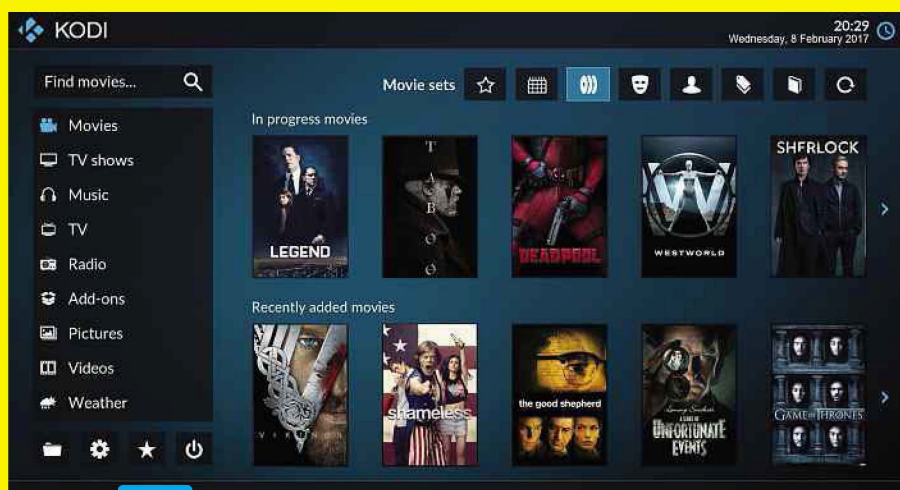


Watch *Anything* On KODI

Stream NEW films, LIVE sport and US TV p38

- ❖ The best 14 add-ons
- ❖ Install on ANY device
- ❖ Improve video quality
- ❖ YouTube & BBC iPlayer
- + Beat ISP restrictions

Turn to **page 38**



PLUS

- ✓ What's legal
- ✗ What's not

only
£2.10 9 771473 709158 06>

PLUS

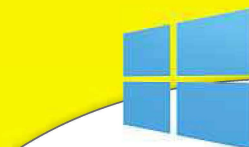
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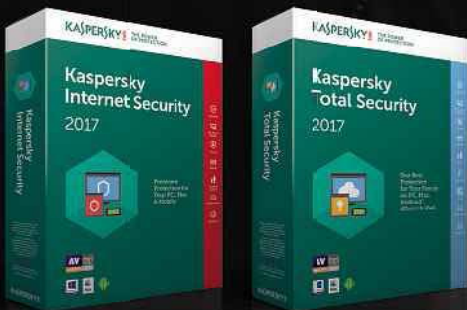
WINDOWS 10

YOUR MOST IMPORTANT HACK YET

Access every setting
from one place p54



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Get knocked out by Kodi

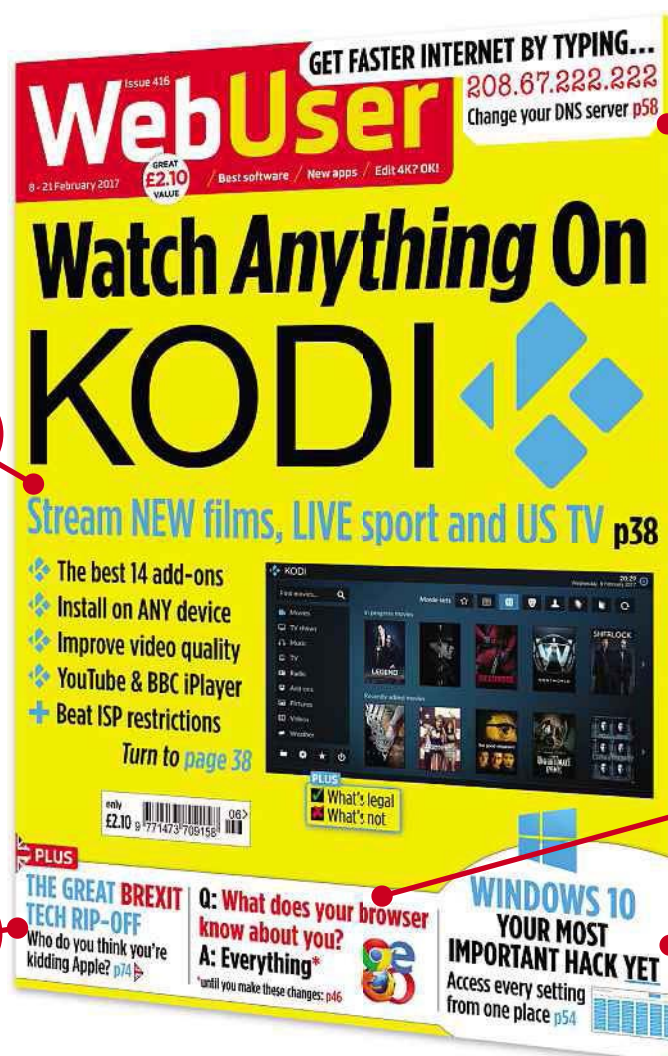
Kodi has come a long way in recent years. It seems like only yesterday that we had to suffix every mention of the program with “formerly known as XBMC”. Now, like the late, great Muhammad Ali’s transition from Cassius Clay in the Sixties, Kodi has shaken off its old name and built on its strengths to attain a whole new level of versatility and popularity. It’s certainly delivered a killer blow to other media-streaming software, especially Microsoft’s on-the-ropes Windows Media Centre.

In this issue’s cover feature (page 38), we celebrate Kodi’s success by showing you

how to make the most of this champion program. We’ve chosen the 14 best Kodi add-ons for broadening your viewing horizons and reveal our essential hacks, as well as addressing the thorny legal issues surrounding the software.

We’re also working on a few changes to *Web User*, to keep it looking fresh for 2017. Please let us know what you think, and what you’d like to see more or less of.

Robert Irvine
robert_irvine@dennis.co.uk
[#webuser](https://twitter.com/webuser)



5 Things you'll learn this issue

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abc Average sales, Jan-Dec 2015, 29,463 copies per issue

COVER
FEATURE

Watch Anything On KODI

Expand your viewing horizons with the
amazing free media-streaming software

p38



IN DEPTH Articles on the latest tech topics

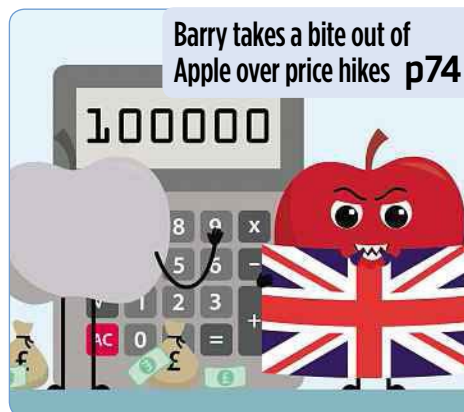
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WEB USER
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What's New Online

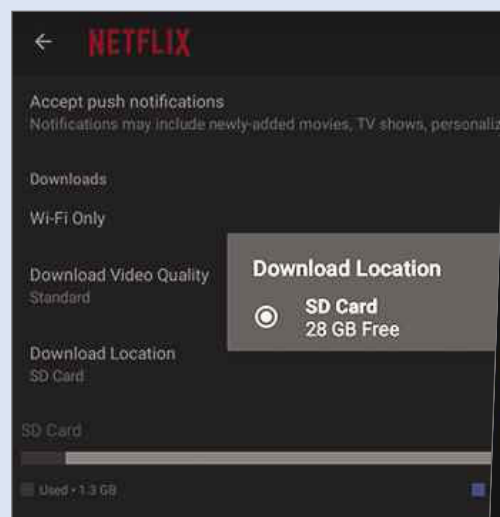
Save Netflix content to your SD card

We jumped for joy last year when Netflix finally started allowing us to download content to view offline. That's until we realised you could only fit a limited number of films and TV programmes on a phone or tablet, making it difficult to store multiple boxsets.

To ease these space restrictions, Netflix now lets Android users download content to SD cards, giving you lots of extra room to store your favourite series.

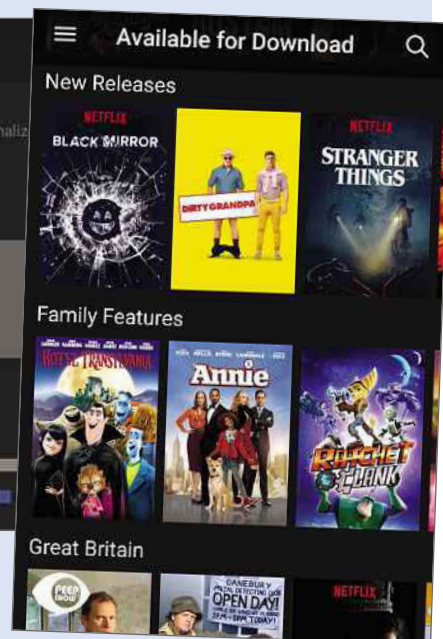
To set this up in the Netflix app, go into App Settings and, in the Downloads section, tap Download Location and choose SD Card. Now, when you tap the download icon under a film or TV show, it will download to the card rather than your device's storage.

To stop people sharing their content-loaded SD cards with others, Netflix only lets you play shows on the device you used to download



them. There are also limits on the number of films or programmes you can download at any one time, and you have just 30 days to watch them.

You can still choose between standard and high definition, however,



so you have even less reason to worry about running out of space.

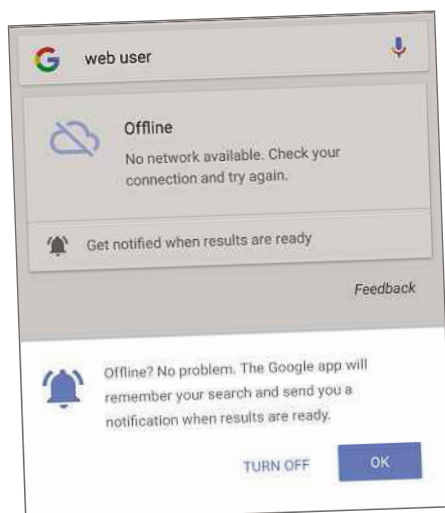
bit.ly/netflix416

Search the web without an internet connection

bit.ly/offline416

The Google app for Android now lets you perform web searches even when you don't have an internet connection. It does this by remembering what you were trying to look up while you were offline, and waiting until you have a signal to notify you of the results.

Besides making patchy connections less frustrating, it means you can, for example, search for your hotel while your phone is in aeroplane mode and get the results as soon as you land. Particularly useful are the ability to queue searches, and the fact that offline searches won't drain your battery or use lots of mobile data.



Take control of your Facebook privacy

bit.ly/facebook416

If you're concerned about your privacy on social media (and, let's face it, who isn't?), you'll be glad to know that Facebook now makes it easier to control what others can and can't see. It has redesigned its Privacy Basics page with a cleaner interface that lets you see instantly how your profile looks to others, and shows you who can view the photos you're tagged in.

You can't adjust the settings through the page, but clicking the menu in the top right-hand corner takes you to sections that offer step-by-step tutorials on managing your privacy, staying secure and determining how advertisers interact with you. You can also read Facebook's data policy and the kind of information it collects, uses and shares, as well as the steps you can take to manage it.

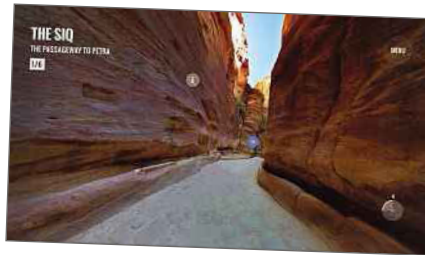


We pick the 10 best things you must do on the web this fortnight

Take a virtual trek around Petra

petravr.withgoogle.com

The city of Petra, carved from the rocks in southern Jordan, is a spectacular location that you can now explore from home. Slip your phone into Google Cardboard and watch as millions of stitched photos, aerial shots and 360-degree maps bring Petra to life in glorious VR. The absorbing tour starts at Al Siq and ends at the jaw-dropping Treasury, accompanied



by sound effects, narration and a wealth of fascinating detail.

