10 version isn't cheap, though, so if you want to save money and don't mind losing Windows compatibility, the £400 Android version also comes highly recommended.



WebUse

BRONZE

AWARD

Huawei MateBook | £499.97 Buy from Currys: bit.ly/huaw431

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

Huawei's MateBook is the slimmest and lightest device we reviewed, despite having one of the largest screens. Its thin chassis has one disadvantage, though, which is that it can only accommodate a single USB Type-C socket. This means you can't have any peripherals connected while charging the device.

The 12in, 2,160 x 1,440 pixels resolution display is stunning, reproducing 98.4% of the colours in Microsoft's sRGB standard. It's bright enough for most purposes, although it loses some detail when displaying darker images.

The big problem is its battery, which lasted just six hours in our video-playback test. You wouldn't want to leave the house without the charger because it's unlikely to provide a full day's use before running out of power. This is probably due to its powerful components, which aced our Windows benchmark test with an impressive score of 26.

VERDICT



The MateBook has seen a number of price drops since its launch last year, bringing it down to its current level. This makes it a bargain, especially as the detachable keyboard is included in the price.

Asus Transformer Mini | £399 Buy from Amazon: bit.ly/asus431

FEATURES ★★★☆☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★☆☆

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

Despite its name, the Asus Transformer Mini is the thickest of the hybrid devices in our Group Test, although its 10.1in screen makes it lighter than the larger but slimmer Venturer (below). The extra thickness provides plenty of room for ports, including USB 3, Micro USB for charging, a Mini

HDMI port, a headphone jack and a microSD

memory-card slot. The keyboard-equipped cover has a fabric finish that stops it sliding around while you're working. This turns the device into a functional laptop. It's not great to type on, though,

and the trackpad sometimes had trouble working out whether we were left- or right-clicking.

The screen's resolution is just 1,280 x 800 pixels and it's quality could be better, but it's nice and bright. The device's overall benchmark score of 12 is marginally better than the Lenovo's, too, as is its battery life of 11 hour and 19 minutes.

VERDICT



The Transformer Mini offers similar Windows performance to the Lenovo Yoga Book for £150 less, which is a great achievement. However, the keyboard and trackpad leave a lot to be desired and the low-resolution screen is disappointing.

Venturer PrimePro 12 TS | £279.99

Buy from Amazon: bit.ly/ven431

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

The cheapest hybrid in our test by some margin is the Venturer PrimePro. It's not the chunkiest device we tested, either, despite its 12in screen, and the soft-touch surface on the keyboard has a nice feel to it. However, it feels mushy to type on and the trackpad isn't particularly responsive.



With its tiny quad-core Intel Atom x5-Z8300 processor and 4GB of memory, it couldn't handle our 4K Windows benchmark test, making it by far the weakest performer in our Group Test. We also tested it with our less-demanding 1080p version of the benchmark, but it didn't exactly blaze through that, either. To make matters worse, despite these low-power components, the battery lasted just five hours and 23 minutes in our test.

On the plus side, it has plenty of ports, including a microSD card slot, full-size USB 3 port, Mini HDMI and a standard audio jack. There's also a micro USB port for charging.

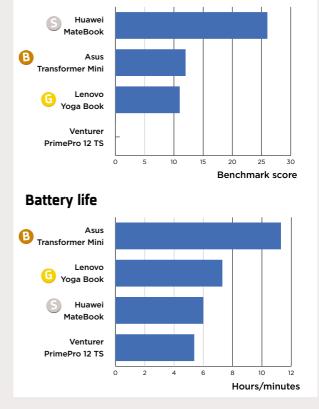
VERDICT



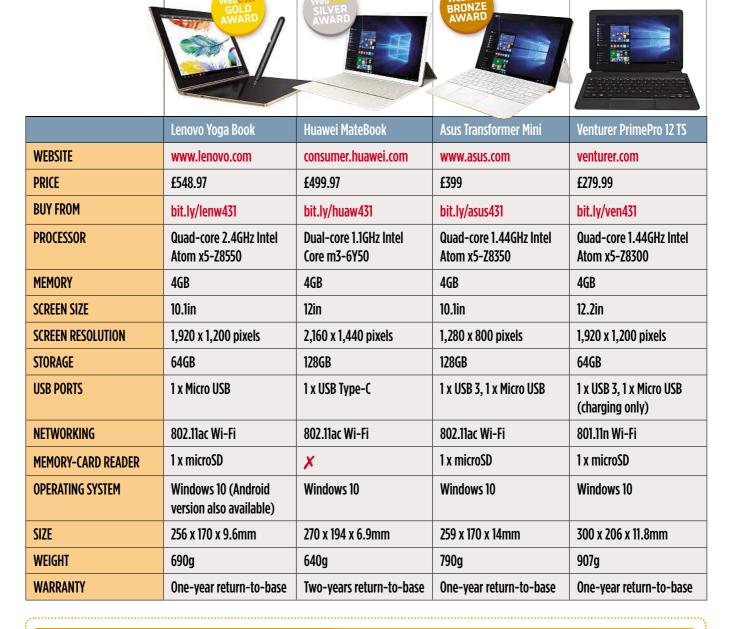
The PrimePro is cheap for a device with a 12in screen. It's also the least powerful device in our test, but if you have only £300 to spend on a Windows 10 hybrid tablet/laptop, you have to accept some compromises.

TEST-RESULTS CHARTS

4K Windows benchmark



闰 Group Test Hybrid tablet-laptops



OUR VERDICT

Lenovo's Yoga Book is more than just a hybrid laptop and tablet - it's practically a new category of device in its own right, with its separate pen-based interface that takes it beyond the usual combination of keyboard and touchscreen. That's enough to win it our Gold Award, although it's worth noting that the Yoga Book also costs the most and doesn't have the best performance of the devices we tested.

The performance accolade goes to the Silver Award-winning Huawei MateBook, which has more powerful components and has benefitted from significant discounting since its launch. It's a classy, well-designed product, and only its battery life lets it down.

If a long battery life is your priority, consider the Asus Transformer Mini, which lasted over 11 hours in our tests and wins our Bronze Award. It performed similarly well to the Yoga Book in our benchmarks but is significantly cheaper, although its screen and keyboard are less sophisticated.





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.





40" 4K curved display (BDM4037U)









₩eb User's Best Buys

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

HARDWARE

HYBRID TABLET/LAPTOP

Lenovo Yoga Book

£548.97 from bit.ly/lenw431

Tested: Issue 431

The Yoga Book laptop-tablet hybrid genuinely feels like a step forward, with its virtual keyboard and fantastic writing surface that makes it an exceptional note-taking device.

KEY SPECS

Quad-core 2.4GHz Intel Atom x5-Z8550 processor ■ 4GB memory = 64GB storage = 10.1in 1,920 x 1,200 pixel screen = 1 x Micro USB port = 802.11ac Wi-Fi = Windows 10 = 256 x 170 x 9.6mm • 690g • One-year return-to-base warranty

NAS DRIVE

Synology DS216j

£161.13 from bit.ly/syn430 Tested: Issue 430

The DS216j is a great-value network storage device with lots of features that make it incredibly flexible. It's not the most powerful choice, but it can do most of the things other NAS drives can do, including pricier models.

KEY SPECS

Dual-core 1GHz Marvell Armada 385 32-bit processor ■ 512MB DDR3 memory ■ 2 x drive bays (drives not included) ■ 20TB (2 x 10TB drive) maximum capacity ■ 165 x 100 x 225.5 mm • 880g • Two-years return-to-base warranty

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 guiet, 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.ly/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.

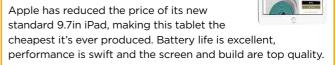
4,800 x 1,200dpi maximum print resolution ■ 1,200 x 2,400dpi maximum scan resolution ■ 250-sheet input capacity • 100-sheet output capacity • Double-sided printing = 802.11n Wi-Fi = 530 x 398 x 304mm = 16.9kg

TABLET

Apple iPad

From £339 from bit.ly/ipad424

Tested: Issue 424



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

SOFTWARE & SERVICES

INTERNET SECURITY

Kaspersky Internet Security 2018

£19.95 from bit.ly/kaspersky2018 Tested: Computeractive Issue 493

Kaspersky is rock solid at protecting your PC from the worst of the web, and has come top in nine of our most recent tests, blocking all malware with its robust defences. Use the URL



above to save £15.04 on the software (normal price £34.99).

KEY FEATURES

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

- Advanced ad-blocking system Multi-device version
- Compatible with Windows 10

ONLINE STORAGE

Google Drive

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



Google Drive is easy to use and has lots of free storage with the option to buy more if you need it. The Windows software integrates seamlessly with Explorer, so saving and syncing files is like keeping them in any other PC folder.

KEY FEATURES

16GB free storage ■ Web-based office software ■ Works with XP. Vista. 7. 8+ and 10 ■ Chrome browser add-on ■ Android and iOS apps ■ 100GB extra storage for £1.36 per month; 1TB for £6.01 per month; 10TB for £60.16 per month

Web User Gold Award winners

FILE-COPYING TOOL

TeraCopy

Free from bit.ly/ter430

Tested: Issue 430

TeraCopy is a great file-copying tool

that's very easy to use and offers lots of useful features. Its handy shortcuts make regular copying tasks much faster.

NEW!

ONLINE SITE BUILDER

Wix

Free from www.wix.com

Tested: Issue 429

Wix's website-creation tools are brilliant, with lots of templates

and innovative features that make creating your site a breeze.



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

This sophisticated online tool comes stuffed with useful features you'd normally only find in Desktop software.



ANDROID CALENDAR

Google Calendar

Free from bit.ly/googlecal426

Tested: Issue 426

This perfect combination of usability

and features makes organising your schedule incredibly easy.

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

DRIVE-SPACE ANALYSER

Ashampoo Disk-Space-Explorer 2018

bit.ly/adse431

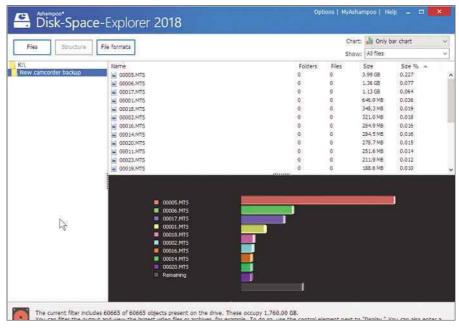
Min requirements: Windows 7/8+/10

File size: 11.2MB

Hard-drive capacity has grown substantially in recent years. If you're looking to buy a new drive for a desktop system, one terabyte (1TB) will probably be your minimum starting point, and you can pick up a 4TB SATA drive for around £100. A couple of years ago, that would have seemed like an immense amount of storage – and it still is – but the volume of large files we keep on our PCs these days makes it surprisingly easy to fill a huge drive in quite a short space of time

Ashampoo's Disk-Space-Explorer 2018 scans your hard drive(s) to provide





a detailed breakdown of where your free space has vanished to. You can view the results by Files (the list can be sorted by name, size or size percentage), Structure (files and folders) or File Formats. That last option is fully customisable, so you can choose which categories to include and which file extensions to look for.

The program displays information in the form of a chart, so you can see at a glance which files and folders are taking up the most space. You can switch between pie chart or bar chart, or view both. Navigating through the folders gives you a good idea of which files are taking up space and where, and right-clicking lets you view an item in Windows Explorer, or delete it (if you're sure it's safe to do so).

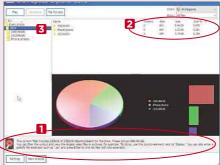
Note that to use this free software, you need to enter a valid email address and password to create a new Ashampoo account.

Ö

MINI WORKSHOP | Manage your hard drives using Ashampoo Disk-Space-Explorer 2018



Launch the program and, in the box that opens, select a drive to analyse (by default, this will be your system drive). Click OK. Disk-Space-Explorer scans the files and folders and arranges them in order of size, with the largest space hogs at the top. Below this, a graph provides a visual overview.

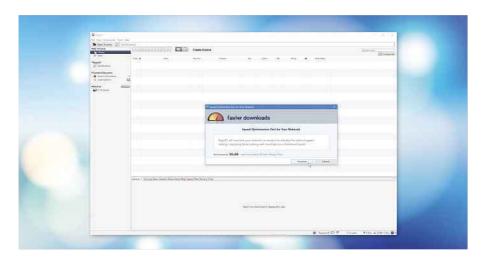


Disk-Space-Explorer also provides you with a useful summary of the drive at the bottom of the window. 1
You can reorder the list by folders, files and drive-size percentage. 2 Select a folder on the left 5 to explore its contents and see at a glance the largest items it contains.



Click the File Formats button and it will present you with a breakdown of the drive's contents by file type - videos, graphics files, applications, archives, audio files and documents. The Settings button lets you customise the program, including specifying which file types to look for in each category.

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



BITTORRENT CLIENT

BiglyBT

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10, Mac OS or Linux File size: 10.6MB

BiglyBT is a fast, cross-platform torrent downloader based on Vuze (formerly Azureus). It offers everything you need from a modern BitTorrent client, as well as features such as Swarm Merging (to complete torrents without all the available pieces), global rate limiting, WebTorrent support and tag discovery (which shows you how other users have tagged a download). Because this is the first stable release, it's currently guite similar to Vuze, but that will change over time.



DUPLICATE FINDER

WinExt 4

www.trisunsoft.com/we

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 687KB

This duplicate-file finder's interface is clearly inspired by CCleaner. It can track down any kind of file and lets you filter what you're looking for by size, format, location and more. It also shows which files take up the most space, tracks Windows activity and performs batch operations, such as deleting or renaming a group of files. The latest version optimises the program to improve overall performance.



HARD-DRIVE MANAGER

Paragon Hard Disk Manager 16 Preview

Min requirements: Windows 7/8+/10

File size: 75MB

Free for a limited time, this preview version of Paragon Hard Disk Manager offers a selection of functions including backup and recovery, disk wiper (useful if you're planning to sell your PC), partition manager, drive copy and a bootable recovery tool. The new version (available in both 32- and 64-bit versions) sports an intuitive tab-based interface and updated tools.

New Windows Apps

Timer for Sport

bit.ly/timer431

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 6MB

Designed as a timer for physical workouts, this app can time duration, intensity interval and intended exercise cycles. It can time anything - not just workouts - and there's a built-in sharing option.



Reader for FB2

bit.ly/reader431

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 10.4MB

This app lets you read books in the FictionBook (FB2) format. You can manage your own ebook library, add books to favourites and switch between light and dark themes.



Reddit Slideshow

bit.ly/redditshow431

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 20.9MB

This unofficial Reddit app can create a slideshow out of images hosted on specific subreddits (subforums). Just add the subreddits you want to use when you first launch the app.



Best Free Software

STREAMING TOOL

Twitch Desktop

app.twitch.tv

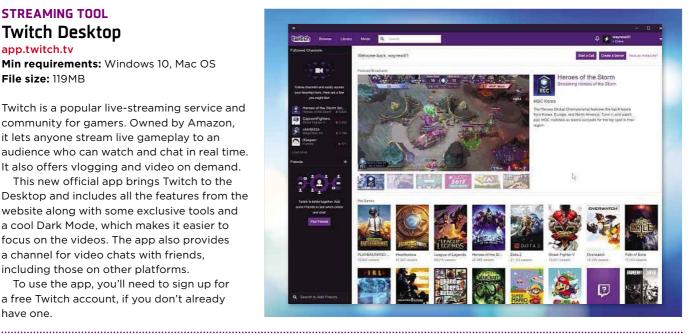
Min requirements: Windows 10, Mac OS

File size: 119MB

Twitch is a popular live-streaming service and community for gamers. Owned by Amazon, it lets anyone stream live gameplay to an audience who can watch and chat in real time. It also offers vlogging and video on demand.

This new official app brings Twitch to the Desktop and includes all the features from the website along with some exclusive tools and a cool Dark Mode, which makes it easier to focus on the videos. The app also provides a channel for video chats with friends, including those on other platforms.

To use the app, you'll need to sign up for a free Twitch account, if you don't already



UTC 09/08/2017 20:.. Morocco Stand... 09/08/2017 21:.. GMT Standard... 09/08/2017 21:.. Greenwich Stan... 09/08/2017 20:.. (UTC+01.00) A. W. Europe Stan. W. Europe Stan. 09/08/2017 22... (UTC+01.00) B... Central Europe ... Central Europe ... 09/08/2017 22... (UTC+01.00) B... Romance Stand. Romance Stand. 09/08/2017 22... P(UTC+01.00) B... Romance Stand... Romance Stand... 09/08/2017 22:... 26/03/2017 02:... 29/10/2017 03: P(UTC+01.00) S... Central Europea... Central Europea... 09/08/2017 22:... 26/03/2017 02:... 29/10/2017 03:.. W. Central Afric. 09/08/2017 21: © UTC+02.00) — Namibio Standa — Namibio (UTC+02-00) South Africa Sta., South Africa Sta., D9/08/2017 22:... (UTC+02-00) FLE Standard Tr., FLE Standard Tr., 09/08/2017 23:... 26/03/2017 03:... 29/10/2017 04:... (UTC+0200) - FLESandard II. FLESandard II. 95/00/2017 23... 20/05/2017 03... 29/10/2017 04... (UTC+0200) I. Jerusalem Stand. Jaseel Standard II. 90/00/2017 23... 24/03/2017 02... 29/10/2017 02... (UTC+0200) V. Russle TZ 1 Sta. Saliningsed Sta. 95/00/2017 22... (UTC+0200) T. Lièye Standard II. Lièye Standard III. 99/00/2017 22... (UTC+03.00) E., Arabic Standard., Prabic Standard., 09/08/2017 23... (UTC+03.00) L., Turkey Standard., Turkey Standar., 09/08/2017 23... (UTC+03.00) K., Arab Standard., Arab Standard., 09/08/2017 23... 1 (UTC+03:00) Belarus Standar. Belarus Standar. 09/08/2017 23:... (UTC+03:00) Russia TZ 2 Sta... Russian Standar. 09/08/2017 23:... (VIT.-03.00) E. Africa Standa. E. Africa Standa. 09/09/2017 23... © (VIT.-03.30) T. Iran Standard Ti., Iran Standard Ti., 10/09/2017 00... 22/03/2017 00... 21/09/2017 23... © (VIT.-04.00) A. Arabian Standar. Arabian Standard. 10/09/2017 00... (UTC+04:00) A... Astrakhan Stan... Astrakhan Stan... 10/08/2017 00: m(s), 1 Selected

WORLD CLOCK TimeZonesView

www.nirsoft.net

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

File size: 55.7KB

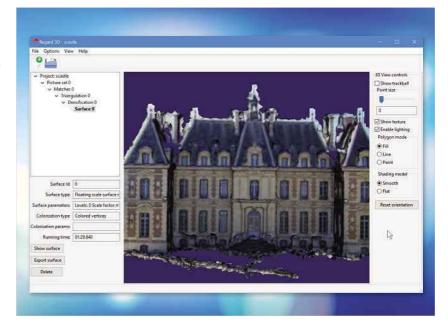
It can be difficult to calculate what time it is in another part of the world - you might know there's a five-hour difference between New York and London, but which city is ahead and which is behind? Although it's easy enough to look up world times on the web, TimeZonesView from the prolific software developer Nirsoft provides a simpler solution. Using your system's built-in clock, it provides a list of all time zones across the world. Your current location is marked in green, so you see it at a glance, and the program provides time-zone data including name, description, the current date and time, and daylight-saving (summer time) start and end dates.

