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way websites  
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**NEW**

# BARE METAL SERVER

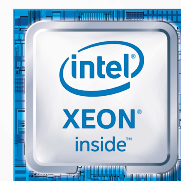
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**1and1.co.uk**



## Git with the program!

**W**hen I download free software, I really don't need to know how the sausage is made. Clicking Install and Run is technical enough for me, and the thought of being faced with raw code in a programming language such as C++ or Python is frankly terrifying.

So it was with some trepidation that I embarked on this issue's cover feature, in which we pick 20 brilliant open-source tools from GitHub. With its 'pull requests', 'commits' and 'forking', GitHub can seem as baffling as *Love Island* (even the jargon sounds the same!), but persevere and you'll

find the most cutting-edge free programs on the web – indeed, some are so cutting-edge that they're not even finished yet.

From privacy tools and system tweekers to messaging software and music streamers, we've chosen our favourite projects currently being developed by the GitHub community.

Please let us know of any GitHub gems you've discovered – or created!

**Robert Irvine, Editor**  
[robert\\_irvine@dennis.co.uk](mailto:robert_irvine@dennis.co.uk)  
[#webuser](#)



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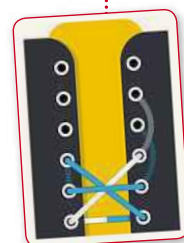
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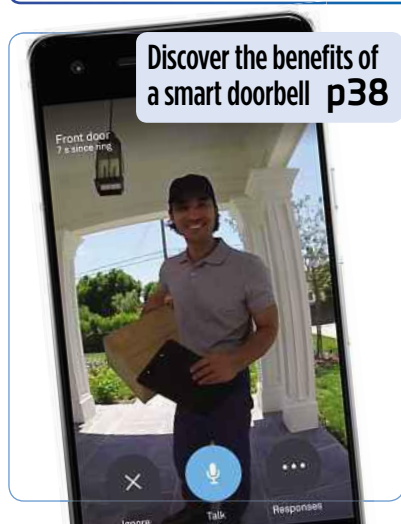
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COVER  
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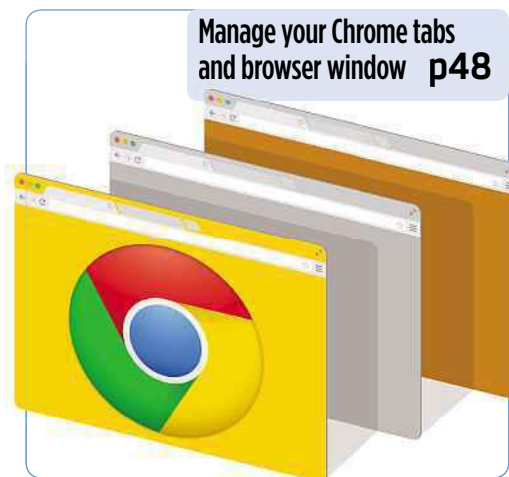
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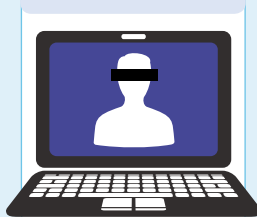
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# What's New Online

## Relive the era of the BBC Micro

Anyone of a certain age will recall using a BBC Micro to learn the basics of computing. The 8-bit machine was commissioned by the Beeb to get people interested in emerging technology and it was launched in 1981 as part of the Computer Literacy Project, which ran between 1980 and 1989.

The decade produced many TV series related to the project including *The Computer Programme*, *Making the Most of the Micro* and *Electric Avenue*, spanning 267 episodes in total. This new website from the BBC allows you to watch the lot for free, letting you marvel at the beginnings of the computing industry we know today, while giving you a laugh at the production values and fashion sense.

Alongside the shows is a search facility that lets you explore 2,509 clips either by topic or a text search. You can also check out the 166 programs discussed within the shows



by running them on a BBC Micro emulator that immediately loads in your browser. To wrap things up, there's a full lowdown of the history of the project and the BBC Micro. It's a marvellous trip down memory lane.

[bit.ly/bbcmicro453](http://bit.ly/bbcmicro453)

## Measure distances and areas in Google Earth

[earth.google.com/web](http://earth.google.com/web)

It's a big world out there but if you want a more accurate sense of our planet's scale, then working out the distance between two locations is a good start. Google Earth's new measuring feature lets you do just that: choose a start and end point and the tool will tell you how many miles and kilometres lie between them. You can add extra locations, and edit measurements by clicking and dragging points.

Drawing closed-off shapes lets Google Earth calculate perimeters and area sizes and, because it works with irregular-shaped objects, you can use it to measure town centres, counties and countries. Working with the top-down



view makes for more accurate calculations, but it's worth bearing in mind the measurements don't take into account changes in elevation. The new function is currently available for Chrome and Android, and is coming to iOS soon.

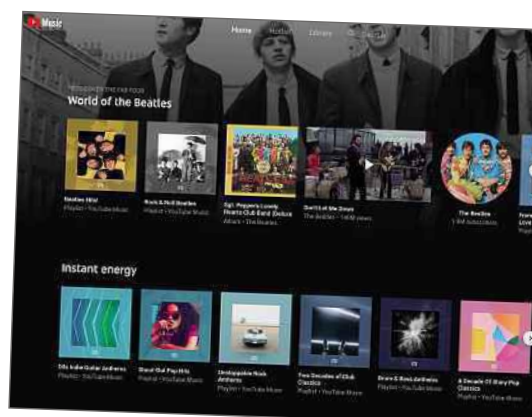
## Stream music via YouTube

[music.youtube.com](http://music.youtube.com)

For millions of people, YouTube is the go-to destination for watching music videos – so much so that the Official Singles Chart is now counting video views toward the weekly pop countdown, and the service is now positioning itself as a music-streaming platform in its own right.

Aside from being available on mobile devices (see our review on page 35), YouTube Music offers a basic website that emphasises music discovery by highlighting new tunes, current hits and recently uploaded videos. It also hopes to introduce you to songs that you may not have listened to for a while, uses machine learning to enable more effective searches and lets you compile playlists.

The songs come with ads but you can pay £9.99 per month for the Premium plan ([www.youtube.com/musicpremium](http://www.youtube.com/musicpremium)) to remove them and listen to music offline.



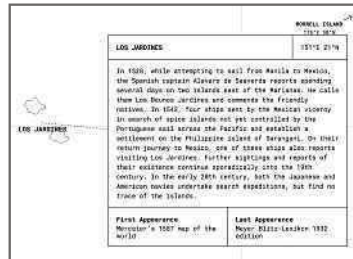


We pick the 10 best things you must do on the web this fortnight

## Discover the world's phantom islands

[bit.ly/phantom453](http://bit.ly/phantom453)

Phantom islands are nothing to do with ghosts – they are fake land masses that appeared on maps before being proven not to exist. This interactive tool shows where they were thought to be located, and reveals who invented them and when they first appeared and were removed. You can also listen to musical, biophonic and geophonic landscapes.



## NEW VOICE COMMANDS



### Have a continued conversation

Turn on Continued Conversation in Google Assistant's Settings and you can keep chatting without asking another question until you say "thank you" or "stop", or cease talking for a while.



### Ask for the weather

As well as telling you today's weather, Siri now gives a forecast for the weekend and the following week. To get the temperatures, just ask: "How hot will it be?"



### Talk to Alexa on iPhone

Amazon has updated its Alexa app to let you talk to its personal assistant on your iPhone. Ask her to play music, answer questions, check the weather and more.

## Tighten Google Account settings

[myaccount.google.com](http://myaccount.google.com)

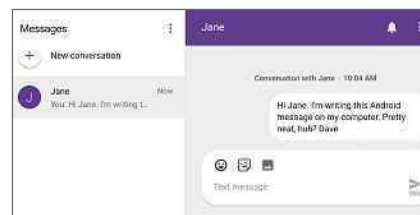
Google has updated its Account hub in an attempt to be more transparent about your privacy and security. Available only on Android for now, the new hub offers tabs for 'Personal info', 'Data and personalisation', 'Security', 'People & sharing' and 'Payments and subscriptions', which let you view your contact information, secure your accounts, change your password, deactivate location sharing, manage your purchases and control your activity. You can use the new search option to quickly find the account feature you're after, while the Support section is packed with guides and answers from community experts.



## Send Android web messages

[messages.android.com](http://messages.android.com)

Update the Android Messages app on your phone to the latest version and you'll be able to use your desktop browser to send and receive text messages. The new feature works over Wi-Fi and mobile-data connections, and lets you compose your messages and add images and stickers. Visit the messages website on your PC or Mac, tap the 'More options' menu on the Android app and select 'Messages for web'. Scan the QR code on the website with your phone and you'll be able to use the new browser-based interface to start new conversations and resume ongoing ones.



## Submit Facebook ads to an ad blocker

[adblock.ai](http://adblock.ai)

The cat-and-mouse game between advertisers and advert blockers has stepped up a gear. You can now submit screenshots of ad-cluttered Facebook pages to Sentinel (from the company behind Adblock Plus) and allow artificial intelligence to study how ads are displayed. The tool uses object



detection to identify ads so it can eventually get around increased attempts by Facebook and others to fool blockers by disguising adverts.



### Enjoy group chats on Instagram

[www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com)

Instagram's new group-video-calling feature lets you chat with three or more friends at once. You can chat face to face, mute video chats and minimise screens to a thumbnail. Tap the camera icon to get started.

### See how Earth used to look

[bit.ly/dino453](http://bit.ly/dino453)

Created by a former Google engineer, Ancient Earth Globe lets you see how our planet looked millions of years ago. Use the menu to view different periods and jump to key moments, such as the first dinosaurs and first flowers.

### Request your data from Apple

[privacy.apple.com](http://privacy.apple.com)

If you have an Apple account, you can now request the personal data the company has stored about you. Log into the site with your Apple ID word, then select Get Started and click 'Obtain a copy of your data'.

# Need to Know

## Facebook and Google users manipulated into sharing data

### What happened?

The privacy complaints against big tech firms continue with accusations of “deception by design” and the use of “dark patterns” made against Facebook, Google and Microsoft. The Norwegian Consumer council made the claim in a report, called *Deceived by Design* ([bit.ly/deceived453](http://bit.ly/deceived453)), saying that tech firms deliberately make their users’ privacy settings difficult to find or understand.

The report analysed all three firms as they rolled out new privacy settings in response to the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force in the UK in May, and means that websites and online services must now ask users for their consent to share their data.

GDPR is meant to guarantee users better privacy options, but this isn’t always the case. The report found that privacy settings were confusing, and tucked away, with companies pushing users to sign away their privacy via all-or-nothing choices, such as losing features or being unable to use the service if you don’t choose specific settings. One example from Facebook that the report noted told users who opted out of facial recognition that it could mean a “stranger uses your photo to impersonate you”.

The report said that this behaviour of companies ‘nudging’ users toward the least privacy-friendly options undermines their ability to control their privacy. That’s not only unethical, the report added, but could be seen as breaking GDPR’s requirement for consent for data sharing – if you’re



Credit: AngieYeoh / Shutterstock.com

tricked using design techniques and behavioural nudges into giving away your data, can you really be said to be giving informed consent?

Facebook and Google both said in statements that they aimed to keep privacy settings easy to find and had recently rolled out new tools to make privacy simpler. Microsoft said it was “committed to GDPR”.

### How will it affect you?

It’s easy to quickly click past privacy-setting messages, especially when you’re being bombarded by them, as many of us still are following the enforcement of GDPR in the UK. But it’s worth taking time to read them, as dull or pointless as the exercise may seem. The wording and format of privacy settings are often designed to encourage us not to pay attention, or to ignore the controls we do have. When you see these options – when setting up Windows 10 on a new laptop for the first time, perhaps, or the next occasion Facebook has a privacy debacle – take

the time to consider what really benefits you, rather than defaulting to what the company in question wants. We’ve learned over recent years that’s not always in our interests.

Of course, it’s easy to see why we don’t bother reading such messages – security feels out of our hands and the messages describing privacy

settings are often obtuse. If you’ve ignored settings notifications lately, don’t worry: you can go into privacy settings for whichever site you’re concerned about and change them.

Indeed, it’s worth regularly auditing your privacy and security settings. As well as defaults changing on Facebook, Google and other sites, your own priorities may be different. Take the time to look over the settings at your own pace, without being rushed or nudged in a particular direction.

### What do we think?

Such behaviour may be within the legal letter of GDPR, but it’s not in the spirit of the privacy-protecting regulation. Google, Facebook and other online providers want to harvest our data for profit, but they should be able to legitimately make their case for data sharing rather than being sneaky and tricking us.

Trust in the Silicon Valley giants is diminishing, and they should be aiming for good behaviour when it comes to privacy, not pushing the boundaries to con us out of even more data. After all, the more we trust them, the more likely we are to agree to services such as facial recognition; the less we trust them, the more they’ll feel pressured to use unethical methods to convince us to hand over our information. That’s unsustainable because eventually the regulators will catch up or we’ll simply stop using such sites.

	Facebook	Google	Windows
No privacy intrusive default settings in popups	✗	✗	✓
Equal ease (number of clicks) for privacy friendly options in popups	✗	✗	✓
Design (colours and symbols) does not lead toward privacy intrusive option in popups	✗	✗	✗
Language does not lead toward privacy intrusive option in popups	✗	✗	✗
Privacy friendly options in popups come without “warnings”	✗	✗	✓
Users can clearly postpone the decision while accessing the service in the meantime	✗	✗	✗

*The Deceived by Design report found Facebook, Google and Microsoft’s privacy settings confusing*



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

## Tesco tests self-scan pay-as-you-shop app

### What happened?

Forget queuing for a till or a self-service checkout at the supermarket – Tesco is testing an app that lets you scan your groceries as you shop and pay via your smartphone, so you can leave without having to wait. The Scan Pay Go app is being tested by Tesco staff at a mock-up store at the supermarket chain's Welwyn Garden City offices.

### How will it affect you?

Just as we've got used to scanning our own groceries at do-it-yourself checkouts, supermarkets are mixing it up again. Although the Tesco app is still just a trial, similar technology has been tested by Amazon in the US and Sainsbury's in the UK.

The test is being run in an 'express' store, and is likely to roll out for smaller shops first. That's not only because it's a bit more burdensome to scan a large trolley full of items, but because the aim is to reduce queues at smaller stores in city centres, which are exceptionally busy at lunchtimes, with local workers waiting to pay for their prawn sandwiches, bags of crisps and bottles of pop. The technology is sound, Tesco says, but the question remains whether dishonest shoppers will simply walk out without paying.

### What do we think?

Anyone who regularly suffers long queues when buying their lunch will like the ability to scan, tap a button on their phone and leave without having to wait. Self-scan checkouts could also be hit by dishonesty, but they're successful enough that most big-name stores have rolled them out. It's easy to see this expanding to other types of shopping – why wait at Top Shop or Primark to pay for a T-shirt when you can scan it and go? – but it's also a shame to lose the tiny bit of human interaction that comes with shopping. The other downside is that such technologies put jobs at risk.



## Hotel sites warned about false claims



### What happened?

Competition regulators are warning holidaymakers against the aggressive marketing tricks employed by hotel-booking sites, which use pop-ups and warnings claiming that, for example, there's only "one room left" to create a false sense of urgency. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has been investigating booking sites since last year, raising concerns that customers are misled by such marketing and that there remain too many unexpected charges such as booking fees and taxes. The CMA is also looking at whether the size of the commission doled out to websites for successful bookings influences how hotels are ranked.

### How will it affect you?

According to the CMA, seven in 10 Brits book hotels via such sites, so these aggressive and misleading tactics affect a wide range of people. "Booking sites can make it so much easier to choose your holiday, but only if people are able to trust them," said Andrea

Coscelli, chief executive of the CMA. "We are now demanding that sites think again about how they are presenting information to their customers and make sure they are complying with the law." But while the CMA is investigating further, it's only asked sites to reconsider such practices. Real change will have to wait until the investigation ends and a full report is released.

### What do we think?

It's hard not to be harried into a purchase when pop-ups suggest you're running out of time. If it does turn out that hotel-booking websites are over-egging the situation to bully us into booking, the CMA should not only name-and-shame so we know which sites to stop using, but it should take serious action. As we increasingly shift more of our daily lives to the web, we need to make sure we do everything possible to keep it trustworthy – and nagging pop-ups that misleadingly badger us to buy are a trend we don't want to see spreading anywhere else.

# Vodafone to launch 5G trial across the UK

## What happened?

Vodafone has announced a 5G trial across seven UK cities this October and November. The test, which is planned for London, Manchester, Liverpool, Cardiff, Bristol, Glasgow and Birmingham, will study how the new super-fast standard for mobile internet connections operates in densely populated areas.

With 5G's additional speed, the mobile network is also in talks with a number of businesses, to test "new 5G applications such as augmented and virtual reality in offices, factories and hospitals". Vodafone has already declared that the 5G network – due to be rolled out in 2020 – will deliver "ultra-fast connection speeds of one gigabit per second". Meanwhile, Ofcom estimates that 5G connections will eventually be capable of reaching speeds between 10 and 50Gbps.

But it's far from a one-horse race: O2 has plans to unleash the network at its Greenwich-based O2 Arena later this year, while EE – which managed to top 2.8Gbps in controlled tests for its 5G service – will also begin a trial in October that sees five homes and five small businesses in East London's 'Tech City' connect to the next-generation network. In a thoroughly 21st-century twist, EE will select its guinea pigs via social media.



## How will it affect you?

Although there's no plan to switch off the 4G network, 5G is at least 10 times faster than 4G – so while downloading an HD movie today takes you a little over five minutes, that shrinks to about 10 seconds on 5G.

Beyond faster connections, you can also expect to pay more for the new technology once it's live. When first released, 4G tariffs cost up to £40 for just 500MB of data, and 5G is likely to have a similarly exorbitant price tag.

Also, be aware that any so-called 5G network that launches before 2020 will use 'non-standalone' architecture, lacking key features of the planned 'standalone' 5G experience (similar

to the major technical difference between HD Ready and Full HD TVs). Don't be fooled by '5G LTE'; wait for full 5G coverage.

## What do we think?

As smartphones increasingly become our main gateway to the web – whether it's streaming video, sharing photos or shopping in the sales – the need for reliable, secure and rapid connections grows by the day. The proposed 5G network offers exactly that, and we welcome its eventual introduction in the UK. However, we won't expect any miracles until a couple of years after its deployment, when the technology is fully bedded in.



## FIRST LOOK

### BBC Sounds

[bit.ly/bbcsounds453](http://bit.ly/bbcsounds453)

Still very much a work in progress, BBC Sounds – which is available for Android, iOS and Amazon devices – is the Beeb's swish new replacement for its iPlayer Radio app, offering listeners access to all UK BBC radio stations, music and podcasts in one place.

Spinning the dial at the top of the app cycles through all live radio stations, while the orange band circling a station icon provides an instant visual indication of how much time remains for each programme. Once you start listening, you'll find an easy-to-swipe play-pause control panel at the bottom of the screen, much like Spotify's.

Sadly, this surface-level design is as far as the BBC seems to have got



before prematurely rolling out Sounds. Navigating away from the home screen soon becomes a frustrating experience because although you can browse by genre, there's no dedicated podcast section and the layout is flawed, since it's ordered by most recent show rather than by programme. This makes BBC Sounds a serious scroll-fest if you're hunting for additional episodes. You can

overcome this by either selecting your show and hitting 'More episodes', or adding a show to your list, but such clunky navigation means Sounds is unlikely to replace your favourite podcast app (see our round-up in Issue 452, [bit.ly/webuser452](http://bit.ly/webuser452)). For now, it's primarily a BBC radio player.

Like its rivals, BBC Sounds focuses on curated content based on your listening habits. However, other key features aren't yet available: forget about saving mobile data, since downloading for offline streaming won't arrive until later down the line.

BBC Sounds is a step in the right direction – the fresh design will grab the attention of younger listeners, while the content has Auntie's typical universal appeal – but until the finished version is released, it's unlikely to trouble the likes of Spotify.





## WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

## Will Apple launch a single subscription service?

Apple is planning to release an Amazon Prime-style single-subscription service that includes TV, music and news, according to industry insiders.

We know the California-based company is spending \$1bn this year on original programming, which may not rival Netflix-levels of spending – thought to total \$8bn – but is enough to attract top talent such as Oprah Winfrey. The podcast-inspired crime drama *Are You Sleeping* and a reboot of the 1980s anthology series *Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories* are also in production.

Until now, it was assumed that these shows – like Apple's existing programmes *Carpool Karaoke: The Series* and *Planet of the Apps* – would air on the Apple Music platform, but sources now suggest this content will instead form the core part of a subscription package.

But Apple isn't just parking its virtual iTanks on Netflix's lawn. Three months ago, it purchased Texture, a digital-magazine subscription service. According to those in the know, the company intends to bundle Texture with the Apple News app and a new digital news platform, alongside existing music and video offerings – and this all-in-one subscription would certainly fit Apple's walled-garden approach.

Elsewhere in the Apple rumour mill, it's been suggested by sources in Asia that Apple is working on an AirPods



charging case that can wirelessly charge an iPhone.

## LIKELIHOOD RATING



Apple is doubtless seeking fresh ways to wring additional revenue from its 40 million Apple Music subscribers. With Amazon, Microsoft and Google all offering single-subscription services, it's a natural path for Apple to follow. Yet Apple has always proved more of a leader than a follower, so we wouldn't be shocked if it innovates a whole new method of entertainment consumption.

## WEBOMETER

## WE LIKE...

## NHS app connects patients with GPs

The government has unveiled a new NHS mobile app that puts patients in England in direct touch with their doctors, allowing them to book appointments, order repeat prescriptions and see their medical files held by their local surgery.



## SD cards offer 128TB of storage

Maximum capacity for SD cards has now expanded to 128TB with support for advanced data-transfer methods, following the launch of new specs from the industry body behind the technology. The cards can copy data at up to 985MB per second.



## WE DON'T LIKE...

## Adidas customers suffer data breach

Sports brand Adidas suffered a data breach that may affect millions of its customers. The swiped data included usernames and encrypted passwords, although Adidas does not believe customers' payment details were stolen.



## Slack goes offline across the world

Slack suffered a worldwide outage lasting three and a half hours, forcing office staff across the globe to resort to old-fashioned email or – horror! – even talking to each other in person. The communication tool has more than six million daily users.



## What's new on Kickstarter

Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

## izzbie One

[bit.ly/izzbie453](http://bit.ly/izzbie453) | From £90

Whereas third-party VPNs can potentially leak your data, the izzbie One promises to be a watertight alternative that safeguards your online security with end-to-end military-grade encryption. Hook it up to your router to reliably connect any Windows, Mac, Android and Internet-of-Things devices to your Wi-Fi network from anywhere in the world – ideal for working away from home, watching TV shows abroad and, of course, staying safe online. Pledges start at £90, but to get your security-conscious hands on the device, along with a year's subscription, you'll need to pledge at least £140.



# Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

### HMRC 'records taxpayers' voices without consent'

Millions of taxpayers' voices have been recorded by HMRC without their consent, according to the privacy campaign group Big Brother Watch (BBW). The tax office has allegedly collected 5.1 million 'voiceprints' from UK citizens who were trying to access its tax-credits and self-assessment helplines. Callers from January 2017 onward were unable to speak to advisors without repeating the phrase "My voice is my password" on an automated line, the group claims. "Taxpayers are being railroaded into a mass ID scheme that is incredibly disturbing," said BBW director Silkie Carlo.

Capturing people's voice recordings without their consent



or making clear what it's being used for is in contravention of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the new GDPR rules, unless HMRC can demonstrate a legitimate interest in collecting such data.

An HMRC spokesperson said: "Our Voice ID system is very popular with customers as it gives a quick and secure route into our systems. The Voice ID data storage meets the highest government and industry standards for security."

[bit.ly/hmrc453](http://bit.ly/hmrc453)

### Ticketmaster data breach affects thousands

Concert ticket vendor Ticketmaster has admitted that a malware attack on a third-party vendor has left thousands of its UK customers at risk of identity theft or fraud.

The malicious software, which Ticketmaster spotted on a customer-support product hosted by Inbenta Technologies, was exporting customers' data to an unknown third party, the firm

said in a statement.

Several reports say as many as 40,000 UK customers have had their details breached, including names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, payment details and Ticketmaster logins. Users who purchased or attempted to purchase tickets between February and June 2018 may be affected.

"As soon as we discovered the malicious software, we disabled the Inbenta product across all Ticketmaster websites," a spokesperson said, adding, "We recommend that you monitor your account statements for evidence of fraud or identity theft. If you are concerned or notice any suspicious activity on your account, you should contact your bank and any credit card companies."

[bit.ly/ticketmaster453](http://bit.ly/ticketmaster453)



Credit: Claudio Divizia / Shutterstock.com

## Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

**THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT:**  
**David Emm, Principal Security Researcher at Kaspersky Lab**  
([www.kaspersky.co.uk](http://www.kaspersky.co.uk))



**Q** How can I stay safe using Wi-Fi on holiday?

Holly Roberts, Facebook

**A** We expect Wi-Fi connectivity everywhere

we go – in shops, cafés, restaurants and airports – but in our hurry to connect, we often forget

that logging in makes us vulnerable to cybercriminals looking to steal confidential information. If we connect to an insecure – or fake – Wi-Fi hotspot, and a hacker captures our login details or other sensitive information, they have the key to unlock our digital lives. And it's not necessarily the person at the next table. A typical Wi-Fi router has a range of around 100 metres, so it could just as easily be someone sitting in a café over the road, or in a nearby car park.

Follow these steps to protect yourself when using public Wi-Fi:

- Use only trusted and secure Wi-Fi networks

**“ Hotel Wi-Fi networks are a lucrative target for cybercriminals ”**

for anything that involves typing a username and password, or transmitting confidential data.

- Before you log into any website, make sure that it's secure – look for 'https' in the URL and the locked-padlock symbol, and check the security certificate.

- Secure your phone and tablet with a reputable internet security product, as you would on your home computer.

- Hotel Wi-Fi networks are a lucrative target for hackers who wait for a victim to log

on, then trick them into downloading and installing a backdoor, which infects their device with spyware.

- When travelling, connect via a VPN whenever possible. The encrypted traffic transmitted over a protected tunnel means criminals can't read your data, even if they gain access to it.

- To maximise protection, turn off Wi-Fi connections when they're not being used and disable automatic connections to existing networks.



# Processing big data by the petabyte

UK web-hosting company Fasthosts explains how bare metal servers can help devices process big data



In an increasingly interconnected world, where smartphones talk to doorbells and fridges have their own cameras, devices are collecting data like never before. But where is it all stored, and how is it processed?

New smart technology and 'Internet of Things' (IoT) devices are constantly being developed. Whether it's automated thermostats or wearable technology, the collection, processing and analysis of large amounts of data help developers provide IoT services to consumers. This data comes in previously unimaginable quantities, hence the – perhaps understated – "big data".

For example, a smart thermostat application could be regularly collecting petabytes (nine zeroes) of data on temperature, humidity, time of day, etc. A smartwatch could collect similar amounts of data on things like heart rate, location, and distance travelled. A smart fridge takes photos of its contents and sends them over the internet, so a user can check whether they've run out of milk.

## Overstretched resources

These IoT devices are dependent on data – and lots of it. But storing masses of data and performing calculations and analysis on that data puts a serious drain on servers, and so requires vast processing resources.

The most common solution to this problem is Apache Hadoop, which combines Google's MapReduce algorithm with its own distributed file system (HDFS). By splitting data into blocks which are distributed over multiple nodes in a cluster of machines, the processing of big data is made much more efficient. Instead of processing and analysing one large block, Hadoop processes multiple, smaller blocks in parallel. This speeds up processing times significantly.

Big-data processing has a particularly unique set of server requirements. Heavy, resource-intensive processing requires the performance capabilities of physical hardware, but choosing that route means you miss out on the scalability and flexibility offered by virtual servers.

With big-data processing the need for resources is short-term, inconsistent, and



*Web-connected devices like smart fridges require vast amounts of processing power*

relatively sporadic. There might be long periods without any need for computational or analytical processing, but as soon as the processing begins the server needs to be able to handle a huge demand on resources. Because of the importance of high-performance resources, the traditional choice for big-data processing has been to run Hadoop on dedicated hardware. But this often results in over-provisioning – and inevitably, overpayment – of resources.

## Bare metal servers

Bare metal servers offer the perfect middle-ground solution for the big-data processing conundrum. By combining the best bits of both dedicated hardware and virtualised machines, they provide a flexible and powerful option.

Bare metal servers are designed to deal with significant but short-term processing needs. Data can be stored, processed, or analysed on a server for as long as is necessary, and then the server can be spun back down again. This way, resources are not over-provisioned, and there's no need to continue running the server if it's no longer being used.

In a cloud-server infrastructure, there could be dozens of virtual machines running on the same physical server, each with its own processing requirements, and each fighting for the same resources. However, bare metal servers are single-tenant and resources are dedicated to only one user. There's no resource contention or 'noisy neighbour syndrome' to worry about, and

performance will never be degraded because of the workload of VMs running on the same server – because there are no other VMs running on the server. The resources on each bare metal server is completely dedicated to one user.

Bare metal servers can also be used as part of a network of virtual machines, allowing full flexibility of server architecture. The hypervisor on virtual machines often leads to degraded performance because it is a drain on resources. However, there is no hypervisor layer on bare metal servers so this virtualisation overhead is eliminated with no sacrifice on performance.

A bare metal server is fundamentally a dedicated server, insofar as it offers high-performance resources that are dedicated to one user, but comes with the advantage of flexible, pay-as-you-use billing with no contracts.

The combination of powerful resources and flexible, no-contract billing make bare metal servers the go-to solution for big data processing, where resource demands are temporary and extensive.

**At Fasthosts we offer a range of Bare Metal Servers to suit all types of processing demands. For more information call us on 0808 1686 777 or visit the Fasthosts website: [www.fasthosts.co.uk](http://www.fasthosts.co.uk)**

# ★ Best New Websites

## Site of the Fortnight

CONSUMER REVIEWS

RELAUNCH

### Trustpilot uk.trustpilot.com

Trustpilot is one of the world's leading consumer-review sites and it's keen for its new green-star logo to become recognised as a symbol of excellence. Its revamped website makes it easy to find reviews of online businesses, thanks to the prominent search engine, clear categories and well presented company pages. You can instantly see the overall scores and a breakdown from excellent to bad, and add your own ratings and reviews with a simple click. We're also pleased that Trustpilot's blog has been updated, though it's unnecessarily tricky to find. Overall, an excellent resource for checking the quality of online services.

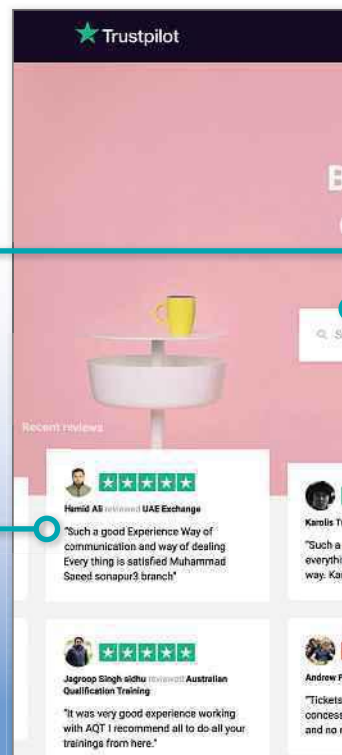
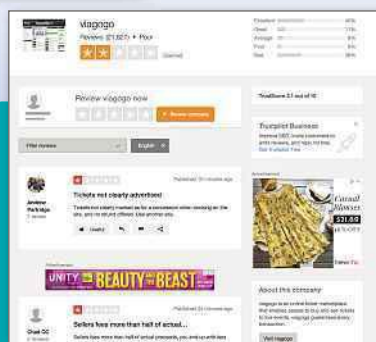
Our rating



**SEARCH RESULTS**  
Results appear quickly, although we'd like to see better ordering with official sites at the top

#### REVIEWS

The review pages show the most important information at the top and reviews can be filtered



## Raikeswood Camp

Skipton's forgotten WW1 camp

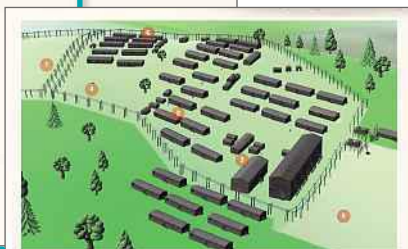
### Home

Raikeswood Camp, in the north-west of the market town of Skipton in North Yorkshire, was built in early 1918 as a military training camp for the Bradford Pals. From January 1918, it was used as a prisoner-of-war camp for German officers.