5 TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

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Get all the latest mobile-phone news, reviews and exclusive offers

[@merriamwebster](https://twitter.com/merriamwebster)

This dictionary's Twitter feed is enlightening and sassy in equal measure

[@SkyUK](https://twitter.com/SkyUK)

Sky Q is set to offer films and TV shows over broadband in 2018

[@starwars_facts](https://twitter.com/starwars_facts)

The new Star Wars film has a name – *The Last Jedi*. Find out more here

[@TrueAnimalFact](https://twitter.com/TrueAnimalFact)

Learn interesting info about animals, such as "an elephant's trunk has 40,000 major muscles"

Discover how well travelled you are



travelscore.org

If you regard yourself as something of an explorer, you can now put that claim to the test. This interactive map divides the world into a series of cells, which you can zoom into and click to highlight the areas you've visited. As you place your markers, the site tallies up a Travel Score that not only takes into account the countries visited but the size and population of the selected areas. It's not an exact science by any means, but it's fun, and you can share your score on Twitter and Facebook to see if friends can beat you.

Create interactive emoji

bit.ly/emoji416

Emoji are good for conveying emotions, and you can now use them to link to locations, cinemas, coffee shops, restaurants and more using the Inmoji app for iOS. As well as generic icons for bars, pizza restaurants, parks and bakeries, the app offers advertiser-funded emoji from companies including Starbucks and Nest. Simply tap the icon you want, establish what you'd like it to do and send it to friends in a message. For example, you can send a steaming cup icon that opens directions to your nearest coffee shop.



Find out if you're likely to be burgled

bit.ly/burglary416

Do you live in a crime hotspot? Enter your postcode into this online tool from MoneySuperMarket.com and it will scour a database of two million home-insurance quotes to find out how likely you are to be burgled. The site tells you where your postcode ranks locally and nationally, and you can even compare your street directly with another.



+ Calculate how much sleep you're losing

bit.ly/sleep416

If worrying about lack of sleep keeps you awake at night, you may not want to know how much shut-eye you'll lose in a lifetime. This gimmicky tool tells you anyway, using your age and hours slept to serve up lots of eye-opening stats.

Play old Amiga demos

bit.ly/amiga416

Fans of the Commodore Amiga can now enjoy a host of technical demos and music disks in their browser, each designed to show off the 16-bit computer's capabilities and the skill of the coders.

Chat with GIFs in Google Allo

allo.google.com

Type @lucky followed by a word or phrase into Google's Allo app and it will respond with an appropriate GIF. The cheeky service (its icon is an emoji with its tongue sticking out) is a spin on Google's I'm Feeling Lucky button.

Need to Know

ISPs punish customers with “absurd” price rises

What happened?

BT and Sky have both announced large price increases to broadband, line rental and other services, including television packages. BT said the broadband increases will come in from 2 April: most customers will see charges jump by around 5%, while landline calls will increase by 1p per minute. Additionally, BT TV subscribers will have to start paying £3.50 for BT Sport, which was previously free for many customers.

Sky is increasing its line rental in March from £17.40 a month to £18.99, a 9% increase that will cost an extra £19 annually. The increase applies only to customers with broadband or TV packages, not to those who have a landline alone, and brings Sky into line with prices charged by rivals BT and Virgin Media. Sky is also bumping up prices for some TV and broadband ‘legacy’ packages by up to £36 a year, although the company said this won’t affect most customers.

In November, Virgin Media raised its rates by up to £3.49 a month, while TalkTalk hiked prices by £2.75 a month for broadband. The regular bill hikes have caught the eye of regulator Ofcom, which in December said it was investigating landline prices, saying that they’d leapt by 41% in real terms since 2010. The watchdog is considering whether it needs to take action to protect customers, particularly elderly people who use landlines for calls as well as broadband.

That’s perhaps why BT hasn’t hiked its landline costs directly, rolling out



the increases on broadband packages instead, and why Sky is not jacking up prices for those who only have a landline – the companies may be hoping that Ofcom will take note of their efforts to protect vulnerable users and not force more regulation of their pricing models.

How will it affect you?

Your broadband provider must notify you if it’s increasing prices, be it at a package level or on your landline, so if you’re affected you should have heard by now. Keep an eye on your email or your post, depending on how you normally receive bills from your ISP.

The price hike depends on your provider and package. BT’s broadband is up by £2 a month, while its superfast Infinity broadband will increase by £2.50 a month. Also, ‘anytime’ calls will increase by 49p a month.

Dan Howdle, consumer telecoms expert at Cable.co.uk, said the increases were unjustified: “These price hikes are absurd in contrast to current rates of inflation and, quite rightly, I would expect BT customers to be fuming”.

If you’re unhappy with the increase, you can move to another provider – although you’ll be hard pressed to find another major ISP that hasn’t raised prices recently. Under Ofcom rules, you

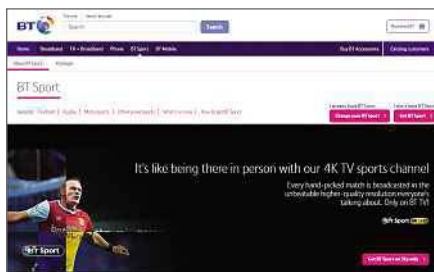
can break a contract and pay no penalty fee if the price is increased and you weren’t aware of the looming hike when you signed up. You’ll have 30 days to cancel your contract to avoid a charge.

What do we think?

UK broadband prices are actually competitive when compared to other regions in Europe and North America, but it’s never good to see bills increase, especially by such large amounts. BT and Sky both say the extra cash is needed to invest in networks and television content, but it’s likely we’re still paying for the battle between the two over football television rights, which BT paid billions of pounds to win.

Both companies make millions in profit every quarter. BT Group was recently hit by an accounting debacle in Italy wiping half a billion pounds from its profits, but BT Consumer – which includes broadband, TV and phone – still pulled in £208 million in three months alone. Sky’s revenue was up 12%, though that includes other parts of the business such as Sky News.

The telecommunications business is more complicated than a few numbers on a results sheet, but it’s hard to defend constant price hikes when company coffers are so healthy.



BT's price rises may be to offset the cost of screening football matches on BT Sport

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

HP recalls dodgy laptop batteries

What happened?

HP is warning owners of its laptops to check their batteries after it expanded a recall of batteries for the devices.

Back in June 2016, HP recalled some laptop batteries that were overheating because they constituted a possible fire risk. It's now extended that recall to a wider range of models, covering 100,000 laptops sold between 2013 and 2016. If you own one of the affected laptops and want to keep using it, power it down, remove the battery, and run it from the mains until you have a replacement battery.

How will it affect you?

The affected models include devices under the HP and Compaq brands – including the ProBook, Envy, Presario or Pavilion lines – bought between March 2013 and October 2016. However, fewer than 1% of batteries supplied with those laptops are actually affected, the company claims.

To find out if your laptop battery may have an issue,

download the Validation Utility from the HP website (bit.ly/hpbattery416).

Alternatively, remove your laptop's battery and check the barcode. If it starts with the following codes, you need a replacement: 6BZLU, 6CGFK, 6CGFQ, 6CZMB, 6DEMA, 6DEMH, 6DGAL or 6EBVA.

You don't need to send in your laptop; just fill out the form at the aforementioned website and HP will send you a new battery, though it also requests you return the flawed one.

What do we think?

It's disappointing that batteries continue to be so problematic for technology companies – it's clearly an area that manufacturers need to improve. On the upside, HP has at least put into place a simple system for requesting a new battery, and trusts customers enough to send out the replacements before it receives the damaged ones. In the meantime, you can still use your laptop when connected to the mains.



Most Android VPNs are unsafe to use

What happened?

Researchers have warned that VPNs for Android have security problems that could compromise your data.

Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) are supposed to encrypt your data and disguise your location, but when a group of researchers from Australian, American and Malaysian universities examined 283 VPN apps for Android, they found that 38% of those tested were riddled with malware. 67% of the apps had trackers and 84% leaked traffic – and 18% weren't even encrypted despite their claims.

These dodgy VPNs include well-rated and popular apps, 37% of which have more than half a million installations and 25% of which have earned a four-star rating.

How will it affect you?

If you want to use a VPN on your Android smartphone, do your research and pick a well-known, well-reviewed provider – it may be worth paying for one, though that's no guarantee of trustworthiness.

With so many VPNs available for Android devices, it's difficult to know which ones you can trust, but the researchers did name the worst of the bunch:



OkVPN, EasyVPN, SuperVPN, BetterNet, CrossVPN, Archie VPN, HatVPN, sFly Network Booster, One Click VPN, and Fast Secure Payment.

If you have any of the above installed, consider using an alternative app. When we tested Android VPNs in Issue 405 (bit.ly/webuser405), our Gold Award went to CyberGhost (cyberghostvpn.com).

What do we think?

Apps that don't do what they promise are a scourge on stores such as Google Play. There are some 2.6 million apps in Google's store, and vetting them all is no easy task, but Google needs to do more to keep Android users safe, particularly with sensitive apps such as VPNs that people choose specifically because they don't want their privacy infringed.

Google has made improvements to its app store, warning users about the data that apps will access and keeping better watch for malware, but Android users should be better warned that the apps they download may not do what they promise.

What happened?

“Just as major tech companies have accepted they have a social responsibility to combat piracy online and the illegal sharing of content, they also need to help address the spreading of fake news on social media platforms.”



You're bound to have come across at least one fake news story, and may not have questioned its veracity. Many fabricated articles are very convincing and you may have friends on Facebook or Twitter who share and comment on them without realising that they're

Fake news is certainly one of the big stories of the moment, but we can't see a government investigation doing much to stem the tide of codswallop. We are pleased that the problem is being acknowledged and that web users are being encouraged to check the facts of online articles rather than blithely sharing them, but when even big media organisations end up publishing fictitious content, we can't see fake news disappearing anytime soon.



Chromecast Ultra

That's a shame, because technically the Chromecast Ultra is a capable streamer that works every bit as well as its Full HD and audio-only



Casting 4K to your TV from your phone, tablet or laptop is as simple as it is with any other Chromecast. Just look for the Google Cast logo, tap it,

Sadly, the Chromecast Ultra's £69 price tag – more than double that of the Full HD Chromecast – makes it difficult to recommend, especially because you simply don't need one.



WHAT'S THE RUMOUR

Is GCHQ hiring teenage spies?

Teenage girls across the UK are being invited to test their hacking skills in a cybersecurity competition, in a bid to raise interest and increase the number of women joining security agencies.

The CyberFirst Girls competition (bit.ly/cyber416), hosted by GCHQ's newly formed National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), will pit young security enthusiasts against each other in a series of challenges designed to test their cyberskills. Girls aged 13 to 15 will be able to enter the competition in teams of four to engage in preliminary online challenges, with the possibility of advancing to the national final held in London in March. This initial stage will last one week, between 27 February and 6 March, and consist of puzzles in four categories: logic and coding, networking, cybersecurity and cryptography.

The top 10 teams will then compete against each other in a series of tasks that challenge participants to investigate suspicious cyber-activity and identify the source of the threats. The pupils from the winning team will each take home individual prizes, and their school's IT department will receive £1,000 worth of new equipment.

The competition forms part of the new National Cyber Security Strategy unveiled in November 2016, which aims



to address the cyberskills gap – a problem that has seen women massively underrepresented in the industry. Globally, women make up only 10% of the entire cyber-workforce; in the UK, the number of women employed in computer services accounts for just 16%.