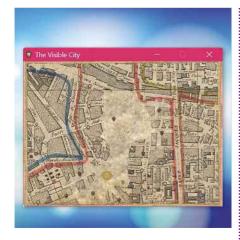
3D CREATOR Regard3D

www.regard3d.org

Min requirements: Windows 7/8+/10, Mac OS, 64-bit processor File size: 32.4MB

Regard3D is an open-source tool that converts multiple images of any item into a 3D model. To use the software, you first need to take lots of pictures of the target object from different angles. Make sure you photograph all of the object to avoid any gaps in the completed model. The more images you capture the better. The camera you use will need to be recognised by Regard3D's database (most devices should be) and the higher the resolution, the better the 3D model. You can then create a new project in the program, add your images and click the buttons to put it all together. The default settings should all be fine.





GAME The Visible City

bit.ly/tvc431

Min requirements: Windows XP/ Vista/7/8+/10 File size: 18MB

Set during the French Revolution, the aim of this inventive game is to protect your map from the mobs who are targeting Paris's street lamps and plunging the city into darkness. You need to send police officers to disperse the gangs of revolutionaries, and technical squads to repair any damaged street lamps. The map will slowly vanish as more lights get destroyed.

Don't install...

Paul's Graphic Viewer

bit.ly/paul431

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7

File size: 1.7MB

We're not sure who Paul is, or why you should care about his graphic viewer, but we can tell you that his software is outdated (the system requirements mention Windows 98 and Me!), very basic and unreasonably expensive, costing \$25 (£19.39). Sorry Paul, but we think you should take this rubbish tool off the web.



...Install this instead

FastStone Image Viewer

www.faststone.org

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

File size: 6.6MB

FastStone Image Viewer is a versatile photo browser, converter and editor that offers lots of powerful features and is very easy to use. You browse your hard drives and folders on the left, explore thumbnails of images on the right, and can open any photo full-screen. Once you're in full-screen mode, you can access various menus and FastStone's array of useful editing tools, including options to batch-convert or rename selected images, change the timestamp, rotate JPEGs without affecting the picture quality, compare images side by side and much more.





UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs



MEDIA CENTRE Kodi 17.4 RC1

kodi.tv

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/ 8+/10, Mac OS or Linux File size: 77.9MB

Kodi is a media centre that can play any kind of audio and video - both local and streaming. The latest update solves a number of problems, including bugs that could cause the software to crash in Windows when installing or updating add-ons.



INSTALLER HELPER

Unchecky 1.0.3

unchecky.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 1.3MB

Unchecky prevents you from accidentally installing bundled adware and toolbars that are often included with free software. The new version improves support for a number of free programs and offers, and removes several falsepositive detections. It also fixes several bugs.



PRIVACY OS

Tails 3.1

tails.boum.org

Min requirements: 64-bit processor, USB flash drive or

blank DVD

File size: 1.1GB

The Amnesic Incognito Live System - Tails, for short is a privacy-focused Linux operating system that you can boot into from a DVD, USB memory stick or SD card. The new version patches some serious vulnerabilities that could have compromised your security.



WINDOWS CUSTOMISER

Classic Shell 4.3.1

www.classicshell.net Min requirements:

Windows 8+/10

File size: 6.9MB

Classic Shell gives Windows 8+ and Windows 10 users a traditional Start menu and adds a toolbar and a status bar to Windows Explorer. The latest release officially supports the Windows 10 Creators Update and gains a setting that lets you clear the icon cache.

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



Best New Browser Tools

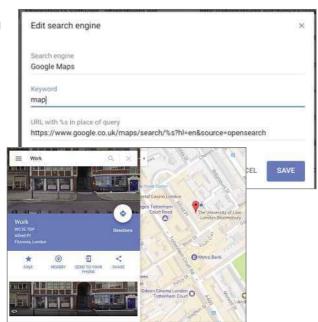


CHROME

Search Google Maps from the address bar

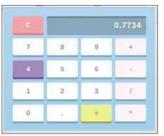
Chrome provides access to a host of custom search engines, and you can search many popular sites directly from the browser's address bar by typing in their keywords followed by your search query. One of the most useful options is to look up any location instantly by typing maps.google.co.uk followed by the place name or postcode. You can make this even easier by shortening the search engine's keyword to map. Click the three-dot button in the top-right corner of the browser and select Settings, then scroll down to the 'Search engine' section and click 'Manage search engines'. Find the Google Maps entry in the 'Other search engines' list, click the three-dot button next to it and choose Edit. Enter map as the keyword and click Save.

While you're there, you can add a shortcut for directions from your home address, for example, to anywhere else. Click the Add button, then type a name for the shortcut, such as Directions, and a keyword to trigger it. In the URL field, paste the web address of your home – you can get this by clicking the Share button when viewing your home in Google Maps and copying the URL. Click Save, and when you next enter the directions keyword, Google Maps will open with your home selected so you can quickly get the information you need.



Add a calculator to Chrome's toolbar

Do you want to work out if you can really afford that holiday, or how much a Netflix subscription (see page 38) will cost you per year? If so, you need



Chrome's
Calculator
(bit.ly/
calc431), a
handy new
extension
that
provides
one-click
access to a

calculator wherever you are on the web. It's not the most sophisticated tool – there are no buttons for working out square roots or percentages or performing trigonometry – and you can't turn it upside down to spell HELLO or 5HELL OIL either, but it's perfect for doing simple sums and opens instantly when you click its toolbar button.

Display Google Photos on your New Tab page

We often recommend add-ons that make your new tabs look more interesting by displaying photos of



landscapes, animals or works of art, for example, but sometimes there's no substitute for your own digital snaps. A new Chrome extension called Photos New Tab (bit.ly/photos431) brings your favourite memories to your New Tab page by presenting random pictures from your Google Photos account. You can tell it which albums to use (so you can stop potentially embarrassing content popping up unexpectedly) by clicking Configure and selecting the appropriate albums from the list. Naturally, you need to give the extension access to your Google Photos account for this to work, but your photos are downloaded straight into your browser, so your privacy won't be compromised.

Reveal the passwords behind asterisks

Hiding passwords behind asterisks stops nosy parkers seeing what you're typing, but it can also prove frustrating when you mistype a character and you're told you've entered an incorrect login. If you make too many mistakes, you may even be locked out of your account. You can avoid this problem by installing Unmask Password (bit.lv/ password431), which removes the asterisks from password fields so you can see exactly what you're typing. Just click the eye symbol to reveal the characters, then click it again to hide them. Obviously, you shouldn't use it if there are people around you who can't be trusted, but it makes logging in a little easier.

Hello,	robirv
Not	you?
mypassword	9.
Sig	n in



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

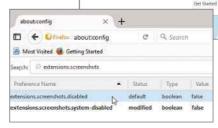


FIREFOX

Try Firefox's new screenshot tool

Last issue, when we were summarising the best new

features in Firefox 55, we lamented the fact that we hadn't yet seen the promised Screenshots tool, which is being rolled out to users gradually. Since then, we've discovered a way to activate the function whether Mozilla likes it or not - assuming you can't see it already. Type about: config into your address bar, press Enter and agree to the



warning. Then search for 'extensions.screenshots' and ensure that both of the matching preferences are set to 'false'. If they're not, double-click them to change their values. Once you've done that, the Screenshots button, which looks like a pair of scissors cutting out a shape, will appear on your toolbar.

To capture a screenshot, click the button and click or drag on the page to select the desired area. Click Save to copy the screenshot to your clipboard or Download to save it to your hard drive. Grabs are saved to the Firefox Screenshots site (screenshots.firefox.com) automatically. You can set them to disappear after a specific length of time or delete them manually.

Sit up straight and stay hydrated

We often recommend add-ons that help to protect your eyes by reminding you to take regular vision breaks, but what about your poor old back? To ensure that bad posture doesn't put a strain on your spine during long web sessions, you should install a new add-on called

* · · · · · · · Healthy Back

Healthy Back (bit.ly/back431), a "personal assistant who reminds you to sit up straight". You can decide how often you want it to notify

(or nag) you - the default is every 20 minutes - or switch the extension off if you feel like slumping in your chair without admonition.

Along similar lines is Hydrator (bit.ly/hydrator431), which reminds



you to drink water at regular intervals, from once every 15 minutes to once an hour. That way, you'll hopefully stay hydrated and at least be a little bit healthier.

Double-tap links to open new tabs

We're so used to right-clicking the mouse to open a context menu that when we use a device that doesn't offer this functionality, such as a touchscreen tablet or laptop trackpad, it can feel like losing a finger (albeit it without the blood and pain). Tap To Tab (bit.ly/tapto431) addresses this problem by letting you perform one of the most common right-click actions - opening a link in a new tab - simply by double-tapping on the pad or screen. It's a simple idea but it works very well.



OTHER BROWSERS

Stop YouTube autoplaying videos There are times when you might open a video on YouTube that you don't want to watch immediately, which makes the site's autoplaying feature more of a hindrance than a help. Disable Autoplay for YouTube (bit.ly/autoplay431) is a new Opera add-on that lets you control whether or not videos play automatically by switching its toolbar button on or off. Unlike similar extensions, it works with YouTube clips that are embedded on other sites, too, and you can disable the add-on when you're working your way through a playlist.

See Barry's column on page 74 for his views on Facebook's new autoplaying videos.



Open Edge links in private mode

When you're shopping for a surprise birthday present or engaging in other furtive activities, your browser's private mode is a good way to stop your PC storing every detail. Chrome and Firefox give you the useful option of right-clicking a link to open it in a private/incognito window, but in Edge you have to open the private window first,

then copy and paste the confidential link into its address bar, which is a bit of hassle. Now. a new Edge extension called



OpenInPrivate (bit.ly/open431) solves this problem by letting you right-click a link and choose 'Open as InPrivate' so no one will know you visited that page.



Best Free Apps 🗯 🚅

App of the Fortnight

PRIVACY

Kaspersky Secure Connection

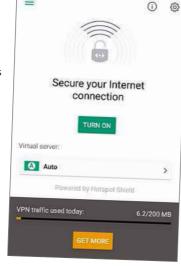
bit.ly/kaspersky431



Browse and message without a trace on your

phone and tablet, using this efficient new VPN (virtual private network) app from antivirus expert Kaspersky.

Kaspersky Secure
Connection redirects all
your data through a virtual
server to prevent any sites
or apps from tracking you.
It spoofs your location
and encrypts all your
activity, making it
impossible for hackers
and snoopers to intercept



your data or detect where you really are.

Once you've set it up (see our Mini Workshop, right), the app could hardly be easier to use. It takes one tap to enable the secure connection, then another to turn it off. You can even set up rules that tell the app to switch to a virtual server automatically when you use certain apps, websites and groups, such as banking tools. It can also be set to swing into action automatically whenever you're on unsecured Wi-Fi. It's fast, too – our internet had a noticeable speed boost while the secure connection was switched on.

So what's the catch? Well, it demands some alarmingly heavy-handed permissions, such as 'make and manage phone calls' and 'access your contacts', although Kaspersky says it will "reconsider" these in a future update. Then



there's the paywall: the free app won't let you choose a spoof location (such as the US, for accessing US-only online content), but chooses one automatically (usually Germany, in our experience). If you want to be able to choose, you'll have to cough up £3.99 per month for a subscription. The free version also limits the amount of data you can tunnel through the VPN every day but at 200MB, the limit is generous and vou get a handy

real-time tally of

the data you're using.

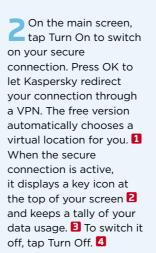


NEW

MINI WORKSHOP

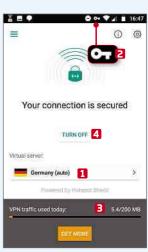
Set up your VPN connection

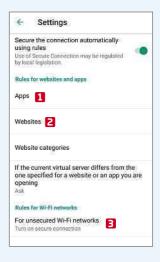
Install and launch Kaspersky Secure Connection. Press Next, 11 then OK. Tap Allow for calls, then again for contacts, and again for location. Tap Accept under License Agreement, then Skip under My Kaspersky (because you don't need an account). Press Turn On, then Kaspersky Secure Connection and the toggle. Tap OK on the pop-up, then OK again to close the message. You're finally in!



Now set Kaspersky Secure Connection to switch on the secure connection automatically at specific times. Tap the Settings cog, then Apps, 1 and select an app you never want to be tracked by. Tap 'When opening the app', then 'Turn on secure connection'. Now press Websites 2 and repeat the steps. For protection when using hotspots, tap 'For unsecured Wi-Fi networks'. **3**







Our rating



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

PHOTOS

Cornea

bit.ly/corndroid431 bit.ly/cornios431 **4.4 10**

Do you find it hard to judge which of your photos will get the most 'likes' online? Cornea can help. This 'popularity predictor' uses artificial



intelligence to assess a snap's hit potential, then lets you boost its Cornea Score to 'masterpiece' level using brilliant adjustable filters and attention-grabbing hashtags. Cornea works with photos in your gallery as well as shots taken using the in-app camera, and you can sign

in using Facebook or Instagram for easy uploading - although signing in is optional.



SCIENCE

Ouantum bit.ly/ quantum431

Physics is light years more fashionable now than when we were at school. so we're



hole in our knowledge. It's essentially a free ebook divided into chapters and lessons, from Quantization Of Energy (that's in Basics!) to more philosophical discussions such as Quantum Paradoxes and Free Will Debate. You can take tests and bookmark

chapters for reading later, and customise the font for easier reading (tap the 'i' button and scroll down).



UPDATED

Our rating

ANIMATION

Folioscope bit.ly/folio431

8

Turn your drawings into animated GIF cartoons using this wonderful арр. Folioscope

includes powerful design tools such as



a colour-specific eraser and an Adobestyle Paint Bucket tool, and this new version adds a choice of brush sizes. It's very easy to use: draw your first frame using your finger or stylus, then draw the next frame on an overlaid layer. Keep going until you're happy with your animation, then

save it as a GIF. Our only disappointment is that the full-screen ads cost £1.99 to remove.



Our rating



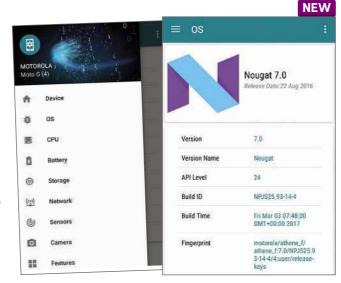
SYSTEM TOOL

Our rating

My Device

bit.ly/mydevice431 4.0.3

Discover every last detail about your Android device, from its serial number and screen resolution to sensors, storage and system specifications. All this information and more is displayed instantly and accurately, without the need to run scans. A couple of the categories -



such as Storage and Camera - do require an extra tap or a moment's delay before data is displayed, but it really is a moment. My Device can't do anything to change or improve the data - for example, it won't offer to free up storage space - and you can't export the info, either. But our main real grumble is the adverts that fill the screen unless you pay 89p for an in-app upgrade. Despite that, we reckon My Device deserves five stars - it's a gem.



Our rating



GET THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO ANDROID

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



Discover how to:

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

Order it now from Amazon at bit.ly/androidbook2016

Best Free Apps

EDUCATION

Pv

www.downloadpy.com



Like Duolingo, Py uses quizzes, challenges and rewards to help you become fluent in another language. But rather than making you speak French or German, it teaches you computerprogramming languages such as Python, Swift, HTML and JavaScript. Thoughtful features include an in-app keyboard that makes typing code much easier; and a choice of interaction

formats, such as multiple choice, if you'd rather skip typing altogether. Py is designed for all ages and it's methods are extremely effective - even addictive. Sadly the iOS app demands a whopping £9.49

monthly fee after the first month, but the basic version of the Android app remains free forever.



CINEMA

Meerkat Movies

bit.ly/meerkat431



Find out what's on at your local cinema, watch trailers and check showtimes using the tool that now calls itself 'One cinema app to rule them all' (no points for guessing the reference*). Meerkat Movies was previously a members-only affair, and you still have to be

a Comparethmarket.com customer to qualify for its two-for-one ticket

deals. But you can now use the app's film-finding features without having to sign in at all - just tap 'Continue without membership', then 'Continue as guest'. There's no in-app booking system, so it'll redirect you to the cinema's website to buy tickets.

*It's Lord of the Rings, my precious.



1, 47,

UPDATED

← DUHKIRK: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE IN 70.

Our rating









APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

Next Up Comedy

nextupcomedy.com

Price: £3.99 per month



Stream and download full-length stand-up shows by Sean Hughes, Richard Herring and dozens of less well-known names, including rising stars of the recent Edinburgh Fringe.