After the Germans were finally repatriated in October 1919, the site of the camp was gradually built on with residential housing and for nearly 100 years stories of the lost wartime camp remained silent, rarely mentioned in histories of the town.

Then, in 2014, two lecturers from the German department at the University of Leeds became aware of a



NEW

#### HISTORY

## Raikeswood Camp

skiptonww1camp.co.uk

More than 500 German officers were held captive at Raikeswood Camp near Skipton in 1918, but until diaries, sketches and poems written by prisoners of war were uncovered four years ago, it had largely been forgotten. This website draws on those written accounts to tell the story of the camp, while exploring its time as a training facility and the events that took place post-war. Key to this is an interactive 3D model highlighting important camp features, along with a timeline and details of various projects, such as archaeological digs in the gardens of houses since built on the site. There are also maps and interesting articles, making it a battle to tear yourself away.

Our rating



NEW

#### TECHNOLOGY

## Apple Job Creation

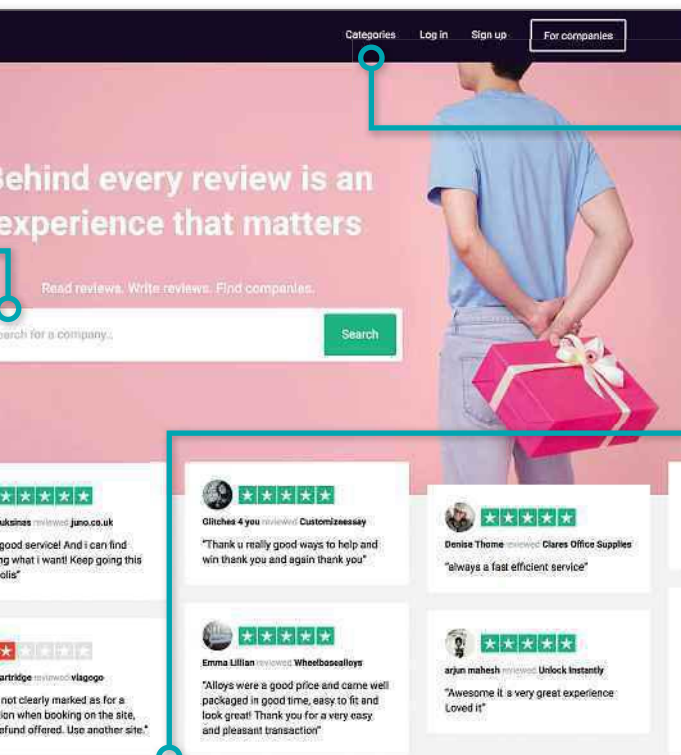
bit.ly/apple453

Apple has created 1.76 million jobs in the tech industry, according to this new section of its website, which details the number of Apple employees in 12 European countries and jobs generated by App Store developers. There's plenty of fascinating data: you can see the top apps created in each country and read nation-specific facts. But it's also a little back-slapping with statistic after statistic displayed on the single, scrolling page. Still, you can't help but be inspired, and it helpfully rounds off with useful information about getting a job with Apple and developing an app.

Our rating



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



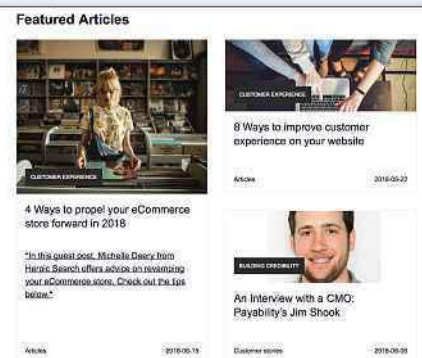
Categories

The best companies in Trustpilot's business categories

Category	Company	Rating
Animals & Pets	Animals & Pets	4.9
Art	Art	4.9
Automotive	Automotive	4.9
Beauty & Fashion	Beauty & Fashion	4.9
Business & Finance	Business & Finance	4.9
Computers & Electronics	Computers & Electronics	4.9
Construction	Construction	4.9
Education	Education	4.9
Food & Beverage	Food & Beverage	4.9
Health & Wellness	Health & Wellness	4.9
Home & Garden	Home & Garden	4.9
Legal Services	Legal Services	4.9
Media & Entertainment	Media & Entertainment	4.9
Other	Other	4.9
Phone & Internet	Phone & Internet	4.9
Real Estate	Real Estate	4.9
Services	Services	4.9
Software	Software	4.9
Sports & Recreation	Sports & Recreation	4.9
Travel	Travel	4.9
Transportation	Transportation	4.9
Utilities	Utilities	4.9

**CATEGORIES**  
See the best-rated companies by category, but be sure to check the reviews

**BLOG**  
The new blog is on Trustpilot's business page at [uk.business.trustpilot.com/reviews](https://uk.business.trustpilot.com/reviews)



**RELAUNCH**

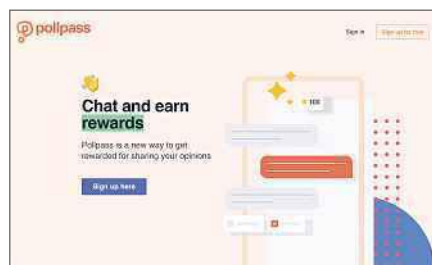
## MUSIC

### John Lennon

[www.johnlennon.com](http://www.johnlennon.com)

John Lennon was famously rebellious and acerbic, but you wouldn't know that from the former Beatle's relaunched official website, which is more a sombre homage to Lennon, full of photos, artwork and musings as well as a store packed with merchandise. At its heart, however, is Lennon's music and here the site truly excels. Broken down into albums, singles, rarities, interviews and more, most entries link to streaming services and music stories while delivering full track listings, copious background information, album artwork and sleeve notes. A beautifully presented treasure trove for fans.

Our rating



**NEW**

## REWARDS

### Pollpass

[pollpass.com](http://pollpass.com)

Fancy earning extra cash by answering survey questions? Then Pollpass could help you toward an easy reward. This colourful new site awards you points for answering questions about products and companies, cleverly using a chatbot to make the process more accessible. Once you reach 5,000 points, you can choose to be paid £5 in Amazon vouchers or cash. On the downside, with 40 to 80 points available per conversation, it can take about an hour to get there. Also, some of the questions are personal and the process can be tiresome, but at least there's no limit to what you can earn.

Our rating



**NEW**

## MOTORING

### Mike Brewer Motoring

[mikebrewermotoring.com](http://mikebrewermotoring.com)

This new site for used-car expert Mike Brewer gets off to a good start with a plethora of articles covering anything from the best vacuum cleaners to the coolest police vehicles ever. However, it then hits a pot-hole because almost everything is categorised as news, making it difficult to narrow down to the type of articles you may fancy reading. We say "almost" because the other section is Mike Brewer+, which contains behind-the-scenes content and weekly video updates. To access this, however, you need to pay a monthly £2.49 and there's no way to try before you buy.

Our rating





# BACK ISSUES DISC 2017



Our **2017 Back Issues Disc** containing all 26 issues from last year is now on sale from Amazon

For more information, visit [bit.ly/wudisc17](http://bit.ly/wudisc17) or search for 'webuser disc' on Amazon

You can still buy our **2016 Back Issues Disc** from [bit.ly/wudisc16](http://bit.ly/wudisc16)




**RELAUNCH**

## HOUSEHOLD

### Ecover

[www.ecover.com](http://www.ecover.com)

Ecover makes environmentally friendly cleaning products, but its revamped site doesn't make this immediately clear. We can only assume it thinks visitors already know what the company does, but the flowery language and forced promotion of its eco-credentials soon become wearing, muddying the importance of the underlying message. That's a shame because the site is informative and looks great, with bold photos, fun animations and simple navigation. We like the timeline and comprehensive FAQ, but it's all a tad dizzying, with too many moving components. Ironically, a cleaner approach would have worked better!

**Our rating**

**NEW**

## HISTORY

### Runaway Slaves

[runaways.gla.ac.uk](http://runaways.gla.ac.uk)

To Britain's shame, slavery flourished in the 18th Century, but some of the people who were enslaved bravely challenged their status and ran away. This prompted many masters and owners to advertise in newspapers for their capture and return, and this website brings together more than 800 of those ads. The result is a fascinating historical resource that lets you browse or search a quick-loading database and see the original adverts along with full transcriptions, for clarity. Elsewhere, there's a British map of nine runaway ads and three 'for sale' notices, as well as lots of info about the admirable work that has gone into the project.

**Our rating**

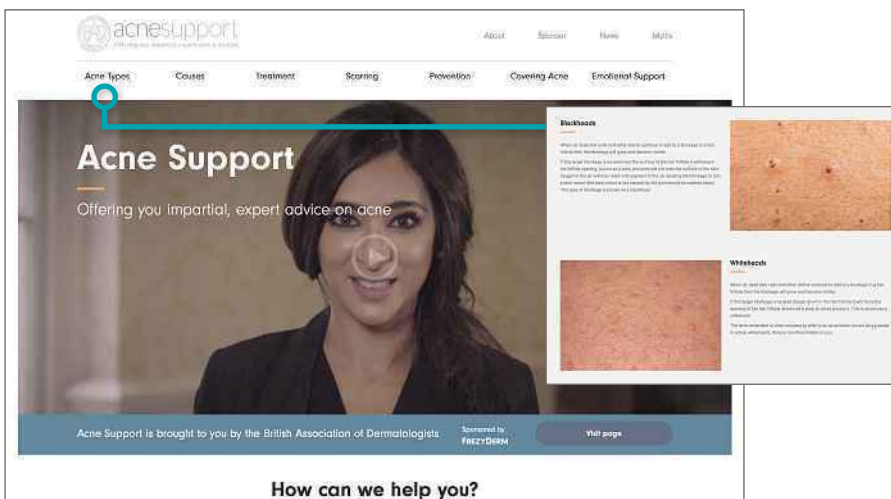
**RELAUNCH**

## ANGLING

### Yorkshire River Angler

[yorkshireriverangler.com](http://yorkshireriverangler.com)

Created by five river anglers with the aim of hooking more people into the pastime, this website helps you get more bite from the waters around Yorkshire by providing river maps, a picture gallery and lots of first-hand experience of angling in various locations. It's slightly let down by its navigation – clicking Angling Clubs, for example, fails to show an expected list and instead points you to a drop-down menu in the main navigation bar. However, there's no faulting the content once you reach it – descriptive and informative, and backed by well-presented videos – but the pages could do with a bit of tidying up.

**Our rating**

**NEW**

## HEALTH

### Acne Support

[www.acnesupport.org.uk](http://www.acnesupport.org.uk)

Acne can dent your self-confidence, but while lots of teenagers and adults suffer from the condition, solid advice is thin on the ground. Not any more. Acne Support is a fantastic resource created by the British Association of Dermatologists, offering authoritative advice on acne's causes, treatment and prevention, while busting a few myths. It seeks to get under the skin of the problem using a combination of words, photos and informative videos, some of which are interspersed with animated graphics. It also offers emotional support and keeps you up to date with the latest news, although it would also be useful if you could ask the professionals questions.

**Our rating**

**NEW**

## DIY

### DIY Ladders

[diyladders.co.uk](http://diyladders.co.uk)

This rather niche website is dedicated to reviewing telescopic ladders for DIY enthusiasts. We have a sneaky feeling that its main motivation is to grab some affiliate cash by making you click through to Amazon as quickly as possible. Not that there's anything inherently wrong with that, especially since the site discloses its affiliation, but the reviews are too basic, despite lists of pros and cons, while the benefits and safety sections feel like padding. Worse still, the top recommendation was unavailable on Amazon when we looked. Bad luck, that.

**Our rating**


# Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

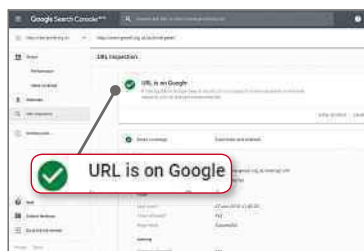
## Top Tips of the Fortnight

### WordPress speed tips

If you're looking for ways to get your WordPress website to load more quickly, there's plenty of advice available on the web, but the hardest thing is knowing where to start. We've found lots of good tips gathered together in a blog post at [MyThemeShop](http://MyThemeShop.com) at [bit.ly/wpsp453](http://bit.ly/wpsp453). With 19 steps to go through and the suggestion that you test your site first (so you can see what changes have had the most impact), it's a thorough and detailed guide.

### Find out if your page is listed on Google

If you don't think you're getting enough traffic to a specific page, you can check that there are no search problems by using a new tool that's just been added to Google's experimental Search Console. Go to [bit.ly/goosc453](http://bit.ly/goosc453), sign in with your Google account



and choose the website you want to look at in the 'Search property' section. Click 'URL inspection' and enter the web address in the search box. The results displayed below will tell you whether the page appears in Google's index or not – and, if it doesn't, will help you work out why.

### Deal of the Fortnight

Smart Hosting ([www.bestwebhosting.co.uk](http://www.bestwebhosting.co.uk)) is offering 25% off all its hosting plans. Use the code CUP25 at the checkout to take advantage of the offer.

## Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT:

Hristo Pandjarov,

WordPress and SEO Specialist at

SiteGround ([www.siteground.co.uk](http://www.siteground.co.uk))



**Q** I own a simple website that doesn't require people to sign in but it does have adverts on it. Do I need to worry about GDPR?

Matt Howett, via email

**A** This isn't legal advice, but you still need to consider how GDPR applies to you. I recommend you check what data your advertisers collect about your visitors. Make sure they're reliable, GDPR-compliant and have clear and transparent privacy policies on their site. Visitors should be able to agree before they accept cookies related to your site's ads and select which cookies to receive: those mandatory for the site's functionality, advertisement cookies and others. You should contact an expert to check your website and provide a detailed report on the changes required.

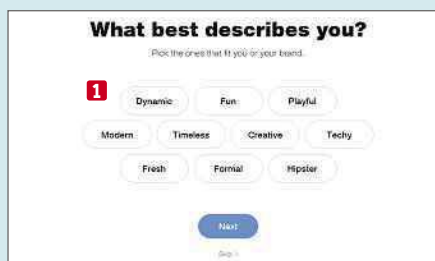


**MINI WORKSHOP** | Get a professional-looking logo  
Wix Logo Maker: [bit.ly/wix453](http://bit.ly/wix453) |  10 mins | Any browser

A well-designed logo will make your site look professional, trustworthy and memorable. Wix's new logo creator lets you download a low-resolution version of the logo for free or buy a high-res version for £9.03



**1** Go to [bit.ly/wix453](http://bit.ly/wix453) and click Start Now. Type in the name of your website **1** and, if you have a tagline (a snappy descriptive sentence that sums up your site) click 'Add a tagline' **2** and type it in. Click the Let's Go **3** button. **3**



**2** If you're designing a logo for a specific purpose, type it in the box on the next page. There's a range of themes on offer that might match yours and help you create a more appropriate logo. Choose the type of logo you want from the available 'moods' **1** and click through the slideshow to demonstrate the kind of thing you like or dislike.



**3** The software designs a selection of logos. Hover over your favourite and click the Edit button. Go through each of the options on the left, **1** changing the colours, font size, icon, text alignment and whatever else you'd like to tweak. **2** When you're finished, click the Download button to get your logo. **3**



# PROLITE XUB2492HSU | SET YOUR MIND FREE



## PROLITE XUB2492HSU-B1

Give a boost to your productivity and comfort. Choose the ultra slim 24" XUB2492HSU and install it on the stylish iiyama dual gas spring arm DS3002C-B1 to gain the space you need to let your creativity blossom.



**iiyama**

Find your match at [www.iiyama.com](http://www.iiyama.com)



# What To Watch Online

## Pick of the fortnight

**NETFLIX**



### Survive *How It Ends* with Forest Whitaker

From 13 July

Hard on the heels of *Cargo* (Martin Freeman in post-apocalyptic thriller), *The Road* (Viggo Mortensen in post-apocalyptic thriller) and *The Rain* (Danish teens in post-apocalyptic thriller) comes a post-apocalyptic thriller starring Forest Whitaker. Netflix Originals are getting less original by the day.

Judging by its official trailer, *How It Ends* is all guns, gas masks, government conspiracies and gaming tropes, and even raises the idea that we're all living in a computer simulation – *Mad Max* meets Elon Musk.



But Forest Whitaker won't say "yes" to any old rubbish. His blockbuster CV includes *Black Panther*, *Rogue One*, *Arrival* and a terrifying, Oscar-winning turn as Idi Amin in *The Last King of Scotland*, so it's fair to say his presence raises expectations. In *How It Ends*, he plays a father searching for his pregnant daughter on a road trip across the US, now a war zone following a mysterious disaster. He's accompanied by his daughter's fiancé Will, played by British actor, model and fleeting cast member of *Downton Abbey* Theo James.

*How It Ends* is off to a good start – its official trailer amassed more than 2 million views and 25,000 'likes' after just three days on YouTube ([bit.ly/endstube453](https://bit.ly/endstube453)). You can also find the trailer and more info on Netflix ([bit.ly/ends453](https://bit.ly/ends453)).

### Tune up and tune into *BBC Proms 2018*

From 13 July

The Beeb's 2018 concert season kicks off with a treat: a free outdoor performance by electronic-symphonic composer Anna Meredith, whose *Five Telegrams* marks the centenary of World War One. Alas, tickets were snapped up almost as soon as the 12 July show was announced, so it's back to the iPlayer we go to catch Meredith in action – albeit not live. *Five Telegrams* will be screened on BBC Two and online after the *First Night of the Proms* on 13 July (8.15pm). Meanwhile, catch the trailer at [bit.ly/telegrams453](https://bit.ly/telegrams453).

Other Proms highlights include *BBC Young Musician 40th Anniversary*



(streamed live at 7pm on 15 July) and Grammy Award-winning internet sensation Jacob Collier (7.30pm 19 July; get a taste of his millennial easy-listening on YouTube: [bit.ly/jacob453](https://bit.ly/jacob453)). You can find the full BBC Proms schedule at [bit.ly/proms453](https://bit.ly/proms453).

### Peek at *Amazing Interiors*

From 20 July

Netflix goes through the keyhole of outrageous homes in its first-ever interior-design show. There's no trailer, but the publicity photos – and the fact that the programme's British creator Barcroft Productions has a back catalogue full of titles like *Preposterous Pets* and *OAPs Behaving Badly* – promises a level of bonkers extravagance that'd give Laurence



Llewelyn-Bowen a fit of the vapours. The first of 12 half-hour episodes arrives on 20 July.

### Stream a summer of sport in 4K

Sunday 15 July is a dilemma in waiting for sports fans. The Wimbledon men's final starts at 2pm, only two hours before the FIFA World Cup final kicks off at 4pm. So if you want to live-stream both finals in full, you'll have to hope the tennis wraps up fast on Centre Court. Certainly faster than the classic 2008 clash between Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, which lasted four hours 48 minutes (the BBC iPlayer still has highlights: [bit.ly/nadal453](https://bit.ly/nadal453)).

The Beeb is live-streaming the Wimbledon and World Cup action in Ultra HD (4K) on the iPlayer ([bit.ly/bbclive453](https://bit.ly/bbclive453)). All key matches and highlights will be available on demand





## We reveal what's new on Netflix, BBC iPlayer, Amazon Prime Video and other streaming services

afterwards, if you can avoid spoilers.

The following weekend sees the Open golf tournament take over Sky Sports from 19-22 July. You can watch online at Now TV, where a Sky Sports Week Pass costs £12.99 ([bit.ly/howgolf453](http://bit.ly/howgolf453)). Meanwhile the London Anniversary Games returns on 21-22 July, with highlights streamed on the iPlayer.

### Enter battle with *Knightfall* From 17 July

We thought *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* had cornered the market in Knights Templar dramas, but the History Channel reckons there's room for a darker, bloodier, post-*Game of Thrones* take on the legendary warrior monks.

History will be hoping to repeat the success of its 2013 hit *Vikings* ([bit.ly/vikings453](http://bit.ly/vikings453)), which is now available on Amazon Prime Video ([bit.ly/amazonvikings453](http://bit.ly/amazonvikings453)). US reviews of *Knightfall* have been mixed, but we're sure the Knights will weather their critics ("Tis but a scratch!"). Judge for yourself when episode 1 arrives in the UK at 9pm on 17 July. You can stream History online at TVPlayer ([bit.ly/](http://bit.ly/)

## Amazon Prime Video comes to BT boxes

BT TV has become the first major UK TV service to offer Amazon Prime Video through its set-top boxes ([bit.ly/btamazon453](http://bit.ly/btamazon453)). Prime members can now use their BT boxes to watch all Amazon's TV shows and films, including *The Grand Tour*, *Parks and Recreation* and – from next year – 20 exclusive Premier League matches.

You'll still have to stump up £79 per year for Prime, in addition to your BT subscription, but the built-in app means you no longer have to use additional hardware to watch Amazon's content on your TV.

Rivals Virgin Media and Sky don't offer Amazon Prime Video, but both have raised the bar with their Netflix offerings. Virgin now includes free Netflix for subscribers, while Sky will soon integrate Netflix content in its own Sky Q platform.

BT's next move is set to be a Now TV app. Originally planned to roll out alongside Amazon, Now TV is now likely to arrive later this year.



[history453](http://history453)), where a Plus Lite package costs £5.99 after a 14-day trial. Meanwhile, catch the official trailer at [bit.ly/knightfall453](http://bit.ly/knightfall453).

### Binge on *Sherlock* From 15 July

Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat's BBC reboot of the Conan Doyle detective stories, starring the Benedict Cumberbatch-Martin Freeman dream team, must be in contention for TV series of the decade. But if you've never seen it or want to watch it all again, you won't find any trace of it on the iPlayer. Instead, you'll have to turn to Netflix.

You can now binge on every one of *Sherlock*'s four small but perfectly



formed seasons ([bit.ly/sherlock453](http://bit.ly/sherlock453)), the last of which aired on BBC One back in January. Season 4's four feature-length episodes start with *The Six Thatchers*, which sees Cumberbatch's titular sleuth on the case of a serial vandal with a weakness for smashing the heads of Margaret Thatcher statues.



In case you missed it...

David Attenborough alert! The great man has released an iPlayer-exclusive video, *Blue Planet II: The Clean Up*, urging more action on plastic ([bit.ly/david453](http://bit.ly/david453)).



The iPlayer also has *Earth: One Amazing Day*, a glorious 4K film of highlights from *Planet Earth II*, narrated by Robert Redford. The movie, which

boasts a rare 100% score from reviews aggregator Rotten Tomatoes – is available at [bit.ly/earth453](http://bit.ly/earth453) until 22 July.

The full six-episode *Planet Earth II* series arrived on Netflix on 11 June ([bit.ly/earthflix453](http://bit.ly/earthflix453)), where it joins *Africa*, *Life* and the first seasons of *Planet Earth* and *Blue Planet*.

Also, as if to tease the History Channel, Netflix has just topped up its Monty

Python offering with *Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl* and documentaries *Before the Flying Circus* and *Parrot Sketch Not Included*.

Amazon Prime Video added a couple of classic US cop shows in the first week of July: the original Johnny Depp *21 Jump Street* (first two seasons, 1987-88) and Steven Bochco's *NYPD Blue* (all 12 seasons, 1993-2005).



# Group Test

We test and compare the latest products

## Video-editing software

Turn your home movies into masterpieces as **Steve Clark** puts six of the best video-editing programs through their paces

**T**hanks to mobile phones and YouTube, anyone can film a movie. You might not win an Oscar, but a solid video-editing tool can effortlessly create professional-looking films – whether you're showing off a hobby, adding some Hollywood sparkle to your holiday footage or just getting a kick out of making movies. We've put six of the best available paid-for video-editing programs through their paces – so you can create movie masterpieces you'll want to watch again and again. Note that each program in this Group Test requires or recommends a 64-bit operating system, so check your computer before downloading.

### HOW WE TESTED

We tested each program's editing and exporting abilities using three videos: a graduation-day video shot on a full HD camcorder; a 1080p home movie recorded on a Nokia 6.1; and a video capture of the game Overwatch, running at 720p. We also spent time using features such as chroma key, to see how straightforward it was to apply advanced special effects.

**Adobe Premiere Elements 2018 | £86.56 | [www.adobe.com/uk](http://www.adobe.com/uk)**

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

Adobe is to editing what Hitchcock is to suspense: a master often imitated but never bettered. With a pick-up-and-play simplicity that masks a fierce power, we're crowning Adobe Premiere Elements 2018 our Group Test Gold Award winner.

Inside Premiere Elements 2018, you'll find two modes: Quick and Expert. Functionally, they are identical, but Expert mode delivers an enhanced timeline for advanced users, whereas Quick mode resembles a feature-rich Windows Movie Maker. Both are user-friendly and keep the focus on your film by dispensing with the traditional three-panel display and slipping critical functions away in the right-hand action bar.

It's a testament to Adobe's design skill that anyone can use the program to edit videos with relative ease. Most actions are self-explanatory and simple to execute – just hover your mouse over clips in the timeline to reveal quick-use icons that let you instantly trim and split videos.

Even complex tasks are made simple with the interactive guided tutorial, step-by-step videos demonstrating both basic and advanced effects such as slo-mo and the 'Red Noir' effect,



famously used as an emotional sucker-punch in Spielberg's Schindler's List. It's as near as you'll get to Hollywood-style effects for less than £100.

Video cleanup is equally straightforward and often necessary with smartphone footage, where steady hands and decent lighting are all too rare. The basic Shake Reduction offers fantastic control thanks to Quick and Detailed options – although it countered instability with an over-zealous zoom. One click of the Smart Fix button sees adjustments to your video's lighting, contrast and colour, but you can choose to make manual alterations if you'd rather not let the software do it for you. For most projects, though, you can trust the tool because Premiere Elements really knows what to do and how to do it.

### VERDICT ★★★★★

A clear-cut interface with a sackful of special effects – every drag and drop is so clean it almost feels like you're cheating. Elements is a powerful beast – rendering is super-speedy, even when exporting at 4K – but it's playful enough to let users create short videos to be shared on social media without even leaving the program. It may lack some modern features offered by Adobe's professional counterparts, and has a smaller pool of export options, but whatever your experience level, Elements performs just about every action you'll need from a consumer-level editing suite.

## Pinnacle Studio 21.5 Ultimate | **£89.95** | [www.pinnaclesys.com](http://www.pinnaclesys.com)

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

WebUser  
SILVER  
AWARD

Pinnacle Studio 21.5 Ultimate is a beautiful series of contradictions – a consumer-friendly product with professional pretensions; feature-rich, but with simplicity at its core; and an overly complicated user interface that, oddly, never confuses.



Almost all the effects, from old-school film grain to paint styles, are applied via drag-and-drop, so simple you could do it in your sleep. Yet there are more overlays and special effects here than anyone – including Michael Bay – will ever need.

Pinnacle supports both 360-degree editing and multi-cam capture but you have to pay to unlock the latter, which means, no matter which of the three versions you buy, the software is always incomplete. Still, Pinnacle is a rock-solid tool. If you're not willing to shell out £90 for the Ultimate edition, Pinnacle's Plus version offers a similar, cheaper package that still packs in a lot of special effects and allows you to edit in HD.

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

Along with the usual functions, Pinnacle Studio contains features many lower-level programs lack, such as the ability to tag clips for future reference and a clever split-screen creator. This is simple editing that makes you feel like a pro.

## CyberLink PowerDirector 16 Ultimate | **£79.99** | [www.cyberlink.com](http://www.cyberlink.com)

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

WebUser  
BRONZE  
AWARD

With its tidy, black three-panel layout and copper-tinted timeline, PowerDirector is elegant, streamlined and eminently accessible. But where Pinnacle edges



towards more experienced users, and Premiere is built primarily for rookies, CyberLink PowerDirector 16 is suitable for both novices and experts.

Each action is designated a 'room' – the Transition Room, the Subtitle Room and so on – which gives PowerDirector a spirited feel and helps maintain your film-making flow as you dart from room to room, applying effects, mixing audio and adding DVD-style chapters. The downside is that you're forced to blindly click through menus, since it's not always obvious where key functions are hidden. But once you know your way around it's fairly straightforward – you can sync up a royalty-free soundtrack as easily as editing a 360-degree movie.

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

There's not much between PowerDirector 16 and our other award winners – and CyberLink's video editor does more for a tenner less – but it's let down by tricky navigation and a fiddly interface. The 25GB cloud-storage is a great bribe, though.

## Magix Movie Edit Pro Plus

**£79.99**

[www.magix.com](http://www.magix.com)

A rather spartan offering, Magix delivers easy video



editing but it isn't particularly generous with its effects. Still, everyday users won't grumble about its slick interface, which sees special effects laid out in easily navigable Windows 8-style tiles. However, many of the effects have to be downloaded, installed and, in a few instances, paid for.

Magix excels at extraneous extras, such as the scene-recognition tool that breaks up long videos into manageable chunks and the batch file-format conversion. We were especially impressed by its powerful performance optimisation.

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

Magix is bursting with clever features, including 4K 360-degree support, but it lacks the tailored control of its rivals. Great online tutorials, though.

## Corel VideoStudio Ultimate 2018

**£62.99**

[www.corel.com](http://www.corel.com)

Corel's VideoStudio Ultimate 2018 is more a slow-burn



romance than love at first sight. It's an all-in-one package: a modern editor that embraces emerging tech and enhanced creativity with support for 360-degree editing and multi-cam capture. The software's stand-out feature is live screen capture, which proves a superior alternative to free screen-cap software that stamps watermarks all over your masterpiece. Online tutorials only cover the basics, so we would advise some experimenting with its unwieldy ways. There's plenty to experiment with, too, from split-screen creation to reversing entire clips with a single click.

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

Initially frustrating, VideoStudio has some odd quirks. It includes many extras that other programs charge for, but misses some basics.

## Vegas Movie Studio 15 Platinum

**£44.99**

[www.vegascreativesoftware.com](http://www.vegascreativesoftware.com)

Vegas Movie Studio 15 Platinum's intricate, professional interface



includes everything you'll find in other editing tools – there's just more of it and it's a lot less pretty. The professional gloss means your timeline is clean, with tracks featuring FX, mute and solo buttons, but it's far from intuitive. Most actions hide behind text-based tabs rather than visual icons, and while you mostly drag and drop effects to the timeline, others elements have to be dragged into the Video FX pop-up box, and Master Effects go to the Playback Monitor. None of this would be a problem, though, if the effects were as well-rendered as Vegas's rivals.

### VERDICT

★★★★☆

Vegas is powerful, but awkward. We like its ability to test effects by hovering over each one for a 'before-and-after' animation, though.