LIKELIHOOD RATING



Although CyberFirst Girls is a competition rather than a recruitment drive, it could well entice young women into the exciting but male-dominated world of cybersecurity. With online crime on the rise and some of it perpetrated by bored teenagers, who better to tackle tomorrow's hackers than their contemporaries?



WEBOMETER



WE LIKE...



Three turns on embedded Wi-Fi

Three customers no longer have to worry about losing their mobile signal because the network has activated embedded Wi-Fi on iOS and Android (select devices only). This lets you connect to Wi-Fi as soon as your signal drops, to make calls and send texts.



New flag emoji coming to phones

Emoji flags for England, Scotland and Wales have been approved by Unicode following a campaign by website Emojipedia. The new flags will be rolled out by the summer and could be joined by new emoji depicting red-headed people.



WE DON'T LIKE...



Twitter plagued by fake accounts

Research has uncovered massive collections of fake accounts on Twitter, with one network connecting more than 350,000 bogus profiles. Some of the accounts have been used to increase follower numbers, send spam and boost interest in trending topics.



Mozilla logo confuses browsers

Mozilla's new logo, `moz://a`, has caused problems with browsers, with Chrome, Safari and Mozilla's own Firefox failing to direct users to the company's web page. The logo replaces the 'ill' in Mozilla with '://a' in a nod to its developer community.



What's new on Kickstarter

Our favourite new project on the crowdfunding site

Heat-o

bit.ly/heato416 | From £49

Keeping warm in winter is no easy task, so why not insulate yourself with Heat-o – the world's first wearable modular heating system? This battery-powered device consists of eight small heating pads that you place on your body under your clothing and operate using a remote control. You can achieve a temperature ranging from 15°C to 40°C, for up to 15 hours per charge. Heat-o is waterproof and its elements are light enough not to cause discomfort or obstruction – just wonderful, toasty warmth whatever the weather. The team hopes to raise £40,000 by 13 March.



Stay Safe Online

News about the latest threats and advice from security experts

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

DDoS attack hits Lloyds mobile apps

Lloyds Banking Group suffered a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack that affected its online services intermittently over the course of two days. According to the *Financial Times*, an international criminal gang was responsible for the attack, which disrupted services for users of Lloyds' online banking and smartphone banking app between Wednesday 11 and Friday 13 January.

It's understood that the attack came from outside the UK, and although it affected Lloyds, Halifax and Bank of Scotland, the vast majority of customers were able to access their bank accounts as usual. Typically, DDoS attacks target



a service in short bursts rather than over a longer period of time as happened in Lloyds' case. DDoS attacks have hit other banks in the past, too – HSBC customers were locked out of their online banking services this time last year. The Lloyds attack comes shortly after cybercriminals targeted Tesco Bank in November, in which the hackers obtained logins and passwords with a 'brute force' attack, eventually withdrawing funds from around 20,000 customers.

bit.ly/ddos416

Watch out for fake Netflix app

Security firm Zscaler has uncovered a fake Netflix app that could grant hackers access to your mobile device, allowing them to execute commands, copy files to send back to the hacker, listen in to conversations and record screen



captures. It can also access your contacts and SMS messages, uninstall other applications and take photos using the smartphone's camera. All these actions are triggered by the SpyNote Remote Access Trojan (RAT) and are controlled over Wi-Fi, which is the most popular way for hackers to break into the Android operating system, the company said.

"As soon as the user clicks the spyware's icon for the first time, nothing seems to happen and the icon disappears from the home screen... but, behind the scenes, the malware has not been removed; instead it starts preparing its onslaught of attacks," Zscaler said. The fake application is installed from third-party app stores rather than through official outlets such as Google Play, so Zscaler advises users not to install applications from such sources.

bit.ly/flix416

Security Helpdesk | Your questions answered by security specialists

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



Q What's the best way to avoid falling victim to fraud when using online dating services?

Sarah Haynes, via email

A Online dating apps that help us find a companion are supposed to make our lives better and more convenient. However, our

use of online services like these comes with risks, such as the threat of identity fraud, harassment and theft. Beyond a handful of pictures, emoji and light-hearted messages, you often have very little knowledge of a person's true intentions or motives when they're hidden behind a social-media account or dating profile.

There are several steps internet daters can take to protect themselves, however. The first and most obvious measure is to refrain from trusting people online

“ Remember that once you post something online, it becomes public forever ”

automatically. You have no way of verifying someone's motives or what they really look like just through the messages they exchange with you. Second, linking your Facebook or Instagram profile with an online dating app can prove problematic, especially if your account details fall into the hands of burglars or fraudsters.



If a dating app happens to 'match' you with someone who has ulterior motives, they will be able to gain access to your social-media pages, which are likely to include addresses, pictures and other personal information.

The most important thing to remember is that once you post something online, it becomes public – forever. Always think twice before sharing your private information in these very public forums.



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★ Best New Websites

Site of the Fortnight

TRAVEL

RELAUNCH

Transfer Travel transfertravel.com

When you're forced to cancel a holiday, you often lose both the trip and the cash, but with TransferTravel, you can sell on your flights, train tickets and hotel stay to other people without incurring a fee, so you at least get some of your money back. The search engine still needs some work, but this revamped peer-to-peer service is now much easier to use, with less homepage clutter and better security. We love the addition of seller profiles and the ability to complete transactions within the site rather than having to give out phone numbers and email addresses. We also like that you can effortlessly flick between currencies.

Our rating

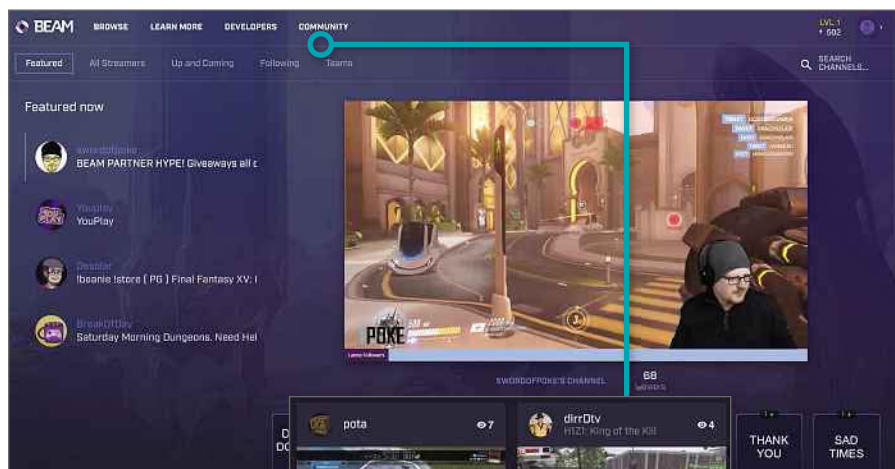


MAKING OFFER

Savings are clearly displayed and payments can be made through PayPal

SELLING

The selling form is simple and lets you enter a booking-reference number

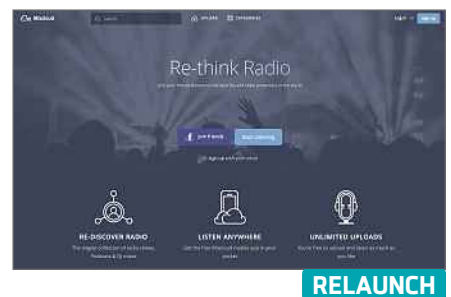


GAMING

Beam beam.pro

Microsoft bought the live game-streaming platform Beam last August and has now given it a visual makeover. In a bid to take on rival Twitch (www.twitch.tv), the service has been revamped with a cool purple colour scheme and integrated with Xbox Live. This means it now includes a new option to log in using your Microsoft account, and has streams that run at up to 60GHz at an impressive 1440p resolution, as well as a slick HTML5 web player. The site still lacks Xbox One support but that will surely be rectified very soon. In the meantime, multiple streams are now featured on the homepage and the site loads a lot faster than it did before.

Our rating



AUDIO

Mixcloud www.mixcloud.com

Mixcloud may not be as well known as SoundCloud (soundcloud.com), but this British music-streaming service has many high-profile users, including Barack Obama. Launched in 2008 to stream radio shows, podcasts and DJ mixes, it's finally been fine-tuned with tweaked profile pages, and a revamped homepage feed. The site now feels more intuitive and, as before, you can search by genre or tag to discover new music and talk shows. Mixcloud's strength has always been letting users upload their own audio content, and there's now more diversity than ever.

Our rating



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

PROFILES
You can create a detailed profile to instil trust in other users

ONLINE CHAT
If you need any help, there is a constantly manned online chat facility



ACCOMMODATION

Ideal Flatmate

www.idealflatmate.co.uk

This site promises to find you the perfect flatmate using similar algorithms to dating websites. Sign up to advertise a room or search for one, then answer questions about your domestic preferences. Ideal Flatmate will then match you with suitable members, who you can get to know via the message boards and potentially move in with. If that sounds like too much hassle, you can just search for properties or flatmates in your area. With its friendly design, simple system and reasonable prices, the site should prove very popular once its listings expand beyond London.

Our rating



MOTURING

Order Online by Peugeot

bit.ly/peugeot416

Last issue, we looked at Hyundai's efforts to get drivers to buy its cars online, and Peugeot has now joined the race, steering customers to choose and customise a vehicle before working out a part-exchange deal and sorting the finance. The homepage is a bit wordy, but we like the four-step process of selecting your budget, colours and extras via sliders and tick boxes. The mass of numbers and options can be a bit overwhelming, but your offer builds before your eyes and you can have the car delivered to your home or workplace.

Our rating



HEALTH

Head Smart

www.headsmart.org.uk

This revamped site helps you spot the early signs of brain tumours in young people. It gets straight down to business, letting you instantly see the symptoms for babies, children and teens using icons and brief descriptions. Clicking an icon lets you discover more and, if you're worried, there's a page advising you what to do next. Other resources include downloadable symptoms cards, reference posters and a decision-support tool for healthcare professionals. We love that you can read reassuring case studies and share your own, but we found the jolly video and song a bit grating.

Our rating



WebUser

Q How can I find out if my password and email address were stolen in a website hack?

A Page 47, Issue 382



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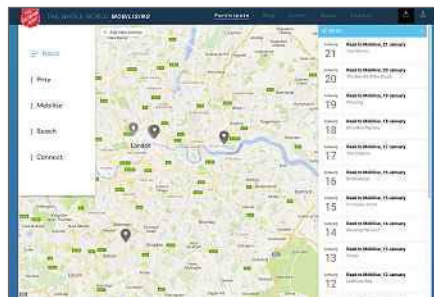

RELAUNCH
TRAVEL

Experience Peak District and Derbyshire

www.visitpeakdistrict.com

The Peak District and Derbyshire tourist board has replaced its old website with this content-packed showcase of all the area has to offer. Boasting beautiful photos and a friendly blog, it helps you find the best places to eat and drink, discover what's on and find inspiration. Most pages provide a comprehensive overview of an attraction and you can click the suitcase icons to build your own itinerary. Each section includes a handy search tool, so you can find the ideal accommodation, dining experience and attraction, but we'd prefer it if the featured pages didn't take you off-site.

Our rating


NEW
CHARITY

The Whole World Mobilising

mobilising.salvationarmy.org

The Salvation Army has marched ahead with a fresh site promoting its new Whole World Mobilising initiative, which aims to create an online community. By signing up and creating a profile, you can plot your activities on a map and perform tasks such as requesting and adding prayers or viewing suggestions for good deeds to perform. You can also find out more about forthcoming Sally Army events, access prayer materials and read the frequently updated and well-written blog. It's easy to navigate regardless of screen size, and a dedicated mobile app is launching soon.