TRANSLATION

iTranslate Converse

www.itranslate.com/converse

Price: £39.99 per year



VIDEO

nPlayer

bit.ly/ndroid431

Price: £4.49 (Android)

bit.ly/nios431

£8.99 (iOS)

4.0.3 8

Translate entire conversations in real time using this innovative new app, which claims to work best if you hold your iPhone upside-down. Say what?!



You can securely stream video to your device from your PC or cloud service using this superb app. It's a musthave if you're short on storage space, and supports HD, subtitles, HDMI output, file management and numerous codecs.

TRAVFI

Discover Rome

bit.ly/rome431

Price: £3.59

4.1

Ditch your bulky Rome guidebook because this app's got all you need, including offline maps, a customisable to-do list, more than 150 sightseeing recommendations and a local-info FAQ.

WRITING

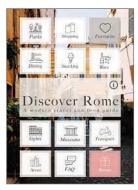
Ulysses

bit.ly/ulysses431

Price: £4.49 per month



Write that novel you've always dreamt about using this powerful editing app designed by and for writers. It lets you sync across your Apple devices, publish to WordPress and export in multiple ebook formats.





Next Up Comedy

iTranslate Converse

nPlayer

Discover Rome











Best New Mobile Games

NEW

ARCADE

NEW : ARCADE

UPDATED

The Revenge of Shinobi

bit.ly/shinobi431

4.4



Loop bit.ly/loopdroid431 bit.ly/loopios431 **# 4 6** 7

Space Frontier bit.ly/spacedroid431 bit.ly/spaceios431 4.3 8





Ninja aficionados yearning for the days of side-scrolling beat-'em-ups will love that this classic Sega Genesis game is now available on Android (not iOS yet) as part of Sega's Forever collection. In The Revenge of the Shinobi, you play a nimble ninja seeking to avenge his master and reclaim his bride from an evil crime syndicate (basically, lots of fighting against increasingly vicious enemies).

The graphics and music are retro-tastic, but the controls are fiddly on a phone and it costs £1.99 to remove the ads.





Mobile games invariably involve a lot of tapping and swiping, but few make as good use of your touchscreen as Loop - an addictive gesture-based game that really gets your index finger working (and your screen a bit grubby!). The aim is to guide a bouncing ball across a path of tiles, destroying the obstacles that block your progress by drawing their symbol on your screen using your finger. The paths and shapes get tougher as the game progresses - it's enough to drive





Fancy soaring into the stratosphere in your own customised rocket? Then strap yourself into Space Frontier: "the addictive physics rocket game that your friends will want to play, but they can't - it's your phone, mate!". Your mission is to launch your rocket into orbit, then venture beyond and colonise Mars. Earn in-game currency from launches and Martians to acquire new parts and styles for your rocket, and increase the

number of passengers. The simple controls make it easy to play but it's a little repetitive.



Our rating



Our rating

X Don't install...

Phone Info bit.ly/phoneinfo431

2.1

Want to find out what's going on under the bonnet of your Android phone? Sadly, this app won't be much help and is more likely to baffle

and frustrate you. From its basic, unattractive interface to its list of specifications with no clarification, it has very little to offer the inquisitive mobile user. Phone Info hasn't been updated since 2014, but the developer is still charging 60p for the app. Don't bother!

...Install this instead

Phone Doctor Plus

bit.ly/doctor431



you loopy!

Our rating

We love apps that reveal secret info about your mobile device, and Phone Doctor Plus is one of the most interesting we've seen. It helps you identify potential problems with your phone by testing more than 30 hardware items and sensors, and presenting the results in an at-a-glance, easy-to-understand manner. As well as standard checks of your phone's battery life, available memory and free storage, it goes further than similar apps by rating the responsiveness of your screen, the performance of your camera and whether your headphones are working properly, among many other tests. It's free of

ads and very easy to use.







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



It's been described as HD TV for the ears but will you be able to hear the difference? **David Crookes** explains all

What is high-resolution audio?

The term high-resolution audio - or hi-res audio, for short - refers to music files that have a higher sampling frequency and 'bit depth' than the standard used by CD. This ensures that the music you hear is closer in quality to the original studio recordings, and audiophiles argue that it brings greater texture, dynamics and detail to your favourite tunes.

How does it make a difference?

As a rule, the greater the number of bits and the higher the sample rate, the better the sound quality. Hi-res audio files are 24-bit and typically use a sampling frequency of 96kHz or 192kHz. They also have a bitrate of 9,216 kilobits per second (Kbps), which refers to the amount of data that's transferred

every second. What's more, hi-res audio is a lossless format, so the sound it produces is as pure as you could ever hope to get.

This foolish hipster is still listening to his music in outdated MP3 format

Is it better than MP3?

Goodness, yes. MP3 is a lossy compression format, which means chunks of seemingly superfluous data are discarded during the encoding process. This sacrifices some audio quality because it removes a good portion of a music track's subtleties. You only have to compare the bitrates of MP3 and hi-res audio files to see how stark this difference is. MP3 files have bitrates that typically range from 96Kbps to 320Kbps. Hi-res audio, as we've said, has a whopping 9,216Kbps.

Why have we stuck with MP3 for so long, then?

Purely for convenience. MP3 files are small compared with their CD and hi-res audio equivalents, which made them ideal when portable music players didn't have much storage space and internet speeds were sluggish. People simply wanted to fit as many MP3 files as they could on their devices and not spend ages downloading them. As a compromise, we simply put up with listening to lower-quality sound.

So what's changed?

Fast broadband has sparked a demand for quality once again, and many music lovers no longer accept that MP3s retain everything the human ear can hear while discarding the rest. We want to enjoy CD-quality sound and beyond while retaining portability. Thankfully, hi-res audio lets us have our cake and eat it.



Hi-res audio allows us to have our musical cake and eat it

But weren't we told that CD is as good as it gets?

Yes, and many people still argue that the sound from CD is the best you can hear. To get technical again, CDs transfer data at 1,411Kbps and use a sampling rate of 44.1kHz with 16-bit depth. This sampling

back to its use by Sony in 1979, and it was selected following a debate among manufacturers, including Philips. They came to the

conclusion

rate dates



Are Brothers in Arms and other CDs as good as sound quality gets?

that there was no point in going beyond this quality, because we wouldn't be able to hear the frequencies and dynamics reproduced.

What should we be able to hear?

Audiophiles say that if your ears are sensitive enough, you should be able

0000 **HD**tracks

HDtracks has a huge selection of highdefinition music to download and enjoy

to pick up on the subtle details of music delivered in hi-res. They say it's akin to listening live and that they can discover nuances they never knew existed. Mastering engineers say they can include greater dynamics and a wider frequency range, which really brings music to life.

How do I listen to hi-res audio?

There are several online stores that sell hi-res audio downloads. One of the best is 7digital (www.7digital.com), which has a section labelled Hi-Res/FLAC that's full of music at reasonable prices. You can also visit HDtracks (hdtracks.co.uk), iTrax (www.itrax.com), Bleep (www.bleep.com) and Bandcamp (www.bandcamp.com). The latter is particularly good for discovering new music.

Downloads? Aren't we all streaming these days?

That's true. Revenue from streaming now exceeds that of downloads, and more than 112 million of us subscribe to services such as Spotify, Apple Music and Deezer. However, Spotify only streams



Tidal is pricey but offers superior quality to other music-streaming services

MP3 music at 320Kbps, while Apple streams its AAC compressed file format at 256Kbps.

So where can I stream hi-res audio?

Qobuz (www.gobuz.com) offers hi-res-audio to its Sublime subscribers in 24-bit/192kHz, while Tidal (www.tidal .com) delivers up to 24-bit/192kHz recordings as part of its Masters service. The latter uses MQA files, which can squeeze hi-res audio down to the size of MP3, but it costs £20 per month.

Can I listen on my phone?

Some smartphones can handle tunes at 24-bit/192kHz quality, including the Sony Xperia Z5, the Samsung Galaxy S7 and even the iPhone 7 (although you'll need to download an iOS app such as Onkyo HF Player or VLC for Mobile for iOS). Don't skimp on the speakers or headphones if you want the best quality from any setup, either. Sony makes an extensive range of hi-res audio products, which you can see at bit.ly/sonyhires431.

The Sony Walkman has come a long wav since its foamv headphones heyday



Won't hi-res audio encourage stream-ripping?

It's possible. Stream ripping is a form of music piracy that involves converting songs from services such as YouTube, Spotify and Apple Music into files that can be saved to phones and computers. Having top-quality music on tap could encourage a rise in such infringement, especially given that Qobuz's Sublime+ subscription - which costs £349.99 a year for unlimited streaming - still makes you buy downloads.

That's the computer age for you, isn't it?

Funny you should say that. Neil Young, who once recorded a song called 'Computer Age', is involved in hi-res audio. He started the ball rolling in 2014 with PonoMusic (www.ponomusic.com), which aims to provide "an end-to-end ecosystem for music lovers" or, in other words, specialist music players and hi-res recordings that allow people to hear their tunes in the best possible quality. He recently announced a new service called Xstream that will play songs at the highest quality your network will allow.



PonoMusic provides "an end-to-end ecosystem for music lovers" - or something

WHICH FILE FORMATS SUPPORT HI-RES AUDIO?

Many products now carry the Hi-Res Audio logo, even though there's no agreed standard for the format yet. That hasn't stopped record labels coming up with a formal definition, however, which describes hi-res audio as "lossless audio that is capable of reproducing the full range of sound from recordings that have been mastered from better than CDquality music sources". These are the most typical formats.



FLAC

The Free **Lossless Audio** Codec is popular with audiophiles because it preserves quality while compressing files to half their size. You can't use it with iTunes, though.

Short for waveform audio file format, WAV was created for Windows by Microsoft and IBM in 1991. You can't tag WAV files with track details, however, and it's less efficient than other formats.

AIFF

Created by Apple in 1988, the Audio Interchange File Format doesn't offer any data compression. so its files are rather large. You can think of it as Apple's answer to WAV.

ALAC

The Apple **Lossless Audio** Codec is a more recent format, and was developed for iOS and MacOS in 2004. It supports up to eight channels at 16-, 20-, 24- and 32-bit depth.

NETFLIX SECRETTIPS

UNCOVER HIDDEN CONTENT

Discover what's been added (and removed)

New shows and films are added to
Netflix on a regular basis, but with so
much content to browse, it can be hard
to keep up with the latest additions especially because many titles don't
appear on the homepage. Similarly, the
streaming service periodically removes
content to keep things fresh, so you may
wonder why you can't find something
you previously intended to watch.

To make things easier, bookmark the excellent website New on Netflix UK (uk.newonnetflix.info), which provides an unofficial guide to everything that's available to watch on Netflix, and is updated daily. You can view the latest additions, removals and expiry dates, and browse the entire Netflix catalogue. This exhaustive list can be filtered by name, year, rating and genre, or you can search by title, actor or director.



New on Netflix tells you what's been added to and removed from the service

Request specific TV shows and films

There's always something interesting and entertaining to watch on Netflix, but it's disappointing when you can't find a particular film or TV show. To remedy this, the streaming service lets you submit a request for anything you'd like to watch but which is currently unavailable. Just go to the Title Request page (bit.ly/title431) and enter up to three suggestions.

There's no guarantee that the titles you're looking for will make their way to Netflix - there could be licensing issues or your taste may just be too niche or terrible to accommodate! - but if enough people ask for the same thing, Netflix will definitely sit up and take notice, so it can't hurt to register your interest. Bear in mind, though, that the streaming service sees itself more as a curator of content than a library of every film and TV show that's ever been



Ask Netflix to add up to three TV shows and films that you want to watch

made, as this YouTube video explains: bit.ly/content431.

Unlock secret sub-genres using codes

One of the easiest ways to browse Netflix content is by genre. For example, if you're looking for excitement, you might choose the Action category, then drill down to specific sub-genres such as Action Comedies, Spy Action & Adventure, Westerns and so on. What you may not realise, though, is that Netflix provides many more less accessible sub-genres, each with a unique code, to fine-tune your search. If you know the right code, you can see, for example, which 'steamy romantic' movies are available to watch right now, or explore the full selection of deep-sea horror films.

All you need to do is type www .netflix.com/browse/genre and add the relevant code to the end of the URL. In the case of political comedies (code



Find a specific type of film to watch by browsing secret sub-genres



There's much more to Netflix than meets the eye. **Wayne Williams** reveals how to unlock the best secret tools and content on the world's favourite TV and film-streaming service

ith more than 100 million subscribers, Netflix is now the biggest streaming platform on the planet. Its winning combination of classic TV shows, original series and films old and new has changed the way we enjoy our entertainment forever and made 'binge-watching' one of the most popular modern pastimes.

But even if you're a self-confessed Netflix addict, the chances are you're not using the service to its full potential and it's likely you're missing out on some useful features and great content that you didn't even know were there. And if you've never subscribed to Netflix, you might not realise just how much it has to offer, beyond streaming the likes of *House of Cards* and *The Crown*.

In this feature, we reveal our favourite tips and tricks for making the most of Netflix, and recommend five shows that you must watch. What's more, in the next issue of Web User, we'll be introducing a new TV-streaming section to bring you all the latest news and hacks for your favourite streaming services.

2700), you'd go to www.netflix.com/browse/genre/2700. You can get the codes for all available sub-genres from the Netflix ID Bible (bit.ly/codes431) or simply click directly through to them via the Netflix Secret Categories site (netflixcodes.me). Not every sub-genre is available in every country, but most links should work in the UK.

Access hidden categories in your browser

If you can't face the hassle of visiting a separate website to find hidden Netflix categories and codes, there are browser add-ons that put this information at

Action Solvetion

Advanture

Action Solvetion

Action Solvetion

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Use a browser add-on to access hidden Netflix categories

your fingertips. Netflix Categories for Chrome (bit.ly/ ncchrome431) and FindFlix for Firefox (bit.ly/ fflix431) both let you browse the available hidden sub-genres at the click of a button and open them directly to view their content.

Search the global Netflix library

Many TV shows and movies that aren't available on Netflix in the UK are offered



See what we're missing on UK Netflix by searching for titles at uNoGs

by the service in one of its other 95 territories, some of which have a much bigger selection than ours. You can find out what's available using the 'unofficial Netflix online Global Search Tool' (uNoGs for short, unogs.com), which lets you either browse genres or enter the name of a movie, TV show, actor or director to view matching content from across the world. You'll be surprised how many popular films and series aren't available on our local Netflix, including *Star Wars* (can be watched in 23 countries), *Harry Potter* (Australia only) and *Lord of the Rings* (70 countries).

You may be able access these regional variations using a VPN, though Netflix is clamping down on such tools and has become very good at spotting them.

Some paid-for VPNs might still fool it or you could sign up for a free trial of a VPN subscription, but your success will vary depending on which country's

content you're trying to access. Usefully, uNoGs tells you which language movies are subtitled in, and lets you view only those with English subtitles.

Watch a random TV show or film

Sometimes the most enjoyable TV shows or movies you watch are the ones you stumble across by chance and know nothing about. Netflix Roulette (netflixroulette

Roulette (netflixroulette .net) spices up your viewing by



Take a risk and spin the Netflix Roulette wheel

randomly choosing your on-screen entertainment. Simply tell it whether you want to watch a movie or a TV show and click the Spin button. You can weight your chances of finding a hidden gem rather than a total stinker by choosing a category, narrowing results based on a particular rating range and/ or specifying the director's name, actor's name or keyword. Keep spinning the 'wheel' until you find something promising, then click the Watch on Netflix button to begin viewing. It's similar to flicking through TV channels late at night and stumbling across something half-decent.



UNLOCK SECRET OPTIONS

Create a personalised profile

When you join Netflix, you're guided through the process of setting up accounts for all the family members who will be using the service. This allows up to five people to have their own personalised Netflix experience with relevant viewing suggestions and watched lists. You can add new profiles at any time by going to bit.ly/profile431 and clicking the Add Profile button. Enter a name for the user, then edit the details, choose a profile picture and set the maturity level for allowed TV programmes and films - For Little Kids Only, For Older Kids and Below, For Teens and Below or All Maturity Levels. These personalised profiles prevent young viewers from being exposed to anything that might upset them, and means parents won't get fed up with recommendations for cartoons and Wet Hot American Summer.



Set up personalised profiles for everyone who shares your Netflix account

Download Netflix content to watch offline

Netflix is a streaming service, which means it requires an internet connection to deliver its content. However, if vou're travelling or stuck in the wilds -Peterborough, say - you can still enjoy your favourite TV shows and films by downloading them in advance to watch offline. To use this relatively new feature, you need to have the Netflix app installed on an iPhone or iPad, Android phone or tablet, or Windows 10 PC or tablet running the Anniversary Update or later. To download something, select the title you want to watch and click the Download icon on its description page. You can choose the video quality you require, to ensure you stay within your data and storage limits.

Not all Netflix content is available to download - at least, not yet. If you want to see only the shows and movies that can be downloaded, tap the three-line



See which Netflix shows and films you can download to watch offline

menu button in the app and select 'Available for download'.

Save downloads to your SD card

Some phones have limited internal storage - certainly not big enough to store downloaded Netflix shows alongside the usual plethora of apps, photos, videos and songs. The good news is that if your phone supports SD cards (as many Android devices do), you can download your Netflix content to one and swap cards if you need to store more shows. The process is very straightforward: just opt to download something and you'll be prompted to select a save location - choose 'SD card' in the options

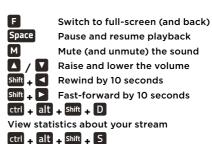


Save space on your phone by downloading content to your SD card

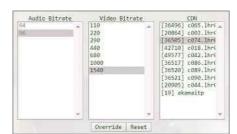
Master Netflix's keyboard shortcuts

Netflix has several useful keyboard shortcuts that provide instant control and save unnecessary clicking when you're watching content on your PC.

Here are some of our favourites:



Launch control panel to fix buffering



Use a keyboard shortcut to open Netflix's secret control panel

Try new features before everyone

Netflix occasionally tests forthcoming features to get user feedback before they're officially introduced. If you want to be first in line to experience these, open your account page at bit.ly/ myaccount431 and click the 'Test participation' link, then make sure the option is set to On. It's worth noting that while some test features are genuinely useful interface tweaks, some involve movie previews that are merely advertising by another name. If you don't want to take part in the tests,

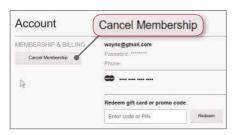


Beat the crowd by testing experimental Netflix features first

move the toggle to Off. Click the Done button to apply the change.