## Group Test Video-editing software

					
	Adobe Premier Elements 2018	Pinnacle Studio 21.5 Ultimate	Cyberlink PowerDirector 16 Ultimate	Magix Movie Edit Pro Plus	Corel VideoStudio Ultimate 2018
WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.adobe.com/uk">www.adobe.com/uk</a>	<a href="http://www.pinnaclesys.com">www.pinnaclesys.com</a>	<a href="http://www.cyberlink.com">www.cyberlink.com</a>	<a href="http://www.magix.com">www.magix.com</a>	<a href="http://www.corel.com">www.corel.com</a>
PRICE	£86.56	£89.95	£79.99	£79.99	£62.99
BUY FROM	<a href="http://www.adobe.com/uk">www.adobe.com/uk</a>	<a href="http://www.pinnaclesys.com">www.pinnaclesys.com</a>	<a href="http://www.cyberlink.com">www.cyberlink.com</a>	<a href="http://www.magix.com">www.magix.com</a>	<a href="http://www.corel.com">www.corel.com</a>
AUTOMATIC EDITING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IMAGE STABILISER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EXPORT VIDEO AS	AVCHD, AVI, H.264, XAVC-S, PS, DV, VCI, MPEG2, MPEG4, QuickTime, Windows Media	H.264, HEVC, MPEG4, QuickTime, XAVC-S, MTS, AVI, MPEG2, MPEG1, DivX, Windows Media, Flash, 3GPP, AVCHD	AVI, MPEG2, Windows Media, XAVC-S, H.264 AVC, H.264 HEVC	MPEG1, MPEG2, MPEG4, Windows Media, AVCHD, AVI, MJPEG, MOV, MXV, WMV, HEVC	AVI, MPEG2, MPEG4, H.264 AVC, Windows Media, Mov, XAVC-S, 3GPP, 3GPP2, QuickTime
ONLINE FORMATS	Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube	Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube	Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube, Dailymotion, Youku, Niconico Douga	Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube	Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube, Flickr
SURROUND-SOUND SUPPORT	✓	✓	✓	Import: ✓ Export: ✗	✓
DISC AUTHORING	DVD	DVD (Blu-ray available for purchase)	DVD, Blu-ray, AVCHD	DVD, Blu-ray, AVCHD	DVD, Blu-ray, AVCHD, SD Card
MEDIA LIBRARY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NUMBER OF TIMELINES	Unlimited	Unlimited	100	200	21
STOP-MOTION CAPTURE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VARIABLE SPEED CONTROL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MOTION TRACKING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4K SUPPORT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

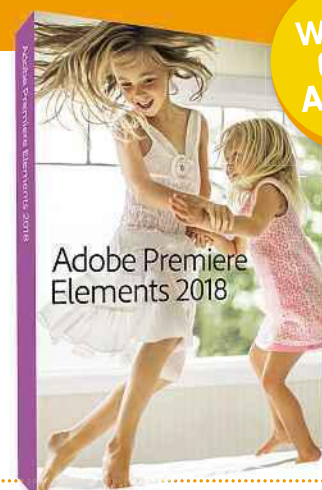
### OUR VERDICT

Adobe has, for many years, been our video-editing software of choice – and 2018's innovative offering is a joy to use: smart without being too clever; simple without being superficial. Whatever project you're working on – professional or personal – Adobe Premiere Elements 2018 has the power, the features and the sheer ease-of-use to deliver the movie you have in your head to your screen.

Pinnacle is an exciting new addition to our video-editing Group Test line-up. It's certainly straightforward enough

that you can pick up and play almost instantly, but with previous editing experience under your belt, you're likely to get a whole lot more from this advanced product.

Bronze Award winner CyberLink has always been a strong contender. It looks great and plays great – once you've adjusted to its quirks. However, its overall clunkiness is magnified when compared to Adobe and Pinnacle's software, which is so user-friendly that it feels instinctive. ■





**PHILIPS**

Monitors

Vivid, true-to-life colours  
in an elegant design

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innovation  you



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ebuyer.com



# Web User's Best Buys

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## HARDWARE

### PHOTO PRINTER

#### Epson Expression Photo HD XP-15000

£251.96 from [bit.ly/epsonexp450](https://bit.ly/epsonexp450)  
Tested: Issue 450

Epson's XP-15000 lacks some of the features of a true all-rounder but it prints photos beautifully, all the way up to size A3+.

#### KEY SPECS

5,760 x 1,440dpi maximum print resolution ■ 250-sheet input capacity ■ Double-sided printing ■ Colour touchscreen ■ USB, Ethernet, Wi-Fi connectivity ■ 479 x 370 x 159mm ■ 8.5kg ■ Three-years return-to-base warranty



### SMART THERMOSTAT

#### Honeywell Evohome

£199 from [bit.ly/honevo449](https://bit.ly/honevo449)  
Tested: Issue 449

The Honeywell Evohome is a powerful multi-zone smart heating product that lets you control all the radiators in your central heating system. This will save on heating bills, but it may take a while before you recoup the cost of the initial outlay.

#### KEY SPECS

Remote thermostat ■ Battery-powered ■ Hot-water support ■ Individual radiator support ■ Alexa voice-assistant support ■ IFTTT support ■ 13.9 x 2.1 x 10.1cm ■ 898g



### LAPTOP

#### Asus ZenBook UX410

£539.95 from [bit.ly/asuszb447](https://bit.ly/asuszb447)  
Tested: Issue 447

This laptop, with its compact aluminium body and impressive design, feels built to last. Performance was middling, though it's fine for everyday tasks, and the screen looks fabulous.

#### KEY SPECS

Dual-core Intel Core i3-7100U processor ■ 4GB memory ■ 128GB storage ■ 14in 1,920 x 1,080-pixels screen ■ USB-C, USB 3, 2 x USB 2 ports ■ 802.11ac Wi-Fi ■ Windows 10 Home ■ 323 x 223 x 19mm ■ 1.4kg ■ 1-year return-to-base warranty



### MONITOR

#### BenQ GL2580HM

£109.99 from [bit.ly/benq445](https://bit.ly/benq445)  
Tested: Issue 445

This BenQ monitor's stylish slim bezel and attractive design are matched by its solid performance and good-quality colour display. However, it's not suited to serious gamers.

#### KEY SPECS

24.5in screen ■ 1,920 x 1,080-pixel resolution ■ 16:9 aspect ratio ■ 16.7 million colours ■ 50-76Hz refresh rate ■ 1,000:1 native contrast ■ 2ms response time ■ HDMI, DVI and VGA ports ■ Two 1W speakers ■ 42.6 x 55.7 x 17.5cm ■ 4.4kg



### PC

#### Palicomp AMD Gravity RYZ1

£799.99 from [www.palicomp.co.uk](https://www.palicomp.co.uk)  
Tested: Issue 443

This is the best PC we could find for under £800. It's powerful, well built and well balanced, so long as you're happy to use an overclocked processor.

#### KEY SPECS

AMD Ryzen 5 1600 processor ■ Asus Prime B350M-A motherboard ■ 8GB DDR4 memory ■ GeForce GTX 1060 graphics card ■ 240GB SSD ■ 1TB hard drive ■ 475 x 468 x 230mm tower case ■ Windows 10 Home 64-bit



### SMARTPHONE

#### Samsung Galaxy S8

£506.99 from [bit.ly/sams442](https://bit.ly/sams442)  
Tested: Issue 442

The Samsung Galaxy S8 is a terrific all-rounder. It's fast, looks wonderful, has a superb camera and boasts one of the best screens we've ever seen on a phone.

#### KEY SPECS

Octa-core 2.3GHz Exynos 8895 processor ■ 12-megapixel rear camera, 8-megapixel front camera ■ 4GB RAM ■ 64GB storage ■ 5.8in 1,440 x 2,560-pixel screen ■ Android 8 ■ 68.1 x 148.9 x 8mm ■ 155g ■ One-year return-to-base warranty



## SOFTWARE & SERVICES

### VIDEO-EDITING SOFTWARE

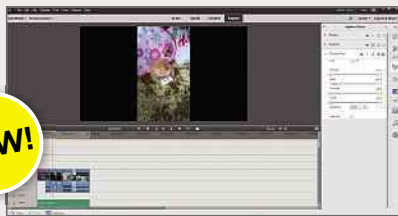
#### Adobe Premiere Elements 2018

£86.56 from  
[www.adobe.com/uk](http://www.adobe.com/uk)

Tested: Issue 453

With its clean interface and sackful of special effects, Elements performs just about every action you'll ever need from a consumer-level video-editing suite. It's a powerful beast and rendering is super-speedy, even when exporting at 4K – but note that it only runs on 64-bit systems.

**NEW!**



#### KEY FEATURES

Automatic editing ■ Image stabiliser ■ Surround-sound support ■ Stop-motion capture ■ Variable-speed control ■ Unlimited timelines ■ DVD disc authoring (no Blu-ray support) ■ 4K support ■ Requires Windows 7/8.1/10 or MacOS (64-bit versions only)

### CLOUD-STORAGE SERVICE

#### Microsoft OneDrive

From free from  
[onedrive.live.com](http://onedrive.live.com)

Tested: Issue 438

If you use Windows 10 or Microsoft Office, then OneDrive is a no-brainer. It's simple to use and already integrated into your PC. Recent improvements have added some excellent new features though we wish Microsoft would increase its free storage allowance. OneDrive also integrates well with both Android and iOS.



#### KEY FEATURES

5GB free storage ■ Web-based Office Web Apps including Word and Excel ■ 10GB maximum file size ■ Android, iOS and Windows 10 apps ■ Up to 50GB extra storage for £1.99 per month; Office 365 and 1TB of storage from £5.99 per month ■ Files expire after one year of inactivity

Web User Gold Award winners

### PODCAST APP

#### Castbox

Free from [castbox.fm](http://castbox.fm)

Tested: Issue 452

Castbox is a smartly designed app for dedicated podcast listeners, offering incredible choice and an excellent search tool.

**NEW!**



### IMAGE VIEWER

#### PhotoScape X

Free from [bit.ly/psx451](http://bit.ly/psx451)

Tested: Issue 451

PhotoScape X does what most image viewers do, only better. It's fast, practical and intuitive, and packed with useful tools.



### VIDEO DOWNLOADER

#### 4K Video Downloader

Free from [bit.ly/fkvd450](http://bit.ly/fkvd450)

Tested: Issue 450

Simple and effective, 4K Video Downloader supports multiple formats and isn't bundled with any annoying extras.



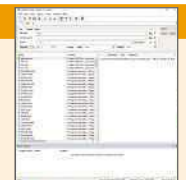
### WINDOWS SEARCH TOOL

#### Agent Ransack

Free from [bit.ly/agent449](http://bit.ly/agent449)

Tested: Issue 449

Agent Ransack's extensive search filters, options and simple interface deliver reliable results.



### SOFTWARE UPDATER

#### SUMo

Free from [bit.ly/sumo448](http://bit.ly/sumo448)

Tested: Issue 448

SUMo is lightweight, easy to use and supports a wide range of programs, checking for updates every time your PC starts.



# WEB USER

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## EVERY ISSUE FROM 2014 TO 2017





# Best Free Software

## SCREEN-CAPTURE TOOL

### PicPick 5

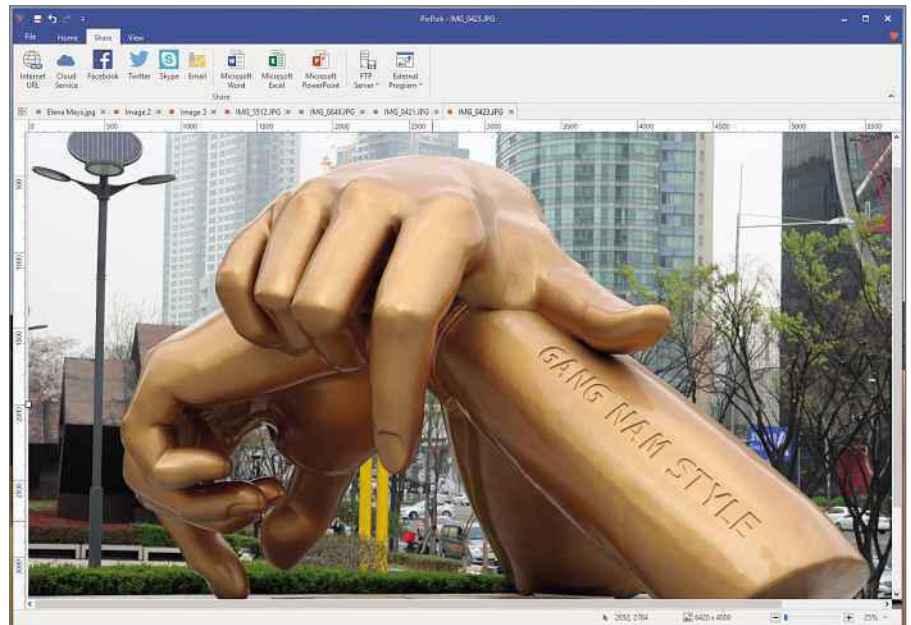
[picpick.app](http://picpick.app)

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/  
Vista/7/8.1/10

**File size:** 14.8MB

PicPick is an excellent free image-capture tool that lets you grab the contents of your entire screen, any open windows, part of the screen or a freehand area. But there's much more to the software than just that: you can use it to pick any colour on screen, zoom in using the magnifier and measure the size of any objects, images and angles. It also lets you annotate and draw on images; change the brightness, contrast and colour balance; and apply a number of effects, including greyscale, pixelate, blur and sharpen. On top of all that, you can resize, rotate and rename items.

The program is highly customisable,



supports dual monitors and automatically saves new captures. You can pick your preferred file format for this and specify a default file name, including details such as the date and time, username and computer ID.

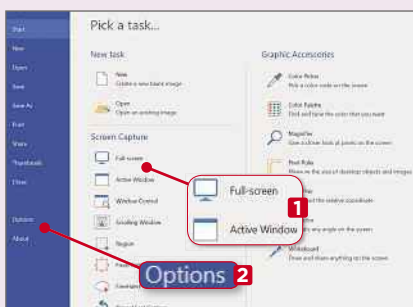
PicPick's built-in Share feature is particularly useful and lets you save screenshots or images to a cloud service such as Dropbox, Google Drive or OneDrive, as well as Facebook, Twitter, Skype or email; or paste them directly into an Office program such as

Microsoft Word, Excel or PowerPoint.

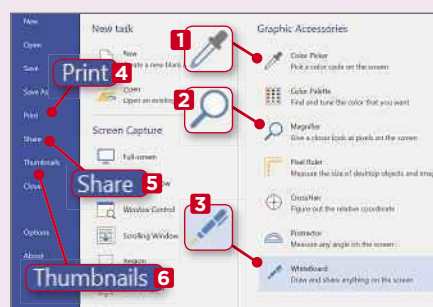
The latest version of the program has been completely rebuilt and sports a brand new design, although Microsoft might not be too impressed by this since the interface has clearly been 'inspired' by Word – it's virtually identical. The new design supports high DPI devices (including 4K monitors) and has a new capture toolbar and improved image editor. PicPick is free for personal use, with paid-for versions available for businesses.



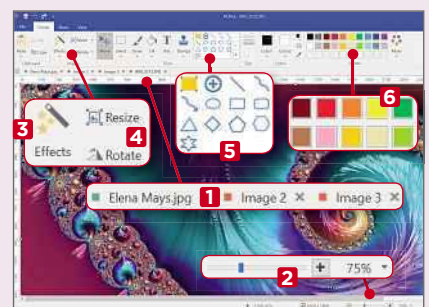
## MINI WORKSHOP | Capture and edit what's on-screen using PicPick



**1** PicPick lets you capture anything on your screen – just choose an option, such as Full-screen, Active Window **1** or Region. You can also use keyboard shortcuts. Click Options **2** and go to Hot Keys to view or change these. Once you've taken a screenshot, it will open in the image editor.

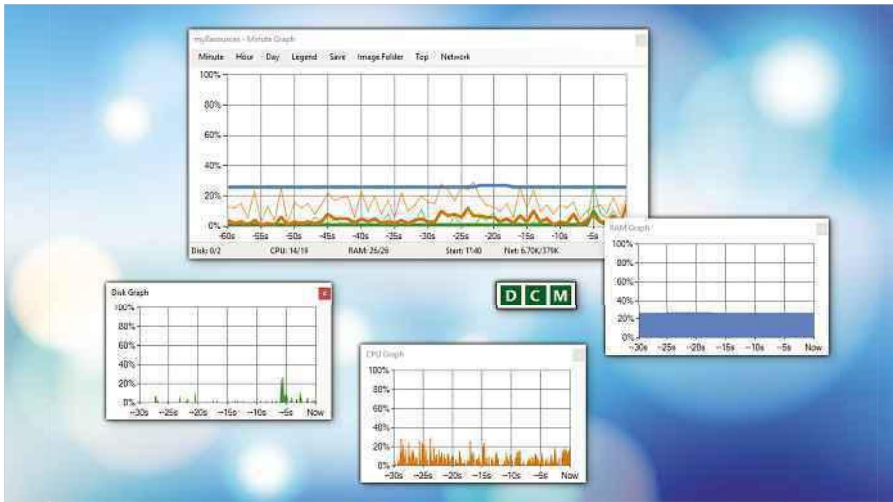


**2** There's a selection of other tools available under Graphic Accessories, such as the colour picker, **1** magnifier **2** and whiteboard. **3** You can Print **4** and Share **5** your capture. Thumbnails **6** lets you jump directly to any previous capture.



**3** You can switch between your captures and images using the tabs, **1** zoom in or out using the slider, **2** apply effects **3** and resize or rotate an image. **4** PicPick also lets you draw on the capture and add text, stamps and shapes. **5** Change the colours you want to use from the options provided. **6**

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



## SYSTEM MONITOR

### MyResources

[bit.ly/myres453](http://bit.ly/myres453)

**Min requirements:** Windows 7/8.1/10 **File size:** 235KB

It's wise to keep an eye on how your system is performing, so you can spot if any processes start to misbehave or your web browser starts mining for cryptocurrency without your permission. MyResources displays the current load status of your PC's main resources – disk, processor, memory and network – using both graphs and active icons with adjustable colours. It doesn't require installation – just run the program and choose which items to display.



## DYNAMIC WALLPAPER

### WinDynamicDesktop

[bit.ly/wdd453](http://bit.ly/wdd453)

**Min requirements:** Windows 10  
**File size:** 878KB

MacOS Mojave, the next version of Apple's desktop operating system, has a Dynamic Desktop feature that cycles through a set of 16 images of the desert taken at different times of the day. WinDynamicDesktop brings this feature to Windows 10. Run the software, wait while it downloads the desert images, then enter your location so it can customise the update cycle based on sunrise and sunset times.



## IMAGE VIEWER

### Tom's Editor Desktop

[bit.ly/tom453](http://bit.ly/tom453)

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8.1/10 **File size:** 485KB

Tom's Editor Desktop is a lightweight image viewer and editor. It doesn't require installation and can handle most common image types, convert photos between formats, scan images and print them, and take screenshots of your desktop. It can also count the number of unique colours in a photo and turn your images into a screensaver. It's not a particularly powerful tool, but it's very easy to use.

## New Windows Apps



### Webp Image Extensions

[bit.ly/webp453](http://bit.ly/webp453)

**Min requirements:** Windows 10

**File size:** 1.78MB

Not an app as such, Webp Image Extensions adds support for Google's Webp image format – which delivers superior lossless and lossy compression – to Windows 10.

You need to be running Windows 10 1803 or later. It unlocks Webp support in Microsoft Edge as well.



### EarTrumpet

[bit.ly/eart453](http://bit.ly/eart453)

**Min requirements:** Windows 10

**File size:** 26.47MB

EarTrumpet is a powerful volume-control app for Windows. It works with classic and modern audio controls, and matches the look of the operating system. It also uses the mouse to control settings.



### Xpro Web Downloader

[bit.ly/xpro453](http://bit.ly/xpro453)

**Min requirements:** Windows 10

**File size:** 31MB

This download manager looks for links in your clipboard and on websites. It can handle multiple downloads and save videos from YouTube. It also has a built-in browser and lets you add tags and timers to downloads.





## SYSTEM TOOL

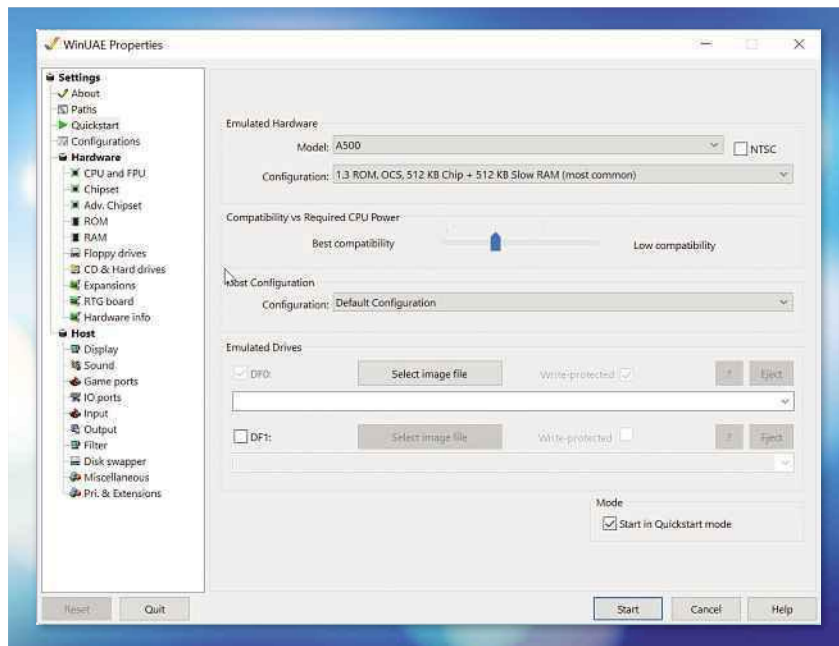
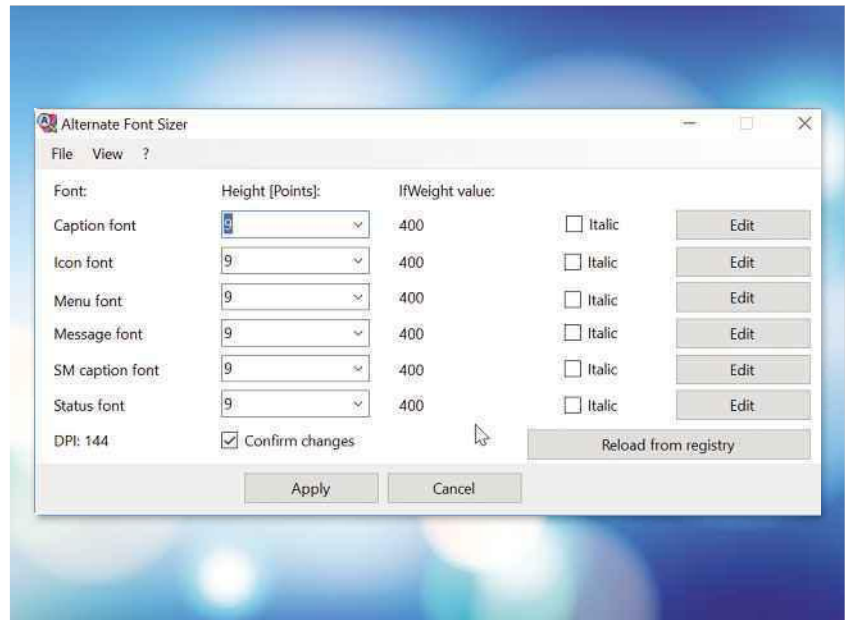
### Alternate Font Sizer

[bit.ly/font453](http://bit.ly/font453)

**Min requirements:** Windows 7/8.1/10

**File size:** 1.1MB

If your eyesight isn't as good as it used to be, you can use different options built into Windows 10 to adjust the scaling of the display. Alternatively, use the third-party program Alternate Font Sizer to change the size of some or all of the fonts on your system, without scaling up everything else. Although you can use it in any recent version of Windows, the program works best in the Windows 10 Fall Creators Update or later, because it restores some functionality that Microsoft removed with that update. Save the current setup (File, Save As) before making any changes. You can alter the size of captions, menus, icons, messages and more.



## AMIGA EMULATOR

### WinUAE 4

[www.winuae.net](http://www.winuae.net)

**Min requirements:** Windows 7/8.1/10

**File size:** 8.1MB

PCs have been able to emulate arcade machines, games consoles and other computers for decades. WinUAE (a Windows port of a Unix/Linux emulator) lets you play games for the Commodore Amiga and is very easy to use – just install it, then add an Amiga KS ROM.

To get hold of one, you can either buy Amiga Forever ([www.amigaforever.com](http://www.amigaforever.com)), which includes a legal copy, or search Google for one. This new version is a major update that introduces virtual multi-monitor support, latency improvements and support for an overlaid graphics LED to indicate floppy disk and power activity. There are 32- and 64-bit versions available.

## SYSTEM TOOL

### Falcon10

[bit.ly/falcon453](http://bit.ly/falcon453)

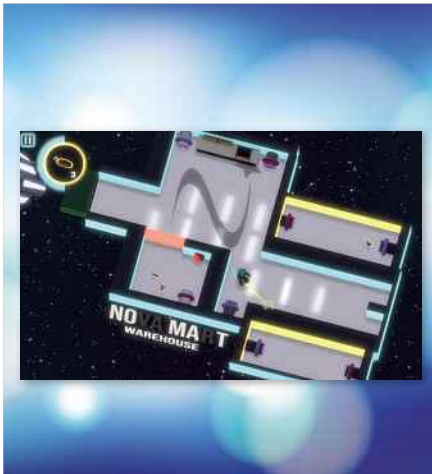
**Min requirements:** Windows 10

**File size:** 856KB

You can customise Windows 10 in lots of different ways, especially if you install a third-party tweaking tool. Falcon10 focuses on making changes to the operating system's taskbar and gives you three useful options: you can centre the taskbar icons, centre the Start button and hide the taskbar altogether. Just select the option you require in the interface and the changes will be made instantly. There are some restrictions to be aware of: Falcon10 doesn't work if you have the taskbar on the side of the screen, and if you have more than one monitor, the changes will only appear on the main one.







## GAME

### Kleptonaut

[bit.ly/klep453](http://bit.ly/klep453)

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8.1/10 **File size:** 87.5MB

The aim of this quirky game is to rob a number of Nova-Mart convenience stores in space. To move your character, you have to pick up items and throw them, using zero-gravity physics to propel yourself backwards. The more items you take with you to the end, the higher your score. There are eight levels with a variety of puzzles.

## Don't install...

### Doctor Dump

[drdump.com](http://drdump.com)

**Min requirements**

Windows XP/Vista/7/8.1/10

**File size:** N/A

Aside from its unsavoury name and ill-advised brown colour scheme, this free program for diagnosing the causes of crashes on your PC is just too complicated for us. It's designed to be integrated with a Windows C++ application rather than serving as a standalone tool, and the mention of "your customers" on its website suggests it's not for home use.



## ...Install this instead

### WhoCrashed

[www.resplendence.com](http://www.resplendence.com)

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8.1/10

**File size:** 8.8MB

When your PC crashes, freezes or displays a scary blue-screen stop message, troubleshooting the cause of the problem can be tricky. The most likely culprit is likely to be recently replaced hardware or a newly installed program, but that's not always the case. WhoCrashed helps identify the bad drivers responsible for system crashes. Click Analyse and it will search your crash dumps, tell you the cause of your woes and offer ways to fix the problem. This latest version improves Windows 10 compatibility and adds in-depth bug-check analyses, support for multiple crash-dump directories and live-kernel reports.



## UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs



## SCREEN TOOL

### F.lux 4.75

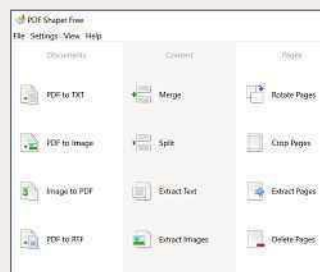
[justgetflux.com](http://justgetflux.com)

**Min requirements:**

Windows 7/8.1/10, MacOS or Linux

**File size:** 813KB

F.lux intelligently changes your screen's hue to match your environment and the time of day, so you can avoid eye strain. This updated release fixes a number of issues with the software, including a problem with DisplayLink.



## PDF TOOLKIT

### PDF Shaper Free 8.4

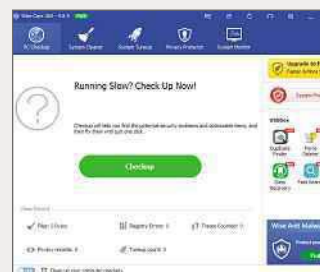
[www.pdfshaper.com](http://www.pdfshaper.com)

**Min requirements:** Windows

XP/Vista/7/8.1/10

**File size:** 8.4MB

PDF Shaper is a collection of tools that let you perform various actions with PDF files. This latest version integrates the software into shell and lets you load the file list from the command line. Make sure you decline the bundled junk during installation.



## SYSTEM TUNER

### Wise Care 365 4.89

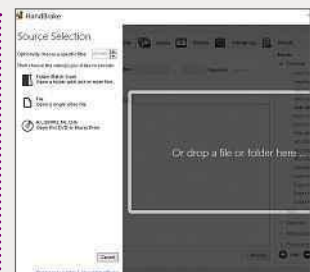
[www.wisecleaner.com](http://www.wisecleaner.com)

**Min requirements:** Windows

XP/Vista/7/8.1

**File size:** 8.4MB

Wise Care 365 is an all-in-one tool that tunes up your computer with a single click, making it faster and more stable. This new release fixes a problem that stopped you creating a system restore point in Windows 10 and makes improvements to the WiseTurbo feature.



## VIDEO CONVERTER

### HandBrake 1.1.1

[handbrake.fr](http://handbrake.fr)

**Min requirements:**

Windows 7/8.1, MacOS or Linux

**File size:** 16MB

If you need to convert one video format to another in a jiffy, HandBrake is the perfect, versatile solution. This new update fixes a number of bugs which could cause the software to crash. It also updates some third-party libraries. ■

GET FREE SOFTWARE FIRST subscribe to Web User at [subscribe.webuser.co.uk](http://subscribe.webuser.co.uk)



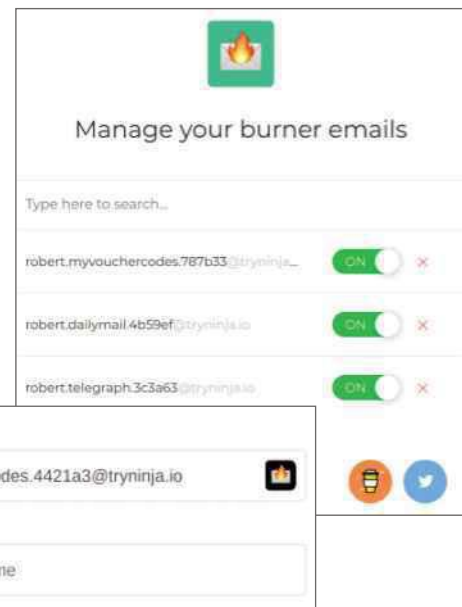
# Best New Browser Tools



## CHROME

### Create fake email addresses on the fly

The introduction of GDPR has brought a welcome reduction in the amount of junk messages we receive, but it's still a good idea to use a fake email address when you sign up with websites. Not only does this stop companies spamming you, but it also keeps your personal data from falling into the wrong hands, which makes Burner Emails ([bit.ly/burn453](http://bit.ly/burn453)) an essential privacy tool. This ingenious new extension for Chrome and Firefox (it's also compatible with Vivaldi and Opera) detects email-registration boxes as you browse the web and fills them with a disposable email address that forwards messages to your real email account. This hides your true identity from companies and shields you from third-party spam, while allowing to you receive essential emails from sites – such as account-verification messages and order confirmations. If you later decide you don't want emails from them any more, you can simply disable or delete your fake address. Burner Emails is completely free to use and its randomly generated email addresses are assigned exclusively to you.



### Spot and avoid fake news online

With controversy still raging about the influence of fake news on election results, we seem to be surrounded by misleading information – just ask President Trump, who complains about it every day! Happily, help is now at hand from the team behind Adblock Plus, which has created Trusted News ([bit.ly/trusted453](http://bit.ly/trusted453)) to tackle the scourge of false content online. When you visit a news source, this Chrome extension verifies its accuracy and integrity using data from fact-checking organisations including Wikipedia, Snopes and PolitiFact. On sites that can be trusted,

you'll see a green flag, while sites that are deemed biased, untrustworthy, satire, clickbait or malicious, or that contain user-generated content, will display other flags. Click the toolbar button for more information and choose 'Learn how we reached

this rating' to discover how Trusted News draws its conclusions. We found it surprisingly good at identifying unreliable sources, although it's unable

to evaluate certain sites because of 'insufficient data'.