Our rating

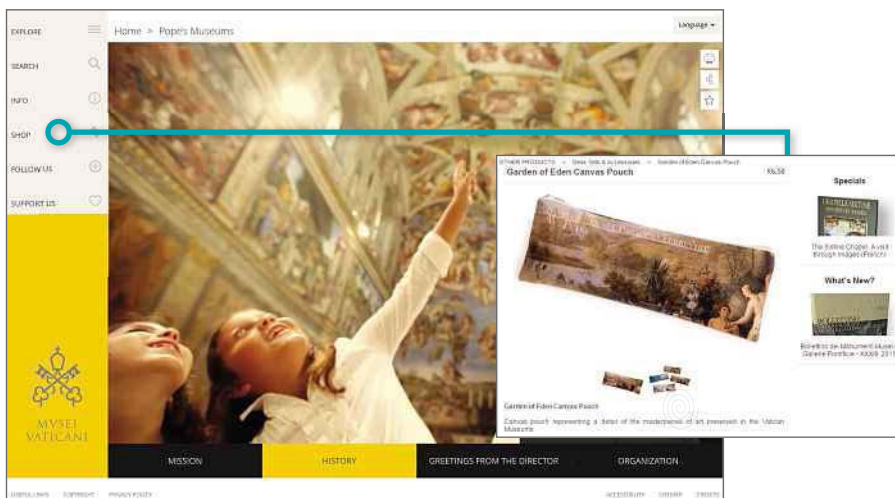

NEW
FILM

Alternate Ending

www.alternateending.com

This merger between Tim Brayton's Antagonist & Ecstasy blog and a podcast by Carrie and Rob Jaroski is a movie-review site with a twist: rather than just looking at the latest cinema releases, it also features films from the past. The emphasis is on discovery, with the critics and podcasters sharing their top picks; reviews are punchy, opinionated and in-depth; and visitors are encouraged to have their say. Each film is marked out of five, and additional 'Bang For Your Buck' ratings indicate whether you should head to the cinema, wait for the movie to stream online or not bother with it at all.

Our rating


RELAUNCH
RELIGION

Vatican Museums

www.museivaticani.va

Developed over the past three years, this new website for the Vatican's museums is a feast to behold. You could easily get lost in its wealth of information, with details on 4,000 Vatican treasures and more than 50 videos and virtual tours to enjoy. Navigation is simple: each museum is divided into manageable sections or rooms, and items get their own page with large, detailed images. Photos can be printed or shared but downloading them is clumsy – there's no one-click button so you have to press Ctrl+D to save pages to your browser. Still, the online shop, helpful visitor info and tour-booking facilities are great, making it an accessible, easy-to-use resource.

Our rating


NEW
POLITICS

Westmonster

www.westmonster.com

Aiming to be the UK equivalent of right-wing US sites such as Breitbart News and the Drudge Report, Westmonster serves up a daily diet of pro-Brexit, anti-establishment content, but it's not particularly insightful or well-researched. The site is effectively a blog, populated with short, snappy, opinionated pieces that are often rather childish, using loaded phrases such as "moaner-in-chief" and "cry baby anarchists", and a limited set of keyword tags. We like that you can share stories on social media, but you can't comment on articles to engage in debate. ■

Our rating



Build a Better Site

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

Top Tips of the Fortnight

New GoDaddy site builder

Web host GoDaddy (uk.godaddy.com) has launched its new site builder, which lets you create a brilliantly designed mobile-ready website in just a few clicks. The site offers a huge selection of templates and topics to create a design that's appropriate for the type of site you want to make. It does this by asking a few simple questions, then choosing background images and adapting layouts depending on your answers.

The software creates sites for mobile and desktop devices simultaneously, so you can preview both as you work on your design. The building process is slick and simple – new pages automatically join your navigation and there are lots of options for adding sections to any page.

GoDaddy says you can have a site up and running in under



an hour, and a small site will take even less time. There are also lots of options to build on your initial work, from SEO help to tips on improving social networking.

If you want to try the service, there's a one-month free trial. After that, prices range from £5.99 per month for the Personal Plan to £23.99 per month if you'd like to add a fully functioning online store.

Deal of the Fortnight

Try Krystal Cloud Hosting (krystal.co.uk) for £1.20 for the first month, then £3.59 per month if you choose to continue.

Web-building Helpdesk

THIS ISSUE'S EXPERT:
David Taplin, Marketing
Manager, My Hosting
Bubble (www.myhostingbubble.com)



Q I am registering a new domain but how important is the 'and' for search-engine optimisation? Should I go for www.fishandchips.co.uk or www.fishchips.co.uk?

Colin, via Web User Forums

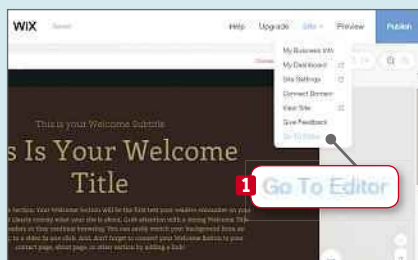
A Ask yourself why you might want to remove a stop word such as 'and' from your domain name. A stop word within a domain plays almost no part in SEO itself, but there are important factors to consider, such as ensuring the domain is consistent with your brand and website content. Also, make sure your domain is memorable and does not read badly or gain a different meaning by removing the 'and'. With those factors in mind, you should be able to ascertain whether it would be worth keeping the 'and' in your domain or not.



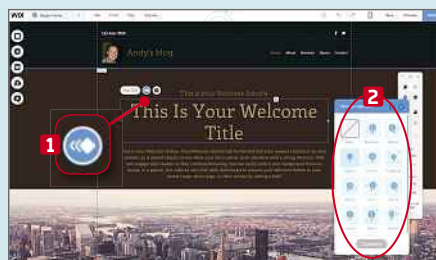
MINI WORKSHOP | Add animation to your Wix website

Wix: www.wix.com |  10 mins | [Wix website](http://www.wix.com)

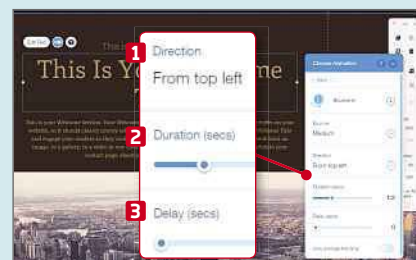
Wix provides everything you need to create an interesting, dynamic website. It's now introduced a new animation tool, which lets you individually animate elements on your site.



1 Wix has two site editors, the Wix ADI and the Wix Editor. The animation tools are only available in the Wix Editor, so if you've designed your site in ADI, make sure you've done everything you need to in that site editor before you switch to the other. Now click the Site menu and select Go To Editor. **1**



2 You can animate anything on your page, from images to text boxes. To add animation effects, select the element you want to animate, then click the Animate button. **1** A box appears with a choice of effects. You can hover your mouse over one to preview its movement. **2**

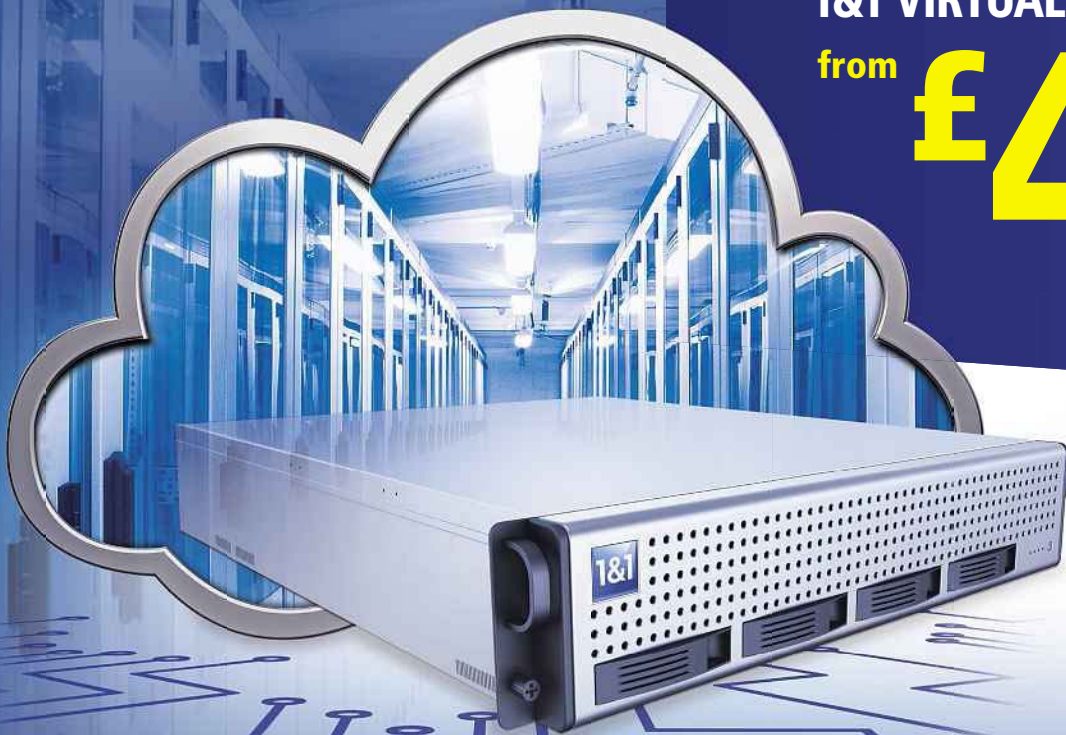


3 Click an effect to select it, then click the Customize button. Different effects offer different customisation options, but most offer Direction, **1** Duration **2** and Delay. **3** Use the menus and sliders to control how the animation works. Animating more than one element using the same delay makes them look synchronised.

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Group Test

We test and compare the latest products

Graphics cards

We test nine great-value upgrade cards that will boost the graphics capabilities of your PC

Lots of modern PCs come with their graphics hardware built into the main processor, but this means that the graphics have to share processing power and memory with all the computer's other tasks. For better results and a faster PC, particularly when playing games, you need a standalone graphics card.

As a general rule, the more you pay, the better the card is going to be, though there are still bargains to be had and overpriced cards to beware of. We've split our test into two: lightweight graphics cards costing under £100, for upgrading a PC with built-in graphics; and mainstream gaming cards, which will boost your PC's gaming prowess.

HOW WE TESTED

To test the performance of the cards, we installed them in the same PC, then tested a variety of games on each one. We ran all the games in 1080p resolution with maximum detail and measured the frame rates they produced. We used an average of these scores in our chart, to show how the cards perform when playing different types of games.

Lightweight graphics cards under £100



The **Asus AMD Radeon R7 250 (£78.59 | bit.ly/250amd416)** is the big brother of the 240 (reviewed right). It's very cheap by graphics-card standards, but benefits from plenty of stream processors – the units that carry out the fundamental mathematical work of building 3D scenes ready to display on your screen. The number of stream processors doesn't on its own guarantee top performance – the disappointing Nvidia GeForce GT 730 has the same number – but this AMD card runs them faster, which is enough to give it a significant boost.

There's enough power here to make our less-challenging games run smoothly in 1080p. With the detail settings on high, we saw an average frame rate of 59fps in Dirt Showdown and 39fps in Tomb Raider. Newer games that have been designed to benefit from more powerful graphics cards remain beyond the R7 250's capabilities, unless you're willing to turn down the game's settings or play in a lower resolution, but that's an acceptable limitation at this price.