Pause and resume your Netflix account

Netflix is a subscription service, which means you have to pay from £5.99 every month to keep viewing its content. However, if you need to take a break from Netflix - perhaps you're going to be away travelling, for example - it's easy to cancel your account and then restart it when you're ready. Netflix stores your viewing activity for 10 months after you close your account, so when you restart your subscription you can pick up from exactly where you left off, rather than having to create a new account. To pause your membership, just go to the Account page at bit.ly/youraccount431 and click the Cancel Membership button. When you next visit Netflix, you'll be asked if you want to restart your membership.



Netflix lets you restart a cancelled account if you change your mind

Wipe your Netflix viewing history

If you'd rather not let the people you share Netflix with find out you secretly watch Adam Sandler movies when they're not around, or you don't want recommendations based on that one episode of *Pretty Little Liars* you watched out of curiosity, you'll be delighted to hear that Netflix lets you review your viewing history and delete anything unwanted from it. Just go to the My Activity page at bit.ly/activity431 and click the X next to an item to remove it. You can also check the viewing history of other family members



You can delete embarrassing entries from your Netflix viewing history

in this way - you just need to log into their profiles first.

Skip the credits when bingewatching

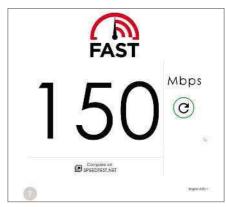
When ploughing through episodes of the latest hit series, it's a pain to have to repeatedly sit through the opening and end credits - unless you're using this time to go to the toilet, fetch snacks or make a drink. Netflix will identify when you've watched several episodes of a show and take you from the end of one straight to the beginning of the next, but with the option to view the credits if you wish. It also gives you the chance to skip the titles at the beginning. Once they start, you'll see a Skip Intro button appear on screen. You can select this to jump ahead to the action but do bear in mind that a lot of people worked very hard to create the show you're bingewatching, so you owe it to them to sit through the credits at least once!



Don't let TV-show credits slow down your binge-watching - skip them!

Test your Netflix streaming speed

You don't need a blisteringly fast internet connection to stream video on Netflix, Modern compression techniques mean that even a moderate connection should be able to handle UHD 4K streaming with ease. If you do encounter problems, however, and stopping large downloads and other bandwidth-hogging activities doesn't improve matters, it may be worth checking the speed of your connection. Netflix has its own tool called Fast (fast.com) for this very task. Go to the site and it will immediately check the speed of your connection - you don't need to select any servers or press any buttons, and you can rerun the test at any time. Fast is really only about checking your connection's suitability for streaming Netflix content so unlike similar services, it doesn't measure upload speed, ping, latency or jitter.



Check that your connection is suitable for streaming Netflix content



CUSTOMISE AND ENHANCE

Watch Netflix with friends

It's often a lot more fun watching movies with friends than on your own, but it isn't always possible – especially if they live some distance away. Showgoers (showgoers.tv) is a Chrome extension that lets you watch Netflix with people you know, and chat with them in real-time while the film or programme is playing. Assuming all participants have



Showgoers lets you watch Netflix with your mates

a valid
Netflix
account
and have
installed the
add-on,
all you need
to do is
navigate to
the show
or movie
you want
to watch,
hover over

the Showgoers logo and click Start Watching Party. This generates a unique viewing URL that you can share with your friends for simultaneous viewing.

Control how much data Netflix

Streaming or downloading TV shows or movies on Netflix consumes about 1GB of data per hour for standard-definition video, and up to 3GB per hour for HD video. That can quickly add up, especially if you're binge-watching one or more series. If you have a capped broadband account or are using mobile data instead of Wi-Fi, you can easily run into problems. Fortunately, Netflix offers some ways of controlling how much data the service consumes.

Open Netflix in your browser, go to your account page (bit.ly/ youraccount431), select Playback Settings and change the quality. Low



Adjust your mobile-data usage to avoid exceeding your monthly limit

reduces the amount of data used to 300MB an hour.

On your phone, you can adjust your mobile-data usage. In the Netflix app, tap the three-line menu button and scroll down to App Settings. Select it, then tap Mobile Data Usage. There are six settings available - Off (you can only stream when on Wi-Fi), Auto (Netflix will try to balance quality and data usage), Low (four hours of viewing per GB), Medium (two hours of viewing per GB), High (one hour of viewing per GB) and Unlimited (high quality all the time - at a rate of around 1GB per 20 minutes of viewing).

Improve your streaming quality

If you want better quality video, be prepared to pay for it. Viewers on the Basic plan (£5.99 a month) can only view content in standard definition, while Standard-plan subscribers (£7.49 a month) can enjoy HD. Premium members (£8.99 a month) get the red-carpet treatment and have access to 4K Ultra HD content. Netflix has made switching plans very easy – just go to bit.ly/plan431 and pick a new option.

By default, Netflix will serve up videos in the best quality possible for your plan, but if your internet speed drops below a certain threshold, then playback may suffer. To fix this, go to bit.ly/hd431 and change the playback settings as required.



Make sure you're getting the streaming quality that you're paying for

Add useful new features to Netflix

If you watch Netflix through Chrome, you can change various settings and unlock new features by installing the Super Netflix add-on (bit.ly/supern431). This offers several useful tools, including the ability to change the video quality, upload custom subtitles and control the volume. You can also set your own video bitrate (the higher the better for



Add extra features to Netflix by installing the Super Netflix extension

improved quality) and blur episode thumbnails so they don't accidentally reveal any spoilers.

The add-on's developer offers users the opportunity to test new beta features before they are ready to be rolled out to everyone.

Improve Netflix by tweaking its interface

Flix Plus (bit.ly/flix431) is a Chrome add-on from Lifehacker that offers 18 handy tweaks for Netflix. It can add or remove elements from the interface, insert a random episode button, provide ratings from Rotten Tomatoes and IMDb, hide potential spoilers, introduce additional keyboard shortcuts and much more. It's designed for the US version of Netflix, but we've found it works fine in the UK edition too.



Tweak Netflix's rather basic interface to tailor it to your viewing needs

Customise subtitles and language

Whether you enjoy foreign-language movies or you're just hard of hearing, subtitles can be an essential part of your viewing experience. To find out which Netflix shows and movies support them, go to bit.ly/subs431.

You can customise the look of subtitles at bit.ly/subpref431 by altering the typeface, colour, size, shadow and background and window options. Your

Subtitle Appearance

Make Netflix subtitles easy to read by customising their appearance

changes will be applied to all supported devices. Alternatively, when a Netfilx video is playing, you can select the Dialog button and choose the settings you require.

Prevent Netflix from playing the next episode

Netflix has a feature called Post-Play that automatically plays the next episode of a show when you finish watching the current one. This is a useful tool when you want to 'binge watch' a series because it saves you having to return to the main menu to manually select the following episode. However, in some circumstances. Post-Play is more of a hindrance than a help - perhaps you're deliberately viewing a show out of sequence, or you've got an early start the next day and should go to bed!

To turn off this feature on the Netflix website, click your name in the top-right corner, select Your Account and click 'Playback settings'. Under Preferences, deselect the option 'Play next episode automatically' and click Save. This setting will also be applied when you next watch Netflix via your mobile or smart TV app.

ESSENTIAL NETFLIX SHOWS TO WATCH



House of Cards

This American political drama, adapted from the BBC's 1990s mini-series of the same name, is the show that really put Netflix on the map and paved the way for the many Netflix originals that followed. Now in its fifth season, the drama follows the story of Democrat Congressman Frank Underwood, played by Kevin Spacey.

Shooter is a classy action thriller about a retired Marine Corps sniper who returns to action in a bid to foil an assassination plot targeting the president. Things go wrong and he finds himself framed for murder. It's based on the 2007 Mark Wahlberg movie of the same name. The second season has just been released.



Starring (and directed by) Jason Bateman, this thrilling 10-part crime drama is about a Chicagobased financial advisor/money launderer who is forced to relocate his family to the remote Missouri Ozarks when his arrangement with a Mexican drug cartel goes badly wrong. It's just been renewed for a second season.

Black Mirror

Charlie Brooker's anthology TV series debuted on Channel 4, before being picked up by Netflix in 2015. The show is a series of standalone episodes (so it's not something you need to binge watch) with a common theme - a dark twist on modern society, and technology in particular. It's been described as a Millennial Twilight Zone, which is about right.





Stranger Things

A homage to movies such as The Goonies and ET, this 1980s-set sci-fi series is centered around a group of kids caught up in supernatural events in the fictional American town of Hawkins, Indiana. Stranger Things was a surprise hit last year, and season 2 is set to arrive in time for Halloween.



Best password managers

With LastPass doubling the price of its premium service, it may be time to consider a new password manager. **Wayne Williams** rates six of the most secure and versatile options



Sticky Password Premium | £19.99/year, £64.99/lifetime | www.stickypassword.com

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



What we liked:

WebUser GOLD AWARD It may not be as well-known as the other password managers in this round-up, but Sticky Password has what it takes to claim the top

spot. We love the way it guides you through the process of using features such as autofill, with videos and illustrated tutorials to help you familiarise yourself with how it all works.

That's not to say it's hard to master. The interface is both attractive and easy to understand, with a sidebar that provides instant access to your web accounts, app accounts, bookmarks, identities and secure memos.

The software can generate secure logins, fill in forms and passwords automatically and protect your data using secure AES-256 encryption, with the option of adding two-factor authentication. You can also log into sites using your fingerprint, as long as you're using a device that supports this feature. As you'd expect, Sticky Password is available for all the major platforms and browsers.

The free version offers most of the software's main features, but only Premium users have access to cloud backup and sync – as is the



case with most password managers. During setup, you can choose whether or not you want to store your passwords in the cloud. If you decide you'd rather not sync your login data through Sticky Password's servers, you can keep everything local and only sync passwords between devices over your home network (or manually, if you prefer).

The paid-for version of Sticky
Password is cheaper than LastPass but
slightly more expensive than RoboForm,
although a small portion of your money
goes towards helping save endangered
manatees. There's also a lifetime licence
option, so you can pay a one-off fee
rather than shell out money every year.

How it can be improved:

Sticky Password's security dashboard highlights weak passwords and lets you change them, but this feature is tucked away and should be given greater prominence. We'd also prefer it if you could access passwords that are stored in the cloud from anywhere.

OUR VERDICT

This is a great, feature-packed password manager with plenty of help and guidance to get you started. It's very secure, is good value for money and offers a very welcome lifetime licence option.

Password managers

RoboForm 8 Everywhere | £15.95 | www.roboform.com

FEATURES ★★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★☆

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



What we liked:

RoboForm has been protecting passwords since 1999, so the company knows what it's doing. It's available for all major platforms and can import passwords from your

browser or another password manager. The free version offers strong encryption and unlimited logins, and can fill in web forms automatically and run a password audit. This last option tells you if you have any really weak passwords and gives you a security score. You can send login information securely and request access if you're accidentally locked out.

The Everywhere edition costs £15.95 and adds the option to sync stored details across devices and back up logins to the cloud. You can share folders securely and grant emergency access to anyone you trust so they can get into RoboForm in the event of your incapacitation or death.

The software does a great job of organising your passwords. You can



manage them in folders and search for any logins you need. It also provides secure access to them over the web.

How it can be improved:

The interface is easy to use and conveniently displays all the options you need in the sidebar, but its grey-andwhite colour scheme isn't especially attractive and compared with other password managers, it looks dated.

OUR VERDICT

RoboForm offers everything you're likely to need, and the option to store your logins in the cloud and sync them across all your devices for just £16 a year is good value.

•••••

BEST OF THE REST

KeePass | Free

keepass.info

The open-source KeePass secures your online passwords and personal data using a master password or a key file that you can store on

a USB drive or burn to disc. You can even combine both methods for additional security. It generates secure passwords and gives you complete control



over which characters to include, so you can specify upper-case, lower-case, numbers, special characters, brackets and more.

Zoho Vault | Free

www.zoho.eu/vault

Zoho's password manager is aimed more at businesses than individuals. You can use it to store unlimited passwords and notes, including files, and access it anywhere from your computer or mobile devices. It generates strong passwords for you automatically and also supports two-factor authentication. If you want to share your passwords with others, you can upgrade to the standard 'small teams' version for just €1 a month per user.



Dashlane Premium

£2.59 a month

www.dashlane.com

Dashlane generates and stores strong passwords, and its sharing

centre lets you share passwords and notes securely with people you trust. It also provides an emergency



-access feature. A security-breach function alerts you if a site you use is hacked, and the password changer can automatically replace weak or compromised passwords.

LastPass 4 Premium | £22.19 | www.lastpass.com

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



What we liked:



The versatile LastPass 4 stores your passwords securely online and logs you into any site from any device, wherever you are. Unlike other password managers, both the paid-for

and free editions let you access your saved logins across all your devices. It can also fill in forms automatically, store important personal information such as credit card details and analyse your password security, giving it a score and helping you make improvements.

Passwords are stored in an online vault that you can access by clicking the LastPass button in your browser. To log into any account, simply hover your mouse over its tile and click Launch. LastPass even lets you share passwords and secure notes with others through the sharing centre.

The software's Premium-only features include emergency access, advanced multi-factor verification options, LastPass for applications



and 1GB of encrypted file storage.

How it can be improved:

LastPass recently doubled the price of its Premium service to \$28.80 (around £22.19, not including VAT) per year, making it considerably more expensive than its rivals. We also found it a little buggy at times.

OUR VERDICT

LastPass is an excellent password manager, with lots of features wrapped up in a smart interface. While the price hike is unwelcome, it offers enough bonus features to (just about) justify the increase.



USE YOUR VOICE

We're sure you're familiar with Google's 'Search by voice' function, which has been available on Android since 2008 and on its homepage in Chrome since 2011. To use it on your phone or tablet, open the Google app and either say "OK Google" or tap the microphone, then speak your query. On your desktop PC, click the microphone in the Google search box.

This is a very useful feature, but if you use it in your browser, you're limited to searching with Google (on mobile it also works with other apps). To unleash the full potential of speech recognition, you need a Chrome extension called Voice Search (bit.ly/voice431). Powered by iSpeech (www.ispeech.org), this tool lets you search sites including Google Maps, YouTube, Wikipedia, Bing and DuckDuckGo using your voice. Simply click the microphone button on your toolbar and speak the relevant command. It can enter frequently used terms automatically, so if you say "my name", it will fill in your name.

Search Engines	
The first search engine is th	e default used when searching.
Insert %s where the query s	hoold go.
Name	uni
DuckDuckGo	☐ http://auckduckgo.com/?q+%s
Wikipedie	http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special.Se
Google Images	http://www.google.com/images/1q=%s
Images of	☐ http://www.google.com/images?q=%s
Google Maps	☐ http://maps.google.com/maps?q=%s
Where is:	http://maps.google.com/maps?qii%s
YouTube	mttp://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=%s
WorframjAlpha	D http://www.wolfremalpha.com/input/?i=%s
Calculate	D http://www.woiframalpha.com/input/7i=%s
Bing	■ http://www.bing.com/searchTg=%s

You can use Voice Search for Chrome to search many popular sites without typing



Firefox's Voice Fill tool lets you search sites such as DuckDuckGo using your voice

Firefox has been lacking built-in voice-search functionality, so we're delighted to see that Mozilla has finally addressed this deficiency with a feature called Voice Fill. Currently available as a Test Pilot experiment (bit.ly/ voicefill431), it places a microphone button next to the search boxes for Google, DuckDuckGo and Yahoo, so you can speak your query rather than type it. You'll need to install the Test Pilot add-on and allow access to your microphone, and you should be aware that during the test phase, Mozilla will collect and analyse data about how the tool is used - anonymously, of course.

USE A PICTURE

Reverse-image search engines such as TinEye (www.tineye.com) and Google Images (images.google.co.uk) are a useful way of identifying the subject of a photo, and they also save you having to type anything when you're looking for higher-quality or related images of something in particular. To use either service, visit its site and either upload the image file, paste its URL or drag and drop the image into the search box. Alternatively,



Search TinEye using an image to save you having to type a description of it

you can install TinEye's add-on for Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Opera (tineye.com/extensions) or Google's Search by Image Chrome extension and simply right-click a web image to look it up. Both search engines find online matches for your picture, so you can view information about its content and source, download a better-quality version and see "visually similar" shots of the same subject, as well as modifications of the original.

Wolfram Alpha's Image Identification Project (www.imageidentify.com) goes a step further by trying to guess the subject of a picture - with varying degrees of success!

USE YOUR CAMERA

Do you remember Google Goggles, the revolutionary way of searching online for items in the real world by snapping them with your phone's camera? Possibly not, because Google had lost interest in it by 2014, deeming the app "of no clear use to too many people". However, you can still install it from the Play store (bit.ly/

Search the web without typing



CamFind looks up objects online to provide relevant info goggles431). The new Google Lens is also said to be a more advanced spin on the Goggles idea, and lets you scan anything with your camera to receive instant and relevant information. It's not due out until later this year, but in the meantime you can try CamFind

(camfindapp.com) for Android and iOS. Take a photo of a mystery object, and this innovative visual-search engine will find details of it on the web, as well as related items. CamFind can also fetch trailers from images of movie posters. get reviews from restaurant signs, find the lowest prices for products and more, without you needing to type a single character. It's fast and accurate, and keeps a record of all your searches.

USE DRAG & DROP

A quick way to search without



Simple Drag & Drop Search makes it easy to search using your preferred provider

typing in Chrome is to highlight some text, right-click it and choose 'Search Google for...'. An even faster and more flexible option, with no rightclicking required, is to install the extension

Simple Drag & Drop Search (bit.ly/ drag431), which lets you choose from multiple search engines. Highlight your search term and a small panel opens showing icons for sites including Google, Wikipedia, YouTube, Twitter and Google Maps. Click the one you want to use to open the search results in a new tab; or click the 'S' to view alternative options or to copy the selected text to your clipboard. You can customise the icon panel to show only your favourite search providers; or hide it in favour of the drag -and-drop approach that gives the add-on its name.