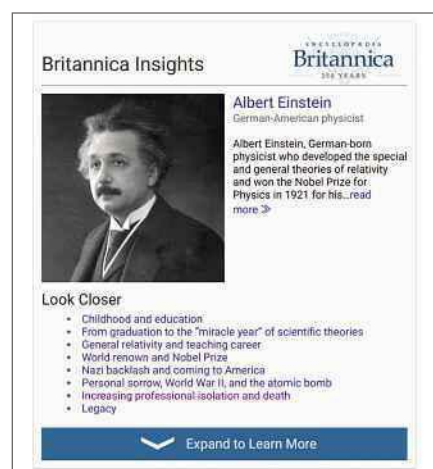
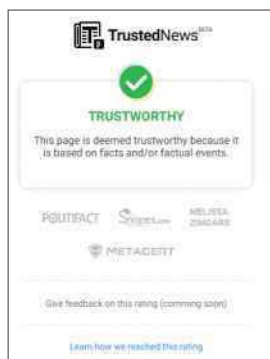
### Get facts from Encyclopædia Britannica

You shouldn't believe everything you find on Google, or even on Wikipedia, which states itself that "Wikipedia is not a reliable source" because it can be edited by anyone at any time ([bit.ly/wiki453](http://bit.ly/wiki453)). You can, however, trust the good old Encyclopædia Britannica, which has been around for 250 years and now has a Chrome extension called Britannica Insights ([bit.ly/britannica453](http://bit.ly/britannica453)) that provides concise and credible facts about your search queries. Just search Google as normal

and related information from the encyclopedia will appear in a panel on the right-hand side of your search results. You can expand this to learn more about the topic or click individual links to view the relevant section of the Britannica entry.

### Search for flights by legroom

Economy seats on planes are notoriously uncomfortable, which can lead to cramp and other discomfort on long flights. To ensure you get the maximum space possible on your next flight, install Legrooms for Google Flights ([bit.ly/legrooms453](http://bit.ly/legrooms453)), which displays the average legroom for seats for different airlines when you search with Google Flights. It also includes other useful information such as carry-on restrictions, power outlets and Wi-Fi availability.



£118 round trip	319	74 cm
£124 round trip	320	76 cm
£128 round trip	74 cm	
£129 round trip	E90	81 cm

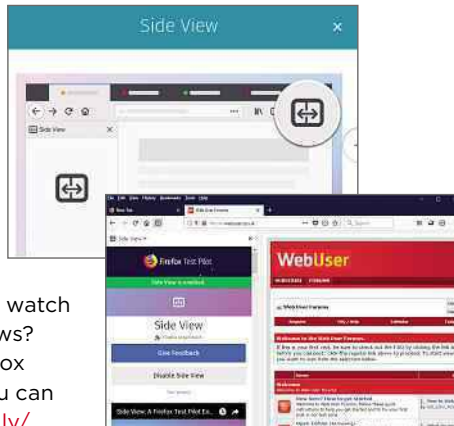
This fortnight's most useful tips and add-ons to help you get the most from Chrome, Firefox, Opera and more



## FIREFOX

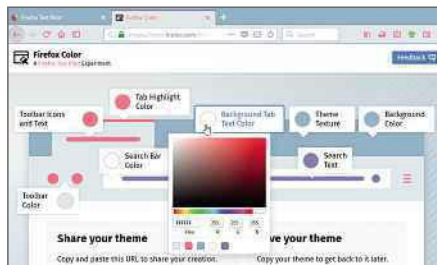
### View two web pages side by side

It's unusual to have only one tab open in your browser, and much more common to switch between two or three web pages by clicking the relevant tabs. But wouldn't it be easier to view two pages simultaneously, side by side, so you could, for example, shop on Amazon while checking your Facebook feed, or watch YouTube videos while reading BBC News? Such is the thinking behind a new Firefox experiment called Side View, which you can try through Mozilla's Test Pilot site ([bit.ly/side453](http://bit.ly/side453)) – you'll need to install the Test Pilot extension first. To use it, just click the split-screen button on the toolbar and choose a page from the list of open tabs. This will then open in a sidebar on the left-hand side of the browser, so you can view it alongside your current page without needing to switch between tabs. Side View also lets you open links without losing your place. It's a very handy function that Mozilla should build into a future Firefox release.



### Create Firefox themes

If you fancy making Firefox look more colourful and interesting, check out its other new Test Pilot experiment, Color ([bit.ly/color453](http://bit.ly/color453)), which lets you design your own custom themes for the browser. There's no complex coding involved – you simply select individual elements, such as the toolbar, background or current tab, and select your desired colour from the colour-picker panel. You can also choose a texture for the theme. Once you're happy with your handiwork, click Save to apply the theme and optionally share it with other people via the supplied URL. See our Workshop on page 52 to create your own Firefox theme using Color.



### Spoof your data when browsing the web

When you browse the web, you leak all manner of information that can be used

to identify you, including the software and hardware you use, your computer's location and even the size of your screen. You can prevent this browser 'fingerprinting' by using a new add-on called Chameleon ([bit.ly/chameleon453](http://bit.ly/chameleon453)), which spoofs your data so that websites can't build an accurate profile of you. At its simplest, the extension lets you create a random profile of bogus information with which to fool sites; alternatively, you can pretend to be using a different browser or different device and be browsing from a random location. Chameleon also offers other privacy options including tracking protection, blocking of third-party cookies and disabling of referrers (so sites can't see where you've been).



## OTHER BROWSERS

### Measure how far your mouse travels

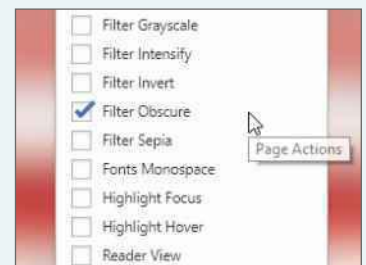
With all the scrolling, pointing and clicking you do when you go online, your humble mouse travels quite some distance every day (accompanied by your mouse hand, of course). A new Opera extension called Mouse Statistics ([bit.ly/mouse453](http://bit.ly/mouse453)) tells you exactly how many kilometres your mouse has moved and scrolled, as well as the number

#### Statistics

**Clicks:** 8  
**Key Strokes:** 16  
**Mouse distance:** 0.00399 kms  
**Scroll distance:** 0.00052 kms

### Blur your screen against prying eyes

Whether you're watching sport at work or buying a surprise gift for a loved one, there are many reasons to shield what you're doing online from people around you. Handily, Vivaldi has a built-in option that hides what you're viewing from prying eyes by blurring the content instantly. To set up this feature, which Vivaldi calls Boss Mode, click the Page Actions button on the Status Bar at the bottom of the window and select Filter Obscure. Now, simply move the mouse cursor off the page and its content will be obscured.







# Best Free Apps



## App of the Fortnight

### BROWSER

#### Keepsafe Browser

[bit.ly/keepdroid453](http://bit.ly/keepdroid453)

[bit.ly/keepios453](http://bit.ly/keepios453)

5 11

NEW

Whether you're surreptitiously trying to buy someone a present without them finding out what you're getting them, or you're just fed up with being tracked wherever you go online, you're sure to like Keepsafe's new mobile browser, which makes personal privacy its chief priority.

Keepsafe is the developer behind a number of other useful privacy-centred apps, including a VPN and an app called Photo Vault, which keeps your photos private and backed up at the same time. Keepsafe Browser continues this theme by offering a way to browse the web privately from your phone or tablet. While most of Keepsafe's other apps are monetised via in-app purchases, Keepsafe Browser is completely free, with no ads or optional paid-for features.

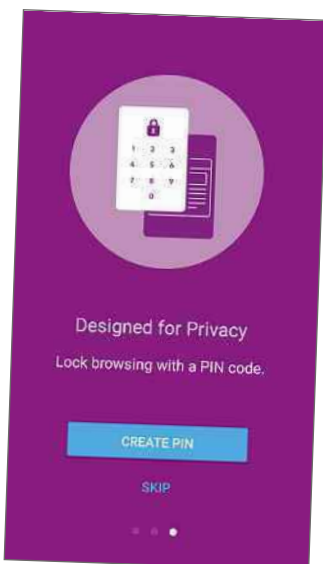
The app keeps your browsing private in a number of ways. First, it offers PIN protection, which means you can lock prying eyes out of the browser altogether using a

simple PIN code. Usefully, the lock feature also supports Android's fingerprint recognition and Apple's Face ID and Touch ID.

Additionally, Keepsafe offers tight control over which trackers follow you around the web. You can block or allow ad trackers, social trackers, analytic trackers or content trackers as you see fit.

The app also offers the option of browsing using either normal or 'secret' tabs. The latter (which show up as purple in the iOS version of the app) automatically dump all session data – cookies, caching, browsing history and so on – as soon as you close them. Beyond that, Keepsafe Browser doesn't boast many extended features or tools. But it

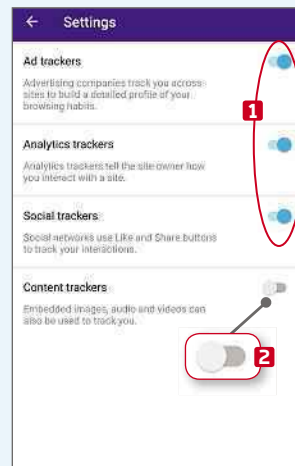
isn't hard to recommend this one – it's safe, simple to use and impressively fast, too.



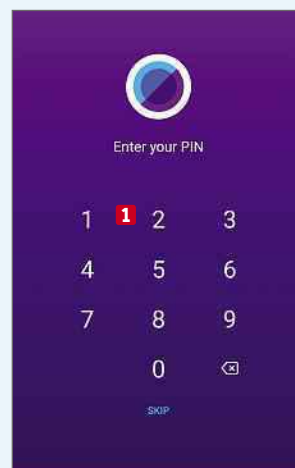
### MINI WORKSHOP

#### Browse privately on your phone or tablet using Keepsafe

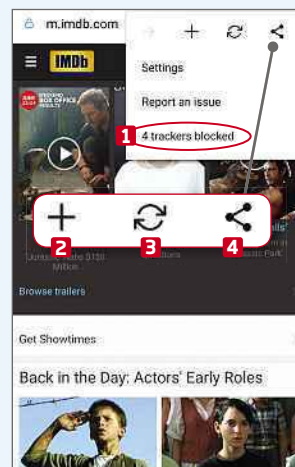
**1** Keepsafe lets you select which types of trackers you want to block. Press the three-dot menu button in the top-right corner and tap Settings, then 'Tracker settings'. Ad trackers, analytics trackers and social trackers should all be blocked by default. **1** You can also block content trackers – such as those embedded in images, audio and video content. Tap the switch next to the option **2** to enable it.



**2** To make sure no one else can view which tabs you've got open, or which sites you've visited, you can lock Keepsafe with a PIN. Press the menu button in the top-right corner, tap Settings, then Add PIN. Enter your chosen PIN via the numeric keypad, **1** then enter it again to confirm it. Now, whenever you open Keepsafe, you'll need to enter your PIN.



**3** To see how effectively Keepsafe is protecting your privacy on any given web page, press the menu button: the number of trackers blocked by the browser is listed at the bottom of the menu. **1** From the same menu, you can use the navigation icons across the top to add a new tab, **2** reload a web page **3** or share something you've found. **4**



Our rating



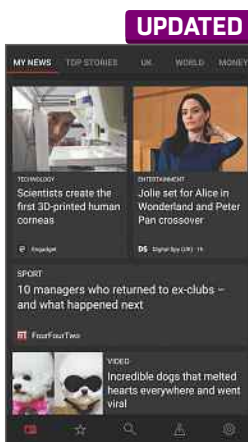
## This fortnight's top free and paid-for apps for Android and iOS phones and tablets

### NEWS

#### Microsoft News

[bit.ly/msnews](http://bit.ly/msnews)  
[bit.ly/msnewsios453](http://bit.ly/msnewsios453)  
 5 

Microsoft has updated and rebranded its MSN app as Microsoft News. The new app aims to provide a unified experience, whether you're using it on your phone, Xbox One or Windows 10 PC. It's been redesigned with a fresh, modern-looking interface, more categories and a new dark mode for night-time reading. Usefully, you can now synchronise and browse your interests across all your devices. The new app also offers improved widgets for Android and iOS devices.



Our rating



### REMOTE CONTROL

#### AirMirror

[bit.ly/airmirror453](http://bit.ly/airmirror453)  
 4

AirDroid is a handy app that lets you remotely access your Android device from a PC or Mac, and AirMirror, from the same developer, takes this concept one stage further. It allows you to control one Android device remotely from another, including accessing the camera. You need to install AirDroid on the device you want to control, then sign in with the same account on both devices. It's early days for this new app – some users are reporting quirks and claim that setup can be a bit fiddly.





Our rating

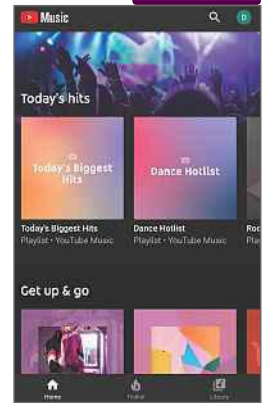


### MUSIC

#### YouTube Music

[bit.ly/ytmusic](http://bit.ly/ytmusic)  
[bit.ly/ytmusicios453](http://bit.ly/ytmusicios453)  
 4.1 

YouTube Music describes itself as a “completely re-imagined” streaming service, but anyone expecting a revolutionary app will be disappointed. It uses Google's advanced AI to help you find and discover old and new tracks, but the overall experience is very similar to Spotify and Apple Music, with pre-built playlists, trending songs and favourites. Paying for the service (£9.99 per month) gets rid of ads and enables premium features, such as playing music in the background on the lock screen.



Our rating

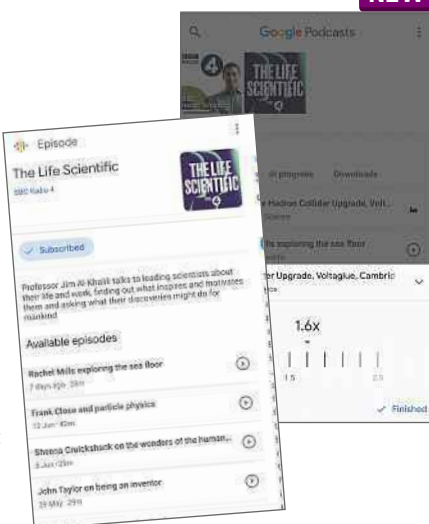


### PODCASTS

#### Google Podcasts

[bit.ly/podcasts453](http://bit.ly/podcasts453)  
 4.1

Uncharacteristically late to the party, Google has released its first ever dedicated podcast app. Currently Android-only, it's a bit of a bare-bones affair, although most of the features you'd expect from a podcast tool are present. You can browse categories or search for specific podcasts, and either stream individual episodes or subscribe. Controls include the ability to speed up playback, which is handy if you're short on time. The biggest advantage this app has over others is that it's tied to the Google app and Google Assistant, which means you can pick up a podcast where you left off on any device.



Our rating



### JOURNAL

#### Sojourn

[bit.ly/sojourn453](http://bit.ly/sojourn453)  
 (varies)

Many of us find the idea of keeping a diary appealing, but when it comes to the practicality of actually sitting down and writing regular entries, it can feel a little intimidating and time-consuming. Sojourn simplifies the diary-keeping process by taking inspiration from social media, which makes it quick and easy to add status update-like entries to your journal, including as much or as little detail as you like. You can filter your entries by star rating, colour coding, date range and more, and everything you write is automatically backed up to the cloud. Sojourn is in beta at the moment but it's well worth checking out.



Our rating



# 5 NEW APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

## FASHION

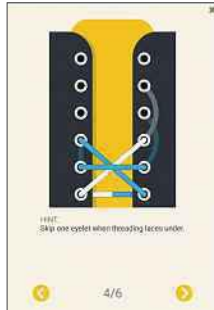
### Step By Step Shoe Lacing Guide

[bit.ly/step453](http://bit.ly/step453)

Price: 89p

4.1

Stand out from the crowd with 50 different ways to lace up your shoes. Each one is presented as an easy-to-follow interactive guide, and the app can be used offline, too.



## TOOLS

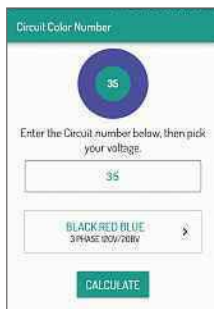
### Circuit Number Color

[bit.ly/circuit453](http://bit.ly/circuit453)

Price: 69p

4.1

DIY electricians and electronics hobbyists will love this circuit-number colour tool. It lets you customise the colour systems yourself, which is particularly handy if you're colour-blind.



## GAME

### Bloons TD 6

[bit.ly/bloonsdroid453](http://bit.ly/bloonsdroid453)

[bit.ly/bloonsios453](http://bit.ly/bloonsios453)

Price: £4.99

5 11

The most popular



monkey-based tower-defence game in the world, Bloons is back with this sixth entry in the prolific series, which boasts 20 new maps and full 3D graphics.

## GAME

### Hexologic

[bit.ly/hexdroid453](http://bit.ly/hexdroid453)

[bit.ly/hexios453](http://bit.ly/hexios453)

Price: 89p (Android), 99p (iOS)

4.4 7

This challenging yet relaxing puzzle game takes the rules of Sudoku as its inspiration, then completely reinvents them across 60 beautifully presented levels, accompanied by a soothing ambient soundtrack.



## SPORT

### Tenpin Toolkit

[bit.ly/tenpindroid453](http://bit.ly/tenpindroid453)

[bit.ly/tenpinios453](http://bit.ly/tenpinios453)

Price: £9.99

4.1 9

Okay, we'll admit that this one's a little niche, but if you happen to be an avid tenpin bowler, then you'll love this app, which has a raft of excellent tools for helping you perfect your technique.



Step By Step  
Shoe Lacing Guide



Circuit Number Color



Bloons TD 6



Hexologic



Tenpin Toolkit



## Don't install...

### Mom Maps

[bit.ly/mom453](http://bit.ly/mom453)

The idea is simple: if you're a busy parent, desperate for ways to keep the kids busy over the holidays, who wouldn't want a crowd-



sourced, interactive map of suitable child-friendly activities and locations? Sadly, the execution is terrible. Mom Maps is heavily skewed to American users (the clue's in the name) and has virtually nothing useful for the UK, plus it's hopelessly out of date – the last version was released in 2014.

## ...Install this instead

### Hoop

[bit.ly/hoopdroid453](http://bit.ly/hoopdroid453)

[bit.ly/hoopios453](http://bit.ly/hoopios453)

(varies) 10

Hoop has a similar aim to Mom Maps – it's all about finding fun things to do with your family while you're out and about – but it goes about it in a much better way. It lets you browse, search for, bookmark and share family-friendly activities and events that are happening near you. You can read reviews and filter activities by date, distance and by your children's age range. It's also well designed – colourful, modern-looking and regularly updated, with more than 80,000 activities listed per month. Currently, Hoop only covers certain locations – just type in your postcode to see what's available in your area. ■







# Take a Screen Break

Give your eyes a rest from your browser by taking our fiendish fortnightly challenges. Can you guess our Beatles-song emoji and our web year?

**WIN A  
WEB USER  
2017 BACK  
ISSUES DISC!**

Email your answers to  
[webuser@dennis.co.uk](mailto:webuser@dennis.co.uk)  
- one correct entry  
will win a disc



## CAN YOU GUESS THE BEATLES SONGS FROM THE EMOJI?

1



2



3



4



5



6



## GUESS THE TECHNOLOGY YEAR

Can you work out which year the following tech news stories occurred in? No cheating!

**1** The biggest software release of the year is undoubtedly Windows XP, which Microsoft

develops under the codename Whistler.

**2** The controversial file-sharing service Napster is forced to close after being served with an injunction for copyright infringement.



**3** On 21 March, a new internet magazine called *Web User* hits the shelves, with an exciting cover feature about search engines.



**4** Nintendo takes on the Xbox and PlayStation 2 with its GameCube console, but it doesn't reach the UK until the following May.



**5** In October, Apple launches its revolutionary digital music player, the iPod, although initially the device is only compatible with Macs.



## COMPETITIONS

### WIN A... Sphero bundle

To celebrate its new update for the Sphero Edu app, Sphero is giving away a prize bundle containing the Sphero 2.0 and Darkside Ollie robots, plus the accessories Sphero Chariot, Sphero Turbo Cover, Ollie Turbo Tires and Ollie Flux Hubs. To enter, email your address to [webusercomp@dennis.co.uk](mailto:webusercomp@dennis.co.uk) with 'sphero' in the subject line. For more information, visit [www.sphero.com](http://www.sphero.com).



**WORTH  
£300**

### WIN 1 OF 2 devolo Home Control Starter Pack

The Home Control Starter Pack from devolo, winner of AV-TEST's 'Excellent Protection' for the fourth time in a row, ensures every component of your smart home works without a hitch. It detects open doors and windows, and turns off devices. To enter, email your address to [webusercomp@dennis.co.uk](mailto:webusercomp@dennis.co.uk) with 'devolo' in the subject line. For more information, visit [www.devolo.co.uk](http://www.devolo.co.uk).



**WORTH  
£179.99  
EACH**

# ? FAQ

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

## Nest Hello

Ding dong! Who's there? Now you can find out without even getting up. **David Crookes** explains the benefits of a smart doorbell

### What is it?

When your doorbell rings, usually the only way to find out who's there is to peer out of the window or open the door – neither of which is ideal if you're hoping to avoid someone. Nest Hello ([bit.ly/hello453](http://bit.ly/hello453)) is a new Wi-Fi-connected smart doorbell that alerts you to visitors and lets you see who's there via a wide-angle camera. Since it works over the internet, the device is particularly useful if you're away, adding an extra layer of security and letting you better monitor any comings and goings at your home.

### How does it work?

Nest Hello is designed to replace your existing doorbell and can stream video footage 24-hours a day over your Wi-Fi network. You can use the Nest mobile app to check what's happening outside your door, but the magic happens when someone walks close by or presses the bell. At that point, you'll receive an alert on your phone and can view a live stream to decide whether or not to answer – either in person if you're in or remotely if you're out. This can be done from anywhere you have an internet connection.

### How can I respond when I'm away?

The app has an option called Talk which, when pressed, allows you to use Nest Hello's built-in speaker and microphone. You can have a two-way chat with whoever is outside your home, which means you can talk

*It doesn't look like much but Nest Hello helps you avoid annoying visitors*



to delivery people from the comfort of your workplace, for example, or fool potential burglars that you've just stepped out of the shower, which is why you can't get to the door.

### So it's like the Ring doorbell then?

Yes, to a degree. Ring (formerly Doorbot, see box on opposite page) released its first video doorbell in 2013 and, like Nest

Hello, it also lets you conduct two-way video calls with visitors. What Ring doesn't possess, however, is machine learning – a very useful function that's integral to Hello. Rather than rely on motion and sound when issuing an alert, Nest Hello analyses the video footage to discern if a person is approaching the door, walking by or hanging around. It can also tell the difference between humans, birds, cats and dogs, so it doesn't waste your time with non-events.

### Can it recognise individual people?

Yes, but only if you pay for a Nest Aware subscription, which costs from £4 a month. This allows Nest Hello to recognise your family and friends, and send you personalised alerts when they call round. Consequently, you'll also know if the person at your door is someone you aren't familiar with.

A Nest Aware subscription also gives you a continuous video history of between five and 30 days, rather than the standard three-hour snapshot history you get with the free version.



*Nest Hello can tell the difference between human visitors and passing animals*





*The camera's wide field of view shows you the full horror of unwelcome guests*

## How good is the camera?

The 3-megapixel camera has an 8x digital zoom and can capture 1080p high-definition video at up to 30fps (frames per second). It also features night vision so you don't need to worry about capturing video footage after dusk. Nest Hello has a 160-degree field of view, with a 4x3 aspect ratio as opposed to the 16x9 of rival products. This lets you see a full image of your visitors and ensures you can see parcels that have been left on the ground.

## Is the audio quality good, too?

Nest Hello has a high-quality speaker and microphone, and its HD Talk and Listen feature offers noise-and-echo cancellation for clearer sound, ensuring you'll be able to hear visitors even on a noisy street.

## What if I can't talk when someone calls?

There are three built-in phrases including "we'll be right there", which you can

*Nest Hello lets you view and talk to delivery men without opening your door*



*You'll soon be able to use the Nest Hello with the Nest Secure alarm system*

activate by tapping Responses. These allow you to communicate with the person at the door during inconvenient moments such as when you're in a meeting and can't speak. Although you can't set up your own messages at the moment, you can activate Quiet Mode, which silences Nest Hello when you're asleep or away.

## Won't people think they're being spied on?

Possibly, but that depends on where you live. If your home is secluded, then you're unlikely to have a problem. However, most of us have a front door facing the street, which means you'll undoubtedly end up with footage of passers-by. There are also privacy concerns surrounding facial recognition. The Information Commissioner's Office is currently reviewing its guidance following the new Data Protection Act 2018 and introduction of GDPR – you can view the latest info at [bit.ly/consumer453](http://bit.ly/consumer453).

Nest stores a database of people you identify, but promises that all the video footage it captures is secured by 128-bit encryption and two-step verification.

## Does Nest Hello fit into the Nest ecosystem?

Yes, it does. You can connect Nest Hello



*Check whether you'll need a professional to install Nest Hello in your home*

to your Google Home speaker to have it announce who's at the door if it recognises the person, and hook up the doorbell to other smart devices, perhaps triggering a security light when a stranger comes to the door or, if you're planning to buy a Nest X Yale device, unlock the door to let someone you know into your home. Indeed, Google is also looking to launch more home-security products in the UK, among them the Nest Secure alarm system ([bit.ly/secure453](http://bit.ly/secure453)), and Nest Hello will work with them all.

## How much does it cost?

Nest Hello costs £229, and you'll also need to factor in the cost of installing it if you're not confident you'll be able to fit it yourself. The doorbell is not battery operated but draws its power from your electricity supply. A sizeable chime unit also needs to be installed and plugged in, and there's a bit of drilling involved, so you'll probably need an electrician – or, for an extra £100, one of Nest's own engineers – to set everything up.

You can check if Nest Hello is compatible in your home at [bit.ly/doorbell453](http://bit.ly/doorbell453).

## RING IN THE CHANGES – THE BEST NEST RIVALS

### Ring Video Doorbell | £89

Ring ([ring.com](http://ring.com)) had 97% of the smart-doorbell market in the US last year, prompting Amazon to buy the firm in February for a cool \$1bn. This original 720p HD video version has motion-activated alerts and two-way talk with noise cancellation. You can also set custom motion zones, enjoy infrared night vision and, because it can be battery-operated, installation is easy.



### Ring Video Doorbell 2 | £179

The more up-to-date Ring 2 cost £157.96 on Amazon when we looked, which is a bargain compared to the Nest Hello. It has 1080p HD video and a quick-release battery, so you don't need to remove it from the wall. It also offers live on-demand video and audio. Just like the older model, it can be hardwired but at 160 degrees, its field of view is narrower than the previous version's.



### Ring Video Doorbell Pro | £229

This model can only be hardwired, but it has a better-looking, slimmer design with four interchangeable faceplates. As well as letting you set up custom motion zones, it has 'pre-buffering' to capture the moments before the sensor was triggered. It also supports Alexa voice commands. There's a professional-grade Elite version for £449 with a secure 'flush mount'.





# DOWNLOAD (secret) SOFTWARE

COVER  
FEATURE

There are thousands of cutting-edge free tools that are constantly being improved, just waiting to be downloaded to your PC. **Robert Irvine** picks 20 of the best projects from open-source community GitHub

**M**ost of us have our regular go-to sources for the latest free software, such as FileHippo, Softpedia and MajorGeeks, or the Best Free Software section of this very magazine. But if you want to get your hands on cutting-edge tools that are constantly being updated, refined and improved, you need to get into GitHub ([github.com](https://github.com)). This massive open-source community has been used by savvy developers for a decade, and last month it was bought by Microsoft for a whopping \$7.5bn (£5.7bn). GitHub is designed for developers to easily collaborate

on projects, but for the rest of us it provides a way to discover and download innovative and interesting new free software that you won't find elsewhere.

In this feature, we've chosen 20 new open-source programs that can either only be found on GitHub or which have dedicated websites but host their files and code on GitHub. If you really like the tools you download, you can contribute toward their future development.

GitHub's  
Best Software



# YOUR GITHUB QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## What is GitHub?

GitHub is an online hosting service for software projects developed using the open-source version-control system Git.

## What on Earth does that mean?

Good question. When software developers create a program, app or browser extension, they constantly make changes to the code, releasing new versions up to and after the first stable release. Version-control systems such as Git store these revisions in a central repository, which allows other developers to collaborate on the project and make and share their own changes to the code. Think of it as a Google Docs for developers.

## So what's the point of GitHub?

Whereas Git is a command-line tool, which non-developers will find completely baffling, GitHub provides a web-based graphical interface that makes it easier to collaborate on projects through repositories, which serve as online folders for projects. GitHub also offers lots of useful features of its own, chief among them 'forking', which lets you modify someone else's project and share the changes you've made. You can then notify the original developer via a 'pull request', and they can optionally merge your modifications with their original repository.



*GitHub hosts open-source projects developed using the version-control system Git*

## But what's in it for non-developers?

As we go on to explain in this feature, GitHub is an excellent place for downloading cutting-edge free software that you won't find elsewhere. The site, which celebrated its 10th birthday earlier this year, now hosts more than 85 million repositories from some 28 million developers, and its open-source ethos means that most of these projects can be accessed by anyone.

## So I can download loads of free programs?

It's not quite as simple as that. GitHub repositories host source code rather than traditional downloads, and many of the projects that can be accessed from the site were never intended to evolve into completed programs – instead, they are designed to provide building blocks for other developers to use. This means that browsing the site for new software can be rather confusing.

With all that in mind, we've done the hard work for you in this feature! See our 'How to download from GitHub' box below for help with downloading.

## HOW TO DOWNLOAD FROM GITHUB

GitHub repositories can look intimidating to non-developers – they contain lists of individual elements and ZIP-file downloads that require Git ([git-scm.com](http://git-scm.com)) to open and run their contents. Fortunately, if you want to download software as an 'end user' rather than contribute to the program's development, you can usually find a more traditional download.

Sometimes, developers provide a link to an EXE file further down the repository's homepage, but if not, click the Releases tab above the list of elements to view and download the latest stable version of the software for your operating system. The developer may link to their own website, where their completed program(s) will be available to download. Or they may have a presence on GitHub Pages ([pages.github.com](http://pages.github.com)), which provides a much friendlier way to present GitHub projects.

We also recommend the Chrome extension



GitHub Plus ([bit.ly/ghplus453](https://bit.ly/ghplus453)), which adds clear download links and file sizes to repositories (and is of course available on GitHub itself!).

## BOOST YOUR PRIVACY AND SECURITY

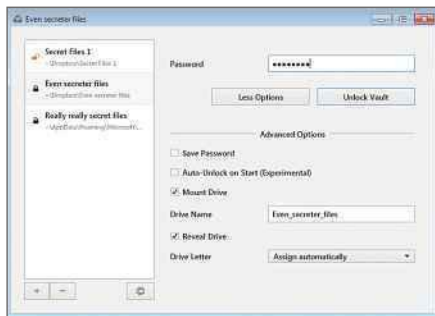
### ENCRYPTION TOOL

#### Cryptomator 1.3.4

[cryptomator.org](https://cryptomator.org)

Windows Vista/7/8.1/10, MacOS, Linux, Android or iOS

How confident do you feel that the files you upload to cloud services such as Google Drive, OneDrive and Dropbox are completely secure – not just from



*Cryptomator offers an easy way to encrypt sensitive files stored in the cloud*

hackers but from the companies themselves? If the answer is “not very”, then you need Cryptomator, which encrypts and protects your sensitive documents and other data, for free.

Encryption tools can often be baffling, but Cryptomator is very straightforward to use – you just create a vault, save it to a cloud-storage folder (or a desktop one if you want to keep things local) and enter a password to secure it. Unlock the vault and it will open as a virtual drive to which you can drag and drop files you want to protect. Everything in the folder will be encrypted automatically using AES, and when you lock the vault, the virtual drive disappears so nobody else can see it.

The desktop version of Cryptomator is completely open-source and regularly updated (see its GitHub page at [bit.ly/crypto453](https://bit.ly/crypto453)), but its iOS and Android apps cost £3.99 and £4.49 respectively.

### PASSWORD MANAGER

#### Bitwarden 1.27

[bitwarden.com](https://bitwarden.com)

Windows 7/8.1/10, MacOS, Linux, Android or iOS

An open-source password manager might sound dubious – if anyone can access its code, does that mean they can also access your data? – but if anything it's actually safer than commercial software. Not only is a program from a relatively unknown developer less likely to be targeted by hackers than tools such as LastPass, but open-source code undergoes greater scrutiny by more people, and security flaws are generally identified and fixed much more quickly.