OVERALL



BEST OF THE REST

Predictably, as prices tumble, so does the performance of the graphics cards. The **Sapphire AMD**

Radeon R7 240 (£55.99 | bit.ly/240amd416 | ★★☆☆☆) is

better than its price might suggest, outperforming the built-in graphics (Intel HD Graphics 530) of our test PC and averaging just under 25fps across our 1080p high-settings tests. Less impressive was the **Palit Nvidia**

GeForce GT 730 (£49.99 | bit.ly/730nvd416 | ★☆☆☆☆),

which has the same number of stream processors as the R7 250 but doesn't use them as well. Its average frame rate of 11fps fell behind the integrated graphics of our test PC and it performed only slightly better than the much cheaper **Palit Nvidia**

GeForce GT710 (£27.99 | bit.ly/710nvd416 | ★★☆☆☆), which

only averaged around 9fps in our 1080p games tests. Only buy this if you are looking for a very cheap replacement card for Windows in a PC that doesn't already have built-in graphics.



Mainstream gaming graphics cards under £200



The **XFX AMD Radeon RX 470** (£169.98 | bit.ly/470amd416) is the most expensive graphics card in our test but it's well worth the money because it matches more of the specifications of pricier cards than its mainstream companions do.

For starters, it has 2,048 stream processors – three times more than other cards in this price bracket – coupled with 4GB of dedicated graphics memory. The XFX branded card we reviewed was slightly overclocked, too, so it runs just that little bit faster.

The extra boost that this provides is clear from our test results: super-slick 1080p gaming at 60fps and above in the latest games. If you have a compatible monitor, this card will even let you run games in 4K resolution: in our tests, it managed 28fps in Tomb Raider with ultimate detail, and 51fps in Dirt Showdown. However, before you buy, be aware that the RX 470 draws more power than most cards (ours peaked at 223W) and requires a six-pin power connector.

OVERALL

★★★★★

BEST OF THE REST

There's a big leap between the prices of our two winners, so if you're looking for something in the middle, consider the **Gigabyte Nvidia GeForce GTX 1050** (£114.96 | bit.ly/1050nvd416 | ★★★★★). This uses the entry-level model in Nvidia's latest range of chips, so it supports games that use DirectX 12 technology, outperforms more expensive cards (such as higher-specified previous-generation

Palit Nvidia GeForce GTX 750 Ti – £119.99 | bit.ly/750nvd416 | ★★★★★) and ranked in the middle of our performance charts despite its lower price. The **PowerColor Red Dragon AMD Radeon RX 460** (£126.48 | bit.ly/460amd416 | ★★★★★) is the cheapest card in this bracket but makes a significant leap beyond AMD's Radeon R7 models. Its hardware is more up to date, and it has more of the all-important stream processors, offering good value for money if your budget can stretch just a little higher than £100.

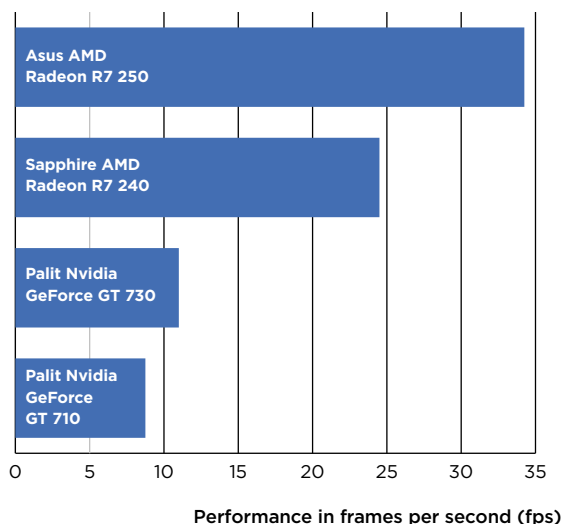
The **Asus Expedition Nvidia GeForce GTX 1050 Ti** (£178.26 | bit.ly/1050tiamd416 | ★★★★★)

is faster than its little brother but not by much, and it's a lot more expensive. If you're spending this much money, the AMD RX 740 is a better buy.

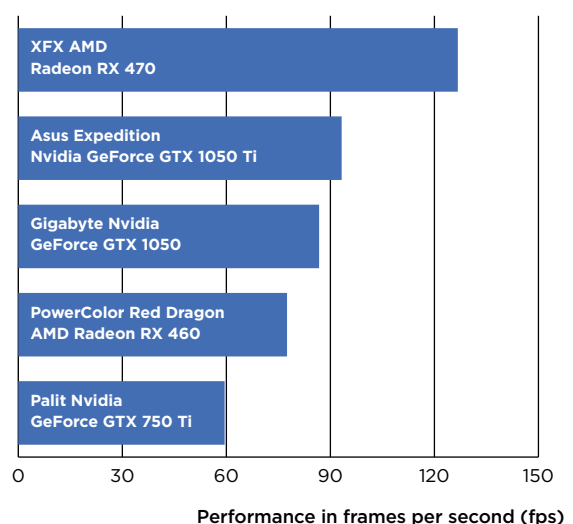


TEST-RESULTS CHARTS

Average fps of graphics cards under £100










Average fps of graphics cards under £200





Group Test Graphics cards

	 	 			
	XFX AMD Radeon RX 470	Asus AMD Radeon R7 250	Gigabyte Nvidia GeForce GTX 1050	Asus Expedition Nvidia GeForce GTX 1050 Ti	PowerColor Red Dragon AMD Radeon RX 460
WEBSITE	xfxforce.com	www.asus.com	uk.gigabyte.com	www.asus.com	www.powercolor.com
PRICE	£169.98	£78.59	£114.96	£178.26	£126.48
BUY FROM AMAZON	bit.ly/470amd416	bit.ly/250amd416	bit.ly/1050nvd416	bit.ly/1050tiamd416	bit.ly/460amd416
STREAM PROCESSORS	2,048	384	640	768	896
TEXTURE-MAPPING UNITS	128	24	40	48	56
RENDER-OUTPUT UNITS	32	8	32	32	16
GPU FREQUENCY	926MHz	1,000MHz	1,354MHz	1,290MHz	1,090MHz
OVERCLOCKED	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
RAM (type)	4GB (GDDR5)	1GB (GDDR5)	2GB (GDDR5)	4GB (GDDR5)	2GB (GDDR5)
DIRECT3D SUPPORT VERSION	12.0	11.1	12.1	12.1	12.0
MAXIMUM DISPLAYS	6	3	3	3	5
MAXIMUM RESOLUTION (at 60Hz)	4,096 x 2,160 pixels	4,096 x 3,112 pixels	7,680 x 4,210 pixels	7,680 x 4,210 pixels	4,096 x 2,160 pixels
VIDEO CONNECTORS	3 x DisplayPort, DVI-D, HDMI	DVI-D, HDMI, VGA	DisplayPort, DVI-D, HDMI	DisplayPort, DVI-D, HDMI	DVI-D, HDMI, VGA

OUR VERDICT

Graphics chips are made by just two manufacturers and the boards they're soldered to end up largely similar regardless of who makes them, so there are few traps here for the consumer. Essentially, if you pay more for a graphics card, you can expect it to perform better. It's little surprise, then, that the most expensive card we tested – the XFX AMD Radeon RX 470 – came out top of its category. It's worth every penny, performing better than some more expensive cards.

If you're not prepared to pay more than £100, the Sapphire AMD Radeon R7 250 is our card of choice. It did a good job of boosting the graphics of our test PC and makes a great-value replacement for onboard graphics, if you want to take the next step to improve your PC's graphics performance. ■



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HARDWARE

GRAPHICS CARD

Asus AMD Radeon R7 250

£78.59 from bit.ly/250amd416

Tested: Issue 416



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

KEY SPECS

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

WI-FI REPEATER

TP-Link RE450

£44.99 from bit.ly/tpl414

Tested: Issue 414



The TP-Link RE450 provides a strong signal at a price that's hard to resist. It's better at extending the 5GHz network than the 2.4GHz, but it also acts as a bridge to transfer older devices to the newer network.

KEY SPECS

2 x 60mm, 1 x 42mm antennae ■ 3.8W power consumption ■ 2.4GHz (450Mbps) and 5GHz (1,300Mbps) ■ 802.11ac Wi-Fi ■ WPS button ■ Repeater and access point modes ■ 163 x 76 x 37mm ■ Three-year return-to-base warranty

MONITOR

AOC Q2781PQ

£299.99 from bit.ly/aoc412

Tested: Issue 412



This good-value monitor offers impressive image quality, a lovely design and 178-degree horizontal and vertical viewing angles. You won't need to calibrate it, either. If you're after a monitor with a resolution of 2,560 x 1,440 pixels, buy this.

KEY SPECS

27in flat screen ■ 2,560 x 1,440 pixels resolution ■ 1,000:1 contrast ratio ■ 350cd/m² brightness ■ 60Hz refresh rate ■ DisplayPort, HDMI, VGA inputs ■ 330 x 180mm base ■ Three-year collect-and-return warranty

BUDGET TABLET

Amazon Fire HD 8

£89.99 from bit.ly/8hd410

Tested: Issue 410



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

KEY SPECS

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

CHROMEBOOK

Acer Chromebook R11

£229.99 from www.amazon.co.uk

Tested: Issue 409



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

KEY SPECS

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

WINDOWS 10 LAPTOP

Acer Aspire One Cloudbook 14

£199.98 from www.pcworld.co.uk

Tested: Issue 407



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

KEY SPECS

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

SOFTWARE & SERVICES

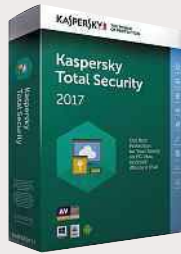
INTERNET SECURITY

Kaspersky Internet Security 2017

£19.95 from bit.ly/kaspersky2017

Tested: *Computeractive* Issue 493

Kaspersky is rock solid at protecting your PC from the worst of the web, and has come top in nine of our most recent tests, blocking all malware with its robust defences. Use the URL above to save £15.04 on the software (normal price £34.99).



KEY FEATURES

Antivirus and firewall tools ■ Protects online shopping and banking ■ Identity and privacy tools ■ Dangerous-website alerts ■ New software updater ■ Secure-connection VPN ■ Advanced ad-blocking system ■ Multi-device version ■ Compatible with Windows 10

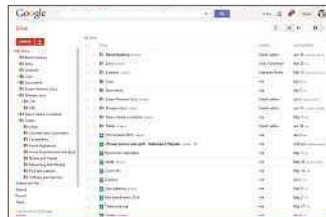
ONLINE STORAGE

Google Drive

From free from drive.google.com

Tested: Issue 389

Google Drive is easy to use and has lots of free storage. The Windows software integrates with Explorer, so saving and syncing files is like keeping them in any other PC folder.



KEY FEATURES

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

WEB DESIGN

Xara Web Designer 11 Premium

£69.99 from www.xara.com

Tested: Issue 385

Xara Web Designer 11 is a great tool for anyone who wants a good-looking website without having to use HTML or CSS code. The interface is easy to use and the software includes all the tools you need to create flexible sites that change depending on the size of the screen.



KEY FEATURES

90+ templates ■ WYSIWYG design ■ Create responsive websites ■ Embed codes ■ Add HTML ■ Online editing ■ FTP uploader ■ Hosting (requires registration) ■ Browser preview (Chrome, Firefox, IE, Opera)

Web User Gold Award winners

STICKY-NOTES TOOL

Stickies

Free from bit.ly/stickies415

Tested: Issue 415

Stickies is simple to use, lets you display almost anything in its notes and has lots of useful options.



ANDROID CAMERA APP

Open Camera

Free from bit.ly/open414

Tested: Issue 414

Open Camera is by far the best replacement for your phone's camera app, and offers an unrivalled selection of tools.



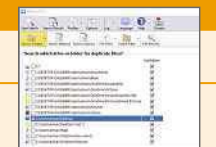
DUPLICATE SCANNER

AllDup

Free from bit.ly/alldup413

Tested: Issue 413

AllDup frees up space on your hard drive by deleting duplicate files. Unlike similar tools, it's completely free.



READ-IT-LATER TOOL

Pocket

From free from getpocket.com

Tested: Issue 412

Pocket's free version is perfectly adequate for most users, especially its excellent, tag-based organising tools.