You may not realise that you can also search for a term using your browser's default search engine simply by dragging and dropping the highlighted text to the address bar.

USE RIGHT-CLICK

As mentioned in the previous tip, most browsers let you search for a highlighted term on a web page by right-clicking, but this limits you to your default search engine. You can expand your options by using an extension such as Context Menu Search for Chrome (bit.ly/context431) or Context Search for Firefox (bit.ly/contextfire431), both of which add extra search engines to your



Add extra search engines to your rightclick menu to save you time and hassle

right-click 'Search with' menu. You can choose between Bing, IMDb, Amazon, Wikipedia, iPlayer and more, so you can select the best option for a particular search. It saves you having to open a new tab and post your query manually.

USE A SONG

If you want to identify a music file you've downloaded or received, you could search online for the lyrics (if there are any), but a better way is to upload the file to Audiotag (audiotag .info). This site suggests possible matches for the song, giving each a likelihood rating, and even tells you which albums the track is on. It's very easy to use, although to see the results you need to "prove you're a human" by performing a simple sum. You can also use Audiotag to identify online music by copying and pasting the song's URL.

Another option is to play a tune into a music-recognition app such as Shazam (www.shazam.com) or SoundHound (www.soundhound.com). Both free apps can identify millions of songs in a couple of seconds, and they provide detailed information about each track, including lyrics and artist biographies. Shazam is available for Windows 10, as well as Android and iOS.



Upload a song to Audiotag to identify it without having to type the lyrics

STOP YOUR VOICE ASSISTANT USING BING

Cortana, Siri and Alexa all use Bing rather than Google as their default search engine. Here's how to get round this restriction

CORTANA

You can make Cortana use Google rather than Bing for searches by installing Chrometana for Chrome (bit.ly/ chrometana431) or Bina-Google for Firefox (bit.lv/ binggoogle431),

Chrometana

Chrometana makes Cortana use Google or DuckDuckGo instead of Bing

depending on which browser you use. Chrometana also lets you search with DuckDuckGo and Yahoo.

SIRI

Apple has deliberately locked Siri not to use Google, but there is a workaround for those who would rather use Google than Bing. When you want to search the web, say "Search Google for [search term]" or "Search

DuckDuckGo for [search term]". Siri will launch Safari and display the results from the relevant search engine.

ALEXA

Amazon's voice assistant is even more stubborn than Siri about using Bing rather than Google as its default search engine. However, you can perform a hack that forces Alexa to use Google instead. This comes in the form of an unofficial Alexa skill that uses Google Assistant. You can download it from bit.ly/alexa431, but make sure you read the instructions and are aware of the 'known issues' before you install this skill.

(Wi-Fiwonders)

Wi-Fi isn't only for browsing and streaming. **Edward Munn** reveals brilliant and quirky things you never knew you could do with your wireless connection

Make free phone calls

If you're in a rural area with a poor phone signal, the quality of your connection may make it impossible to carry out a call. Thankfully, most phone networks now let you make Wi-Fi phone calls and send text messages within your contract allowance.

EE's Wi-Fi calling works automatically with most new smartphones (see the full list at bit.ly/ee431). For all other Android and iOS devices, you'll need to own the EE version and have bought it directly from the network.

Three customers with the latest iOS devices (iPhone 5C onwards) and Android devices (see list at bit.ly/three431) bought directly from the network can also make Wi-Fi calls and texts. If your phone isn't on the list, you can download the Three inTouch app (bit.ly/threeit431) for iOS and Android to take advantage of free Wi-Fi calling. Just remember to set up the app when you have a phone signal, or you won't be able to use it when you don't.

O2's Wi-Fi calling is only compatible with a limited number of devices (see the list at bit.ly/o2431); and Vodafone's

Wi-Fi calling requires you to be on one of its Red or business tarrifs, as well as having a compatible device, which you can check at bit.ly/voda431.

Check your home for intruders

No matter how well you've secured the doors and windows of your property, leaving your home empty when you go away can be a worry. And it's not just potential intruders that are a threat – you may be fretting over whether you can trust your teenage kids not to throw that party they absolutely promised wouldn't be happening.

Home-security cameras use your Wi-Fi to connect to the web so you can keep tabs on your home from anywhere using a phone app. Our favourite is the Y-Cam Evo (£129.99, bit.ly/ycam431), which has a 720p camera with an infrared LED for night-time viewing. Its 100-degree field of view should capture the whole room if you position it in a corner. The image quality may not be as good as some of its more expensive rivals, but the seven days of unlimited free video storage is unbeatable value.

Cast Spotify to your speakers

Did you know that you can stream music from the Spotify app on your smartphone to your speakers over Wi-Fi? The easiest (and cheapest) way to do this is to simply plug another device that has Spotify installed and that you won't need to move your PC or tablet would be perfect - directly into your speakers. Next, make sure your smartphone is

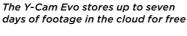


Select Devices Available in Spotify to cast music to another device

connected to the same Wi-Fi network as the first device and, from your phone's Spotify app, tap Devices Available from the Now Playing bar and select your PC or tablet from the list. Once that's done, you can control your



Three In Touch lets you make Wi-Fi calls on many Android and iOS devices







playlist from your smartphone without having to get up to change songs.

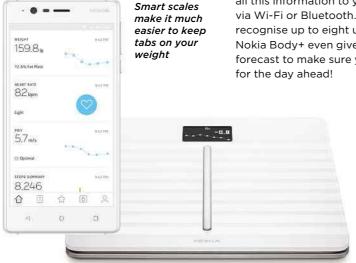
If you don't have a spare tablet, buying a Chromecast Audio (bit.ly/ audio431) is probably the next best bet. Available for only £30, this handy device plugs into the back of your speakers via RCA jacks, a 3.5mm cable or optical lead. After connecting it to your Wi-Fi network, you can find it in the same Devices Available list described above. The Chromecast Audio is also compatible with a range of other music apps including Google Play Music and Deezer.

Dim your lights

Smart lighting is becoming increasingly common and many of the companies, including Phillips and Nest, now advertise their products on TV, but it's still an expensive option. However, that's about to change as Ikea has recently introduced smart bulbs at an affordable price. For just £29, you can pick up the Remote kit, which includes a single screw-fit 980-lumen LED bulb and a palm-sized wireless remote that allows you to switch the bulb on and off, dim it and change colour temperature from cool to warm. You can add further screw-fit bulbs or GU10 spotlights from just £9 and £12 a pop, and it's possible to pair up to 10 bulbs per



Ikea's smart-lighting kits represent excellent value for money



MAKE HANDS-FREE WI-FI CALLS

Amazon's Echo speaker added support for voice calling in May, enabling you to make free calls to anyone else who uses its Alexa assistant, using only your voice. Interestingly, the feature is not only available to Echo owners, but also works if you have the Alexa smartphone app (bit.ly/alexaapp431) installed on your iOS or Android device. This has prompted Google to play catch-up, adding voice calling to the Home's already impressive range of skills, albeit only in the US and Canada at the moment. Until it's supported here, UK users will have to make do with instructing Google Now to make a hands-free call. To do this, simply say "OK Google...call (contacts name)". Just bear in mind that you'll need to manually activate your device's loudspeaker.

Amazon's Echo lets you call anyone with the Alexa app for free

remote-control unit, so you could in theory kit out an entire two-bedroom flat for under £80.

Although it's wireless, the Remote kit doesn't use your home Wi-Fi. For this, you'll need the Gateway kit (£69), which includes a wireless hub that connects to your router, two bulbs and a wireless remote. This kit gives you the ability to control your lights using your phone.

Log your weight loss

Checking your weight is just one tedious part of dieting, but wouldn't it be a little less painful if you had a scale that automatically logs your weight and sends it to your smartphone every morning? Thankfully, such a thing already exists in devices such as the Nokia Body+ (bit.ly/nokia431) and Fitbit Aria (bit.ly/fitbit431). You won't get much change from £100 when buying either device, but they make it much easier to keep track of metrics such as your body-fat percentage and BMI (as well as your weight), and they send all this information to your smartphone via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Both scales recognise up to eight users and the Nokia Body+ even gives you a weather forecast to make sure you're prepared

Boil the kettle

How much easier would life be if you could make a cuppa in the TV ad break without having to wait for the kettle to boil? The iKettle 3.0 from Smarter (bit.ly/ikettle431), available from Amazon for £99.99, could save you up to 33 hours a year by letting you check the water level in your kettle and switch it on from a smartphone app. You can even set iKettle alarms so you don't ever have to wait for a brew, and can choose the temperature, if you'd like warm rather than boiling water.

The iKettle can be paired with other IoT (internet of things) devices and services including Alexa, IFTTT and Nest, making your home even smarter; and thanks to the app's ability to connect securely via 4G, you can also 'remote boil' from anywhere outside your home. If you're more of a coffee fiend than a tea drinker. Smarter is releasing a new version of its coffee machine later this month.



Set the iKettle to boil when you wake up



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	Provider	Package name	Monthly price	Contract length	Broadband speed	Allowance	First-year cost*
1	TalkTalk For Everyone	TalkTalk: Broadband	£27.00 (£19.95 for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	CHEAPEST £239.40
2	sky	Sky: Broadband	£28.99 (£20.00 for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	£240.00
3	8	EE: Broadband	£28.50 (£21.00 for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	unlimited	£252.00
4	Virgin modio	Virgin: Broadband	£40.00 (£27.00 for 12 months)	12 months	50Mbps max speed	unlimited	£324.00

Terms & Conditions apply - see ISP sites for details

Data supplied by www.broadbandgenie.co.uk. Correct as of 21 August 2017.



switching service

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Webl

CAN YOU GUESS THE PRODUCTS FROM THE EMOJI?





WEB USER WORD PUZZLE

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

- Breed affectionately known as 'sausage dog'
- Director of Pulp Fiction and The Hateful Eight
- Capital of Hungary
- Arachnid equipped with pincers and a sting in its tail
- Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (4,5)
- Hilary Mantel novel and BBC drama starring Mark Rylance (4,4)
- Animated children's TV series about a porcine family (5,3)
- Controversial US cyclist stripped of his seven Tour de France titles

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1					
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COMPETITIONS

WIN 1 OF 5

Creative Outlier Sports headphones

Creative's Outlier Sports Bluetooth in-ear headphones have sweatproof properties, making them ideal for high-intensity workouts. They have an 11-hour battery life, so nothing will hold you back from staying active. To enter, email your

address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'outlier' in the subject line. For more information visit uk.creative. com and follow @creativelabs on Twitter.



WIN 1 OF 5

SOUND FORGE Audio Studio 12

The new version of audio-editing software SOUND FORGE Audio Studio works with 64-bit PCs to bring you more editing and processing power. A new editing mode lets you make changes even after you've made cuts. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'audio studio' in the subject line.

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Practical WebUser

16 pages of workshops, tips, projects and problem solving

Explore Here WeGo maps

This excellent replacement for Google Maps can be used in your browser or as an app. We show you how to find your way around it

Here: wego.here.com | 10 mins | Any browser

ere has been around since 1985, but it only acquired the name in 2012 when its then-owner Nokia brought all its mapping and navigation services together. It was later sold to a consortium of German car makers - Audi, BMW and Daimler - plus Intel, which also has a stake. Since then, its map products have been expanding

and improving, and it now provides a genuine alternative to Google Maps.

As well as its online service, Here WeGo, it's available in app form for both Android and iOS, and offers a range of views including Classic, Satellite, Terrain and Traffic. It can even give you directions and provide detailed information on places around a location.



Launch Here WeGo in your browser to see the map. You can zoom in and out using your mouse wheel or by clicking the '+' and '-' buttons. If you click the circle above, the map focuses on your current whereabouts, although you may need to give it permission to find your location.



Here WeGo offers a selection of different views. Click the thumbnail in the bottom-right corner and you can switch between Classic, Satellite and Terrain views, 1 and toggle the Transit and Traffic layers on and off. 2 The Traffic layer alerts you of problems such as congestion and roadworks. 5





When you zoom in, the black bar changes to show your current location. Click it to reveal a box of buttons representing local amenities. These include ATMs & Banks, 2 places to Eat & Drink, 3 Parking, 4 Gasoline (that's petrol stations to you and me) and Shopping. 6



Here WeGo displays information from other sites, such as Accommodation from Booking.com, Sights from Wikipedia, and Tours & Activities from GetYourGuide. Choose an option to see matches appear on the map. Hover over one to view the details, or click to open a window about it on the left.



5 Expand the sidebar to find out more about a location, **1** get directions there **2** and view details of any local stops on public transport. **3** You can also share the location in an email or on Facebook, **4** or send the details to your phone **5** by scanning a QR code generated by the site.





To get directions, simply enter your start and end points. 1 Click the grey plus symbol 2 to add waypoints to highlight places you'd like to visit on the way. Choose one of the recommend routes listed, **B** or click a travel method: driving, public transport, car share, taxi, bicycle or walking. 4



The length of time a journey takes can vary depending on the time of day. Click the Leave/Arrive entry 11 to change the time 2 and date 5 for when you want to set off. If you have a preferred route, you can change it on the map by clicking and dragging the line. 4



Another way to get directions is to right-click the map. Here tells you the address 11 and gives you the option to set it as your starting point 2 or destination. 3 You can easily switch from one to the other by clicking the double arrows in the directions box, 4 which is handy for finding your return route.



Automate Windows lock and shutdown

AMP WinOFF: bit.ly/winoff431 | ⊕ 15 mins | ■ Windows 10

indows 10 Creators Update introduced Smart Lock, which lets you set your PC to lock whenever you move away from it using a paired Bluetooth device, such as your phone. In this Workshop, we show you how to set up this handy feature so that you never leave your PC unlocked while it's unattended.

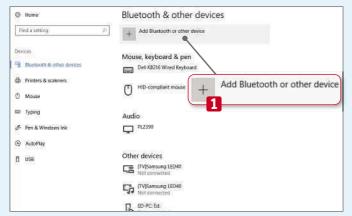
We also show you how to use AMP WinOFF, a lightweight tool that lets you set your PC to power off, lock, restart or go to sleep automatically under certain conditions. This can be a specific time and date, or when a countdown timer finishes, but you can also schedule shutdowns after a period of inactivity, or if processor usage falls below a certain level. This can be invaluable if you want to leave your PC to perform a large download and then shut down as soon as it's finished. You can even set multiple conditions and choose whether one or all of them must be met before the PC shuts down.



EXPERT TIP

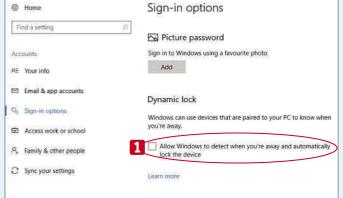
Edward Munn says

To ensure your PC always shuts down successfully, switch on the 'Force shutdown' option from the 'General options' page. Under this is an option to 'Force closing only for non-responding applications'. Tick that, too, so programs aren't forced to close prematurely.

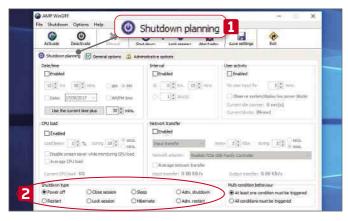


Before you can use Smart Lock, you must pair your smartphone with your Windows 10 PC via Bluetooth.

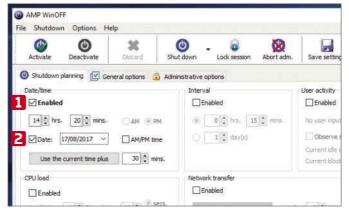
Make sure Bluetooth is enabled on your phone, then type Bluetooth into the Start menu on your PC and open 'Bluetooth & other devices'. Click 'Add Bluetooth or other devices' 1 and follow the instructions on screen to pair the devices.



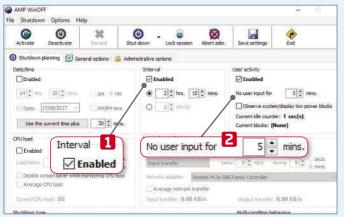
Click Start, open Settings and click Accounts, then 'sign-in options'. Scroll down the page until you see 'Dynamic lock', then tick the box to 'Allow Windows to detect when you're away and automatically lock the device'. Now, when you walk away from your PC with your smartphone, Windows should lock automatically.



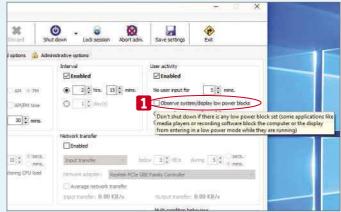
Next, run AMP WinOff. You'll see a number of different options that you can set under the 'Shutdown planning' tab. 1 First, choose the type of shutdown you want to schedule from the list at the bottom. These include 'Power off', Restart, 'Lock session' and Sleep. 2



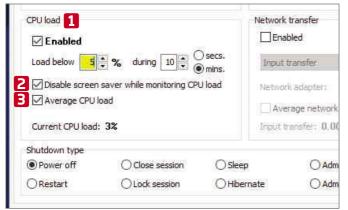
Now you can set the criteria that will trigger your chosen shutdown. If you want to schedule your PC to shut down at a particular time, tick the box to enable a 'Date/time' 11 condition. You can also tick the Date box 22 to select a specific date.



Alternatively, tick the Interval box 1 and set a time interval (either in hours and minutes or in days) after which your PC will shut down. The 'User activity' option lets you schedule a shutdown when the PC hasn't been used for a certain amount of time. 2



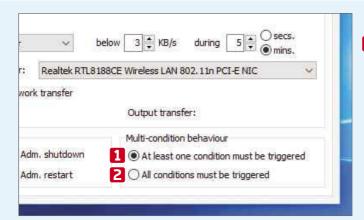
If you enable 'User activity' as a condition, also tick the box to 'Observe system/display low power blocks'. 1 Doing this stops Windows shutting down if a process or application is preventing your PC from entering its low-power mode.