In any case, Bitwarden is an excellent and easy-to-use free program for storing your logins securely. It's now available as a desktop program, as well as a browser extension and mobile app, and lets you sync your passwords across all your devices. Your data is protected using end-to-end AES-256-bit encryption, PBKDF2 salted hashing and two-step verification; and Bitwarden has its own strong-password generator to save you having to conjure up hard-to-guess logins.

Unlike most password managers, you don't have to pay for 'premium' features (although paid-for plans are available for businesses) and can even share your account with a trusted partner or friend. Bitwarden is proudly “100% open-source”, with all its code available on GitHub, and allows savvy users to host it on their own servers. You can also discuss the program's development in its community chat channel and forums. It's a shining example of how 'small' free software can beat the big guns.



*Store your passwords securely using Bitwarden's super-strong encryption*

### DNS TOOL

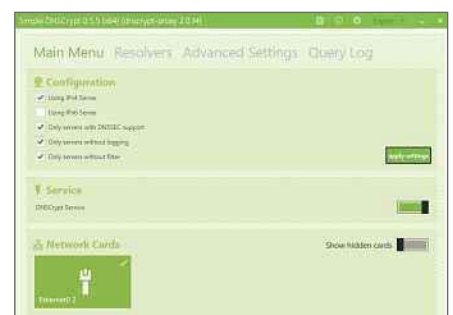
#### Simple DNSCrypt 2.0.15

[simplednscrypt.org](https://simplednscrypt.org)

Windows 7/8.1/10

When you type a URL into your address bar or click a link on a page, your browser asks a DNS (Domain Name System) server for the relevant IP address, so it can connect to and load the site. Unfortunately, attackers can eavesdrop on these DNS requests, so they know which sites you're visiting, and can even 'spoo' IP addresses to direct you to dangerous destinations. Simple DNSCrypt combats this threat by encrypting DNS traffic, so third parties can't spy on your DNS lookups.

The interface looks fiddly at first – and we're not particularly keen on the lime-green colour scheme – but the program runs in automatic mode by default, switching you to an alternative (and faster) DNS server, so it can encrypt your DNS traffic and keep your browsing private and secure. Just make sure you change the default language from German to English!



*Simple DNSCrypt protects your browsing by encrypting your DNS traffic*

### PRIVACY TOOL

#### Privacy Possum 2018.6.10

[bit.ly/possum453](https://bit.ly/possum453)

Chrome, Firefox

If Ghostery (see opposite page) seems like a shadow from the past, try sticking Privacy Possum down your browsers. This new open-source privacy tool



*Privacy Possum automatically blocks invisible trackers on the web*



blocks all invisible trackers embedded in web pages, including referrer headers that reveal your location, all third-party cookies and hidden code that may be used to 'fingerprint' (identify) you. Privacy Possum has no settings to configure – other than turning it on or off for specific sites – and its blocking shouldn't interfere with how web content is displayed. The extension is available for Chrome and Firefox, and its creator claims it goes further than the similarly named Privacy Badger ([bit.ly/badger453](https://bit.ly/badger453)), which he helped to develop on GitHub.

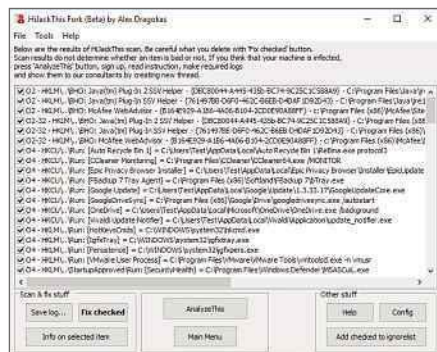
## MALWARE-REMOVAL TOOL

### HiJack This Fork 3

[bit.ly/hijack453](https://bit.ly/hijack453)

Windows XP/Vista/7/8.1/10

Long-term *Web User* readers and forum members will doubtless remember the tiny but powerful security tool HijackThis, which scanned your PC for malware and produced a detailed log of its findings. The program was bought by Trend Micro in 2007 and made open-source five years later, and although the original tool is no longer updated, it lives on through this GitHub 'fork' of the project.



The once-popular security tool HijackThis lives on through a fork on GitHub

## PRIVACY TOOL

### Ghostery 8.1.2

[bit.ly/ghostery453](https://bit.ly/ghostery453)

Chrome, Firefox, Opera, Edge

Yes, we're sure you're familiar with Ghostery and no, we haven't made a mistake including it in this feature: back in March, the popular privacy tool officially went open-source and added its source code to GitHub. Ghostery described this as an "invaluable opportunity" for its users to contribute to the browser extension's development and help it become the "best product we can be". Hopefully the GitHub community can help make Ghostery even more efficient at blocking trackers, protecting your data and speeding up page-loading times, and that bugs in the tool can be quickly flagged and fixed.



Earlier this year Ghostery made its popular privacy tool open-source

HiJack This Fork works in exactly the same way as HijackThis (notice the different syntax) – simply run a scan for unusual items in vulnerable areas of your system, then carefully review the results before clicking 'Fix checked'. Don't remove anything you're not sure about and, if you require advice, click AnalyzeThis for instructions from the forked tool's developers.

Note that, because of the unofficial and system-altering nature of the program, you may get a 'malicious file' warning – as we did in Windows 10 – but this is safe to ignore.

## FILE SHREDDER

### Permadelete 0.5.2

[bit.ly/perma453](https://bit.ly/perma453)

Windows XP/Vista/7/8.1/10

System cleaners such as CCleaner often include an option for erasing files permanently, but for a lightweight, open-source alternative, it's worth

considering Permadelete. This tiny (1.3MB) free tool couldn't be easier to use – simply drag and drop files and folders to its dustbin icon, confirm that you want to shred them and they'll be instantly deleted. Unlike similar tools, there are no options for overwriting data more than once – in fact, there are no options at all – but Permadelete says this is all that's necessary and that excessive overwriting could damage your hard drive.



Permadelete offers a fast and friendly way to erase unwanted files

## EXPAND YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

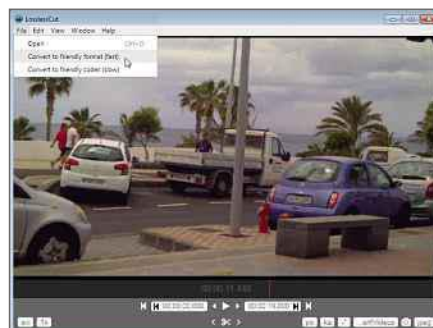
## VIDEO EDITOR

### LosslessCut 1.12

[bit.ly/lossless453](https://bit.ly/lossless453)

Windows 7/8.1/10, MacOS or Linux

If you only want to trim a video to keep the best part, a full-on video-editing program (see our Group Test on page 22) will feel like overkill. However, the downside of using a more basic tool is that it can reduce the quality of the clip. LosslessCut lets you trim and cut video



LosslessCut lets you trim your videos to the best parts without losing quality

and audio files you've captured or downloaded without any loss of quality, and take full-resolution snapshots in JPEG or PNG format.

To use the program, either drag and drop a file into the window or go to File, Open, then play the video and use the controls to select the desired section. LosslessCut works with most video

## MUSIC PLAYER

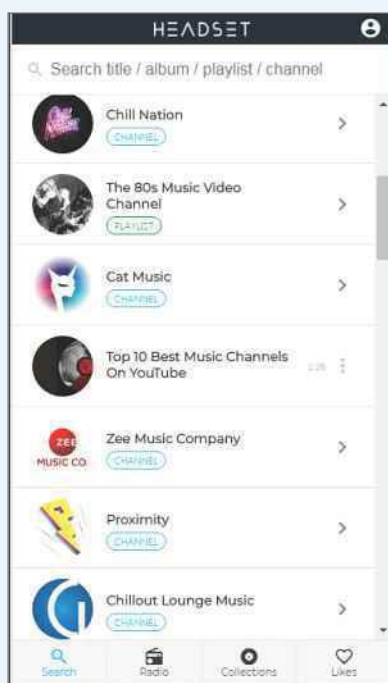
### Headset 2.0

[headsetapp.co](http://headsetapp.co)

Windows 7/8.1/10, MacOS or Linux

With the launch of YouTube Music in the UK (see pages 6 and 35), Google has finally realised the music-streaming potential of its video service, but Headset pipped it to the post. This open-source desktop music player turns YouTube into your personal jukebox, letting you search for and play songs, create playlists and subscribe to channels in a separate window from your browser, with an accompanying video player. You also get Reddit Radio, which takes the best (most upvoted) songs on music subreddits, categorises them by genre and plays them automatically.

The free version only lets you skip 12 tracks an hour, but you can remove this limit by subscribing to Headset Pro for \$1.99 (£1.50) per month. There's also a choice of light or dark themes.



*Listen to songs from YouTube and Reddit on your desktop using Headset*

formats and can convert those that it doesn't support.

See our feature on page 50 for more about ensuring maximum video quality.

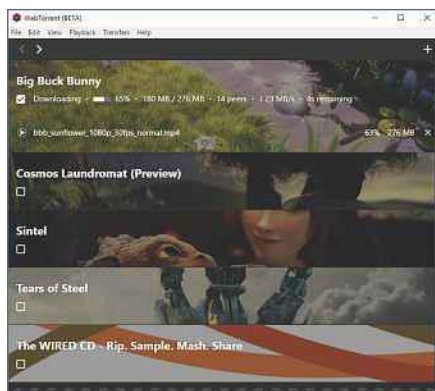
## TORRENTING TOOL

### WebTorrent Desktop 0.20

[webtorrent.io](http://webtorrent.io)

Windows 7/8.1/10, MacOS or Linux

BitTorrent is now owned by a cryptocurrency company and other torrenting tools frequently come bundled with junk, so WebTorrent Desktop is a godsend. This free and friendly program makes it easy to stream torrents from legal audio and video sites such as the Internet Archive, Creative Commons and Librivox, as well as files



*WebTorrent Desktop offers a clean and friendly way to stream torrents*

from users of other torrenting services. Controls are kept to a minimum so even torrenting novices will be streaming in no time. There are no adverts and you can even stream content to your Chromecast, AirPlay or DLNA server. Considering WebTorrent Desktop is still at an early stage of development, it already looks very impressive.

## MUSIC-NOTATION SOFTWARE

### MuseScore 2.2.1

[musescore.org](http://musescore.org)

Windows 7/8.1/10, MacOS or Linux

MuseScore isn't strictly new – it's been around since 2009 – but it's definitely new to *Web User* and we'd like to address that oversight by raving now about this superb program for writing, playing and sharing sheet music (it's also just released a new version, 2.3 Beta). Built by the open-source community (first on SourceForge, then GitHub from 2013), MuseScore is completely free and unlimited, offering tools for composing music for piano, guitar, orchestra, choir and more.

Considering how many features it packs in, MuseScore is surprisingly easy to use, using a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) environment, with clickable buttons for different



*Budding composers can write music with MuseScore and help develop the software*

notes, templates for various types of score and a demo wizard to get you started, as well as online tutorials written by users. Its functionality can be extended further using dozens of plugins from the MuseScore website – such as the always handy Diminished Harmonica – and you can either use your computer keyboard or a MIDI device to bang out your masterpiece.

## ASTRONOMY SOFTWARE

### Gaia Sky 2.0.1

[bit.ly/gaia453](http://bit.ly/gaia453)

Windows XP/Vista/7/8.1/10, MacOS or Linux

This incredible astronomy project from the European Space Agency offers a real-time three-dimensional map of our galaxy, the Milky Way, and ultimately aims to chart around one billion stars. Using data from the Gaia satellite, it's open-source and free ("and will stay this way"), which means anyone can contribute to its development through its GitHub repository.

The software lets you move freely through the cosmos to explore stars, planets, moons, atmospheres and orbits, with helpful labels that explain what you're seeing. You can switch between a choice of viewing modes, record the paths you take to play back later and experiment with lighting effects and music. The latest version of Gaia Sky makes navigation smoother and uses improved 3D maps to visualise data such as dust density.



*Explore the galaxy from the comfort of your PC using the amazing Gaia Sky*

## HACK AND OPTIMISE WINDOWS

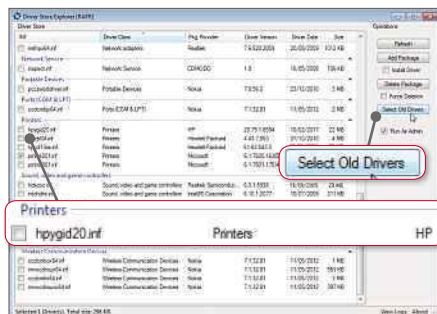
### DRIVER MANAGER

#### DriverStore Explorer 0.9.10

[bit.ly/driver453](http://bit.ly/driver453)

Windows 7/8.1/10

The Driver Store folder in Windows is where all your device drivers are kept – hence the ‘Installing device driver software’ message you see when you connect new hardware to your PC. It’s full of files with gobbledygook names (see for yourself at C:\Windows\System32\DriverStore\FileRepository) and becomes bloated over time. Randomly deleting its contents can cause serious problems, though, so you should instead install the fantastic free tool DriverStore Explorer, which makes the folder much friendlier to browse. It lists the name, type, manufacturer, version number and installation date of every device driver, and lets you easily remove entries you no longer need. The program launches in Read-only mode, so if you want to delete old drivers, click Run As Admin and restart it in administrator mode.



*DriverStore Explorer lets you easily delete old and unnecessary device drivers*

### SYSTEM TWEAKER

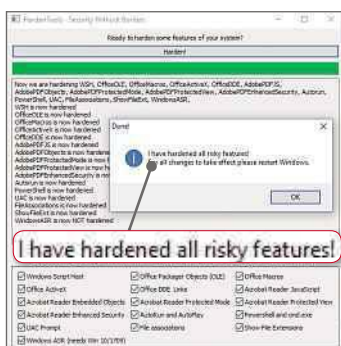
#### Hardentools 1.1

[bit.ly/hardentools453](http://bit.ly/hardentools453)

Windows XP/Vista/7/8.1/10

Windows may seem sturdy on the surface, but security-wise it’s as weak as a kitten, with numerous built-in tools

that leave your PC vulnerable to hackers. Hardentools beefs up your system by disabling Windows tools that are more risky than useful, such as AutoPlay,



*Hardentools disables risky features*

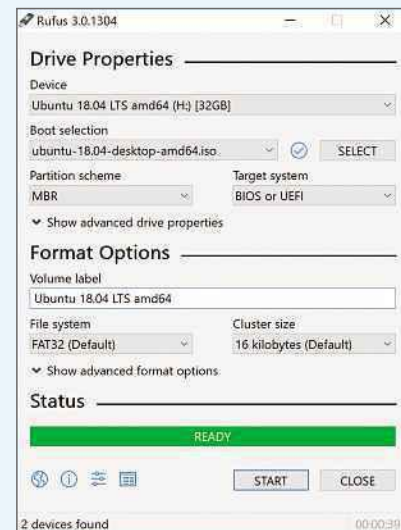
### BOOTABLE USB CREATOR

#### Rufus 3

[rufus.akeo.ie](http://rufus.akeo.ie)

Windows 7/8.1/10

We just recently featured Rufus in last issue’s Best Free Software, but it’s worth recommending again as an example of how collaborative development on GitHub can shape a program for the better. The new version of this nifty free tool, which lets you create bootable USB drives using ISO images, has been redesigned with a smarter, simpler interface; resolves problems identified and fixed by its GitHub community; and supports additional ISO formats. Rufus has dropped support for XP and Vista, but older compatible versions can still be downloaded.



*GitHub’s community helped to refine and improve the new version of Rufus*

Office macros and ActiveX. Before you run the program, make sure you disable any options you’re not sure about. You should also create a System Restore point, in case it ‘hardens’ too much and you lose access to important features.

### SYSTEM OPTIMISER

#### XTR Toolbox 2.1

[bit.ly/xtrtoolbox453](http://bit.ly/xtrtoolbox453)

Windows 7/8.1/10

Despite its unattractive colour scheme – brown is never an inspiring look and the alternative green theme isn’t much better – XTR Toolbox is an impressively versatile suite of tools for cleaning and speeding up your PC. As well as standard system-optimisation tools including a startup manager, program uninstaller and a junk-files cleaner, the software offers several features you won’t find in similar software, such as letting you edit the Hosts file, remove unwanted Chrome extensions, uninstall Windows 10 apps and delete telemetry



*XTR Toolbox is a suite of tools for optimising your PC’s performance*

updates that compromise your privacy.

### MEMORY OPTIMISER

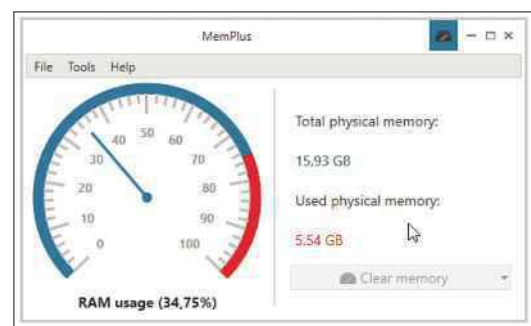
#### MemPlus 1.3.3

[bit.ly/memplus453](http://bit.ly/memplus453)

Windows 7/8.1/10

If your PC often freezes, crashes or takes ages to perform simple tasks, it’s likely that you’re running out of memory. Help is at hand from MemPlus, which reduces the amount of RAM being used by the software on your system, to free up memory for you. It works by monitoring how much memory is currently being used from the total available, with a speedometer indicating when you slip into the red. You can then click ‘Clear memory’ to close down unnecessary background processes and reclaim memory, or else set MemPlus to optimise your memory usage automatically.

Note that the program requires .NET Framework 4.7.1 – you’ll be prompted to install this if you don’t have it already.



*Free up memory to make your PC run more smoothly using MemPlus*





## ENHANCE YOUR BROWSING & CHAT

### WEB BROWSER

#### Sushi Browser 0.18

[sushib.me](http://sushib.me)

Windows 7/8.1/10, MacOS or Linux

Some browsers try to be all things to all people and end up either overloaded with features or pale imitations of more popular software. Sushi Browser takes an entirely different approach by focusing its efforts on a single purpose: to help you use your screen to its maximum capacity.

It achieves this using a system called 'multi panel', which not only lets you open multiple web pages side by side, but detach them into movable panels, middle-click links to open them in adjacent panels, swap panels around or align them, and even synchronise the scrolling of open web pages. Despite some odd translation on its GitHub page, this new browser is certainly worth a look, and includes useful tools such as a built-in ad blocker, mouse gestures and a multi-part downloader.

As for its quirky name, Sushi Browser's developer says it's so-called because "its goal is to be as fantastic as sushi", although we reckon it probably also relates to the way it presents web content as a platter of bite-size morsels.



Maximise your screen space using Sushi Browser's multi-panel feature

### MESSAGING TOOL

#### Franz 5 Beta

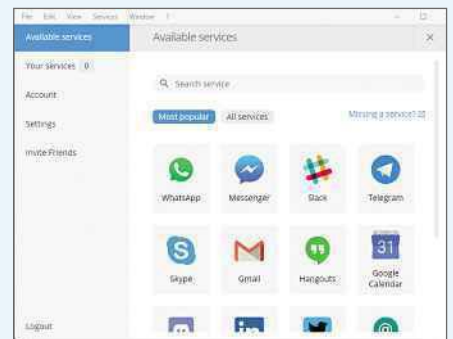
[meetfranz.com](http://meetfranz.com)

Windows XP/Vista/7/8.1/10, MacOS or Linux

There are so many different email, chat and messaging services these days that keeping track of all your contacts and communication across all of them can prove confusing and time-consuming, not to mention a massive drain on system memory.

The fantastic Franz solves this first-world problem by bringing together more than 60 messaging tools in one place, including Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, Gmail, Telegram, Skype and Hangouts. This allows you to easily keep track of all your accounts, so you never miss (or fail to reply to) a message again, while useful extras include keyboard shortcuts for switching between services and built-in spell checking.

Franz is free to use, and free of ads, although you can support its development through a subscription, and the latest version offers more scope for customisation through plugins. Bugs can be reported and help requested via the Franz GitHub repository ([bit.ly/franz453](http://bit.ly/franz453)).



The fantastic Franz lets you manage all your messaging accounts in one place

### BOOKMARK-SYNCING TOOL

#### xBrowserSync 1.3.1

[www.xbrowsersync.org](http://www.xbrowsersync.org)

Chrome, Android, iOS

Earlier this year, LogMeIn (which also owns LastPass) closed the popular bookmark-syncing service Xmarks, leaving many loyal users bereft. If you're looking for an alternative that isn't at the mercy of a callous corporation, then open-source xBrowserSync is ideal and more trustworthy than Google's own tool.

This free Chrome extension and mobile app syncs your bookmarks across devices and encrypts your data in transit using 256-bit AES encryption so no-one

else can access it. You don't need to sign up to use the service – just enter an encryption password and xBrowserSync's backup-and-restore feature ensures you won't lose your bookmarks if something goes wrong. The tool's GitHub community is currently working on a Firefox add-on and the ability to sync additional browser data. ■



xBrowserSync syncs bookmarks securely across devices

## NEXT ISSUE

on sale Wednesday 25 July 2018

# YOUR BEST WI-FI EVER!

The 8 things you must do to get stronger, faster and more reliable Wi-Fi around your home



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# Best of British archives

From vintage TV shows to medieval manuscripts, **Steve Clark** unearths new old content in online archives



## Explore Mayan heritage with the British Museum

[bit.ly/maya453](http://bit.ly/maya453)

The British Museum's online collection spans millions of artefacts, catalogues and research projects, including the new interactive Maya Research Project, powered by Google Arts & Culture – a beautifully presented exhibition that charts Mayan heritage.

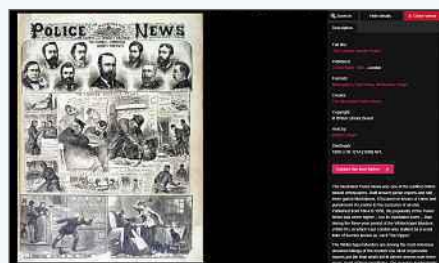
The museum's extensive digital archive lets you bone up on upcoming exhibitions, too, such as the bloody reign of 'psychotic bookworm' and ruler of 7th century Assyria, Ashurbanipal.



## Discover real history at the British Library

[bit.ly/disclit453](http://bit.ly/disclit453)

The British Library's 'Discovering Literature' portal is a rolling resource of literary and historical collections from the Medieval period to the 20th Century. The digitised copies of manuscripts are superbly presented and regularly updated – the latest entry covers texts from the Restoration and 18th Century, including author Fanny Burney's harrowing 12-page description of her mastectomy without anaesthetic. Elsewhere, you can explore coverage of Jack the Ripper in *The Illustrated Police News*, the only surviving copy of epic poem Beowulf and British 'treasures in full' ([bit.ly/treasures453](http://bit.ly/treasures453)).



## Educate Yourself with BBC Archives

[bit.ly/tuedoc453](http://bit.ly/tuedoc453)

Enter the BBC's online archive to explore flashes of a bygone age, half-remembered celebrities and nostalgia-inducing game shows that map the Beeb's output since 1950. One recent upload, the Tuesday Documentary series, spans topics ranging from the Lindbergh kidnapping to Ealing Comedies. Other documentaries featuring Orson Welles, Kenneth Williams and a young Ronald Reagan also make great viewing.



## Watch history in the making at British Pathé

[bit.ly/pathe453](http://bit.ly/pathe453)

Newsreels instantly make us think of British Pathé, and its website's fascinating 'On This Day' blog delivers relevant footage from historical world events. Thanks to a deal struck in April, British Pathé also holds Reuters footage from 1910 to 1980 – with its additional 200,000 films, you can watch everything from the Titanic's ill-fated departure to Thatcher's 1983 landslide election. The archive's stand-out feature



is its wide-ranging video collection, covering everything from World War One to sport ([bit.ly/pathecol453](http://bit.ly/pathecol453)).

## Celebrate the NHS with the BFI

[bit.ly/bfinhs453](http://bit.ly/bfinhs453)

Tucked within the free BFI Player is an awe-inspiring historical collection including the 'Demonstration of Suffragettes' and the first ever *Alice in Wonderland* film. The newly added 'NHS on Film' is a real gem, celebrating the National Health Service's 70th birthday this year. This section, which includes training footage and interviews with healthcare professionals and patients, provides exceptional content for studying the history of the NHS.



## WE ARE NOT AMUSED...

Ever wondered what a monarch really thinks? Queen Victoria, the perpetually unamused ruler (or was she?), maintained a journal from mid-1832 right up until the final days of her reign ([bit.ly/vicj453](http://bit.ly/vicj453)). The digitised journals are easily searched by year and date, with helpful printed text besides each extract. Inside, you'll find eye-opening thoughts, feelings, engagements and even sketches that humanise our second-longest reigning monarch. In true British fashion, she discusses the weather more or less every day!



# Best tab managers for Chrome

Before browser tabs, we had too many windows open; now, we have one window with too many tabs open.

**Andy Shaw** finds out the best way to manage your tabs – to free up resources and bookmark your favourites



**OneTab** | [bit.ly/onet453](http://bit.ly/onet453) | ★★★★★  
FEATURES ★★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★★

WebUser  
GOLD  
AWARD

## What we liked:

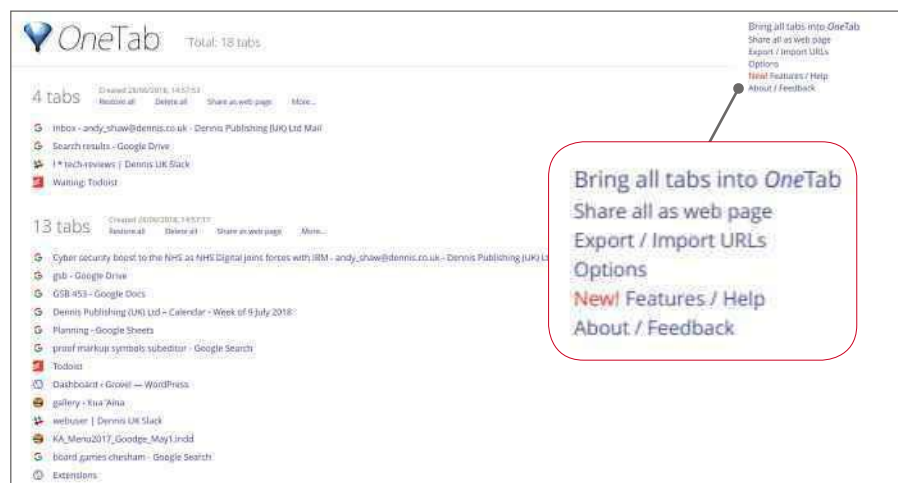
OneTab claims that it can reduce the amount of memory your browser uses by up to 95%. That essentially depends on how many tabs you've got open, but if you're the

tab-happy type, we can easily imagine how this efficient add-on might be able to hit such an impressive target.

OneTab initially looks like a bit of a one-trick pony. Click its icon and all your tabs are condensed into a single list on a single tab. You can click each item in the list to restore it or click the 'Restore all' link to reopen them all. If you have a lot of tabs on the list, this might take a few seconds, but it's still a relatively quick process.

So far, so useful – but if you right-click the add-on's button, you get even more control from a menu that offers a variety of options for fine-tuning which tabs get collapsed when you click the OneTab icon, such as whether pinned tabs are exempted.

The single tab you're left with after clicking the OneTab button is basically a web page, so you can click a link to publish it online for sharing. The page is given its own space on OneTab's servers, so you can send the link to



others or bookmark it to save for later.

We loved the simplicity of OneTab. There's no need to set up an account or fiddle with a complicated interface. Instead, you get a simple tool that frees up resources and can be used to save tabs for future perusal.

## How it can be improved:

For some reason, the version of the list that you can save and share with others doesn't have a link to open all the tabs at once, so you have to open each one individually. If it's a long list, this will take a lot of clicks.

## OUR VERDICT

OneTab provides a one-click solution to having far too many tabs open on your screen, by shrinking them down to a single page that you can close when you're done or bookmark if you want to save it. The add-on is simple, clean and works exactly how you'd expect and want it to, providing a basic function that expands into extra features if you choose to customise it to your precise requirements.



**Tabli** | [bit.ly/tabli453](http://bit.ly/tabli453) | ★★★★★☆  
FEATURES ★★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★★

**WebUser  
SILVER  
AWARD**

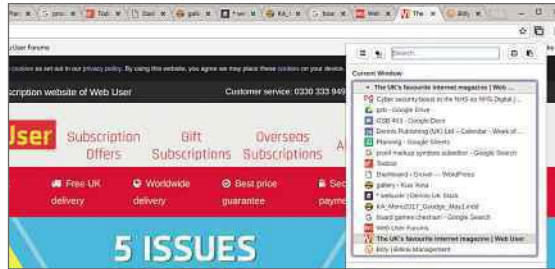
## What we liked:

Tabli is a powerful tab manager that stores groups of tabs so you can come back to them at a later date.

If you're already the kind of organised person who is able to group together tabs for specific tasks in separate browser windows – rather than having masses of open tabs crammed together in a single window – then Tabli provides an elegant way to go about your work.

Click the Tabli icon to open a pop-out box with all the current open tabs listed. When you click the box next to the group's heading – as if you were going to put a tick in it – you'll be given the option to name and save the group, so you can open it again at a later date.

You don't need to create an account for this to happen, which is a bonus, and Tabli will sync your tab groupings between different devices, as long as they're all signed into the same Google account.



## How it can be improved:

There's a search box but it only searches the headings of the open tabs, rather than the contents of the pages, which isn't that useful unless you have very long lists of tabs.

## OUR VERDICT

Tabli is more sophisticated than our Gold Award winner, particularly because it can sync with your browser, so if you only want to save lists of tabs, it's well worth considering. In the final analysis, however, we love OneTab's lean simplicity too much for Tabli to challenge its supremacy.

**The Great Suspender** | [bit.ly/susp453](http://bit.ly/susp453) | ★★★★★☆  
FEATURES ★★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★★

**WebUser  
BRONZE  
AWARD**

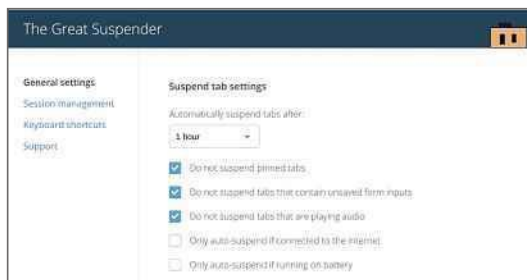
## What we liked:

The Great Suspender (TGS) gets no extra points for having the best name of any Chrome add-on ever, but it does get

them for doing what OneTab doesn't: automatically tidying your tabs as you neglect to close them.

Usefully, TGS doesn't close the pages, as OneTab does, but simply suspends them, replacing each tab with a web page consisting of a link that you click to reactivate it. To open a suspended page, just click its tab (which displays a faded tab icon to show that it's sleeping), and click the link to reload it. While its suspended, the page doesn't hog as much memory.

You can set TGS to pause a page after a set length of inactivity, so you don't have to manually pause it yourself, though you can also right-click to suspend groups of tabs if you want to instantly recapture some browser resources.



## How it can be improved:

What The Great Suspender doesn't do is offer a way of saving and restoring tabs at a later date. However, if you're happy with your current bookmarking habits, this may not bother you.

## OUR VERDICT

The Great Suspender is all about reclaiming resources – it won't save your tabs from one session to the next, but it will do its job without needing to be asked. Since most of us rarely mean to have so many tabs open, this is a useful trick.

## BEST OF THE REST

### Toby for Chrome

[bit.ly/toby453](http://bit.ly/toby453)

Toby is probably the most feature-packed of the tools we've reviewed here and it certainly has the slickest-looking interface. However, it's a bit over the top for a tool that essentially just saves a list of tabs and reopens them again at a later date. It also encourages you to set up an account, which we think is unnecessary.