ENCRYPTION TOOL

VeraCrypt

Free from bit.ly/veracrypt411

Tested: Issue 411

VeraCrypt's powerful encryption and container-style protection make working with encrypted files very easy.



WINDOWS LAUNCHER

Listary

From free from listary.com

Tested: Issue 410

Listary offers superfast access to your files and programs. Its simple, intuitive interface is a joy to use.



VIDEO CONVERTER

TEncoder Video Converter

Free from bit.ly/te409

Tested: Issue 409

TEncoder isn't the easiest program to get to grips with, but is excellent for downloading and converting videos.



Best Free Software

ANTIVIRUS

AVG AntiVirus Free 17

bit.ly/avgfree416

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

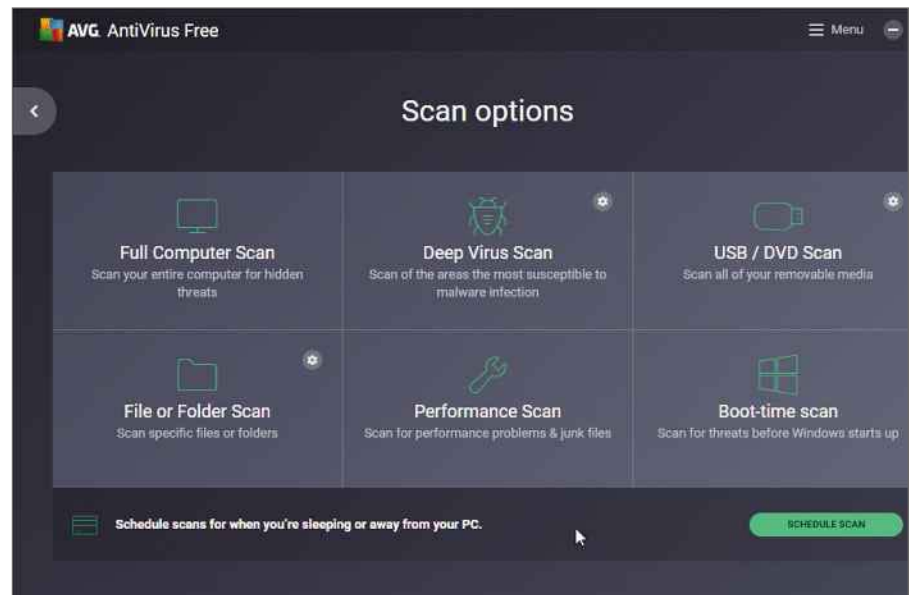
File size: 3.3MB

We're sure you're familiar with AVG AntiVirus, which has been keeping computers safe for 25 years. The software launched in the Czech Republic before eventually going global, and has rolled out regular yearly updates, but this latest version is the first since the company was taken over by its rival, Avast Software, last year.

Despite the buyout, there are no dramatic changes to the software. The program has a new look, as each progressive version does, but maintains its familiar black-and-green colour scheme.

The main screen is divided into two sections – Basic Protection and Full Protection. The latter safeguards you from hacker attacks, hides your private files and offers payment protection when you're shopping online, but you'll need to upgrade to the paid-for edition (£49.99 a year) to unlock this functionality.

There are plenty of welcome changes



throughout the software, though, such as the introduction of Pushed Priority Updates. These ensure that free users get the same speedy updates and protection enjoyed by owners of paid-for AVG products.

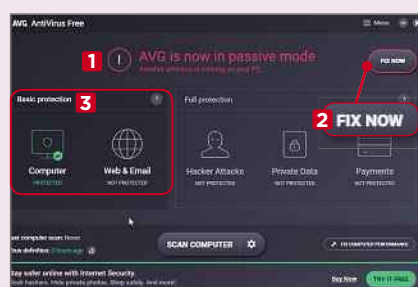
This 17th version of AVG AntiVirus uses Avast's cloud-based file scanner, CyberCapture, to protect your PC against zero-day threats, and has an improved Online Shield that blocks malicious links and files when you're browsing the web. The software can also identify performance problems.

You can now use AVG as a second line of defence, as well as your sole security program, because it will install and run without problems alongside any existing antivirus software you might have installed. If, during setup, it identifies an antivirus program already on your system, it will install itself in 'Passive Mode' to avoid any potential conflicts.

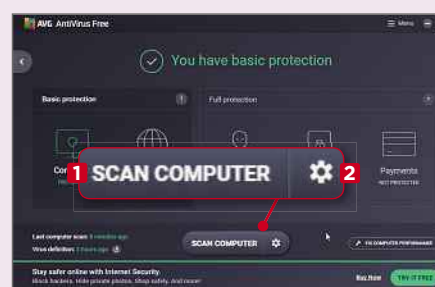
Happily, it appears that AVG fans, who may have thought the program would change radically – or even be scrapped altogether – under Avast's ownership, needn't have worried.



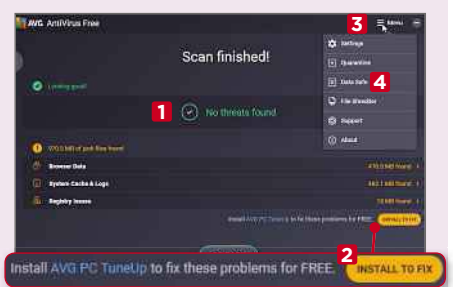
MINI WORKSHOP | Protect your PC using AVG AntiVirus Free 17



1 During installation, you can choose the Custom option to specify the components you want to include. From the Zen menu, click the Antivirus Free button. If the software is in Passive Mode (being used as a second line of defence), it will be shown here. **1** You can also turn off this mode. **2** Basic Protection shows you which modules are active. **3**



2 To check your PC for threats, click the Scan Computer button. **1** Clicking the cog **2** lets you choose the type of scan you want AVG to run: Full Computer, Deep Virus, USB/DVD, File or Folder, Performance or Boot-time. You can also schedule scans from the same screen.



3 Once you've run a full scan, the results screen will display any threats it's found, **1** along with any junk files. However, you need to install AVG PC TuneUp to fix these problems for free. **2** The menu button **3** provides access to Settings, Quarantine and the File Shredder. Data Safe **4** is only available in the paid-for edition of the program.

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



IMAGE EDITOR

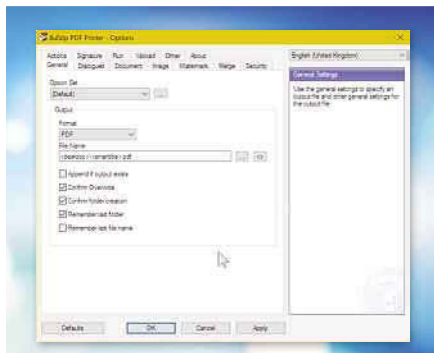
Image to ZX Spec 2

bit.ly/zx416

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

File size: 41.4MB

This retro-tastic image-editing program makes your photos appear as they would if displayed on the classic ZX Spectrum home computer. It does so by scaling down the resolution to 256 x 192 (you can disable this change) and reducing the palette to 15 colours. It offers some handy features, such as importing videos and exporting animated GIFs you've created. You may need to install Java (bit.ly/java416) to use it, but since it doesn't connect to the web, this won't pose the usual security risks.



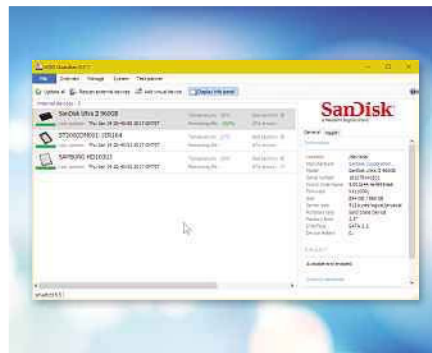
PDF CREATOR

Bullzip PDF Printer 11

bit.ly/bzip416

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 10.5MB

Windows 10 lets you print directly to PDF without needing third-party software. If you're running a different version of Windows, or need more features, then Bullzip's PDF Printer is a great solution. This lets you encrypt PDFs, choose quality settings, add watermarks and more, and the latest release makes it easier to merge documents. Make sure you decline any unwanted features during installation.



HARD-DRIVE TOOL

HDD Guardian

bit.ly/hddguard416

Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10 **File size:** 3MB

Hard-drive failure can have catastrophic consequences. As well as preventing your operating system from loading, it can result in loss of your personal data. HDD Guardian monitors your hard drives and SSDs using their built-in SMART (Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology) information, and alerts you to any signs of impending failure, giving you time to take action before it's too late.

New Windows Apps

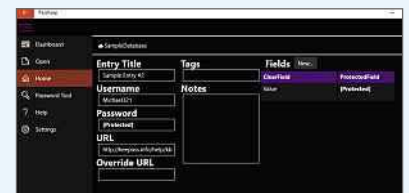
PassKeep

bit.ly/pk416

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 6.1MB

This password manager is compatible with KeePass, but doesn't support all KeePass's features. You can load an existing database or create a new one.



Inkodo

bit.ly/inkodo416

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 33MB

Inkodo lets you record notes, annotate content, make sketches, create photo montages and scrawl doodles. You can set reminders and alarms, and pin your creations to the Start menu.



S Note

bit.ly/snote416

Min requirements: Windows 10

File size: 103.6MB

This is the Windows 10 version of Samsung's mobile note-taking service, which lets you create, edit and manage notes. It works with the Surface Pen, as well as keyboard, mouse and touch.



SYSTEM TOOL

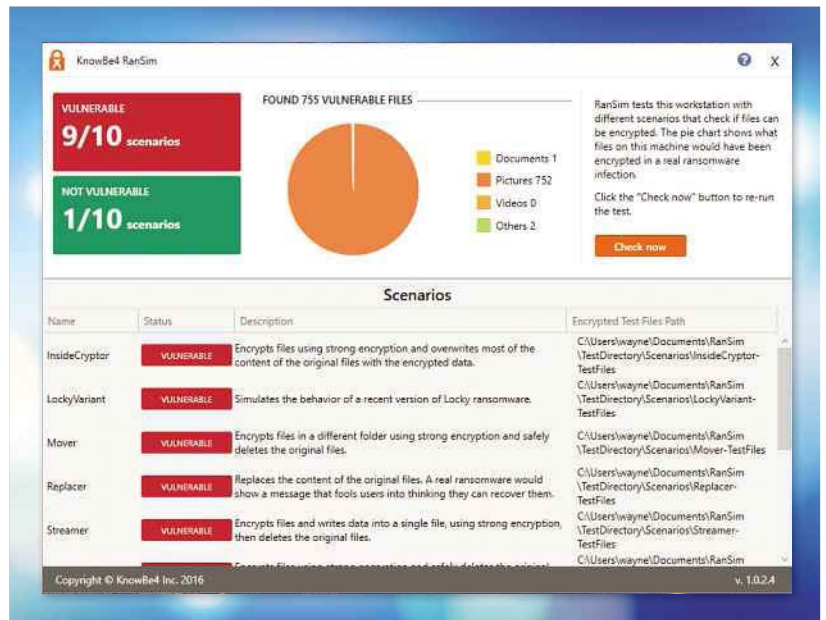
RanSim Ransomware Simulator

bit.ly/ransim416

Min requirements: Windows 7/8+/10

File size: 8.46MB

Most good anti-malware programs protect you from ransomware, but how can you know for certain that you're safe? RanSim Ransomware Simulator launches a fake ransomware attack, testing your system's defences against 10 ransomware families including InsideCryptor, LockyVariant, Mover, Replacer, Streamer, StrongCryptor, ThorVariant and WeakCryptor. Once the test has finished (don't worry, it's perfectly safe), the software shows you which of your files would have been encrypted in a real ransomware infection. You need to enter some fake details before downloading the tool, and you may find your antivirus software deletes RanSim before it even has the chance to run.