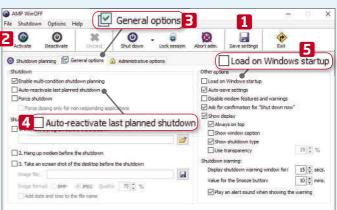
'CPU load' 1 lets you shut down your PC if its processor activity falls below a certain level – for example, if it's working at less than 5% for more than 10 minutes. If you use this feature, it's a good idea to tick the boxes that disable your screensaver 2 and take an average CPU load 3 for the last five seconds.



The final option is network usage. 1 Here, you can set your PC to shut down if upload or download activity falls below a specific amount for a set period of time. If you use this option, make sure you select the correct network adapter from the drop-down menu.



The default setting (in the bottom-right corner) is for WinOFF to perform a shutdown if any single condition is met, but you can also choose 'All conditions must be triggered'. This way, you can set your PC to wait until there's no user activity and no network activity before it shuts down, for example.



When you're happy with your configuration, click the buttons to save 1 and enable 2 your shutdown plan. Clicking the 'General options' tab 1 lets you enable other features, such as reactivating the last planned shutdown 4 when the PC restarts. If you use this option, make sure you also tick 'Load on Windows startup'.



Keep track of the TV series you're watching

e're living in a golden age of television, with loads of great content available to watch from so many different sources that at times it can be difficult to keep track of which episodes of which shows you've seen.

Series Organizer helps you keep track of what you're watching, wherever you're watching it - whether its on terrestrial television, online or a DVD box set.



Series Organizer: bit.ly/serorg431 | 🕒 10 mins | ಶ Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10



The first time you run Series Organizer, it presents you with this screen full of blank boxes. To add some programmes, click the three-line menu button 11 to expand the menu on the left, then click the annoyingly named 'Add Serie' button. A new window opens. **E**



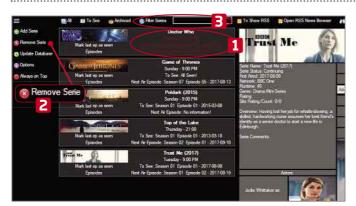
Type in the name of the first programme you want to add 11 and click Search. 22 A list of possible matches appears below. **3** Assuming the one you want is there, select it and Series Organizer will provide some details. 4 Click 'Add and Close'. 5



Wait until the programme has been added to the database, which will take a few seconds. Once it appears, you can read an overview, 11 view information about the show from IMDb 2 and link to any episodes stored locally. 3



The banner shows you which episode you should watch next, and which is due to be broadcast. 1 Click Episodes and tick off the ones you've seen. You can jump to any season. Once you've set this up, you can click 'Mark last ep as seen' E when you've watched an episode,



Repeat the process for any other shows you're watching. Programmes that aren't currently airing are shown in red. 1 You can remove anything by selecting it and clicking 'Remove Serie'. 2 Items can be filtered by category - All, To See, Archived - or by keyword.



If you're looking for something new to watch, click the Discover button 1 and select an option - Airing Today, Recent Popular Shows or 'TV Show Advanced discover'. 2 A list of programmes will appear and you can watch the trailer for one (if available) or add it to Series Organizer.



Control several PCs using one keyboard

orking on a desktop PC and a laptop simultaneously can be really frustrating when you constantly have to switch from one mouse and keyboard to another. Synergy fixes this problem by letting

you control up to 15 computers on the same network using only the keyboard and mouse of your main computer.



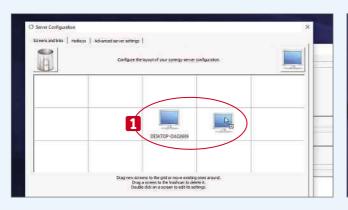
Synergy: bit.ly/synergy431 | 🕒 10 mins | ಿ Windows, 🐞 Mac, 🗘 Linux



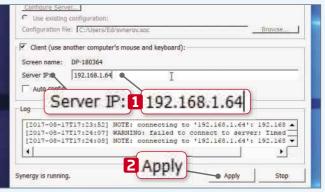
Download and install Synergy on two PCs you want to use. When the 'Server or client?' window appears, 1 choose Server **2** on the main PC (the one whose mouse and keyboard you want to use to control both computers) and select Client 3 on the second PC. Click Finish. 4



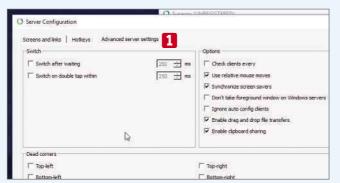
When prompted to activate Synergy, click Cancel, then Yes, which just means you can use its free features without a licence. On the Client (the second PC, which you want to control with the main computer's keyboard), make a note of its screen name, 11 as listed in Synergy.



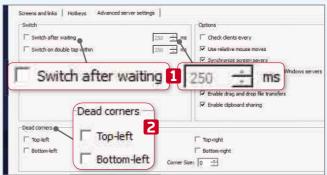
On the Server (main computer), click 'Configure server', then click and drag the new computer icon to mimic the position of the two machines on your desk. 1 Doubleclick the Unnamed PC and give it the screen name you noted down earlier. Click OK, then OK again.



Enter the IP address of the Server (shown in Synergy) in the box on the Client screen. 🚺 Click Apply 🔁 and Start on both machines. You can now move your mouse off the left or right edge of the Server screen (depending on the positions you set up in step 3) and control the Client.



After moving your cursor to the Client screen, you can use the Server's keyboard to control it. You can add as many Client PCs as you like and control them in this way by following the instructions in Steps 1-4. On the Server, click Configure Server and 'Advanced server settings'. 11



You can set how long it takes to switch to another PC 1 and set dead corners 2 (to stop Synergy interfering with the Start button, for example). To save the current setup, click File and 'Save configuration as...'. To load it again, choose 'Use existing configuration' when you launch Synergy.

Weekend Project

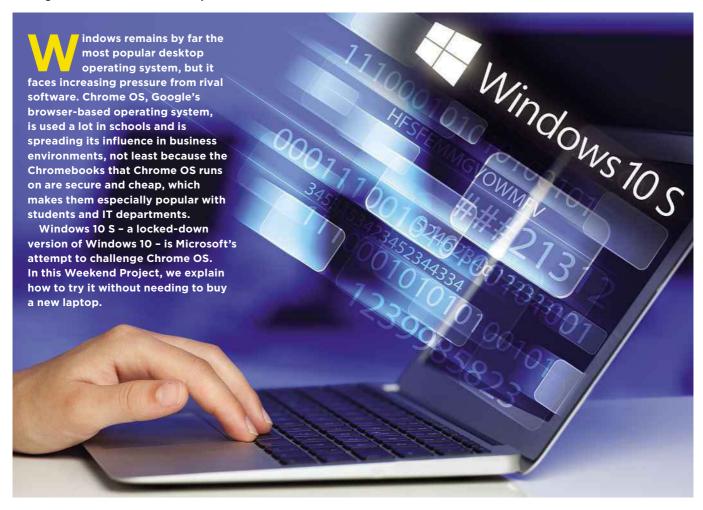
Get to grips with some serious PC DIY to boost your computer's performance





Try Windows 10 S on a virtual machine

You don't need to buy a new laptop to try Windows 10 S. **Wayne Williams** explains how to run it



What is Windows 10 S?

Windows 10 S is, essentially, a more secure version of Windows 10 that can only run apps from the Windows Store. In other words, you can't install regular Windows programs on it. This might seem like a strange idea but the reasoning behind it is sound – by controlling what software can be installed on the operating system, Microsoft is safeguarding users from

everyday threats. Windows 10 S is, for example, immune to most malware, including ransomware.

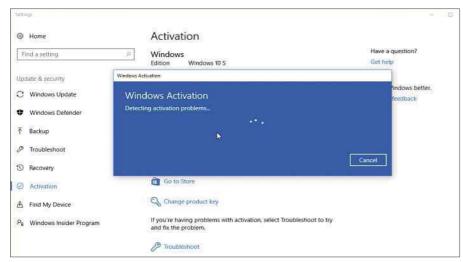
Where can you get Windows

The new operating system is currently only available pre-installed on selected devices, such as Microsoft's Surface Laptop. This is bound to change in the future but for now, you can't simply

download and install it on any PC you like.

However, that's not strictly true. Microsoft recently made Windows 10 S available for developers on the MSDN network to download in ISO format, and then released an installer (aimed at the education market), which lets anyone take the new OS for a spin.

If you want to try Windows 10 S but don't want to splash out on a new laptop, the easiest solution is to install it in a



You don't need to activate Windows 10 S but if you want to, and can't, then the troubleshooting option should solve your problem

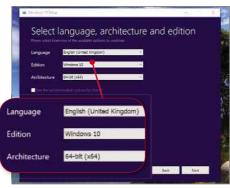
virtual environment. The process is a little more convoluted than normal and takes a while longer as a result, but it's easy enough to do.

What you need to know before you start

Unless you have the developer ISO (from the MSDN network), the only way to try Windows 10 S currently is to install it over a copy of Windows 10. You don't need to own or run Microsoft's operating system to do this because it's easy to get a free (and perfectly legal) copy to use. This is the main reason why the process of installing and running Windows 10 S in a virtual environment takes so long - you first need to install Windows 10, then "upgrade" it to Windows 10 S, which isn't a quick process.

There are some other restrictions to

be aware of. First, it's not recommended to install Windows 10 S over Windows 10 Home because you won't be able to activate it. You'll also need to be running the Creators Update (1703) or later, which is currently only available



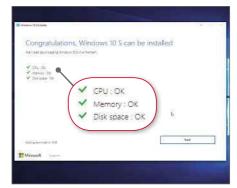
The Media Creation Tool lets you download a Windows 10 ISO file to use in VirtualBox

as a Windows Insider Preview build.

While you can install a new version of Windows 10 and convert it to Windows 10 S without a key, you won't be able to access all its features - including the personalisation options - without activating it. If you plan on activating the installation, you'll need to activate Windows 10 before starting the upgrade. Windows 10 S may activate once installed but if it doesn't, you'll have to click the troubleshoot option on the upgrade page to do this.

Get a Windows 10 ISO

If you don't have a copy of Windows 10 to hand (either on a DVD or a digital download), you'll need to get one. In some countries, you can download a Windows 10 ISO direct from Microsoft, but in the UK you need to download and use the company's Media Creation Tool. Go to bit.ly/winiso431, then download and run the program. Agree to the terms and select the option to 'Create installation media.' Select the version of

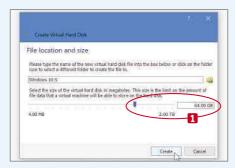


10 S installs on any version of Windows 10. Run the installer to see this message

MINI WORKSHOP | Install Windows 10 in VirtualBox



Download and install a copy of Oracle VirtualBox from www .virtualbox.org. Run the program and click New in the Manager window. In the Create Virtual Machine dialogue box, enter Windows 10 S 1 as the name of the operating system. Select Windows 10 as the version 2 or choose 'Windows 10 (64bit)' if you downloaded a 64-bit ISO.

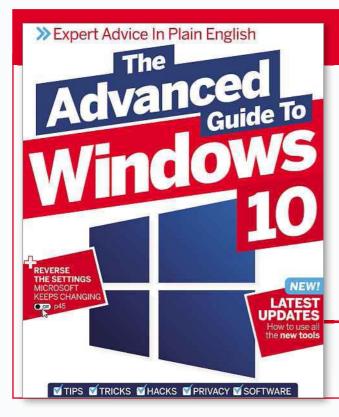


Click Next, then accept the default Memory Size. Choose to 'Create a virtual hard disk now' and click Create. Accept VDI (VirtualBox Disk Image) as the hard-drive file type. Choose the option to have your virtual drive dynamically altered (it will resize as required) and increase the default size to 64GB or above. 11



Click Create and VirtualBox will build the drive. When it's done, select the entry in the Manager 11 and click the Start button. 2 In the 'Select start-up disk' window, click the folder icon and navigate to the Windows 10 ISO. Select it, click Start 4 and Windows 10 will install. Select your language settings, then click the 'Install now' button.

WebUser Bookstore



THE ADVANCED GUIDE TO WINDOWS 10

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

BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON

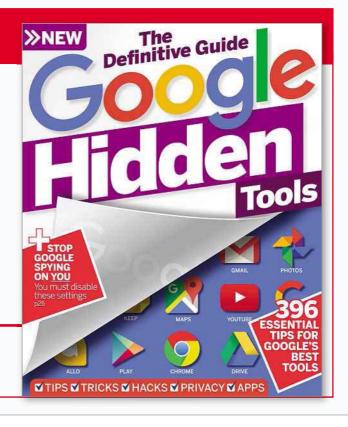
at bit.ly/advancedw10

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO 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.

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Windows 10 S looks and behaves much like Windows 10, but starts quicker

Windows 10 S blocks you from installing software from outside the Windows Store, and points you in the direction of 'safe' downloads

the OS you require.

If you're running Windows 10 already, the program will automatically select the same version for you. If that's not suitable (perhaps you're running Windows 10 Home but want an ISO for Windows 10 Pro), then untick 'Use the recommended options for this PC' and select the version you want. Click Next and select 'ISO file', then download this to your hard drive.

What's new or different in Windows 10 S

You can download software from outside the Windows Store as normal but if you try to install it, you'll be greeted with a message stating 'For security and performance Windows 10 S only runs verified apps from the Store'.

The OS only allows you to use the

Microsoft Edge browser. You can't install Firefox or Chrome because Microsoft's browser is the fixed default and there's (currently) no way to change it.

Microsoft sees this as a major bonus,



Edge is the default (and only) browser that you can use in Windows 10 S

because Edge is designed to work very closely with the operating system, but if you're used to a different browser, Edge will seem rather alien and many of the extensions you might rely on in your regular browser won't be available to you.

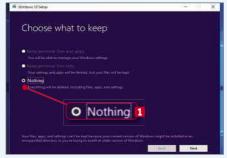
Windows 10 S is tied to Microsoft products, so when you search the web in the operating system you'll be using Bing (unless you browse to Google.com manually).

One good point about Windows 10 S is it's much faster than Windows 10 because it isn't bogged down in any way. This means it can run on lighter hardware. It can boot in around 15 seconds and, when installed on a laptop, deliver significantly better battery life. You won't notice this kind of difference so much in a virtualised environment, though.

WORKSHOP | Upgrade to Windows 10 S



Once Windows 10 is installed in VirtualBox and fully updated, you'll be ready to convert it to Windows 10 S. Open Microsoft Edge (since this is the only browser you'll have installed in your new virtual environment) and go to bit.ly/wins431. Read all about Windows 10 S and then, when you're ready, click the 'Download installer' button. [1



Run the installer and you should see a message stating 'Congratulations, Windows 10 S can be installed'. Click Next and the installation process will begin. Windows 10 S will be downloaded and once the files have been verified, you'll be asked what you want to keep from your existing installation. Select 'Nothing'. 1



Click Next and the installer will fetch some updates, restart your system and begin the full installation. It will reboot several times along the way. When it finishes, you'll be guided through the usual configuration steps. You should spend some time customising the privacy settings. 1 Once that's out of the way, you can start using Windows 10 S.

NEXT ISSUE

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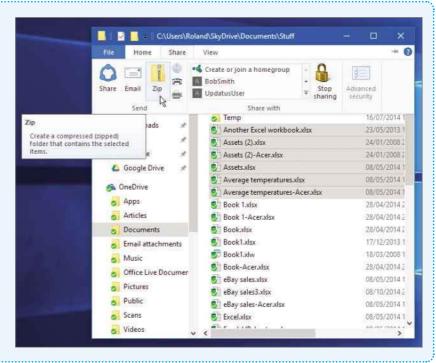
Make the most of your **online storage space** and get more for free with help from our experts

Compress files

o you have files stored in OneDrive, Google Drive or Dropbox that you don't use very often? If so, you can save space by storing these seldom-used files in compressed Zip archives. How much space you'll save depends on the type of file, but for some it can be as much as 50%.

You can't compress your files online – you have to do it on your PC and upload them. This is easy if you have a synced OneDrive, Google Drive or Dropbox folder. Select one or more of your files and folders in Explorer, right-click them and select Send to, then 'Compressed (zipped) folder'. Delete the originals to leave only the Zip archive and let the folder sync. This frees up online storage space so you can store more files.

Compress files you rarely access by turning them into Zip archives



Choose what to sync

The contents of the OneDrive folder on your PC's hard drive syncs automatically with your OneDrive online storage, but you don't need to sync absolutely everything. If you find you're short of space, you can exclude some items.

For example, do you really need to store your videos online? If you don't, exclude them by right-clicking the OneDrive folder in Explorer's sidebar and selecting 'Choose OneDrive folders to sync'. Clear the tick box next to Videos and any other folders you don't need to store online, then open a browser, go to OneDrive and delete everything in the Videos folder. The files on your PC will remain on the PC, freeing up valuable online space.

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.



Exclude folders from OneDrive that you don't need to sync

Empty the trash

When you delete files and folders on your computer, they're moved to the Recycle Bin, but they still occupy drive space. To recover this space, you have to empty the bin. Online storage works in exactly the same way.

Whether you have OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox or something else, open the Recycle Bin, Trash or whatever the service calls it and empty it, or at least select and delete any files you definitely don't need. Files can remain in there for years, taking up valuable space. Sort the files by date and delete the oldest ones first.

Get more Google Drive space

Everyone who has a Google account gets 15GB of space on Google Drive, but sometimes you can earn more. In 2015 and 2016, Google encouraged



Watch out for security check-ups and other offers of free storage

users of its services to take a security check-up. The reward for doing this was to have an extra 2GB of space added your Drive account. If you'd done both check-ups, you would now have 19GB.

It's possible that Google will offer another security check-up in 2017. If you see it, make the most of it because you may get another 2GB of free space.

You can also earn points for writing reviews on Google Maps if you sign up at maps.google.com/localguides. When you visit places, you're asked to provide a review, rating or photo. This earns points, which you can exchange for items. Offers vary, but in the past some people have used their points to get extra online storage space.