### Tab Manager Plus for Chrome

[bit.ly/tabmp453](http://bit.ly/tabmp453)

Click the toolbar button for Tab Manager Plus and a little window opens, displaying your current tabs as icons in a box. If you open tabs in a new window, they'll be displayed in a new box below it, with the add-on syncing this information across all your browsers. The default setting shows the number of open tabs superimposed over the Tab Manager Plus icon, which we found confusing because it makes it look like a security tool.



### Session Buddy

[bit.ly/ses453](http://bit.ly/ses453)

Session Buddy automatically saves all the tabs you had open in your last three sessions, so you don't even need to save your tabs manually, though you can still do this to create a more permanent record. It's a lot easier than using Chrome's built-in History tool. However, it doesn't do anything for saving resources and its search tool is only relevant to the session you've got highlighted.



# Maximise the **QUALITY** of your media files

Don't settle for less than the best. **Wayne Williams** explains how to override default settings to get the best quality possible from your photos, videos and audio files

## Capture photos in RAW format on your phone

Many photographers prefer to shoot in RAW image format because it doesn't compress or reduce the picture quality, as JPEG does, and it captures all the image data recorded by the camera's sensor. A RAW file is rather like undeveloped film and requires your

computer, rather than your camera, to generate the image file. And while RAW used to be a feature limited to high-end DSLRs, it's now possible to capture photos in RAW format on your iPhone or Android device.

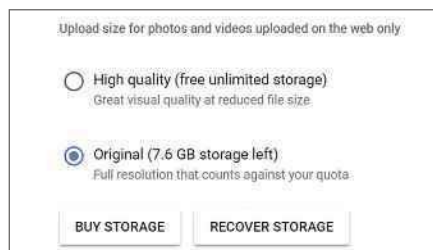
To do this in iOS, you'll need an app such as the free Flannl RAW Camera ([bit.ly/flannl453](http://bit.ly/flannl453)).

This requires an iPhone 6S or newer, running iOS 10 or later. Launch the app, then tap the cog button to switch between RAW, RAW+JPEG or JPEG-only formats.

Android users will need to be running at least Lollipop. Some devices allow RAW shooting through the stock camera app, but if yours doesn't, you can use a third-party app such as the free Open Camera ([bit.ly/opcam453](http://bit.ly/opcam453)) to capture photos at the highest quality.

## Improve the quality of photo uploads

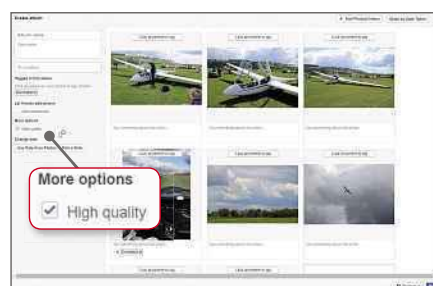
Google Photos gives you free unlimited online storage for your photos, but the catch is that images are stored at 'High quality', which has a reduced file size. If you want to store your pictures at the original quality, the files will count against your Google Drive and Photos storage, so you could run out of space.



### Change the default setting in Google Photos to upload images at original size

To choose between 'High quality' or 'Original', and to switch between them, open your browser and go to [photos.google.com/settings](https://photos.google.com/settings), then make your choice. This page also shows your remaining storage. If you don't have enough, you can try to recover some space by compressing original items to high quality or buying additional storage. You get 15GB for free, while 100GB costs £15.99 a year. You can also upgrade to 1TB for £79.99 a year.

Facebook is a great place to store photos, not least because it presents them to you as memories as the years go by. However, it also heavily compresses the photos you upload, which is understandable given how many images the social network must have to store. There are a couple of things you can do to reduce the impact of the compression. First, upload images that are 720, 960 or 2048 pixels wide (the largest size is best). Cover photos should be 851 x 315 pixels and under 100KB to avoid compression. When you create a new album for your photos, select the High Quality option.



### Stop Facebook over-compressing your photos by uploading at High Quality

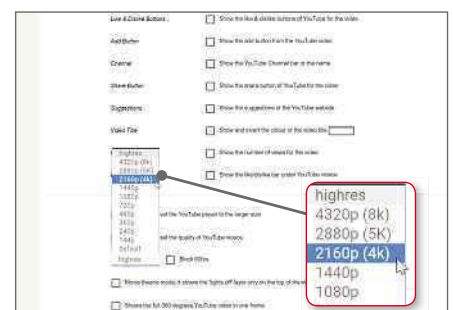
Click Photo/Video Album at the top of your News Feed or timeline, select the items you want to add to Facebook and click the 'High quality' option on the left before posting.

## Force videos to play at the highest quality

You can manually set YouTube to play videos at the highest quality by clicking the cog at the bottom of the player window and selecting the quality you require from the list. To save you fiddling with this each time, force YouTube to play videos at the highest resolution possible by installing the excellent add-on Turn Off the Lights ([www.turnoffthelights.com](http://www.turnoffthelights.com)). It's available for Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Opera, Vivaldi and more. Right-click its button on the toolbar, go to Options and scroll down to 'Automatically set the quality of YouTube videos'. Click the box below and select the quality you require.

If you pay to watch Netflix in 4K Ultra HD, but the quality of the video is poor, you can improve things by opening your account and locating Playback Settings under Your Profile. You'll have the option of switching between Auto (which will probably be the default), Low, Medium or High. Make sure you select this last one.

If you're watching in your browser, you should be aware that there are some restrictions that limit the quality. Chrome only allows up to 720p, for example. You can check the full list of



### Turn Off the Lights lets you force YouTube to play videos at the highest quality



## TOP QUALITY ★ GUARANTEED ★

browsers and available resolutions at [bit.ly/netflix453](http://bit.ly/netflix453).

### Download videos at the highest quality

Copyright holders have clamped down on third-party services that let you download videos from YouTube, but it's still possible to save good-quality local copies without having to subscribe to its new paid-for service. Provided you promise to keep downloaded videos for personal use only, the best option is 4K Video Downloader ([bit.ly/4kvideo453](http://bit.ly/4kvideo453)), which is available for Windows, MacOS and Linux, and is packed with useful features. Unlike similar tools, it lets you download videos from YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook and other sites at the highest quality possible – up to 8K, where available – and use its Smart Mode feature to download multiple videos at your preferred settings in one click. To use the program, just copy and paste a URL, choose a quality and format, and click Download.



**4K Video Downloader lets you grab online videos at the maximum resolution**

### Maximise audio quality when streaming music

These days, there are lots of excellent music-streaming services to choose from and most offer the ability to play tracks at a higher quality, which you'll appreciate if you have a good set of headphones. However, you're likely to need a paid-for premium account to take

advantage of the higher-quality audio.

Spotify gives paying listeners a choice of options, depending on how you listen to the service. Desktop users can switch to High Quality (which uses 320kbps) by clicking the arrow in the top-right corner, selecting settings and flipping the switch under Music Quality. Android and iOS users can access the settings by tapping the cog and selecting Music Quality. You



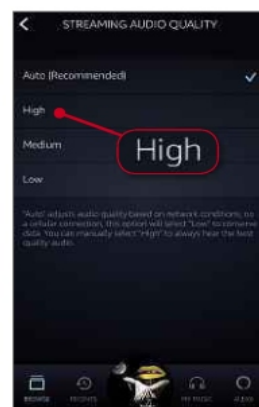
**Pay for Spotify and you can override its default setting for music-streaming quality**

can choose from Automatic Quality (dependent on your network connection), Low Quality (24kbps – HE-AACv2 format), Normal Quality (96kbps – Ogg Vorbis format), High Quality (160kbps – Ogg Vorbis format) and Extreme Quality

(320kbps – Ogg Vorbis format). If you use the web player, you're stuck with the defaults, which are AAC 128kbps for free users and 256kbps for Premium.

Apple Music users on iOS can switch to High Quality over 3G and 4G by tapping Music, then Mobile Data. Android users will need to tap the menu button, then go to Settings, Playback to find this setting.

Amazon Music users can change the streaming quality by tapping the three-dot icon in the top-right corner of the mobile app, opening Settings and expanding Streaming Audio Quality. You can choose from Auto, High, Medium or Low. You don't need to be an Amazon Music Unlimited subscriber to change this setting. ■



**Amazon lets you stream music at high quality instead of its automatic setting**

## THE DOWNSIDES OF OVERRIDING DEFAULTS

Working around default settings using the tactics we've covered here will deliver higher quality images, audio and video, but there are some downsides to be aware of. For a start, higher-quality media takes up much more storage space, so downloads will be slower and streaming video may buffer instead of playing smoothly if the quality is too high for your internet connection to handle.

If you're streaming songs or video over a mobile data connection, the higher quality will eat into your monthly allowance significantly quicker. That may not be a problem, depending on the size of your data plan, but it's certainly something to



be aware of.

RAW images saved in DNG (Digital Negative) format are not only significantly larger than their JPEG equivalents, but many image editors and webmail services can't open them, so check before you capture images in that format.





# Practical WebUser

16 pages of workshops, tips, projects and problem solving

## Create and share Firefox themes

Mozilla has released a new Test Pilot experiment, which lets you change the colour of elements in Firefox's interface. Here's what you need to know

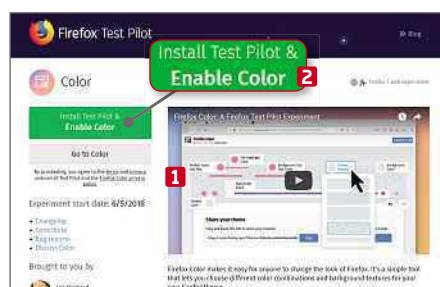
Firefox Color: [bit.ly/color453](https://bit.ly/color453) | ⌚ 10 mins | 🦊 Firefox

Software developers regularly test new features in-house before making them available to the public. Occasionally, they allow intrepid users to test them via beta releases or experiments. Mozilla's Test Pilot scheme ([testpilot.firefox.com](https://testpilot.firefox.com)) lets you try new features in Firefox. The most recent experiment (at the time of writing)

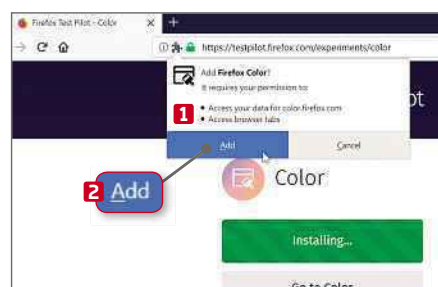
is Color, which lets you set a colour for every part of your browser, and make and share new themes. You don't need a special version of Firefox – the current stable release is fine – and the software works with other builds, too. There's no guarantee that Color will become part of Firefox in the future, and Mozilla could end the testing at any point in the future.

### HEX AND RGB COLOURS

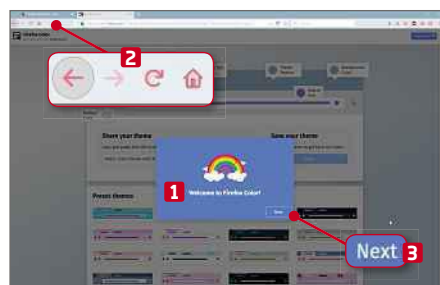
If you know the Hex or RGB values of a required colour, you can enter them directly. You can also choose any of the suggested colours underneath



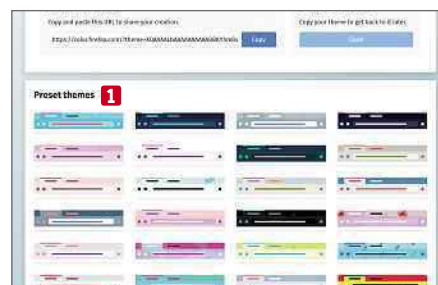
**1** To get started, visit the Test Pilot page ([testpilot.firefox.com](https://testpilot.firefox.com)) in Firefox. Color is listed as one of the options. You can install it here, but click the 'View details' link instead to go to its page and see an overview of the experiment. **1** Click the green button to 'Install Test Pilot & Enable Color'. **2**



**2** You'll be asked if you want to add Test Pilot to your browser and will be shown the permissions required. Click Add. Test Pilot is installed, followed by the Color add-on. View the required permissions (they are harmless enough), **1** then click the Add button. **2**



**3** Color starts and a greeting message pops up. **1** Notice that the colours in Firefox's interface have all changed. **2** This gives you a good idea of the sort of thing you can do with the add-on. Click Next **3** to step through a simple guide to getting started.



**4** Click All Set on the final step and you're good to go. At first glance, Color might look a little complicated but it really couldn't be easier to use. The best place to start is by clicking any of the 'Preset themes' shown at the bottom of the Color page. **1** The new theme is applied immediately.



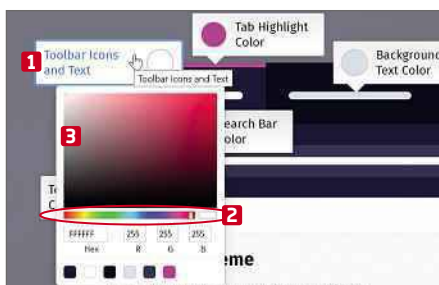
**5** Click the different themes to get an idea of what's possible, until you find one you like the look of. We've chosen the top-right preset. **1** You can customise any preset or create an entirely new theme. Click one of the interface elements shown at the top of the page. **2**



**ADD-ON BUTTON**  
You can get to your Color page at any time by clicking this button or going to [color.firefox.com](https://color.firefox.com)

**UNDO/REDO**  
You can experiment as much as you like - the Undo and Redo buttons let you move backwards and forwards through your previous changes

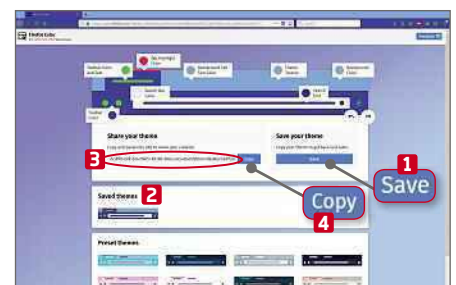
**REMOVE A THEME**  
Clear any of your saved themes by hovering over one and clicking the X that appears



**6** Start with 'Toolbar Icons and Text'. **1** Click this option and a colour box appears. Use the slider **2** to choose the colour you want, then click inside the main box **3** to pick a shade. The selected element in the browser will change colour immediately.



**7** Once you're happy with the colour of that element, click a different option. The Toolbar Color, **1** Background Color, **2** and Search Bar Color **3** make some of the biggest changes to the browser's appearance. Theme Texture **4** lets you pick a background style for your browser. Click one of the suggested choices. **5**



**8** Play around with the different elements as much as you like until you get a result you're happy with. Click Save **1** to save your theme. You can then access it at any time through 'Saved themes'. **2** Share your theme with friends by sending them its URL. **3** Click Copy **4** to save it to the clipboard.



# Leave no trace of your online activities



Trace: [bit.ly/trch453](https://bit.ly/trch453) (Chrome), [bit.ly/trff453](https://bit.ly/trff453) (Firefox) | ⌚ 20 mins | Chrome Firefox

**S**taying anonymous on the web is tricky, because there's an arms race going on between those who want to help protect your privacy and those who want to know everything about you. Unscrupulous tracking tools are getting better at recognising the unique fingerprints you don't even realise you're leaving behind.

Trace is the latest privacy-focused blocking tool to take on these trackers. It uses a range of new tricks to stop your browser leaking information, and keeps up with the latest tools used by tricky websites and services, such as various types of browser fingerprinting and JavaScript tools that try to wheedle information out of your browser.



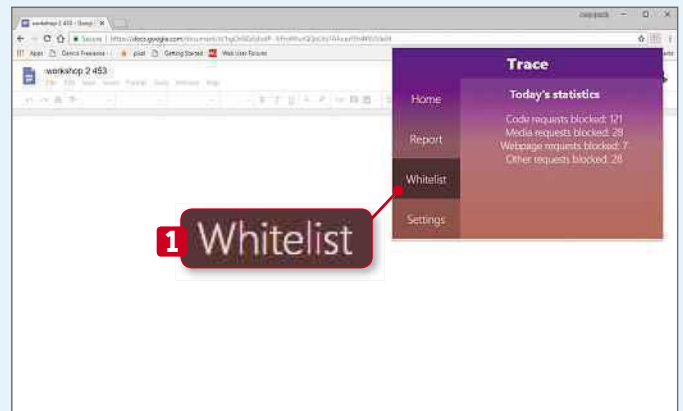
## EXPERT TIP

### Andy Shaw says

Trace's lurid colour scheme may not be to your taste, but there's nothing you can do about it just yet. However, the developer has promised to include a toned-down option in version 2.0 of the software. Keep an eye on [bit.ly/change453](https://bit.ly/change453) to stay up to date with that and any other changes.



**1** Install the add-on in Chrome or Firefox. After you've continued to browse the web for a bit, click the toolbar icon **1** to see a summary of what's been blocked so far. **2** The app blocks a range of potential problems including requests to run embedded code, media files (to stop the originating site tracking you) and suspicious websites.



**2** There's a chance that you might come across pages that you'd like to use but don't work properly when the add-on is running. We found that with Google Docs the site loads but no document appears. If this happens, and you still want to use the site, click the toolbar icon and select the Whitelist option. **1**



**3** The current root domain **1** (such as [google.com](https://www.google.com)) and the hostname **2** (which may include a subdomain, such as [docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)) are shown. You can choose whether to whitelist the entire domain **3** or just the hostname. **4** If you want to edit the domains at this stage, you can do that, too.



**4** Click Settings to get to the Trace Dashboard. **1** Here, you'll find further information on the status of the protection and what it's been blocking. **2** You'll also be able to see if there are any planned maintenance works scheduled **3** that might have an impact on the service.

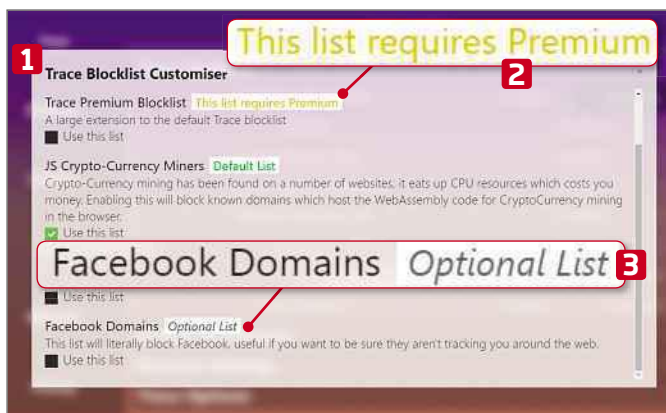




**5** If you want to edit domains you've already included on the Whitelist, click the Whitelist option **1** and select the domain you want to edit from the list. **2** Choose either Remove Domain **3** or Edit Domain. **4** If you want to add a new domain without visiting it, you can do that from here, too. **5**



**6** Click Settings **1** to explore all the options available to you. The default settings are fine, but it's worth exploring the four main headings in case you fancy tweaking something. Each section contains a range of tools – just click a name to see information about what it does. **2** Clicking Enabled or Disabled **3** toggles the tool into the opposite state.



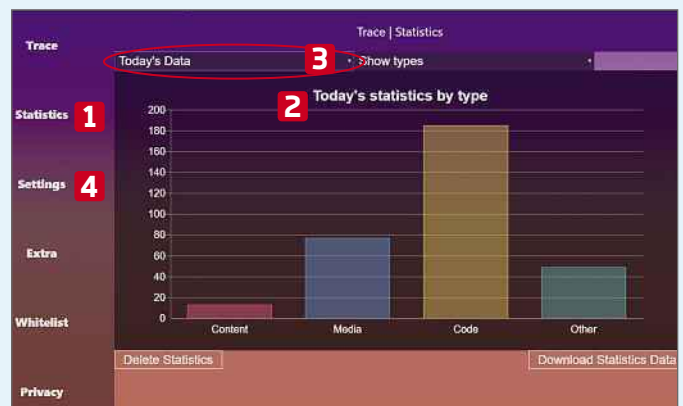
**7** Some of the settings have Advanced or Configure options. Click either word to open a pop-out window. **1** Some of the extra tools may only be available in the Premium version **2** but others, such as Facebook Domains, are optional. **3** This tool stops Facebook tracking you by blocking it completely.



**8** Check in the Browser Settings section that everything you want to use is switched on. For example, Network Prediction is Unprotected **1** by default, because it stops Chrome preloading websites, which slows it down. On fast connections it's a barely perceptible enhancement, though, so you might prefer to be protected.



**9** The Extra section **1** contains settings that are currently experimental, though they're switched on by default. At the moment, it includes TLD protection, **2** which stops you visiting sites hosted on Top Level Domains ('.com', '.org' and the like) that aren't considered trustworthy. TracePage **3** is necessary for some of the other tools to operate.



**10** If you're interested in Trace's performance, click the Statistics button. **1** You can view today's chart, **2** or collate data from as far back as a week ago via the drop-down menu. **3** If you'd rather not have the data gathered, you can switch it off by disabling Protection Statistics in the Trace Options section of the Settings. **4**



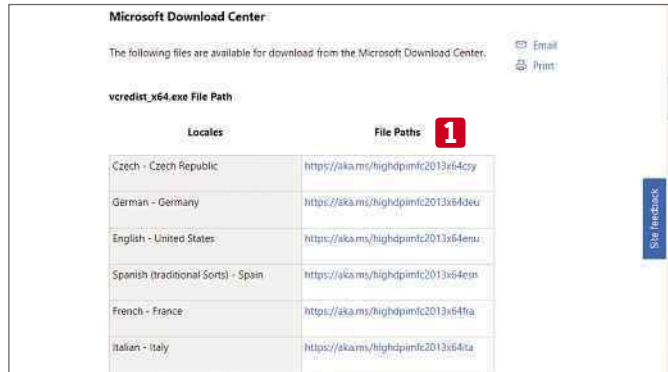
# Keep your computer's processor cool

As the temperature outside soars (which it was when we were writing this), you need to be extra vigilant about making sure your PC doesn't overheat. ThrottleStop is a handy free tool that tells you how hot your processor

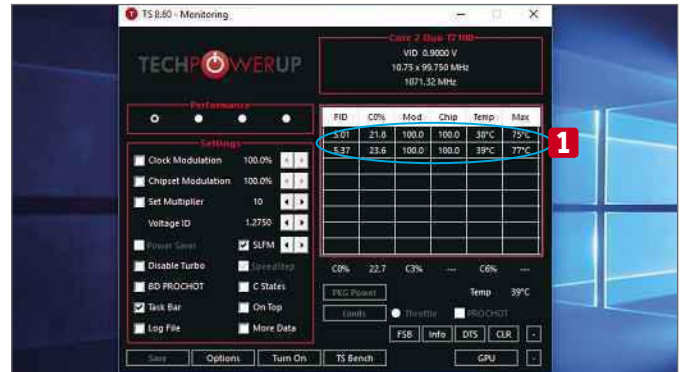
is getting, and lets you reduce the demands made on it by various tasks. This keeps your computer cooler, which will help it run in peak condition.



**ThrottleStop:** [bit.ly/throt453](http://bit.ly/throt453) | 10 mins | Windows 7, 8, 10



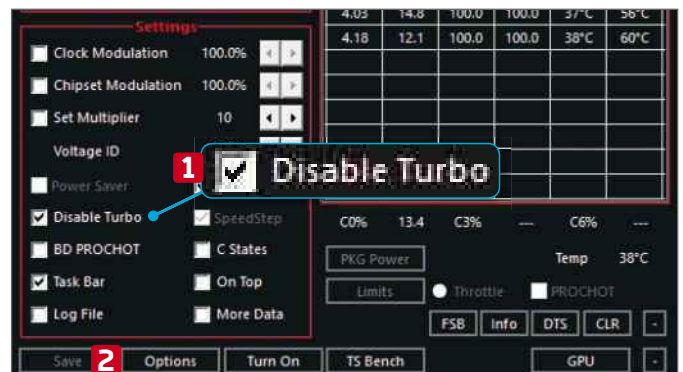
**1** Download and unzip the software to a new folder, then double-click ThrottleStop.exe. If it doesn't work and you get an error message about a missing '.dll' file – as happened on two of our test PCs – you need to install an update for Visual C++ from [bit.ly/vis453](http://bit.ly/vis453). **1**



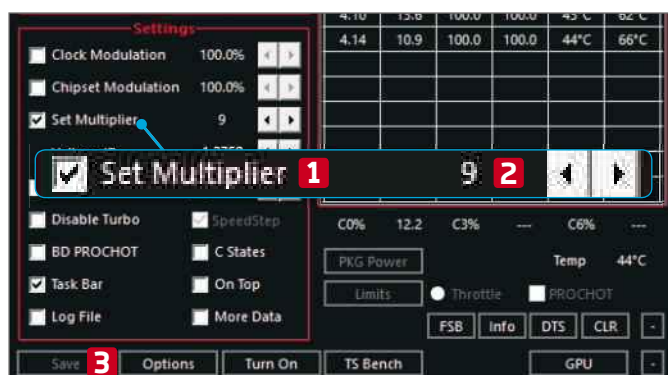
**2** When you first open ThrottleStop, you'll see a wall of numbers. Don't panic. The important information is in the table, where you'll see a list of your PC's processors. Ours is a dual-core processor, so there are two rows. **1** If you have a quad-core or better processor, expect to see more.



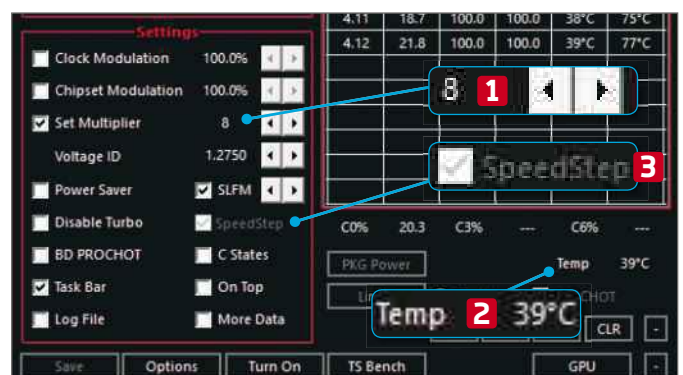
**3** The key column is Temp. **1** This is the current temperature your processor is operating at. The Max column **2** shows the highest temperature the software has recorded. Ideally, your processor should be around 45-50°C. Over 60°C is too hot and may shorten your processor's lifespan.



**4** ThrottleStop has a few tricks to help cool your PC. Tick Disable Turbo, **1** then click Save **2** to stop your processor entering turbo mode. Turbo mode lets you get through tasks faster but it increases your processor's temperature and can kick in automatically if your processor is under stress.



**5** An overclocked PC will push the hardware to its limits. ThrottleStop can underclock your processor, reducing its operating speed and bringing down the temperature, with minimal reduction in performance. Tick Set Multiplier **1** and lower the number. **2** Click Save. **3**



**6** If your PC stays stable, keep reducing the Set Multiplier **1** until your PC is operating at a comfortable temperature. **2** If the PC becomes unstable, increase the multiplier number to a happy medium between temperature and stability. Newer processors may need the SpeedStep box ticking, too. **3**

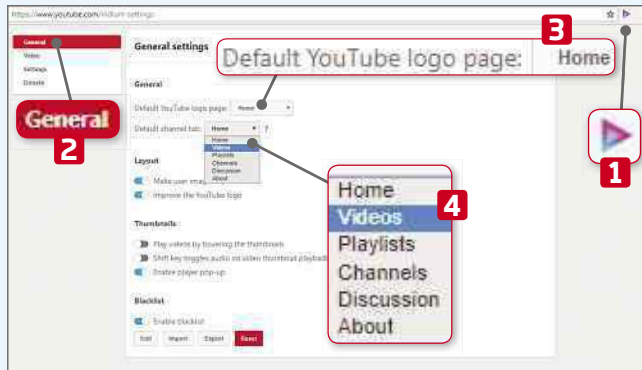


# Personalise your YouTube experience

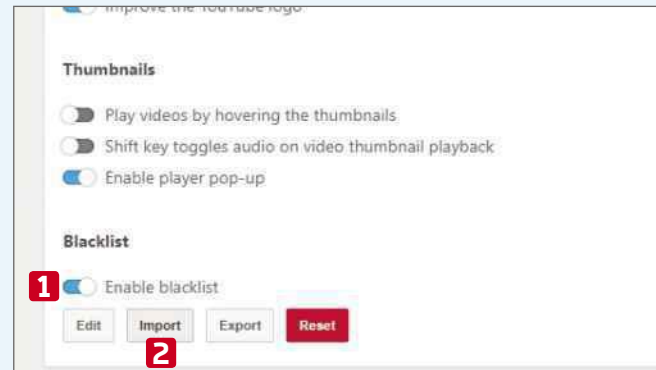
If YouTube has one major failing, it's the lack of advanced customisation options. Iridium is a Chrome extension that changes this, putting the 'you' back into YouTube. It offers almost total control over what you see and how it plays,

Iridium: [bit.ly/irid453](https://bit.ly/irid453) | 10 mins | Chrome

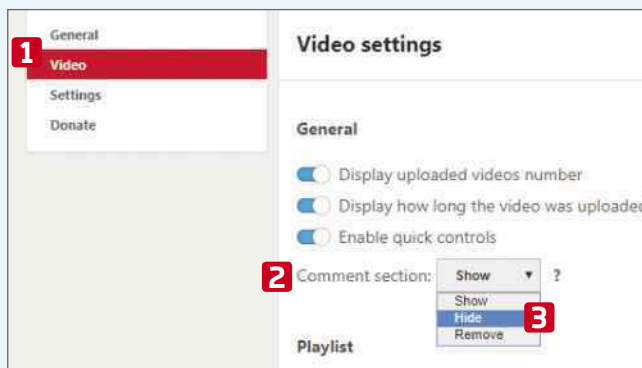
whether you want to reverse playlists to watch everything in order or play videos just by hovering your cursor over a thumbnail.



**1** Click the Iridium icon **1** and, under Settings, turn dark theme on or off and choose your preferred language. Click General **2** and use the drop-down menus to set which page opens when you click the YouTube banner logo **3** and your preferred tab when visiting a channel. **4**



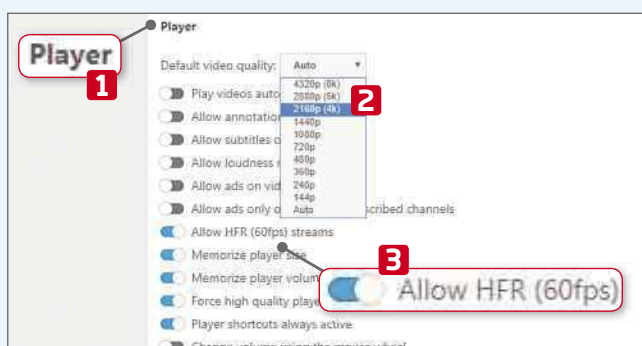
**2** To automatically block specific YouTube channels, click General. Under Blacklist, toggle the switch to 'Enable blacklist'. **1** Now, when you hover over a thumbnail on YouTube's home screen, you can click the X to blacklist the channel. You can also import an existing blacklist. **2**



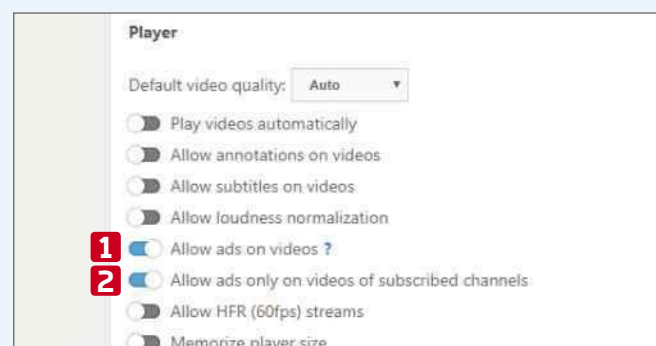
**3** To control whether comments are visible, click Video **1** and, under General, click 'Comment section'. **2** The default is set to Show. Hide masks all comments, adding a Show Comments button to each video. Remove hides all comments permanently, with no option to reveal them. **3**



**4** Switching on 'Enable quick controls' adds four buttons beneath a video including Full Browser mode **1** and a Thumbnail gallery, **2** ordered by resolution. Autoplay **3** can be toggled on or off, and playing or pausing videos enables Screenshot **4** for grabbing frames as still images.