ANTI-MALWARE

CryptoPrevent 8

bit.ly/cp416

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

File size: 10.1MB

Continuing on a ransomware theme, CryptoPrevent is designed to help protect your PC from the latest threats, including ransomware, and will run alongside your existing antivirus software. The latest version has been entirely rewritten and introduces useful new features such as the ability to monitor and protect folders from malware, and the option to submit potentially malicious files for analysis. The software offers a choice of protection levels – None (turned off), Minimal, Default and Maximum. There's also an Extreme level, but this is for paid-for Premium users only. You can apply Custom settings if you want more control over the software.

SYSTEM TOOL

ClickMonitorDDC 3

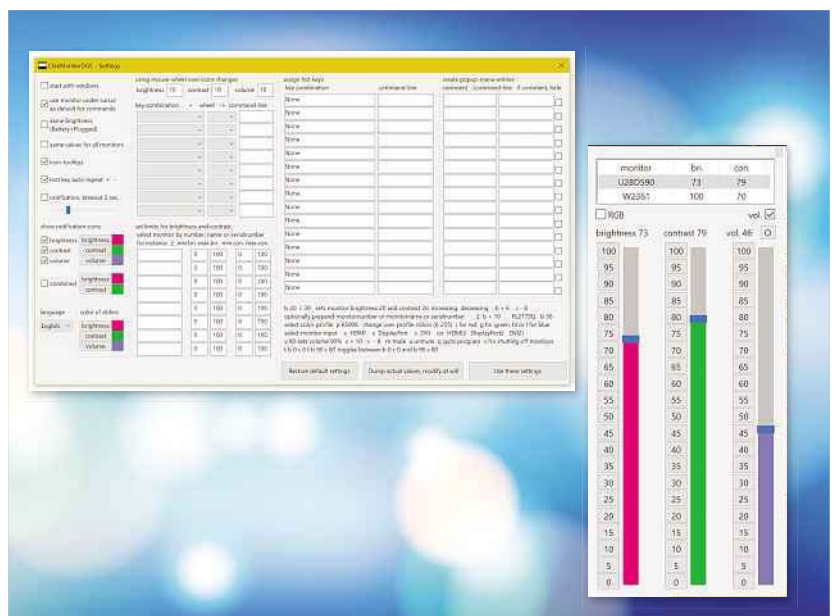
bit.ly/cmdcdc416

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

File size: 142KB

ClickMonitorDDC lets you adjust the brightness and contrast of your computer screen. You may wonder what's so special about that when you can do the same thing using your monitor's controls, but it's much quicker and easier to make changes using your mouse or keyboard. The program doesn't require installation: just run it and click the system-tray icon to access the controls. If you're using more than one screen, you can adjust the settings for each one separately.

The software is compatible with most screens, provided they support the DDC (display-data channel) protocol. It sort of works on laptops, but can't adjust their contrast.





GAME

Non Euclidean Room

bit.ly/neroom416

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

File size: 25.9MB

The aim of this exploration game is to wander around an Escher-style room, find cool visual spots and ultimately locate the exit. It probably won't take you too long to complete (depending on how quickly you get your bearings), but the black-and-white pencil-sketch graphics are very well done and the impossible staircases are fun to explore.

Don't install...

DiskPulse

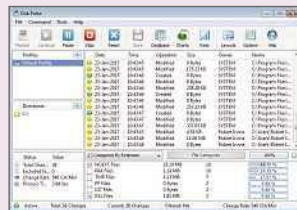
www.diskpulse.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 5.6MB

Like many programs that appear in this section, DiskPulse actually does its job well – allowing you to monitor changes to files and folders on your PC, so you can spot if anything untoward is occurring. The trouble is that you need to pay \$25 (£20) for the Pro edition to get its most useful features. There is a free version, but it's very limited in comparison.



...Install this instead

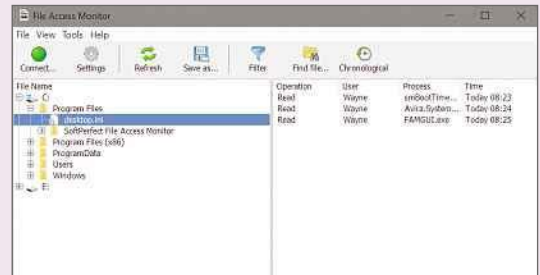
SoftPerfect File Access Monitor

bit.ly/soft416

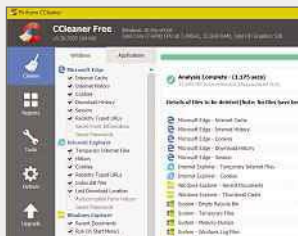
Min requirements: Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 4.1MB

This powerful program monitors all file activity on your PC, including every time you create, delete or write a file. By doing so, SoftPerfect File Access Monitor gives you a good idea of what's happening on your computer, and can be useful for identifying possible problems and even ransomware infections. Naturally, a busy PC generates a lot of events, but you can filter the list in different ways to show only the information you need, and the reports produced by the software are easy to understand. SoftPerfect File Access Monitor used to cost \$149 (£119), but it's now completely free.



UPDATED | New tweaks and fixes for your favourite free programs



SYSTEM CLEANER

CCleaner 5.26

www.piriform.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+

File size: 8.4MB

Yes, here's CCleaner again, but Piriform does insist on updating it every month. The latest version improves Firefox history and session cleaning; Opera history cleaning; and Thunderbird session cleaning. It also optimises the 64-bit build and updates various language translations.



EBOOK MANAGER

Calibre 2.77

calibre-ebook.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10,

Mac OS or Linux

File size: 65.1MB

The latest release of the popular ebook manager and viewer fixes numerous problems, including the cover image of ebooks not updating after a conversion, and compatibility issues with Kindle and Nook e-readers. It also improves the book-editing functionality.



SYSTEM TOOL

WinUtilities Free 13.23

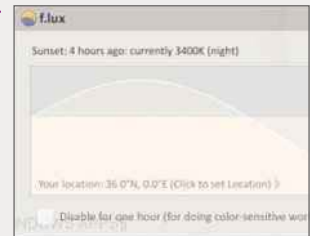
hi.ylcomputing.com

Min requirements:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8+/10

File size: 6.1MB

WinUtilities is a comprehensive all-in-one cleaning and optimisation suite that's all the more impressive because it's free. The latest version updates its database and fixes various bugs, including one in the Registry Cleaner module that could cause the program to crash in Windows 10.



SCREEN TOOL

f.lux 3.12

justgetflux.com

Min requirements:

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

File size: 485KB

f.lux intelligently changes the hue of your screen to match your environment and the time of day to reduce eyestrain. This updated release fixes a number of minor issues with Windows 10 Anniversary Edition, and improves security. ■

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



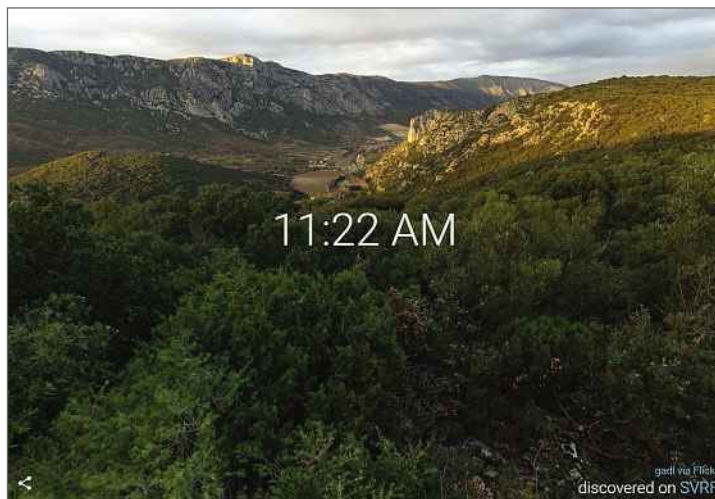
Best New Browser Tools



CHROME

View 360-degree photos on every new tab

We love extensions that embellish your New Tab page with attractive photos, and they don't come more impressive than SVRF Tabs (bit.ly/svrf416). This tool's breathtaking landscape shots add extra scenic wonder by immersing you in stunning 360-degree panoramas that you can pan around and explore. You can use your mouse to move up, down and around these photos, which include woodland trails, mountain vistas and sun-drenched beaches, many of which have been taken by Flickr users. Additional features include a clock in the centre of the tab and the option to share your favourite panoramas on Facebook and Twitter. The superb quality of the images means that they can take a few seconds to load, but they're definitely worth the wait and incredible to explore.



Search every web page you've visited

It often happens that you stumble across something really interesting on the web, but then completely forget where you saw it. True, you can retrace your steps through your browser history or try Googling the page, but this invariably means wading through lots of irrelevant results. A new extension called WorldBrain (bit.ly/world416) solves this problem by indexing every page and PDF you open and bookmark, so you can search their content whenever you need to.



It starts indexing from the moment you install it and also lets you import your existing history and bookmarks so it can search back before that point (this can take a while). To perform a search, click in Chrome's address bar and press W and either the Spacebar or the Tab key. Type your search query and matching results will appear below, accompanied by the date you last visited that page.

WorldBrain's permissions sound scary – it can “read and change all your data



on the websites that you visit” – but everything is stored locally, with no information leaving your computer. You can blacklist specific sites to prevent them from being stored, and delete the saved data in a single click.

Access archived pages from the Wayback Machine

The Wayback Machine (archive.org/web) is a brilliant tool for seeing how websites looked one month, one year or even a decade ago, even if they've since disappeared from the web. Its new Chrome extension (bit.ly/wayback416) provides a handy means of beating broken-link error messages that tell you a “page cannot be found”. When you encounter such a message, the add-on should spring into action and allow you to access an archived version of the



page – if there's one available. This time-travelling trick works with most common error codes, including 404, 410 and 500, and you can test it at www.pfaw.org:80/attacks.htm.

Export your passwords from Chrome

The chances are that you have at least a few website passwords stored in Chrome, which the browser has saved for you automatically. A secret tweak allows you to create a list of these logins to print or save. Type `chrome://flags` into the address bar, press Enter and search for the entry ‘Password import and export’. Enable this, relaunch Chrome and type `chrome://settings/passwords` into the address bar. Press Enter and you'll now see an option to Export your passwords. Click this to save them as a plain-text CSV file that can be printed or imported to a more secure password manager.



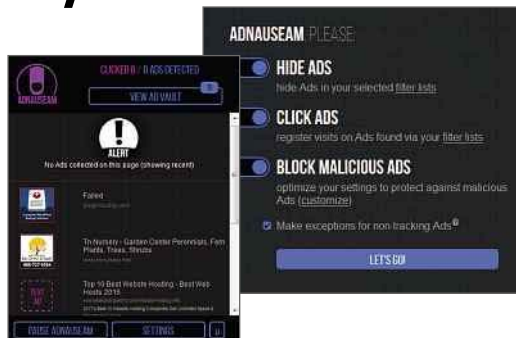
This fortnight's most useful tips and add-ons to help you get the most from Chrome, Firefox, Opera and more



FIREFOX

Stop advertising networks spying on you

Blocking online adverts stops them following you around the web, but it also deprives sites of the revenue they need to provide their content for free. AdNauseum (adnauseam.io) offers a happy compromise by filtering ads from pages (it's based on uBlock Origin) while also clicking them in the background, so the sites still get paid by the advertising networks. By "obfuscating" the tracker data, AdNauseum prevents companies from building a profile of your online tastes and habits, and renders their targeting and surveillance futile. The latest third version of the add-on introduces new features such as 'white listing' sites that don't track you; estimating the amount of ad revenue earned through its clicks; and letting you subscribe to uBlock's filter lists. Unsurprisingly, Google has banned it from the Chrome Web Store, but it works like a dream on Firefox and Opera.