Convert to Docs and Sheets

Google Docs and Sheets don't count as space used on Google Drive, so if you have Word or Excel documents on there, convert them to Google documents. Click a Word or Excel file in a browser on Google Drive to view it, then click the button at the top to open it in Docs or Sheets. Delete the original file to recover the space.

If you want to store a photograph or other image on Google Drive without using any space, open it in a photo editor, such as Paint, press Ctrl+A, Ctrl+C to copy it, then create a new Google Docs document and press Ctrl+V to paste it in. Because the photo is now a Google Doc, it takes up zero space in Drive.

Check your phone

If you bought a new phone recently, check it for bundled apps. Sometimes OneDrive, Dropbox or Office apps are pre-installed and, if you run them and sign in, you may be given a storage boost. Offers come and go but we've managed to get up to 100GB extra space for two years.

Back up your photos

OneDrive and Dropbox used to provide extra free storage space if you enabled automatic photo uploads from your phone. You may be too late to take up this offer but try it anyway. Open the OneDrive or Dropbox app on your phone, go to the settings and enable automatic upload of your photos.

Get Office 365

If you use Office applications such as Word and Excel, get an Office deal (office.microsoft.com) such as Office 365 Personal with 1TB of OneDrive storage included. It costs £5 a month, which you pay annually, but for both software and storage, that's a good deal.

TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

More iCloud storage

Apple gives iPhone and iPad users 5GB of free iCloud storage space. However, iOS uses this to store photos, iPhone and iPad backups, files and settings from apps and more, so the free storage space fills up very quickly.

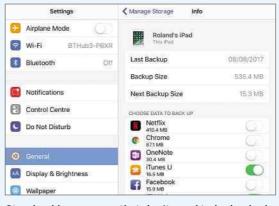
You can recover some space on iCloud by switching from Apple Photos to Google Photos. Google provides unlimited free storage for photos of up to 16 megapixels. Photos taken on the iPhone and iPad are smaller than that, so Google stores them at full resolution for free.

Install Google Photos and enable Photos backup in the app settings. Then open iOS Settings, press Photos & Camera and turn off iCloud Photo Library. Check that Google Photos has saved all your images, then go to icloud.com in a web browser and delete any photos that are stored there to free up the space.

Configure iOS backups

An iPhone or iPad can back up all your data, such as contacts, settings, app data and so on, to iCloud. There's no need to back up everything, though, and removing unnecessary items from the backup reduces your iCloud usage, leaving space for more important things.

Open the Settings app and press General, 'Storage & iCloud Usage', Manage Storage (under iCloud), then your iPhone or iPad (under Backups). Turn off any apps that you don't need to back up, such as Facebook, which stores everything online in your Facebook account anyway. Doing this can save you hundreds of megabytes of online space.



Stop backing up apps that don't need to be backed up and save iCloud storage space

Compress photos

Using Google Photos is a great way to free up space on your phone or computer, and it's also handy for backup purposes. Go to photos .google.com in a browser, click the menu button in the top-left corner and click Settings in the sidebar.

Here, you'll see an option to store photos at high quality or original quality. High quality is free, unlimited and uses no Google Drive space, and photos can be up to 16 megapixels. Original-quality photos and videos count against your Google Drive Space, so use high quality instead.

Also, click the Recover Storage button to see how much space you can recover by compressing your images. It could be a gigabyte or more. The compression is barely noticeable and your photos will take up less space.

Compress original items to high quality

Recover 1.3 GB of Drive storage by compressing photos & videos from original to high quality

- · Also compresses items uploaded elsewhere on Google, such as Google+, Blogger & Picasa Web Albums
- · Doesn't affect items uploaded through Google

Learn more

CANCEL COMPRESS

Compressing photos in Google Photos can free up Google Drive space

Delete email attachments

Your Google Drive space isn't only used to store files - Gmail uses it, too. If you have a lot of large email attachments, they can take up a lot of room. Delete any attachments you no longer need to free up Drive space.

> Open Gmail in a browser, type has: attachment in the search box and you'll see every message that has a file attached listed in date order. Go to the oldest (you may need to go to the next page of search results) and delete any you don't want to keep. Deleted emails are removed after 30 days, but if you need the space straight away, click More in the sidebar, then click Bin and empty it.

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



INTERNET

Go back to Google Advanced Search

I seem to remember that Google used to have an Advanced Search option. You could click a link on its homepage to access lots of options and settings that made searches more accurate. Has this feature been removed? I can't see a link any more.

Sean Morris, via email

You can still perform advanced searches but, as you rightly point out, there's no longer an obvious link to it. We don't know why Google has hidden this feature but you can access it by going to www.google.com/ advanced search.



Access Advanced Search from the Settings menu on the Google homepage

There's an 'Advanced search' link on Google's homepage, too, but it's been moved from its prominent position beside the search box and hidden on the Settings menu in the bottom-right corner of the page instead.

HARDWARE

Fix laptop Wi-Fi problems

I bought an Acer Aspire ES 11 laptop from Amazon in April and ever since then, it has suffered from an intermittent internet connection. Acer's tech support suggested that I reset the laptop, but that didn't help. I also uninstalled McAfee because it was out of date. When I took the laptop to work, however. I had no problem with the internet connection, and it was fast. I haven't contacted BT yet, but my home internet works perfectly well with my old laptop. Acer's support also suggested I send the laptop back for repair, but said there would be a fee.

Should I send the laptop back to Amazon or put it in for repair with Acer? Something is making the internet cut out. Sometimes it connects and at other times it doesn't, even though Windows says the Wi-Fi is connected.

Irene Roberts, via email

There are a few things you can try before sending it for repair. Open the Control Panel, then open Power Options. There are usually several power plans here and 'High performance'

should be selected. Click 'Change plan settings', then click 'Change advanced power settings'. Expand 'Wireless adapter settings', then 'Power saving mode'. Set this to 'Maximum performance', both for when the laptop is plugged in and when it's running on battery power. This stops your PC putting the Wi-Fi to sleep, which is a possible cause of the problem.

Alternatively, there may be a clash between the devices on the network. Each one must have a unique IP address. Open 'Network and Sharing Centre' in the Control Panel and click the active network link. Click Properties and double-click Internet Protocol Version 4 in the next window. This should be set to obtain an IP address automatically. Close all the windows.

Switch off the power to the router, wait 10 seconds and switch it on again. Doing this now and then can help, especially when you're having connection problems.

Next, check for any driver updates. Right-click the Start button and select Device Manager. Expand 'Network adapters', then right-click each one and select 'Update driver'.

It's rare, but we've heard that some computers and routers just don't get along. You say your laptop works fine at work, which could indicate that there's a problem with your home Wi-Fi. It would be useful to try the laptop in a few other locations, such as a friend's house. If it works there, too, your router could be causing the problem.

Get an Android upgrade

I imported a Huawei Honor 3C 4G phone from China in 2014 because I wanted a good-value 4G phone that would be future-proof for a few years and save me money in the long run. However, it's stuck on Android 4.42.

It has a 1.6GHz quad-core processor, 2GB RAM and 16GB storage, expandable to 32GB, and yet the operating system never updates. I emailed Huawei UK and they said they wouldn't upgrade it because it's imported. I emailed Huawei in China but haven't received a reply.

I'm disappointed that I can't upgrade Android, because the phone is more capable than anything you can buy here for less than £200. I asked my network to help me upgrade and they told me to contact Huawei. Can I upgrade it myself, and if so, how do I do it? I also bought a Huawei MediaPad, which is also stuck on Android 4.2, although Huawei tells me that's the latest version for my MediaPad.

John, via email

Many Android users are frustrated by the lack of operating-system upgrades for their devices. Even those phones and tablets that receive updates usually get them months after the release of the latest OS. Unfortunately, there's no way to

Android updates come from your device's manufacturer, not from Google



force an update. Google supplies its Android operating system to the manufacturers of phones and tablets, not to the public. When a manufacturer receives the latest version of Android. it customises the OS for each device it wants it to run on. There's little incentive for a company to do this for old phones and tablets. At best, they may get a bug fix if it's serious enough.

If you want to buy a phone or tablet that receives Android updates, you'll have to pay for a top-of-the-range model. Samsung's flagship device, the Samsung Galaxy S6, S7 and S8 line for example, all receive new versions of Android sooner or later.

The bottom line is that device manufacturers provide Android upgrades, and if they won't upgrade your device, there's nothing you can do.

GENERAL PC

Update touchpad drivers in Windows 10

I'm running Windows 10 on an old laptop. It works fine except for the touchpad, so I use a mouse instead, but I would like to get the touchpad working again. I've been to the manufacturer's website but I could only find drivers for Windows 7. What can I do?

Paul Baker, via email

Windows 10 is compatible with lots of old computer hardware, so there are a couple of options you can try. The first is to remove the touchpad and mouse driver to see if Windows' own alternative works better. The second option is to try an old driver.

Right-click the Start button and select Device Manager from the menu. Expand the Human Interface Devices section, then expand 'Mice and other pointing devices'. Right-click each item and select Update Driver. If you find a touchpad driver and there isn't an update available, right-click it and select 'Uninstall device'. Restart Windows and a default driver will be installed.

If the touchpad still isn't working properly after Windows has restarted, download the Windows 7 drivers from the manufacturer's website. If it's a Zip file, extract its contents. Right-click the driver installer and select Properties from the menu. Click the Compatibility tab, tick the box 'Run this program in compatibility mode for' and select Windows 7 from the list. Installing Windows 7 drivers in compatibility mode sometimes fixes this type of problem.

MOBILE

Connect a keyboard to a misshapen iPad

I bought a Logitech keyboard case to use with my iPad Pro, but when I inserted the iPad, I noticed that it was warped and wouldn't connect properly unless I pushed hard on the frame. I contacted Apple but was unwilling to pay the exorbitant price I was quoted to fix a device that otherwise works perfectly. Are there any quick fixes I could try, or could you recommend another low-cost option?

Thomas Davenport, via email

There are two options: get the iPad fixed or use a different keyboard. If the iPad is out of warranty, get quotes from other repair services and compare them with Apple's. Search online for 'iPad repair', followed by your nearest town to find local repairers.

It sounds as if you bought the Logitech keyboard case, which plugs into the iPad using a physical connector, but other iPad keyboards operate wirelessly and so don't need a physical connection. You can also buy keyboards that use a short cable to connect to the iPad's lightning connector, which would also get around the problem.

It's worth contacting Logitech or the retailer to explain the situation and ask if you can swap your keyboard for a wireless one. Otherwise, sell it on eBay and use the money to buy an alternative.



HARDWARE

Upgrade your hard drive

I'm thinking of asking my local computer shop to upgrade the hard drive in my computer to a superfast solid-state drive (SSD), but I'd like your opinion on a couple of things before I go ahead. Is it true that an SSD can only be rewritten over a limited number of times? If so, how long do SSDs last on average?

Also, because SSDs have no moving parts, does this make them more reliable than hard drives, which have spinning discs and moving arms?

Sue Rigby, via email

SSDs do indeed have a limit to the number of times they can be written over. However, modern SSDs use special techniques to distribute the wear and lengthen the lifespan. There's no need to worry about it wearing out because SSDs last for many years probably longer even than the computer you're installing it in.

EMAIL

Set the importance of email

When writing an email in Outlook.com, you can set its importance to High, Normal or Low What difference does this make? Do messages arrive faster if I set them to high importance?

M Taylor, via email

Setting the importance of an email has nothing to do with delivery speed. It simply places an indicator next to your message. If you set an email to High importance, the recipient sees a red exclamation mark beside it in their inbox; at Normal importance, there's no symbol; and a message set to Low importance has a down arrow or something similar.

This can be handy because when people check their inbox, the red exclamation mark catches their eye



Set emails to high importance to flag them up in the recipient's inbox

and they're more likely to read the message. That's the theory, at least, but there are a couple of reasons not to use it. First, there's no guarantee that the recipient's mail service will support it, and second, spammers sometimes mark junk mail as important to make you read it or to try to bypass spam filters. It's a nice idea, but it doesn't work in practice.



This fortnight Roland has been exploring the new features in Windows 10 Fall Creator's Update. There's a lot of them!

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

Save battery power with a dark theme

While browsing tips from Microsoft. I came across an unusual one for extending the life of a laptop's battery. Go dark. Apparently, the darker the screen the longer the battery lasts. I don't mean the obvious method of turning down the screen brightness -I mean using dark Windows themes.

This will work in Windows 7 with slightly different menu options but here's what Microsoft recommends in Windows 10. Open the Settings app and click Personalisation, then Themes. Select the darkest theme available. Then select Background on the left, set the background to 'Solid colour' and choose black.

Some apps also have dark and

I started using File History to back up my

files when it first appeared in Windows 8.

If you haven't yet discovered it, open File

History in the Control Panel and set it to

GENERAL PC

Backup File History





Black is best if you want to get the most out of a laptop battery

light themes, such as Mail. Click the gear icon, click Personalisation, select the dark theme and also set the background to black. Every little helps, as the saying goes.

program and lets you back

up any folder on your hard drive.

Open the Settings app and go to 'Update & security', then Backup. Turn on 'Back up using File History' and click the 'More options' link. This lists all the folders that are being backed up. The 'Add a folder' button lets you select any folder on the hard drive to back up. It's useful when you have files stored outside your personal folder.

Harry Lane, via email back up your files to a USB drive. It used to back up only your personal folder - C:\Users\Name - but in Windows 10, it works like any regular backup

Will Hayes, via email

Try Gmail conversations

There are several ways to view your Gmail inbox, such as a normal list in chronological order or as conversations. I have tried conversation view and I know a lot of people prefer it, but I always use the traditional view. Try it both ways and see which suits you.

To switch, click the gear button in



Gmail and go to Settings. About halfway down the General tab is the option 'Conversation view on/off'. Whatever it is set to, try the opposite and see if you prefer it. You can always switch it back.

Martin Bently, via email

GENERAL PC

Video vs battery

If you watch videos on a laptop, there's a setting you may not have noticed that lets you prioritise the quality of the picture or the battery life. You can have one or the other, but not both.

In the Settings app in Windows 10, choose System, then Battery. Look for 'More saving options'. Under 'When watching films and videos on battery power', there are two options: 'Optimise for battery life' and 'Optimise for video quality'. It's a personal choice, but I go for video quality.

L Whelan, via email

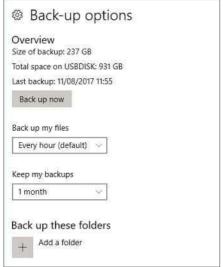
SECURITY

Lock your PC instantly

In Issue 425 (bit.ly/webuser425), there's a tip about remotely terminating Telegram sessions Of course it's good to know how to do this but, in my opinion, there's no excuse for leaving a PC unattended and showing your active session. It's a recipe for disaster because anyone could open or copy your files or, worse, delete them. They could email pretending to be you or even install malware on your PC. The possibilities are endless and they can all be avoided in



Pressing Windows Key + L locks your PC immediately



Add folders to back up with File History in the Windows 10 Settings app

a matter of seconds by locking your computer. In Windows, all you need to do this is press the Windows key + L and your PC locks immediately. On a Mac, press Control + Shift + Eject (or Power) and on Linux it's Ctrl + Alt + L.

This assumes you have taken the absolutely essential step of setting a secure password for your PC! Don't get caught out, there really is no excuse!

Jim, via email

SOFTWARE

Pay less for premium VPNs

Over the past few months, I have been looking at subscribing to a paid-for VPN service so I can reliably stay secure and occasionally access 'geo-locked' content.

First, I looked at TunnelBear (www .tunnelbear.com). On its website, the monthly cost is \$9.99 (around £7.75). However, if you download the iPhone app, you can get the same package for £4.99 per month (through an in-app purchase). It's the same story for Keepsolid VPN Unlimited (www .vpnunlimtedapp.com), but the other way around: the mobile app would like to charge you £8.49 for a month's service, but on the website you can pay \$8.99 (around £7). Moreover, if you pay with PayPal, you get a further small discount with no conversion fee.

If you're looking for a paid subscription to an app you use, it's worth taking a look at all the options because you can sometimes save yourself a few guid.

Simon Mellor, via email

WEBSITES

Send Google Photos straight to the printers

I recently wanted to print some of my Google Photos snaps and wondered if there was a simple way to send them directly to a printer without having to download each file and upload them again. After a guick Google search. I discovered this can be done with Photobox (www.photobox.co.uk). First, you need to save all the photos you want to print to an album in Google Photos. Next, open Photobox, click the Upload button and click the Google+ icon. You'll be invited to log into your Google



You can upload photos from a range of websites to Photobox for printing

account and, after this, you should be able to see all your Google Photos albums. Select one and you can then drag and drop the snaps you want to print to the window on the right-hand side. Next, click Upload and 'View my photos', and you can start ordering prints. It's so quick and simple!

Justine Collins, via email

CHROME

Carry on browsing on another computer

Even if you've opted into Chrome's Sync tool - and most of the browser's users probably have - you might not be aware of how useful it can be. I only discovered this for myself last week when I was looking at a number of websites on my desktop PC and wanted to carry on looking at them on my laptop in another room. Provided you have Open Tabs enabled in your sync settings - to check this, open Settings from the main menu, click Sync and check that the appropriate box is ticked - you can see the web pages that you currently have open on other devices and open them with a single click. To see these tabs, click the menu button and open History. Below the 'Recently closed' tabs, you'll see lists of web pages that are open on



Chrome shows the tabs you have open on other PCs you're logged in on

all your other synced devices. It's a really handy feature that should save you from trawling through your full browsing history to find specific web pages.

Ed Wright, via email

GENERAL PC

Screenshot only the current window

If you want to print an error message or only a specific area of your screen, press and hold the Alt button when you press the Print Screen button. This prints only the active window, rather than the entire screen, and should cut out a lot of the cropping that you may usually have to carry out.

Simon Mellor, via email

BLUNDER OF THE FORTNIGHT

HARDWARE

Don't dry your gadgets in rice

I recently made the blunder that many others have probably made and dropped my smartphone in the sink! I had read many tips in the past saying the best way to save your device in such an event is to switch it off immediately, then fully cover it with rice. So, I turned my phone off and as soon as I was home, I placed my trusty Samsung in a bowl of basmati rice!