**5** Scroll to the Player section in 'Video settings' **1** and set the switches to suit your preferences. For higher-quality playback, choose a 'Default video quality' **2** from 144p to 8K, and switch 'Allow HFR' (High Frame Rate) to On. **3** Where supported, videos now play at 60fps.

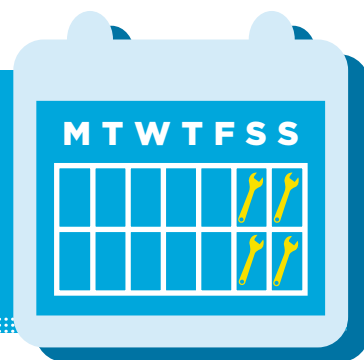


**6** The Player section includes a built-in ad blocker. **1** Toggle this to Off to stop all ads playing before videos. If you want to support selected YouTubers, toggle 'Allow ads only on videos of subscribed channels', **2** which overrides the 'Allow ads on videos' setting.



# Weekend Project

Get to grips with some serious tech tinkering to boost your computer and other devices

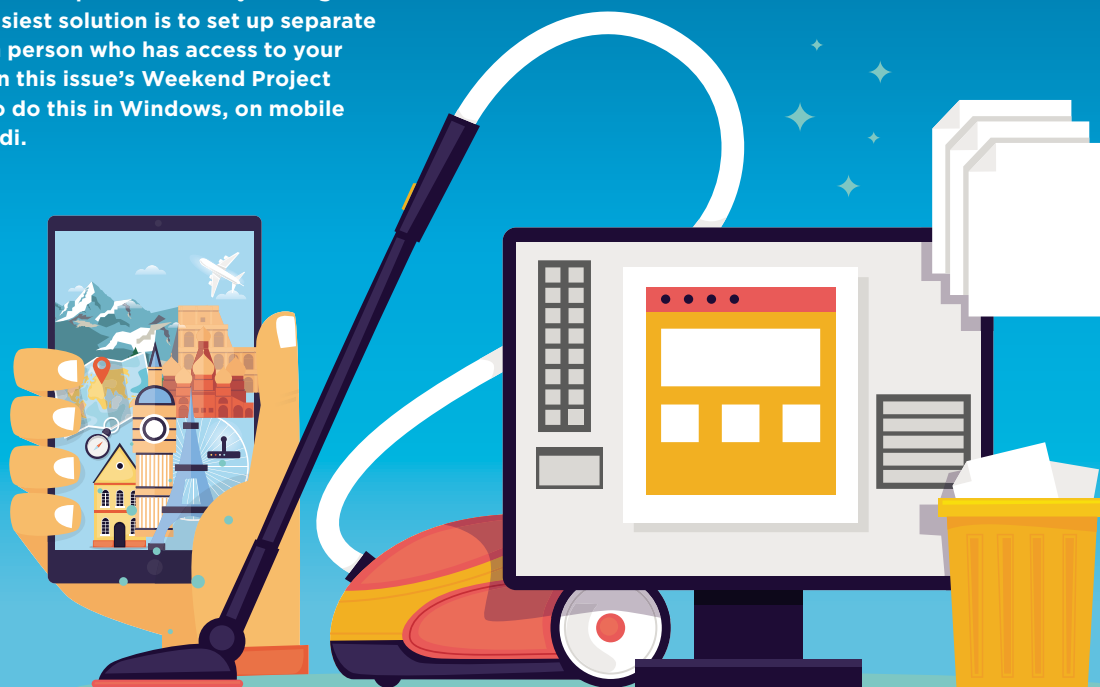


How to...

## Keep your devices free of other people's clutter

Don't put up with other people's junk. **Wayne Williams** shows you how to set up user accounts on your PC and mobile devices

If you share devices with other people, such as members of your family, you'll understand how frustrating it can be when unwanted apps appear on your phone or tablet; icons move around your desktop; your PC's default programs change; the Quick Access list fills with files and folders you don't recognise; and your browsing history is clogged with sites you've never visited. The list of potential annoyances goes on and on. The easiest solution is to set up separate accounts for each person who has access to your various devices. In this issue's Weekend Project we explain how to do this in Windows, on mobile devices and in Kodi.



### Create separate Windows accounts

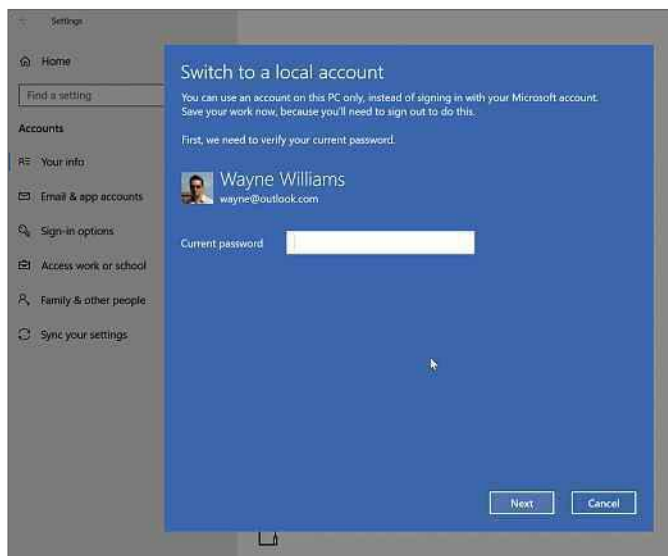
If you have a family computer that is used by several people in your household, you're probably all sharing a single administrator account. If you're in the least bit worried about privacy and security, this is best avoided and you should instead set up an individual standard account for each person. Windows makes this very easy – and not

only does this keep your files and folders separate, it also reduces the chances of malware wreaking havoc on your PC, because standard user accounts don't have the same free rein as administrator accounts. You can also set restrictions on what other users can do on the PC, including what software they can run.

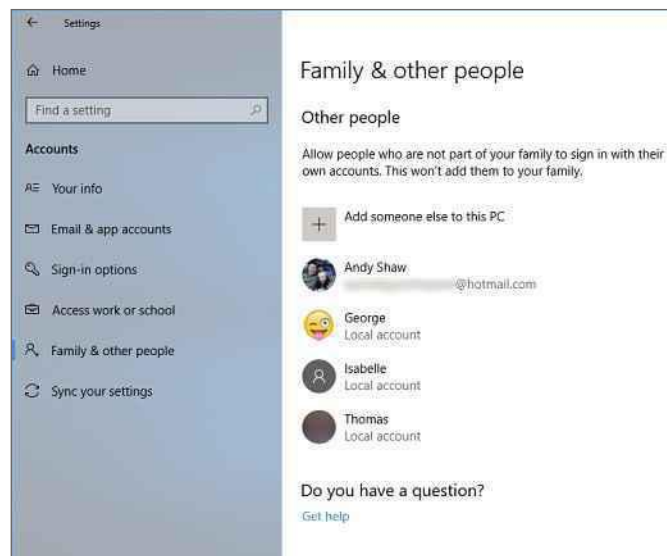
With Windows 10, the emphasis is on signing in with a Microsoft account. The benefits of this include easy access to

any services that use that account – such as Outlook.com, Skype, Xbox and Microsoft Store – and the ability to synchronise your settings between your various computers and devices. If you have access to more than one PC, signing in ensures that all the devices are set up exactly how you want them.

A Microsoft account isn't essential, though, and if you don't have or want one, you can instead create local



You can switch from a Microsoft account to a local account if you prefer



Set up an account for each member of your family to avoid arguments about Windows clutter

accounts. These work in the same way that logging into Windows has in the past, and if you only share the one PC and don't need to download apps from the Microsoft Store, then a local account should be fine for most users.

We show you how to set up user accounts in our Mini Workshop, below.

## Microsoft Family

If you're sharing your PC with your spouse and children, you should consider using Microsoft Family. You can create accounts for all your relatives by using the Windows 10 Settings app or by visiting the page at [account.microsoft.com/family](https://account.microsoft.com/family). There are several benefits to using Microsoft Family, such as receiving a weekly email report of your child's online activity on Windows 10

and Xbox One devices. You can also set screen time and content restrictions (with parental approval), and control spending on apps.

We show you how to set up Microsoft Family accounts in our Mini Workshop on page 61.

## Restrict access on your phone or tablet

If you want to create multiple accounts on an iPhone or iPad, we've got bad news – you can't. Although iOS has a feature called Shared iPad, which lets users log into an iPad with their own details, this is only available in education settings and even then, not every student can make use of it. The feature was first introduced back in 2016 and Apple has shown no indication of bringing it – or anything

similar – to the masses.

Thankfully, that's not the case with Android phones and tablets. Google introduced multi-user support to Android tablets in 2012 (Jelly Bean), and then made it available in phones from 2014 (Lollipop). The feature, called User Profiles, lets each person set up the device how they would want it, with their own apps, settings and even wallpaper. The downside is the more users you have set up on your phone or tablet, the slower it may run.

That said, it's a great way of giving everyone their own space. Setting it up is very easy and the only difficulty you're likely to encounter is down to device manufacturers customising Android and not making User Profiles available on your particular device.



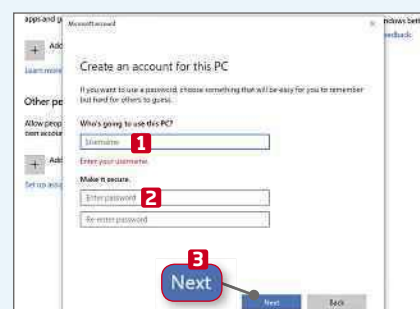
## MINI WORKSHOP | Create individual user accounts in Windows 10



**1** To create an account, open Settings (Windows+i) then click the Accounts option. This shows your info, including the current account level – in this case, Administrator. **1** From here, you can manage your Microsoft account **2** or sign in with a local account. **3** Click 'Family & other people' **4** in the sidebar.







**2** You can create accounts for family members, including children, **1** or accounts for other people – that is, non-family. **2** You will need to be signed in with a Microsoft account to access the family option. There's nothing to stop you using the 'Other people' option to create accounts for family members, though.



**3** Click the 'Other people' plus sign. If the person has a Microsoft account, enter their details; otherwise click 'I don't have this person's sign-in information'. You can create a new Microsoft account or click 'Add a user without a Microsoft account'. Enter a username **1** and password, **2** then click Next **3** to create the account.

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2		First Utility: Broadband	<b>£18.99</b>	<b>18</b> months	<b>11Mbps</b> avg. speed	∞ unlimited	<b>£227.88</b>
3		TalkTalk: Broadband	<b>£25.00</b> (£37.00 after 18 months)	<b>18</b> months	<b>35Mbps</b> avg. speed	∞ unlimited	<b>£300.00</b>
4		Virgin: Broadband	<b>£29.00</b> (£40.00 after 12 months)	<b>12</b> months	<b>54Mbps</b> avg. speed	∞ unlimited	<b>£348.00</b>

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\* Fair-usage or restriction policy applies.

Data supplied by [www.broadbandgenie.co.uk](http://www.broadbandgenie.co.uk). Correct as of 27 June 2018.

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If User Profiles is available on your phone, you can enable it by pulling down the notification shade from the top and tapping the cog icon. Tap Users (or 'Users and accounts') and, on the next screen, tap 'Add user'. You can also create restricted profiles for children.

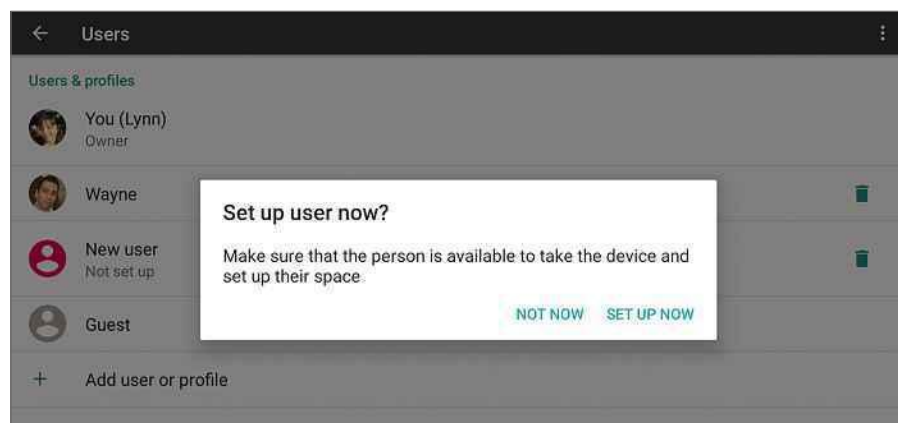
If you choose to add a new user, you'll have the option of setting it up now. Choose to do this and you'll be logged out as the setup process for the new person begins.

## Create profiles in Kodi

Like Netflix, Kodi lets you set up individual user profiles for each person who watches the service. Doing so keeps your viewing separate and lets you control the content that younger family members have access to.

To set up profiles in Kodi, click the top-left cog icon to open the program settings. In the System menu, select 'Profile settings', then select Profiles in the sidebar. Click 'Add profile' and on the following screen, type in the first new user's name and OK it.

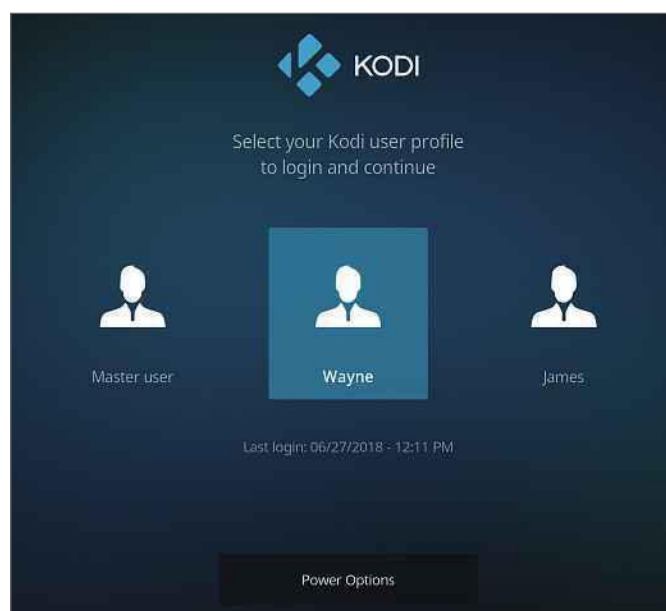
Every user gets their own profile folder and you can specify its location, create a new one or accept the default choice. You can customise each profile with a different colour or skin, and choose if you want to keep your media information separate or share it with the Master (admin) profile. You can opt to start with fresh settings or copy the default ones (this won't affect your media info or choice of sources).



Android lets you set up different user profiles for everyone on your phone or tablet

Once you've done all that, you'll be returned to the Settings, Profiles screen where you can set up additional family members by following the same steps as before.

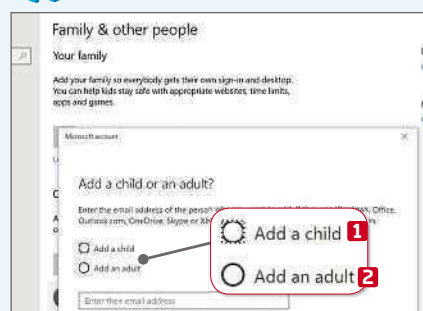
When you've added all the profiles you want, click the General button on the Settings, Profiles screen and enable 'Show login screen on startup', so users have to log in every time Kodi is switched on. ■



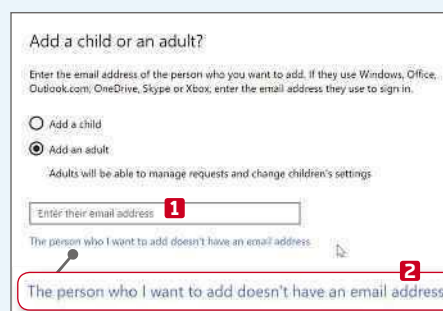
Keep your Kodi viewing separate by using individual user profiles



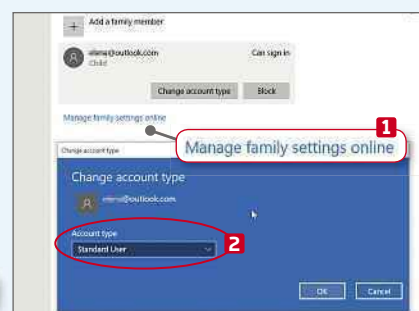
## MINI WORKSHOP | Set up Microsoft Family accounts



**1** Microsoft Family accounts make a lot of sense if you have younger family members: they'll get their own desktop and programs, and you can set time restrictions and block inappropriate websites, apps and games. Under 'Family & other people' click 'Add a family member' and choose to add a child **1** or adult. **2**



**2** Adults you add will have greater control over their accounts and can manage and change settings for children. Enter the email address of the person you're adding (it needs to be a Microsoft one). **1** If they don't have an account, click 'The person who I want to add doesn't have an email address' **2** and create a new one for them.



**3** When you add a child, their account will be created and have the default settings appropriate for their age. **1** You can customise this online. You can change the Account type **2** - switching between Standard and Administrator, but it's best to stick with the former for security reasons.

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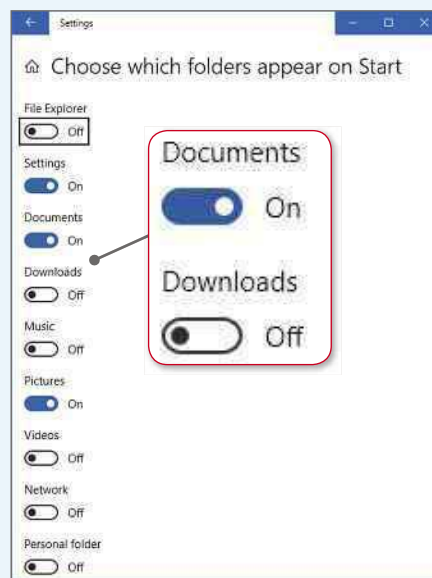
# Web User Masterclass

## Advanced hacks for the Windows 10 Start menu

### Choose folders for the Start menu

Click the Start button to display a column of icons in a panel on the left, then click the three-bar menu icon at the top to expand the list and show text labels displaying the icons' names, such as Documents, Music, Videos and other folders and items. Right-click any icon in the list and select 'Personalise this list'. The Windows Settings app opens showing a list of nine items, with switches to let you choose which icons you want to see displayed in the Start menu.

If you switch all the icons to On, you'll be able to access all the Start menu's folders and functions in only two mouse clicks – just click Start, then the icon. Unfortunately, you can't change the order of the icons.



*Choose the items you want to appear in the left-hand side of the Start menu*

box next to 'Start, taskbar and action centre'. There is an option to use the same colour for window title bars, too.

### Remove Start menu tiles

If you don't want to display tiles on the Start menu and would rather see an alphabetical list of apps, right-click each tile and select 'Unpin from Start'. When the last one is removed, the Start menu collapses to only show the list of apps.

### Resize the Start menu

The width of the Start menu depends on how many groups of tiles are displayed – up to five or maybe more, depending on the resolution of your screen. Click and drag the right-hand edge of the Start menu to resize the width. To choose the number of tiles displayed in a group, go to Settings, Personalisation, then Start. Toggle the switch under 'Show more tiles on Start'. Click and drag the top edge of the Start menu to change the height.

### Remove a most-used app

By default, the Start menu contains a list of your most used apps, which is handy for quick one-click access. Sometimes, however, an app can appear in this list that you don't want – perhaps you used it a lot on a particular day and never again. To get rid of it, right-click the app in the 'Most used apps' list. In the menu that is displayed, select More, then 'Don't show in this list'. It won't appear again, no matter how much you use it.

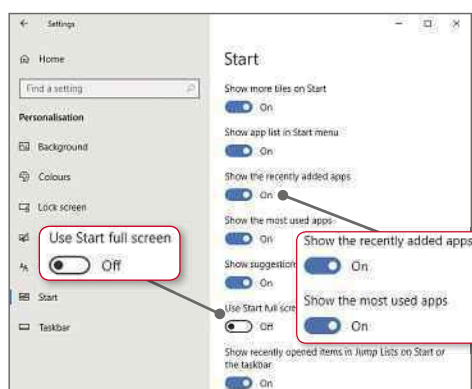
### Select a different Start mode

There are three different views for the Start menu: the alphabetical text

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.

### Customise special areas

There are some special areas on the Start menu, such as 'Recently added' and 'Most used'. You can show or hide these sections, according to your preference. Press Windows+i to open the Settings app, then click Personalisation followed by Start on the left. On the right, you'll see a switch to let you show or hide your recently added and most used apps.



*Switch off any Start-menu elements that you don't like*

### Change the transparency and colour

You can make the Start menu and taskbar semi-transparent, so that the desktop and any windows underneath are visible. Not everyone is keen on this effect, but if you want to try it, open the Settings app and click Personalisation, then Colours on the left. Find the 'Transparency effects' heading and use the switch to turn it on or off.

The setting 'Automatically pick an accent colour from my background' allows Windows to pick an accent colour for your Start menu. If you're using a theme that automatically changes the background image on your PC, the colour of your Start menu will also keep changing. To stop this, and to set your preferred colour for the Start menu, clear the tick next to 'Automatically pick an accent colour from my background' and select a colour from the block of coloured tiles. Scroll down a bit further to 'Show the accent colour on the following surfaces' and tick the



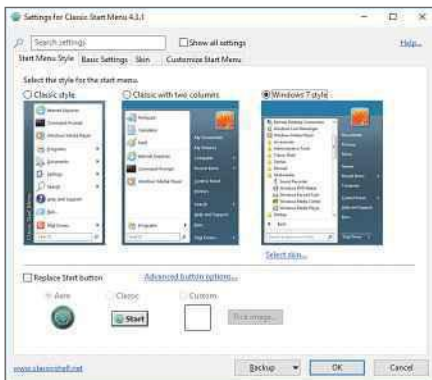
listing all your programs; the tiles; or both. Normally, both programs and tiles are shown, but you can switch to the other modes by opening Settings, Personalisation, then Start. Switch off 'Show app list in Start menu' to make the Start tiles the default view. On the far left, you'll see two new icons which can be used to switch between tiles and apps list views.

## Use an old-style Start menu

If you've recently converted from Windows 7 and miss the old Start menu, you can continue to use it in Windows 10 by installing the free tool Classic Shell ([www.classicshell.net](http://www.classicshell.net)). Development for it stopped last December, but it still works with the latest Windows 10 April 2018 Update.

Install and run the program, and you'll be offered a choice of three different Start menus: a version that's similar to Windows XP; a Vista-style two-column version; and one that looks like Windows 7's. The program does a good job of making Windows 10 look and work like previous versions of Windows.

The menu can be set to show your most used apps on the left and links to popular items on the right, such as Documents, Pictures, Music, Control Panel, Run and so on. There is an All Programs button that shows all the software installed on your PC, so you can easily find programs and run them.



**Classic Shell offers three different Start menus for Windows 10**



**Replace the Windows 10 Start menu with a classic menu from the past**

## TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

### Change Start menu folders

The Start menu contains two types of programs: Windows 10 apps and traditional desktop software. You can't do much to change the folders for the modern apps, but there are ways to customise the traditional programs on the Start menu.

Open Explorer and tick the 'Hidden items' box on the View toolbar. You'll find a few Start menu items in:

C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs

Any changes you make here are reflected in the Start menu. If a program is in a subfolder, putting it directly on the Start menu makes it quicker and easier to access. Open the subfolder, select an item, press Ctrl+X, go back to the Programs folder and press Ctrl+V to paste it. If that subfolder is now empty, delete

and they will appear at the top of the list, making them quicker to access.

### Create Start menu toolbars

The Programs folder can be turned into a toolbar and used as an alternative to the Start menu.

Right-click an empty space on the taskbar and select Toolbars, then 'New toolbar'.

Navigate to: C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs

Click Select Folder. A new Programs item appears on the taskbar. Click the double-arrow and your new Start menu is displayed.

### Backup and restore Start

When experimenting with the Start menu, you might want to back it up before you begin so you can restore it if anything goes wrong. Press

Windows+R, type `regedit` and press Enter to open the Registry Editor. Go to:

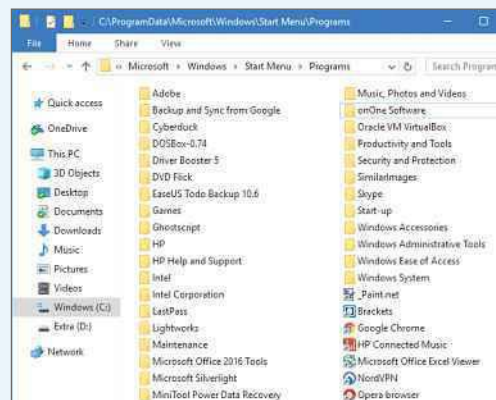
HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\CloudStore\Store\Cache\DefaultAccount

Right-click DefaultAccount, then select Export. Make sure 'Selected branch' is chosen and save the file in your Documents folder.

Press Windows+R and type: %LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Shell

Press Enter. When Explorer opens, select the DefaultLayouts.xml file and copy it to the Documents folder.

You now have a backup. If you ever need to restore the Start menu layout, double-click the Registry file you saved to import it, then copy DefaultLayouts.xml back where it came from.



**The Start menu is built from the contents of this folder**

it. Take a look at the Start menu and you'll immediately see the change.

If you create a folder in Explorer and move items to it, the folder and items appear on the Start menu.

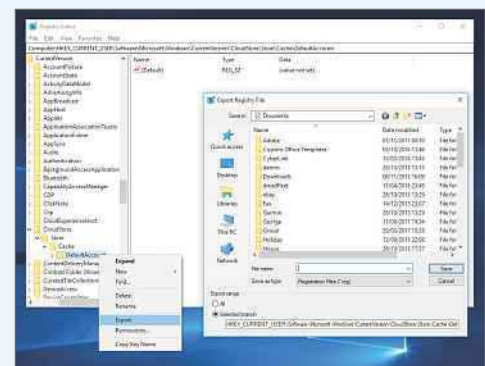
You might want to use this to group similar applications together, such as all your photo-editing tools.

### Create a favourite programs area

Rename files or folders in:

C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs

The new name is instantly used on the Start menu. Right-click a file or folder and insert a '\_' (underscore) at the start to make it appear first on the Start menu A-Z list in its own section. Rename all your favourite programs to begin with '\_'



**Save this Registry file to your PC to create a backup of your Start menu**

# 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](mailto:webuser@dennis.co.uk)



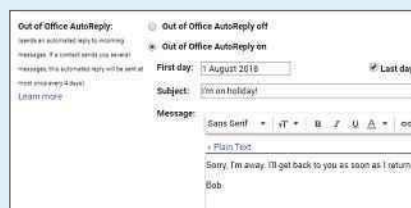
## EMAIL

### Turn off an unwanted email filter

**Q** I once got so fed up with a spam email that I replied to the spammer to ask them to stop emailing me. Now, every time I receive an email, my account automatically replies with "Stop emailing me!". I can't figure out how to stop this automatic reply. It's embarrassing when it happens to someone I want to communicate with. I use a Samsung Galaxy Tab A.

**Nick Marten, via email**

**A** Email services let you create rules that are automatically applied to incoming messages. These can delete, move or reply to a message when they detect certain triggers, such as a particular sender or a word appearing in the subject or body. It sounds as if you've created a similar rule, but one with a trigger that's so broad that every email triggers it.



**Inadvertently triggering an out-of-office response plays havoc with emails!**

You don't say which email service or app you're using, so let's use Gmail as an example. Open Gmail in a browser, click the cog icon, choose Settings and click the 'Filters and blocked addresses' tab. Rules to deal with incoming messages are created and stored here. Check them and use the delete link on the right of a rule to remove it. Now go to the General tab and scroll down to find 'Out of Office AutoReply'. Make sure it's turned off.

Whichever service or app you're using, check for rules and automatic responses in the app first, then go to the email service in a browser and check there, too.

down to the bottom and turn off 'Use hardware acceleration when available'. Restart Chrome. If that doesn't solve the problem, scroll down to the bottom of Chrome's Advanced settings to find 'Reset and clean up'. Use both of them.

Remove any themes you've installed and restore the browser to its default state. Some people have found they can then reinstall the theme and the buttons start working again.

If all else fails, use an uninstaller such as IObit Uninstaller Free ([bit.ly/unin453](http://bit.ly/unin453)) – making sure you decline any additional software you don't want. Remove all traces of Chrome, then restart Windows and install a fresh version.

## PHOTOS

### Create photo slideshows with accompanying music

**Q** I would love to make a DVD of my son's wedding photos with background music. Putting the pictures on a disc is no problem, but I can't work out how to add the music.

**Peter Turner, via email**

**A** Saving photos or music to play on a DVD is easy, but if you want photos and music, you need to create a video slideshow. This may require the use of two programs – one to create the video and another to write it to a DVD-R in a format that a DVD player recognises. Some programs can do both.

You can use Windows 10's free Photos app to create videos from photos. Click the Create button at the top and select either 'Automatic video with music', or 'Custom video with music'. Select the



**Use DVD Flick to burn one or more videos to a DVD for playing on the TV**

## BROWSERS

### Reclaim Chrome's Back and Forward arrows

**Q** The Back and Forward arrows have disappeared from the top of my Chrome browser, so now when I click a link, I can't return to the previous page. This happens on every site I visit, which means I have to open another window, re-enter the search request in Google, click another link and so on, which is time consuming and annoying. The

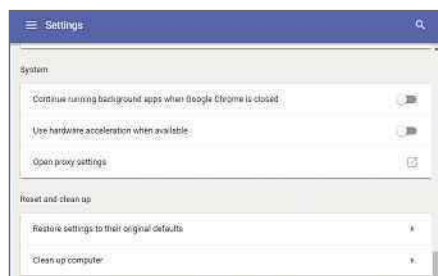
arrows haven't vanished completely, but they're a faint grey and don't work.

I've disabled and removed extensions, uninstalled Chrome and reinstalled it, and restored from a previous backup point, but nothing works. The problem seems to have appeared overnight. I'm running Windows 7 and haven't noticed any trouble with other software.

**PF Chope, via email**

**A** There are some workarounds you can try. For example, hold down the Ctrl key while clicking a link to open search results in a new tab; or hold down Shift to open it in a new window. Close the tab or window afterwards to return to the search results. Alt+the left-arrow key is another way to step back through the browsing history without needing to click a button.

To get Chrome's navigation buttons working again, go to the menu, choose Settings and click Advanced. Scroll



**To solve Chrome problems, turn off hardware acceleration and restore settings**





photos you want to include in the video and click Create. The program arranges the photos into a storyboard, and you can then rearrange them, add filters, change their duration and so on.

Click Music at the top and either select from the app's music collection or choose your own music. When you're happy with the result, export it, selecting the large format for TV screens. Your exported video will play on your PC and perhaps even on a DVD player and TV if you burn it to a DVD-R. However, you may need to use another program to create a playable DVD.

DVD Flick ([www.dvdflick.net](http://www.dvdflick.net)) is a free tool that writes video files to DVD that can then be played on a DVD player or a computer. Click 'Add title' on the right to select the videos to include, then click Create DVD in the toolbar at the top. It burns the video to disc or saves it as an ISO file, which you can burn to disc later.

There are plenty of other commercial tools available for making slideshows, including the video-editing programs in our Group Test on page 22.

## SECURITY

### Fix competing add-ons

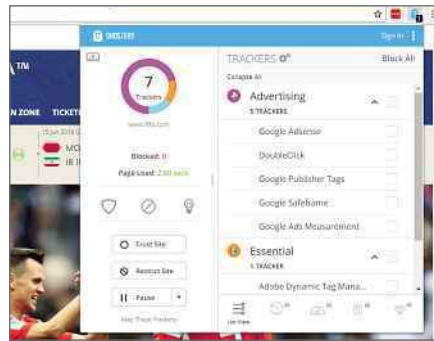
**Q** About two or three times a week, loads of images disappear from my Facebook pages, timelines, profiles and so on. I use the Privacy Badger ([bit.ly/pbff453](http://bit.ly/pbff453)) and Ghostery ([bit.ly/ghff453](http://bit.ly/ghff453)) extensions on my Firefox browser.

Disabling either add-on doesn't help, but if I disable them both, I can see the images again. It continues to work properly if I re-enable Privacy Badger alone, but I can't use both. Why am I using both, I hear you ask. It's because I find that Ghostery blocks more trackers than Privacy Badger.

If this is a conflict, why does it only happen sporadically? What exactly is hiding in these images? Might they contain malicious code? Why do some images appear, while others don't? And what information is Facebook trying to obtain from me anyway?

**Chris Silverthorne, via email**

**A** Privacy Badger and Ghostery, which are also available for Chrome ([bit.ly/pbch453](http://bit.ly/pbch453) and [bit.ly/ghch453](http://bit.ly/ghch453)), block certain types of activities on web pages. This can break some sites and cause the content either to disappear or appear incomplete and in the wrong format or position. Most sites display okay, but if problems occur, you should switch them off. Facebook may be one of those sites they don't work with, although it



**Only run one anti-tracking tool, and disable it if you find problems with a site**

seemed fine when we tried it.

Another problem that can arise is a clash of extensions. Both extensions perform similar functions, and this could lead to conflicts because they are competing with each other. You should choose one and remove the other.

Facebook tracks everything: what you see, what appears in your news feed, what you post, where you post it, how many seconds of a video you watch, what you click and so on. The technology behind Facebook changes weekly, and the code on today's site could be different to last week's, which may be why the problems you experience are sporadic. Sometimes Facebook changes one thing that breaks another.

## HARDWARE

### Use your phone as a dashboard camera

**Q** I'm convinced I need a dash cam to ensure I have evidence if I'm targeted by insurance crooks, but my wife tells me we can't afford one.

I have discovered that there are apps available that can turn my mobile phone into a dash cam, but which one should I choose? I don't even know what features I need. For example, what size of memory card?

**John Page, via email**

**A** Dash cams range in price from around £15 to £250 and there are significant differences in features and performance: some have GPS to record your location at all times, some have parking or night modes, and so on. The footage is saved to a memory



**Car DVR & GPS Navigator turns your Android phone into a dash cam**

card, and the amount of storage you need depends on the video resolution, which can range from 720p to 4K. In most cases, 32GB is enough for several hours of recording.

You can use your mobile phone as a dash cam but it runs down the battery and may use a lot of internal storage if you don't have the option of recording to a memory card. However, if you already have a car mount for your phone, it won't cost you anything to

download and try a few apps. Daily Roads Voyager ([bit.ly/drvo453](http://bit.ly/drvo453)) has over 30,000 reviews and a good score in the Google Play Store. Car DVR & GPS Navigator ([bit.ly/cardvr453](http://bit.ly/cardvr453)) is another app with lots of good reviews.

## GENERAL PC

### Remove Avira to unblock Windows 10 April Update

**Q** I've tried to install the Windows 10 April 2018 update several times, but it keeps telling me I have security software from Avira installed that's not compatible with this update. However, I don't have Avira installed, and I can't find any reference to it in any of my files, folders or the Registry.

**Dave Connell, via email**

**A** Something is triggering this message, and deleting it will allow Windows to update. Check the following folders for any mention of Avira:

C:\Program Files  
C:\Program Files\Common Files  
C:\Program Files (x86)  
C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files  
C:\ProgramData  
C:\Users\YourName\AppData\Local  
C:\Users\YourName\AppData\LocalLow  
C:\Users\YourName\AppData\Roaming

Some people have found that a tool called UBCD4Win (Ultimate Boot CD for Windows) triggers the message. Use an uninstaller such as IObit Uninstaller Free ([bit.ly/unin453](http://bit.ly/unin453), but decline the bundled junk) to remove all traces of it.



This fortnight, Roland has been struggling to fix PCs remotely, using photos of problems sent via WhatsApp

# 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](http://forum.webuser.co.uk)



## TOP TIP

iOS

### Transfer iPhone photos to PC wirelessly

In Issue 450 ([bit.ly/webuser450](http://bit.ly/webuser450)), Brian Dingle asked about software for transferring photos from an iPhone to a PC. I recommend a free program called ScanTransfer ([scantransfer.net](http://scantransfer.net)), which is extremely easy to use.

Install it on your PC, run it and let it connect to your home network. When the QR code pops up, take a picture of it using your iPhone camera. Your home network's IP address will appear on your phone. Tap this and you can then choose any items you wish to transfer from your phone to your PC. No cables, no hassle – and as long as you have a secure private network, you can transfer files securely



*Run ScanTransfer on your PC to collect photos from your iPhone wirelessly*

in confidence. You can close the program on your PC when you've finished because it doesn't have to run in the background. I hope this helps.

**T Ansel, via email**

## GENERAL PC

### Remove distracting Windows notifications

Did you know that you can block those irritating pop-up messages that appear in the notification area of Windows 10's taskbar? I used to be plagued by adverts, messages about emails and lots of other things. I had no idea what most of them were because I usually just closed them without reading them.

To block these pointless distractions, go to Windows Settings (Windows+i), then System and select 'Focus assist'



*Use 'Focus assist' to stop pop-up notifications disturbing you*

on the left. Selecting 'Alarms only' hides most notifications, but you should also click 'Notifications & actions' on the left and switch everything off.

Go back to the main Settings menu and choose 'Ease of Access', then Display. Set the length of time notifications are displayed to the minimum. That way, if any manage to get through, they won't appear for long.

**Simon Mathers, via email**

## EMAIL

### Give Outlook webmail a makeover

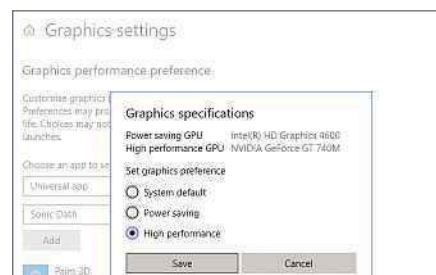
Here's a quick tip for Microsoft's webmail Outlook ([outlook.live.com](http://outlook.live.com)). If you haven't already done so, click the switch at the top to enable the Beta, then click the cog icon, followed by 'View all themes'. There are 50 to choose from. Just click one to apply it and give Outlook a new look.

**Ken Costello, via email**

## GENERAL PC

### Boost graphics performance

Here's a Windows setting I don't remember seeing before – maybe it was added with the last update. Open the



*Set the graphics performance for apps in Windows 10 Settings*

Settings app (Windows+i) and click System, then Display. Click the 'Graphics settings' link and choose either 'Classic app' or 'Universal app', then select an app in the list, such as a game, and use the Add button to add it to the list. Click it and then click Options.

It may depend on your computer's graphics hardware but I get a choice of 'Power saving' or 'High performance'. Select 'High performance' to give games the maximum graphics boost your PC can deliver. This will make them run faster and more smoothly.

**Paul Sullivan, via email**

## OFFICE

### Use special characters and emoji in online Office

I've given up on the full version of Microsoft Office and now use the Office apps on the OneDrive website for free. However, some things are a bit different. If you want to insert special characters into a document, such as a copyright symbol, euro sign or emoji, go to the



*The online version of Office has plenty of symbols and emoji*



Insert tab and click the Symbol or Emoji buttons, then click More Symbols or More Emoji. You can then browse and insert as many of them as you like.

**D Hart, via email**

## GENERAL PC

### Explore Microsoft's Command Prompt encyclopaedia

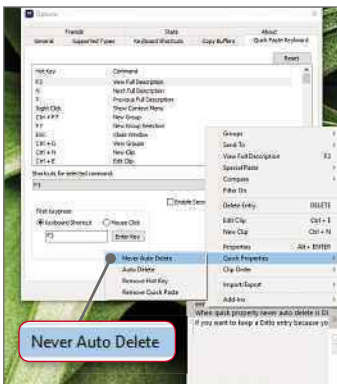
Windows' Command Prompt is both useful and confusing, so I was happy to discover that Microsoft has its own encyclopaedia of command-line tools. This details every command you might need and includes information on what each one does. Download a PDF copy at [bit.ly/wincmd453](http://bit.ly/wincmd453).

**Ryan Harvey, via email**

## SOFTWARE

### Stop Ditto auto-deleting entries

If you use Ditto clipboard manager ([bit.ly/ditto453](http://bit.ly/ditto453)) and want to keep an entry because you use it a lot, right-click the item, select Quick Properties, then Never Auto Delete. The item is highlighted with a yellow star, making it easier to spot.



**Keep Ditto copies safe with this quick tip**

**FratPark, Web User Forums**

## BROWSERS

### Find a better way to manage YouTube subscriptions

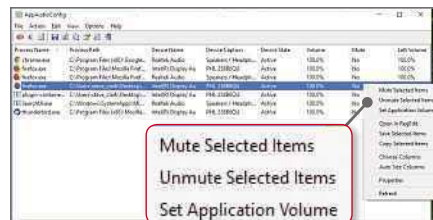
A reader recently wrote to you about using a Feedly RSS feed to manage their YouTube subscriptions (Your Top Tips, Issue 451, [bit.ly/webuser451](http://bit.ly/webuser451)). This is a great way to avoid YouTube's overwhelming homepage but I prefer the YouTube Subscription (Collection) Manager add-on for Chrome ([bit.ly/yousub453](http://bit.ly/yousub453)) – also available for Firefox ([bit.ly/youfox453](http://bit.ly/youfox453)). It makes it much easier to group your videos and channels by category, and it auto-syncs all your collections.

**Darren Schuler, via email**

## GENERAL PC

### See all your audio settings in one place

I recently found a program that collects all your audio settings in one place. It's called AppAudioConfig ([bit.ly/audio453](http://bit.ly/audio453)), and displays all the audio settings for every app on your PC, such as individual



**Pump up the volume – or mute it quickly with AppAudioConfig**

speaker volumes. I can now control all my audio in just a couple of clicks.

**Jake Murray, via email**

## iOS

### Get an Apple Store wishlist

Does anyone else remember the Apple Store's Wish List, which was callously taken from us with the release of iOS 11? I've just found a way to replicate the option using Apple Notes. Go to any app you fancy and press the three-dot button, then click Share App and choose 'Add to Notes'. You'll see a preview of the shared link and the option to name your new note. Once you've done that, press Save. It's not as elegant as the original built-in method, but at least you can keep track of the apps you might want.

**Kelly Wilkinson, via email**

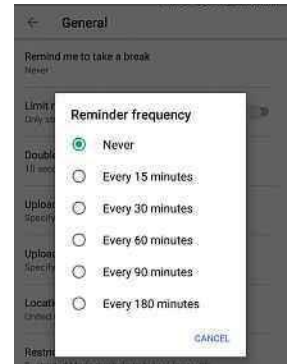
## VIDEO

### Unlock YouTube's 'Take a Break' feature

Now that Google is emphasising 'online wellbeing', particularly in Android P, it's worth pointing out that you don't need this update to get one so-called 'wellbeing' feature on YouTube. You'll need the latest version of the app for it to work, though, so install that, then go to Settings, General. The top option is

'Remind me to take a break'. Enable it and set yourself a time limit between 15 and 180 minutes. Once you reach it, YouTube will remind you to take a screen break so you don't spend too long staring at your device.

**Keith Vance, via email**



**Losing track of time on YouTube? Set a reminder in the app**

## GENERAL PC

### Install Windows 10 apps remotely

Great news for Windows 10 users who like to plan their downloads on the go: Microsoft now lets you install apps remotely rather than downloading them manually on each device. Log into the Store with your Microsoft account and, when you find an app you want, click the three-dot icon next to 'Install/open' for the option to 'Install on my devices'. Click it, and you can select which device you want to download the app to. It doesn't work with every app, though.

**Seth Carlton, via email**



**Download Windows 10 apps on every device**

## BLUNDER OF THE FORTNIGHT

## EMAIL

### Bulk-delete Gmail emails in two clicks

I've always deleted emails the old-fashioned way – by logging through my Gmail and selecting messages individually, or ticking them all and deselecting those I want to keep. It's accurate but time-consuming. Now I've discovered two simple ways to give my inbox a spring clean. First, go to a specific label – I usually start with Promotions. Tick 'Select all' and Google will offer to delete every email under that label. You can also search using Gmail's operators (visit [bit.ly/](http://bit.ly/)



**Delete all your emails in a flash**

[gmail453](http://gmail453) for more info) and, again, select all. Just click the option to delete everything that matches your search.

**Ken Moreland, via email**

**Have you managed to fix a PC-related disaster? If so, please send your story to [webuser@dennis.co.uk](mailto:webuser@dennis.co.uk)**





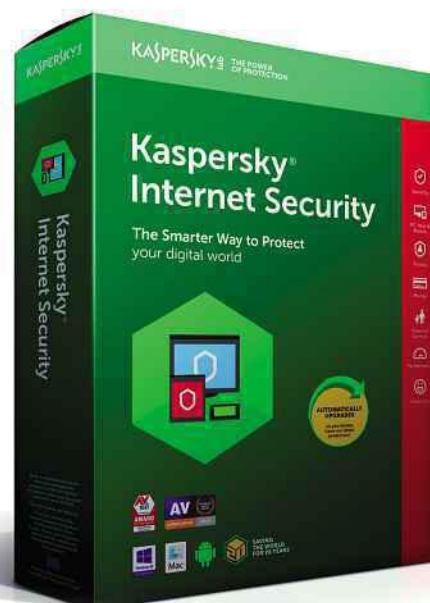
### OFFER OF THE FORTNIGHT

## Kaspersky Internet Security 2019 - on sale now

Our sister title *Computeractive* is now selling the new and improved 2019 edition of the multi-award-winning antivirus Kaspersky Internet Security at a special discount for readers

### WHAT'S NEW IN KASPERSKY 2019:

- ✓ Finds and removes dodgy browser extensions
- ✓ Identifies software that needs to be updated
- ✓ Gives you more control over which adverts are blocked
- ✓ More advanced options to keep malware off your PC



**SINCE WINDOWS 10 LAUNCHED 18,642 READERS  
HAVE BOUGHT KASPERSKY SOFTWARE  
FROM THE SOFTWARE STORE**

**One PC for one year NOW ONLY £19.99\***

**Normally £34.99**

Buy it from our Software Store at [bit.ly/kaspersky1pc](https://bit.ly/kaspersky1pc)

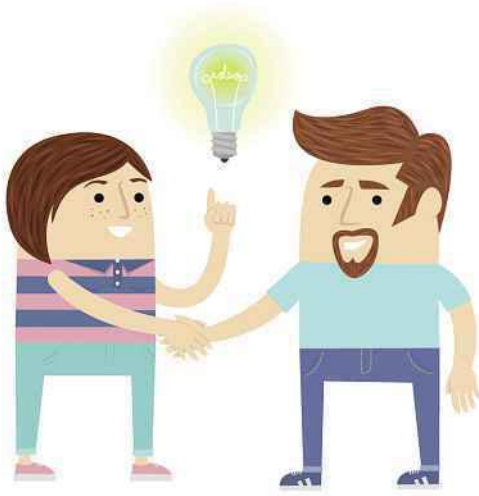
**Three PCs for two years NOW ONLY £39.99**

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\* while stocks last

**WINNER OF THE PAST NINE COMPUTERACTIVE  
ANTIVIRUS TESTS**



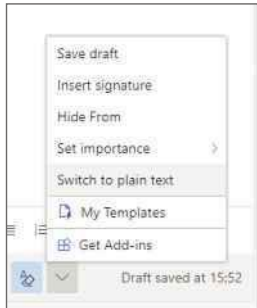
# Readers' Helpdesk

Our pick of the best solutions posted on our reader forums. Visit [forum.webuser.co.uk](http://forum.webuser.co.uk) – it's friendly and free!

## EMAIL

### Make email universally readable

**Q** I use Comic Sans for email but recently found that the recipient gets it in a very fancy Copperplate font, which is quite difficult to read. If I write using Arial or any of the other fonts, there is no problem. Anybody out there experienced this strange phenomenon? Perhaps it has something to do with the new Outlook ([outlook.live.com](http://outlook.live.com))?



*Writing emails in plain text uses the recipient's default font*

**trevorW, Web User Forums**

**A** On the official Microsoft forums, they say it's because the font is not available on your recipient's device. When that happens, fonts like Comic Sans are switched for script fonts that the device can display. Try using a more standard font for emails.

**Moonshine, Web User Forums**

## HARDWARE

### Remove Dell's SupportAssist

**Q** I recently received an update from Dell, which installed Dell SupportAssist on my PC. This is now nagging me to update drivers and optimise my PC, but I'm reluctant to do this because the PC is working fine. Should I do what it says? I thought about uninstalling it but because it is a Dell



*Dell SupportAssist can alert you to common Windows problems but it's not essential*

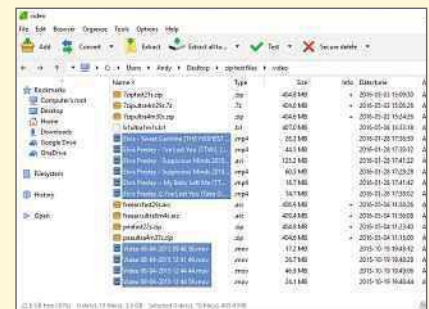
## SOFTWARE

### Remove PeaZip from the right-click menu

**Q** Can anyone tell me how to remove PeaZip from my PC? A web search suggested I need to install a special download to get rid of it. Is this really the case? PeaZip is no longer in my list of Program Files but when I download a zipped file from the internet and right-click it, PeaZip appears in the list of options and I can't get rid of it.

**Minnehaha, Web User Forums**

**A** Download and reinstall PeaZip. Double-click the download file and accept any UAC prompts. In the Wizard, opt for 'No system integration', then Next. Opt not to create a shortcut. Close the Wizard when it's finished, then delete the installation file you downloaded. Now start typing **apps & features** in the search bar



*Reinstall PeaZip without its right-click tools to ensure they're fully deleted*

and select it on the list when it appears. In the window that opens, start typing **peazip** in the 'Search this list' box. Select PeaZip, click Uninstall (twice), Yes (twice), then OK. The PeaZip entry on the right-click menu should disappear.

**Moonshine, Web User Forums**

program on a Dell PC, I'm not sure if this would be a good thing to do.

**seanoc, Web User Forums**

**A** I uninstalled SupportAssist on my Dell PC and haven't experienced any downside. You don't have to follow its recommendations but it's handy for letting you know when new updates to Dell drivers and BIOS are available. All Dell computers have an identifying tag and Dell SupportAssist uses this to tell which drivers are updated for your specific model of computer. After a hardware scan on my previous Dell, which is still under warranty, it told me that my hard drive was failing and then let me order a replacement for free.

**gesail & Sneakybeaky, Web User Forums**

## WEBSITES

### Embed 360-degree photos on your website

**Q** I created a website using Drupal ([www.drupal.org](http://www.drupal.org)) and I'd like to insert a 360-degree picture that my users can navigate around. I uploaded my pictures

to the 360 viewer on Panoraven ([panoraven.com](http://panoraven.com)) and have been given an `<iframe>` embed code, but I don't know how to insert it via Drupal.

**killian, Web User Forums**

**A** To add an iframe to your website page, you need to find the iframe code on your external website – which you have. Then, locate the page you want to add the iframe content to on your Drupal site. Click Edit to edit the page. Now, in the Body field, insert the iframe code within open and close tags – for example: `[embed]Your iframe code here[/embed]`. Click Save.

**Sneakybeaky, Web User Forums**



*Panoraven lets you embed 360-degree photos on your website*

## Star Email

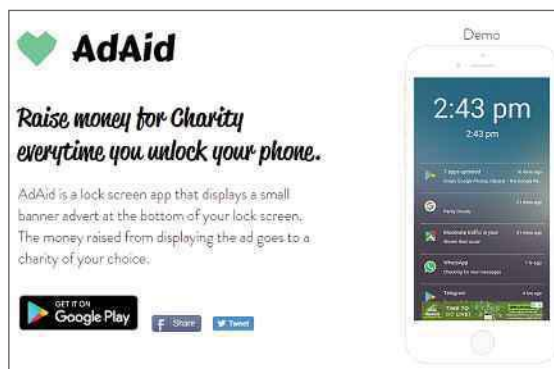
### Support good causes using your tech

Back  
Issues  
disc  
winner



**F**urther to your 'Save the world using your tech' article in Issue 450, there are a bunch of neat initiatives that let you donate money to charity or support a good cause for free, using your browser or phone.

Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)) donates 0.5% of your Amazon purchase value to a charity of your choice, while Easyfundraising ([www.easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)) lets you give a commission on your online purchases to charity. Another way to help is via a search engine called Ecosia ([www.ecosia.org](https://www.ecosia.org)), which gives 80% of its search advertising revenue toward planting trees. It even displays a ticker



so you can see how many trees you've helped to plant.

Tab for a Cause ([tab.gladly.io](https://tab.gladly.io)) is a brilliant Chrome extension that places ads on your New Tab page and donates the revenues to charity. It's raised over \$500,000 for good causes so far.

I know all about these because I am developing an app with the University of Cambridge and The Prince's Trust that also allows people to support charity for free by making a relatively small change. AdAid is a lock-screen app that displays all your notifications as normal but places a tiny banner ad at the bottom of the lock screen. 90% of revenue from the advertising goes to a charity of your choice and you can raise around £2 a month.

AdAid is under development but you can find out more at [www.adaid.co](https://www.adaid.co) and sign up to be a beta tester by downloading the app. I'd love to hear your feedback.

*Nicholas Charrington, via email*

### Facebook has trapped me with CAPTCHA

In Issue 448 of your excellent magazine, you told us how to permanently delete a Facebook account. For some time, I have been toying with the idea of getting rid of mine, and this week my resolve turned to action. I typed [bit.ly/fbdelete448](https://bit.ly/fbdelete448) and the option to delete was displayed.

But there the problems started. After entering my email address (sometimes requested, sometimes not) and password, the next requirement was to enter a

CAPTCHA.

I find CAPTCHA irritating, but in most cases it's straightforward. However, Facebook has decided to make it impossible to read. I spent a

good half hour over the week trying to find one that was decipherable, but to no avail. I'm now looking for some additional help to free me from this monster.

At the moment, my plight resembles the lyrics of 'Hotel California' (very apposite): "You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave".

*Bernard Richardson-Owen, via email*

*Web User says:* Sorry to hear about your problem deleting your Facebook account. You should see an option for an audio CAPTCHA, which will read the letters aloud to you. Try clicking this to see if you have any more luck!

### No company is safe from data hackers

I was interested to read the comments in your latest issue about GDPR, but is it as simple as we think? Companies hold

many facts about the average person, whether they do business with them or not, and it's impossible for us not to share some information with them. We trust these companies not to get hacked, but many do – and we the public are not told when it happens.

There is no such thing as total security these days because any system in any company in any country is vulnerable to hackers. You can put as many firewalls up as you want, but if a hacker wants to



### Quiz Answers: Issue 452

1 Doctor No



2 Casino Royale



3 A View to a Kill



4 From Russia With Love



5 On Her Majesty's Secret Service



6 Tomorrow Never Dies



WINNER!

Well done to **Keith Goldsmith** who wins a Web User Back Issues Disc



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get in – they will. And the bigger the target, the more they'll try. Someone somewhere will be willing to pay a price for the information they've stolen.

All this updating security and asking us to agree to new methods to protect our data doesn't really matter, because a determined hacker will find you and get your details, and try to exploit you. This is the world we live in – either go back to using paper or live with it.

*Terry Bradley, Milton Keynes*



## Save money on a YouTube Red subscription

YouTube Red is finally here! Ad-free YouTube videos bundled with a music-streaming subscription was high on my wanted list and the cost of a tanner a month suits me. However I have done some digging and would like to offer fellow *Web User* readers some advice on getting the best deal.

If you try to sign up to YouTube Red via the iOS YouTube app, it will offer you a free three-month trial and then charge £12.99 per month thereafter. However, if you go to YouTube via the Safari browser on your iPhone, you're offered a one-month trial and £11.99 per month thereafter (I'm not sure about Android).

The different deals are not all aligned, so if you want the best option, go to [www.youtube.com/paid\\_memberships](http://www.youtube.com/paid_memberships) on your computer and you'll be offered a three-month free trial and the expected £11.99 per month thereafter – or £9.99 if you just want the music subscription.

*Simon Mellor, via email*

Premium	Music
 <p>Try ad-free YouTube for 3 months YouTube Premium includes ad-free, downloads, and background play in YouTube and YouTube Music, plus access to all YouTube Originals. £11.99/month after trial ends.</p> <p><a href="#">LEARN MORE</a></p>	 <p>Try Music Premium, free for 3 months. Play and download music, ad-free and in the background with Music Premium. £9.99/month after trial ends.</p> <p><a href="#">LEARN MORE</a></p>

## What you say...

### SHOULD THE NHS TREAT PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM GAMING ADDICTION ([bit.ly/gaming453](http://bit.ly/gaming453))?

No, it should be down to parenting, controlling how long children play on games consoles.

*Brian Brown*

No! Very few people are truly addicted. Others just use it as an excuse!

*Anthony Higham*

No. The NHS is under enough pressure without more self-inflicted illnesses.

*David P-Smith @david\_p\_s*

Nope. It should be done through education, parenting and a little self-control for adults. If addiction needs to be treated, it should be done privately. Our NHS is already strained.

*Phil Owen*

### YOUTUBE PREMIUM HAS LAUNCHED IN THE UK ([bit.ly/youtube453](http://bit.ly/youtube453)). WOULD YOU PAY £11.99 FOR DOWNLOADS AND NO ADVERTS?

If they add movies and concerts, I'd consider it. Otherwise, no chance.

*Jonathan Egan @jonathan\_egan*

Yep (see left), though I was hoping that ad-free YouTube and downloads would all be under the price of £9.99.

*Si Mellor*

No. I don't use it enough and that price is way too much. Reduce it by £5 and I would think about it.

*Iain Kenworthy-Neale*

No. I use a free ad blocker to get around the adverts, and I don't bother downloading much as there's not

really anything I'd want to watch more than once.

*Lee Dodgson*

### FEWER PEOPLE ARE GETTING THEIR NEWS FROM FACEBOOK, RESEARCH SHOWS ([bit.ly/news453](http://bit.ly/news453)). WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR NEWS?

I'm drifting from Facebook. I get news from Reddit, Twitter or those papery things with ink on them.

*Chutchy @MrChutchy*

Never trusted Facebook for any news other than what is happening to friends. Can't see that ever changing.

*Rich Grove*

Facebook is for keeping in touch with friends and admiring their endless pictures of children, pets and restaurant meals. Taking it seriously as a news outlet is just silly.

*Richard Morgan*

If I want to know what my friends and relatives are up to, I visit Facebook. If I want to know what's going on in the world, I visit a news site. Seems logical.

*Lynn Sharpe*

### CULTURE SECRETARY MATT HANCOCK SAYS SCHOOLS SHOULD BAN SMARTPHONES ([bit.ly/school453](http://bit.ly/school453)). DO YOU AGREE?

Kids should be allowed to take a phone to school in case they need it in an emergency, but leave it in a locker.

*John Young*

No. We're all up for human rights when it suits us. Sometimes a mobile is useful if a child is being bullied. Teachers just need to ensure they are not used in class.

*Jason 'Boz' Bowyer*

My daughter's secondary school has banned them. If the children are seen with phones in their hands, the devices are confiscated for a week.

*Caroline Alderson*

# ! Page 404



The only way kids get addicted to games is if adults let them, argues **Barry Collins**

## Games don't cause addiction, parents do

I'm meeting my accountant, discussing the financial future of my burgeoning media empire. "I'm doing a new magazine for Dennis Publishing about Fortnite," I tell him. "Fortnite?" he shoots back. "Is that the game where the circle shrinks and they have to shoot each other to bits?" he asks, his tone bordering on disapproving. "Can't get my grandson off it!"

My accountant's not alone. If media reports are to be believed, Fortnite's become a bigger risk to kids than slipping cocaine into their Happy Meals.

GIRL, 9, IN REHAB FOR FORTNITE ADDICTION, screamed a recent headline in the *Daily Mirror*, recounting the tale of an "obsessed primary school pupil" who "secretly got up in the night and played until dawn", who "wet herself because she couldn't bear to leave the screen" and who ran up bills of more than £50 per month by downloading the game's digital accoutrements. This, after the World Health Organisation earlier this year classified 'gaming addiction' as a mental-health disorder.

Now, I'm not a medical expert, I don't seek to trivialise mental-health

problems and I've obviously got some personal interest in Fortnite. But the notion that a computer game – even one that's got

as big a grip on kids as Fortnite has – might be compared to truly addictive substances such as drugs and alcohol seems an enormous stretch.

Games don't turn kids into addicts, parents do. I don't want to lay into this nine-year-old's parents and it's



impossible to gauge how much of that *Mirror* story is down to the fertile imagination of the reporter, but if it's even halfway true there are some huge parental failings going on there.

According to the parents, they first noticed there was a problem when "we got called in by her head teacher asking if everything was okay", because she had fallen asleep twice in lessons and

her grades were slipping. I'm not putting myself forward as Dad of the Year, but if my girls were going to school like sleep-deprived zombies,

I hope I would notice before the head teacher did. Likewise, if my kids were getting up at 3am for nocturnal gaming sessions.

Which brings me to my next chapter in Parenting for Dummies: limiting screen time. If I spot my kids glued to

their screens for more than an hour at a time, they get told to go and do something else: go to the park, walk the dog, read a book. If they misbehave, they get their devices taken off them. Smartphones, tablets and consoles are not irrevocable human rights.

What really infuriated me about the nine-year-old's tale, however, was the drip-drip of payments on the parents' credit card. What on Earth were they thinking? You wouldn't give your nine-year-old your Visa card and send them down to Tesco, so why do likewise on their Xbox or tablet? And don't give me the 'I didn't know how to switch it off' cobbles, because there are ample warnings on the app stores.

If you don't control your children's screen time, but you let them have games consoles in their bedrooms with your credit-card details stored, don't look for excuses when your child starts gaming 12 hours a day, flunks their exams and spends a family holiday's-worth of funds on digital clobber. You've only yourselves to blame, not the game.

“ You wouldn't give your nine-year-old your Visa card and send them down to Tesco, so why do likewise on their Xbox or tablet? ”

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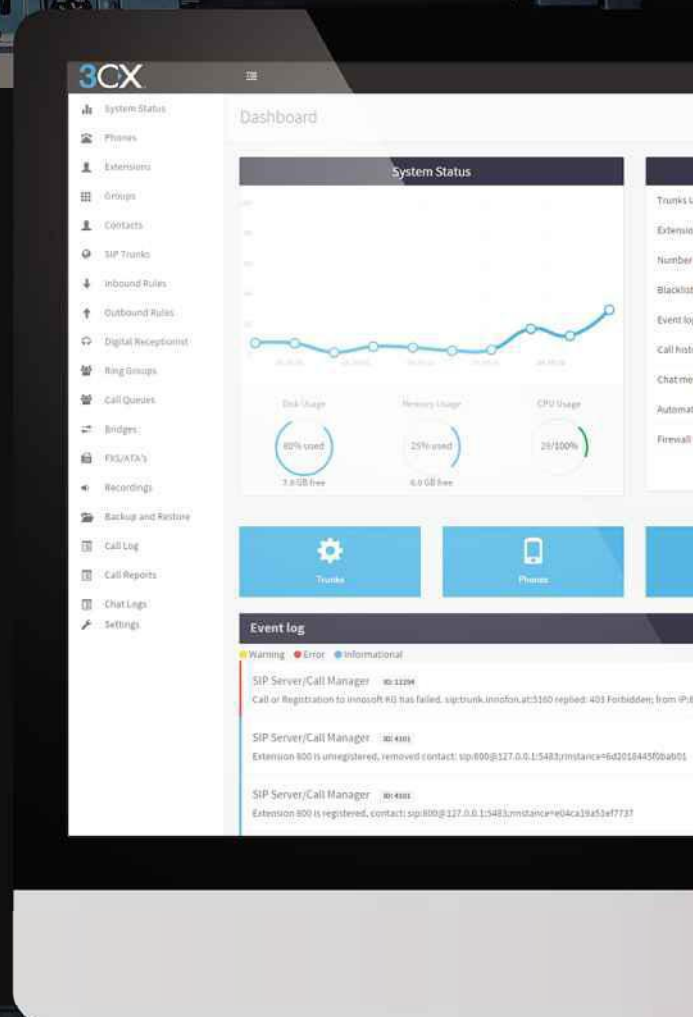


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