Unfortunately, after about 24 hours, I turned on my phone and it worked briefly before failing shortly afterwards. I've since looked up the rice method and found several articles saying that drying your device in this way is not advisable because it leaves behind the water's impurities that cause your device to short-circuit and stop working.

So, if you accidentally soak your laptop, phone or tablet, it's right to



Surrounding your wet phone or laptop with rice won't necessarily fix it

turn it off straight away but before you try turning it back on, you should take it to a specialist who can dry and clean it in the appropriate way. Hopefully my mistake might enable others to rescue their sodden devices!

Eloise Hopkins, 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!

SECURITY

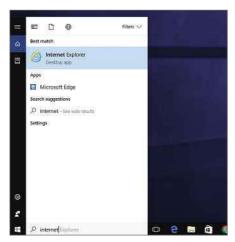
Why doesn't Edge support my security software?

Since installing the Windows 10 Creators Update, I've had to uninstall Trusteer Rapport (www.trusteer.com), which my bank recommends, because the Edge browser won't open with it installed. Is there an alternative I can try? I use McAfee for my main protection, as part of a BT offer.

guidedog, Web User Forums

According to this page (bit.ly/ edge431) on the Trusteer website, Edge should work with the software (although you may need to use another browser to add websites to Rapport's protection), so why not try reinstalling it? It also works with Internet Explorer, Chrome and Firefox, so you could use one of those browsers instead. Windows 10 still comes with Internet Explorer, too. Type Internet Explorer into the Search bar and click to run it. If you can't see the browser, click Start, select the Settings cog and click Apps, 'Apps and Features', 'Manage optional features' and 'Add a feature'. From here, scroll down to Internet Explorer 11, select it and click Install. Finally, restart your PC.

lizzygraham and rogerman40, **Web User Forums**



Internet Explorer still appears in the Windows 10 Creators Update

GENERAL PC

How do I find a missing folder?

I've lost a folder of important photos on my Windows 10 PC. I have opened all the other folders on the computer to look for it, but I can't remember what I named it. The photos are from my 80th birthday, so the only other information I know is that they date from August 2010. Does anyone have any ideas that might help me find the folder?

Geordie582, Web User Forums

Right-click the Start button, then click File Explorer and, in the 'Search this PC' field, enter: datemodified: 2010 kind:=picture. Lots of files should appear, and your PC may take a while to show them all. Scroll down to see if you recognise any from your birthday. If you see one, right-click it and look for 'Open file location'. Click that and, hopefully, you will have found the missing folder and its location.



Recuva can help you to find deleted files, even if you've emptied the recycle bin

If the files have been deleted by mistake, try using Piriform's filerecovery tool Recuva (www.piriform. com/recuva). This lightweight program is available as a portable version, so you can download it to a USB drive, then run it from that to avoid overwriting any of the files.

Finally, have you created any backups since 2010? Even if your backup is just a disk image of your PC's hard drive, you may still be able to access the files within it and make a copy of your lost photos.

> lizzygraham, Madeline, Stewart40 and tornado, Web User Forums

GENERAL PC

How can I speed up a slow laptop?

My daughter has an Asus X553M laptop that's very slow, even for simple web browsing. Is there anything we can do to improve the situation, short of replacing the computer?

peachy32, Web User Forums

If you don't have much hard-drive space, your PC may not be able to use virtual memory, which can cause it to run slowly. If it's very full, type disk cleanup into the Start menu and run this to clear some space. Also, type %temp% into the Start menu and press Enter to browse and delete temporary files. Next, right-click the taskbar and select Task Manager to check how many processes are running. Click the 'Start up' tab and disable any programs you don't need at startup by right-clicking them and

choosing Disable. Finally, type CMD into the Start menu, right-click the app and select 'Run as administrator'. If you have a mechanical hard drive (as opposed to an SSD), type defrag /c and press Enter. This will defrag your drives to make them more efficient.

Peru and Cantrel, Web User Forums



Making space on your hard drive can help vour PC to run faster



Star Email

Mug/

Further web loopholes that save you money

thought your 'Secret web loopholes that save you money' feature in Issue 428 was excellent. I'll certainly be enjoying some free movies through Comparethemarket.com! Meanwhile, I thought I'd share a few money-saving loopholes I've found myself.

Sometimes websites offer 'social discounts', whereby if you 'share' your purchase on Facebook or Twitter. they'll give you 10% off. Many people don't like doing this because why would you want all your friends to see your buying habits? However, there is a little-known option in the bottom left-hand corner where you can select who sees the post and one option is 'Only me'. This means your friends will not see details of your purchase, but you'll still get the discount. I recently bought a charger from Doohickey Hut



and saved £1 by doing exactly that.

I also use a Chrome extension called Honey (www.joinhoney.com), which automatically checks for any active coupon codes at checkout. It works very well and recently saved me £3 on an Amazon order. It finds a valid code about 20% of the time and the saving varies between a percentage discount or a flat sum taken off the total.

Additionally, I have an app on my phone called Zeek, which is essentially a database of gift cards for sale. If you're planning to spend a lot of money somewhere, it's worth checking this app first. For example, my brother is getting married next year and they need to buy a lot of wine for the wedding. On the app, there were 10 gift cards for Laithwaites Wines, which will give us an 8% discount, saving us £122.

There are all sorts of brands on there and although the percentage savings are slim, it can still work out to a significant saving if you spend a lot of money.

Nic Charrington, via email

Stop rewarding the first correct entry

I have been a subscriber to your amazing magazine for many years now and totally love it. However, one thing has always annoyed me: why do you have competitions like the emoji quiz on your 'Take a Screen Break' page that insist that the first entry wins?

It makes me not want to bother entering as I know the competition will have already been won by someone else. Why can't it be the first correct entry picked at random that wins, so everyone gets a chance?

There is nothing worse - especially for people buying the magazine from a shop who don't get the advantage of the early release the subscription offers - to find the competitions has been won long ago.

Please, please give this some thought.

Rob Boyle, via email

Web User says: We've thought about your suggestion, Rob, and we agree with you. As of this issue, the winner of the Take a Screen Break guiz will be selected at random 🕮.

Tor is not overkill for internet research

I am so glad that Mr Flynn (Inbox, Issue 429) finds online surveillance amusing. He apparently isn't a regular reader or he would be aware of the recent exchanges between myself and Mr Walker on this



Quiz Answers: Issue 430 WINNER! 1 House of Fun Elaine Harrop Wins a China in Web User VebLi Your Hand mug Riders on the Storm Watching the **Detectives** WORD PUZZL **Needles and Pins** Video Killed



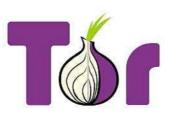


Wooaaaaahhh! Woooaaaahh!!! There it is! I go psycho when my new joint hit, just can't sit, got to get jiggy with it

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

subject. I am aware, Mr Flynn, that torrent files (in most circumstances) are not illegal to use. However, given the volume and type of research that I conduct via the internet on a daily basis, Tor and a VPN are increasingly warranted - particularly under the current US administration.

Sporadically, but increasingly, when a potentially controversial report or article is sought from certain countries via the UK, either horrendous delays are experienced or the site 'times out' or is



unavailable when employing my usual browser. On several occasions. employing

Tor and a VPN has located what I seek quickly and relatively simply. Also, as Web User and others have recently pointed out, Google frequently cannot be trusted to deliver the most relevant search results.

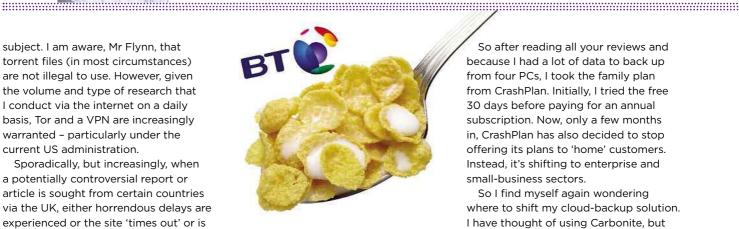
I experienced this most recently when seeking certain civil-rights sources including "out-of-print" (his emphasis) books. Also, Mr Flynn, my most recent download was a book from 1926 (copyright subsists for 70 years) which I found via Tor and a torrent site when Google and my customary browser proved unsuccessful. Mr Flynn's words assume that the material I was seeking was subject to copyright but, in the vast majority (perhaps all) of the instances to which I refer, he is wrong, at least in my case. Project Gutenberg is an oft-used source and all of their resources are free of copyright.

My own experiences to which his response refers show that I am correct and I am by no means the only person who has experienced this. Several university researchers of my acquaintance relate similar events.

John Lockett, via email

Flaky BT chokes my internet

I nearly choked on my cornflakes when I read that BT promises 10Mbps broadband for all (Web User, Issue 429). I use BT as my ISP by local landline but my copper connection is more than a mile from the Openreach green cabinet to which I am connected and the



download speed is a miserable 600Kbps - yes, that's Kbps. At certain times of the day, it is almost unreceivable. In fact, at the time of writing I am unable to run the BT speed checker! Fortunately, I am eligible for the government's rural broadband initiative and was provided with a satellite connection in 2016, giving me the luxury of an average of 3Mbps.

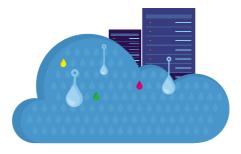
The irony is that there is a green cabinet in the village about 500 yards from my road-side connection but when this was installed, BT ignored the few properties on the edge of the village. As has been suggested previously, it appears that BT has again taken the easiest and cheapest options, pocketing the government subsidies on the way.

Oh, by the way, I didn't choke on my cornflakes because in this part of rural (but not isolated) Yorkshire, my copy of Web User, delivered through the post, doesn't arrive until mid-afternoon!

John McCloy, Burton Salmon

Searching for a new backup service

I find myself writing to you again about cloud-backup solutions. Not long after my last email to you about your review of these services, I received an email from SquirrelSave stating that it will no longer be continuing its service due to lack of interest. This is such a shame because it was excellent value for money. The company is now concentrating on its business side.



So after reading all your reviews and because I had a lot of data to back up from four PCs, I took the family plan from CrashPlan. Initially, I tried the free 30 days before paying for an annual subscription. Now, only a few months in, CrashPlan has also decided to stop offering its plans to 'home' customers. Instead, it's shifting to enterprise and small-business sectors.

So I find myself again wondering where to shift my cloud-backup solution. I have thought of using Carbonite, but I would have to buy a plan for each PC, which would work out quite expensive. I do have local backups, but I take the advice that you should always have more than one. Any suggestions, anyone?

Andy C, via email

Flash isn't dead yet

On page 9 of Issue 429, you report that 'Adobe finally kills off outdated plugin Flash'. But on page 52 of the same issue, you recommend PixIr Editor, without mentioning that this tool requires Flash to work. I now need to uninstall PixIr.

If you had said that it needed Flash, I would not have bothered to install it in the first place!

John Haseltine, Mid Suffolk

Don't be blasé about eavesdropping

Barry Collins is somewhat cavalier in his column in Issue 430, 'Who cares if voice assistants listen to us?', about devices such as the Amazon Echo eavesdropping on our conversations. People buy these things to perform voice-controlled tasks (or to show off to their friends), not to

share their private thoughts with dataharvesting companies such as Amazon and Google, and be targeted with adverts and



product 'recommendations'.

It may be true that most of what these devices record is of no interest to anyone, but it's still an invasion of privacy. Also, as Barry himself points out, there is the risk that they could be hacked, which would allow cybercriminals to deduce our passwords







for online accounts from, for example, a pet's name that we say out loud.

So don't be blasé about these unauthorised listeners, it's a bigger security threat than anyone yet realises.

Colin Pope, via email

Save a fortune in printer ink

As a Web User subscriber, I download all my magazines to my iPad, and sometimes it takes me a while to catch up with all the issues. Today I was reading Issue 425, in particular the printer reviews on page 20.

It seems you have not heard of HP Instant Ink, which saves me a fortune. Both the HP machines you reviewed are eligible for it. And for £7.99 a month you can print 300 pages in colour (there are several options), so that's 2.6p a page or £133 for 5,000 pages. Very reasonable.

You also get the bonus of not having to hunt for the best price for a printer cartridge every time you run out. They just arrive in the post because the printer communicates with HP. It's a fantastic system - all your readers should know about it and encourage other manufacturers to do the same.

Also, I don't understand your figures for the Epson printer. You say it costs 0.5p (that's half a penny) per colour page. That makes printing 5,000 pages only £25 but your chart shows the figure somewhere around £200. Very confusing.

Elaine Eustace, via email

Web User says: Thanks for the tip about HP Instant Ink, Elaine. Regarding your query about our figures for the Epson EcoTank ET-2600 (pictured), our quoted cost included the price of the printer itself, which is £199.99. This is higher than most of the printers in our Group Test but as we explained, the cost of ink is significantly lower.



What you say...

RE YOU EXCITED BY THE RELEASE OF ANDROID 0?

It looks awful. When will Google listen to its users and add a Dark Theme? My AMOLED screen eats juice like mad with white.

Paul Wallace

Android upgrades are mainly great, but it's just such a shame that manufacturers and carriers will take so long to roll it out to existing handsets.

Greg Talt

By the time it's downloaded and installed all the required driver updates, it'll have the pace and killing power of an asthmatic tortoise.

aiwacat @aiwacat

I no longer get excited over new Android releases. Most improvements are things that I was doing anyway, using apps which I then uninstall.

Gary Olsen

T IS SCRAPPING HALF THE REMAINING PUBLIC PHONE **BOOTHS. ARE YOU SAD TO SEE** THEM GO?

They should keep at least one per community for emergencies. What if your landline at home isn't working and you don't have a mobile phone with you?

David Griffiths

I can't recall the last time I used one, but my American nephew came to visit last year and wanted a photo of him in one. They're so British!

David P-Smith @david p s

To be fair, in the last 14 years in the UK, the only time I've seen one has been in the local 'living history' museum.

Janne Virtanen @JanneVirtanen81

Woke up in a few back in the day.

Paul Adrian

MAZON WILL CLOSE LOVEFILM IN OCTOBER. WERE YOU A SUBSCRIBER?

Yes, I was a subscriber when I moved to Norfolk and video shops weren't so prevalent. I rented a lot of films but now I use Netflix, Amazon and Sky. Sad to see it go, but not surprised.

Lynn Sharpe

I'm still using it and I didn't know it was closing. It's been a great service and I've truly enjoyed the films over the years. Amazon, whatever happened to loyalty?

Anthony Fox @antfoxy

When they started I was there. I thought it closed years ago. I left because I could only watch DVDs on the PC and the quality wasn't good.

Gavin Green

Yep, and when I tried to cancel all those years ago I got more offers than a DFS store thrown at me.

Si Mellor

ECH PIONEER ELON MUSK IS **WORRIED ABOUT 'KILLER** ROBOTS' (bit.ly/robots431). **HOW CAN WE DEFEAT THEM?**

Surely the main server that keeps their firmware up to date could be hacked? We just need to find it (or we can just find John Connor!).

Jason 'Boz' Bowyer

They have a programmed kill limit, so I'd send wave after wave of men at them until they reached that point and shut down.

Lee Dodgson

Water cannons. They would shortcircuit them!

Brian Brown

A Page 404

Barry Collins wants an ASBO placed on Facebook's latest mobile 'feature'

The anti-social network



Happy birthday to my gorgeous girl.

Can't believe how quickly they grow up...

WOOAAAAHHH! WOOOAAAAHH!!!
THERE IT IS! ON YOUR MARK, READY,
SET - LET'S GO, DANCE FLOOR PRO,
I KNOW YOU KNOW, I GO PSYCHO
WHEN MY NEW JOINT HIT, JUST CAN'T
SIT, GOT TO GET JIGGY WITH IT...

on't worry. I haven't lost my mind. The Web User staff have not gone on strike and started pasting random nonsense into my column – not that anyone would notice anyway.

What you're seeing above is what Facebook has become, except the second part - the really loud, really shouty bit in BLOCK CAPITALS - well, imagine that blasting out of a speaker on the back of this magazine as soon as you flicked open the page, like one of those crappy novelty birthday cards. That's what Facebook has become.

A couple of weeks ago, Facebook took the infuriating decision to make its mobile app play videos with sound automatically. So, if you're sitting on the bus, in the doctor's waiting room or anywhere in public and casually open the Facebook app, you and everyone else around you will be subject to a random audio assault of whatever appears in your timeline. Adverts, football clips, prank videos or the James

Corden Carpool Karaoke quoted earlier, which blasted out of my phone when I fired up Facebook this morning.

Autoplaying noisy videos is a feature literally nobody asked for — except the advertisers themselves

Facebook, of course, pleads that it's doing us a favour. "We're always working to make Facebook a better place to watch videos," claims the pop-up message introducing this rotten feature. "That's why videos now play with the sound on automatically."

Except nobody else thinks this makes life better. Autoplaying ads have become such a nuisance that Apple now blocks them from playing in the latest

version of its Safari browser for Mac OS. The Coalition For Better Ads also rails against autoplaying video with sound. "This ad experience is especially disruptive because it catches the reader off guard and often compels them to quickly close the window or tab in order to stop the sound," the Coalition states,

"especially if they are on their mobile device and in a public place, where such noise can be a public nuisance and personal embarrassment."

Guess who's a member of the

Coalition? I'll give you a clue: it starts with an 'F' and ends in 'acebook'.

Autoplaying noisy videos is a feature literally nobody asked for – except the advertisers themselves. Facebook will have studied the metrics and seen that autoplaying videos have a far higher 'engagement' rate than those that require the user to push a Play button. Now you'll have advertisers and other video producers cramming the first few seconds of their videos with shouty audio to make sure they attract your attention before your thumb flicks them off the screen.

The only thing that prevented me from uninstalling Facebook the moment this feature was activated was that there's an option to switch it off. On Android, open the menu in the top right-corner of the Facebook app, scroll all the way down to App Settings and make sure 'Videos in News Feed start with sound' is switched off. Autoplay videos haven't appeared in iOS yet, perhaps because Apple doesn't tolerate such nonsense.

Facebook is fast becoming the anti-social network and this feature will certainly cost it a few friends.





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