Duplicate tabs – like you can in other browsers

Considering some of the pointless tweaks Mozilla has made to Firefox over the years, it beggars belief that there



is still no option to duplicate your browser tabs. Long available in Chrome, Opera and

even Internet Explorer and Edge, this handy feature copies the content of the current tab to a new one, so you can browse forward to new pages and back to old ones from the same starting point. Happily, you can now remedy this shameful situation using a new add-on called Duplicate Tab for Firefox (bit.ly/duplicate416). Just click its toolbar button to instantly clone the tab you're viewing as many times as you want. It's a pity it doesn't add a Duplicate Tab option to your right-click menu or offer a keyboard shortcut, but then beggars can't be choosers!

Discover hosting details for any site

As we're sure you're aware, websites

don't just appear by magic but require domain-name registration, a hosting service and an associated IP address, although they might not make this and other information immediately clear. You can satisfy your curiosity by installing Who Is Hosting This Website (bit.ly/host416), which reveals behind-the-scenes details about any site you visit. Just click the add-on's toolbar button to view a site's hosting provider, IP address, location and ISP, then click the WhoIs Information tab to see when the domain name was registered, who by and a contact address for the registrant. All this info is freely and legally available, but having it all in one place is both useful and interesting, especially if you run a website of your own.



OTHER BROWSERS



Try the future of browsers today

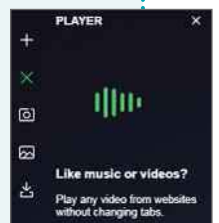
Opera has long been at the cutting edge of browsing innovation and it's hoping to maintain that lead with its new effort, Neon (www.opera.com/neon). Available for Windows and Mac, this 'concept browser' (which means it's still a work in progress) offers several smart features to make it "more than just a window to the internet".



Instead of standard, rectangular tabs, Neon uses circular ones that float like bubbles against attractive wallpapers (you can even use your Desktop wallpaper) or can be affixed to the vertical sidebar on the right-hand side of the browser. Ingeniously, your most frequently used tabs rise to the top, while the idle ones sink to the bottom.

Another sidebar on the left offers one-click access to Neon's download manager and image gallery, where you can store screenshots you take of web pages. There's also a media player that can be pulled out into a separate window, so you can watch and listen as you browse. Neon's split-screen mode lets you view two pages at once, and the search box has been redesigned for improved results.

It's still early days for Neon, so we wouldn't recommend using it as your default browser, but it already looks very promising.



Best Free Apps

App of the Fortnight

NOTES

Zoho Notebook

www.zoho.com/notebook

 5  8

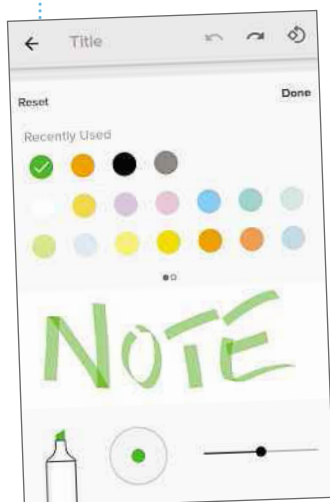
"Looking for an alternative to Evernote?" asks Zoho's website, hoping to capitalise on its rival's privacy pickle (bit.ly/evernote416) with this new app for Android and iOS. Notebook is less cluttered than Evernote or Google Keep, and easier to navigate. It's also rather beautiful. Create as many Notebooks as you want and decorate them with wonderful hand-drawn covers created by Zoho's in-house artists.

Within each Notebook, you can add various types of Note Cards: to-do lists with tick boxes; photo cards with pictures and videos you've shot on the spot or added from your gallery; and text cards where you can type diary entries or write that novel you've been carrying around in your head for years. There are also Note Cards for drawing or handwriting with your fingertip, and for keeping voice notes. If you've got an iOS 10 device, Zoho automatically converts your audio notes into searchable written text. Everything you write, shoot, draw or speak is saved automatically.

Note Cards are colour-coded and searchable. You can group them into stacks by pinching them together; double-tap to hide and unhide them; and swipe to the left for editing options (see Mini Workshop, right). These gesture controls are fiddly at first, but soon become second nature.

Disgruntled Evernote users shouldn't all rush at once, though. Zoho Notebook lets you sync unlimited notes between Android and iOS devices for free, but Windows and web versions are still in the works. It also lacks the powerful attachment features of Evernote and you can't scan receipts. But if you're just after a clean, fast notes app that lets you save all kinds of jottings automatically and privately, Zoho Notebook is ideal.

NEW



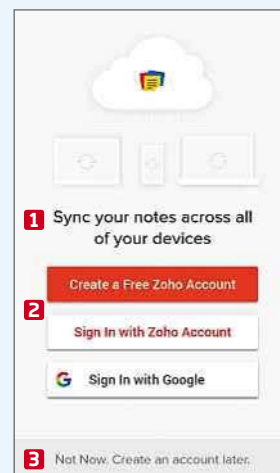
Our rating



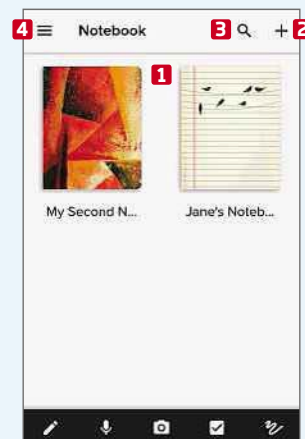
MINI WORKSHOP

Store notes securely using Zoho Notebook

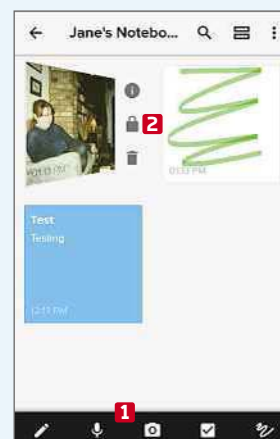
1 Install and launch Notebook, then tap Get Started. Tap a cover design to choose it for your first Notebook. Swipe through the introductory screens to 'Sync your notes'. **1** If you want to be able to sync between devices, tap the button to sign in using Google or to create a free Zoho account. **2** If you're only using Notebook on one device, you don't have to sign in at all – just tap 'Not Now'. **3**



2 Enter a name for your notebook (the default is My Notebook), then tap the tick. Your default Notebook will be displayed on screen. All notebooks you create appear here. **1** To create a new one, tap the plus sign. **2** To search all your notes, press the search icon. **3** To set up a lock for your notebooks, tap the hamburger menu, **4** then Settings, then 'Passcode & Fingerprint'.



3 Tap a notebook to start filling it with Note Cards. Tap one of the entry mode icons at the bottom (text, voice, photo, list or draw) **1** then start jotting. Each entry mode automatically creates a separate card. Press and drag to move the cards around. To see more options, swipe a card to the left. Tap the 'i' to edit it, the lock to add a passcode, and the bin to delete it. **2**



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

KEYBOARD

Hacker's Keyboard

bit.ly/keyboard416
 2.2

Android users recently got an uninvited new default keyboard – Google's Gboard. If you're not a fan of Gboard's built-in automatic searches and emoji, Hacker's Keyboard takes you back to basics. Install the app, add it to your keyboards in Settings, then select it in any supported app by tapping the keyboard icon. Straight away you'll notice it responds more quickly than Gboard, and its layout is much less cluttered. Mercifully, it also lets you switch off autocorrect suggestions.



Our rating



NEW

NOTES

Inkodo

bit.ly/ink416
 10 Mobile

Create detailed scrapbook-style notes using this new tool for Windows 10 phones, tablets and PCs. Use your fingertips, keyboard and voice to write words, then add photos, links, maps and clipboard content to turn them into great-looking presentations. On some devices, the app can turn your handwritten notes into typed text. Dozens of export and share options are supported, including GIF and remote device streaming, and all your work is saved automatically in OneDrive. The Pro version (£99p) adds PDF, book printing and photo editing.



Our rating



NEW



DICTIONARY

Terminology

bit.ly/term416
 10

Get the full lexicographical power of the Princeton University WordNet project on your iPhone and iPad. Part thesaurus, part dictionary and part encyclopedia, this redesigned app now lets you bookmark words, add your own notes and look up words and phrases by long-pressing text in other apps. You can also use preset 'extensible actions' – shortcuts to popular reference sites including IMDb, Snopes and Wikipedia. To create your own actions, you'll need to cough up £1.99 for the Pro version.



Our rating



FUNDRAISING

My Oxfam

bit.ly/oxfam416
 4.1  8

Global-aid charity Oxfam seems keen to reassure supporters that it's spending their money wisely. This new app shows where your money is going, offers notifications about projects that matter to you and then lets you donate cash securely if you want. My Oxfam almost tries to do too much. It's got videos and diaries from Oxfam workers in the field, plus information about new campaigns and ways to get involved. On the donation side, there's a secure payments system for regular and one-off giving, and even an online store stocked with donated items in dozens of categories. Whether you donate using the app or by taking items to your local Oxfam shop, you can use the app to track money you've raised. The surfeit of content is somewhat overwhelming, but it's also very engaging – and that means it's a job well done.



Our rating



GET THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO ANDROID

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



Discover how to:

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

Order it now from Amazon at bit.ly/androidbook2016

FAMILY

Bubble

joinbubble.com

4.0.3

This new UK-based service is a kind of Uber for parents and babysitters. Parents can rate and review sitters, swipe through reviews of local childminders and send out requests; babysitters can create a profile, view job offers, rate and review parents (yep, fair's fair) and even get paid through the app. While Bubble supports secure payment, it doesn't demand any money for its own services: there are no subscription fees or in-app purchases at all. The database is still very new and only covers London at the time of writing, but like any bouncing newborn it's growing fast and proving very popular.



Our rating



ANIMATION

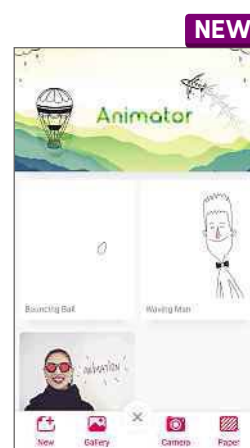
PicsArt Animator

bit.ly/picsdroid416

bit.ly/picsios416

4.0.3

Bring your doodles to life using this outstanding tool from the PicsArt family of design apps (<https://picsart.com>). It couldn't be easier to use – just draw a cartoon using your fingertip, layer more drawings on top, then see them turned into a video. It helps if you've got super-slim fingers or a large tablet screen. Alternatively, create animations using your own photos or the app's cartoon templates. You can edit your creations using a full range of graphic design tools, then export them as video files or GIFs. You can even record a voiceover – now's the time to brush up that Donald Duck impression.



Our rating



5 NEW APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

BOOKS

Alexi

alexibooks.com

Price: from £1.54 per week

8

Get reading recommendations from your favourite authors, then peruse the suggested books in this attractive app. It's free to download but costs from £1.54 per week to use.



Command your 8-bit armies to victory on the Western Front in this strategy game set during World War One. Be prepared for lengthy battle re-enactments, including Gallipoli and the Somme.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Light Meter

bit.ly/light416

Price: 99p

5

Save hundreds of pounds on the cost of a light meter by using this app to measure available light. It's not a camera app – instead it offers accurate spot and incident light readings that you can apply when using an SLR or other camera.



PHOTO EDITOR

Exacto Photo Cut

bit.ly/exacto416

Price: £2.99

8

Cut out the background of a photo to create layers and masks, using a Photoshop-style pen selection tool. You can save a partial selection and come back to it if you're working on a large or detailed photo.



FITNESS

HealthView

bit.ly/health416

Price: £1.99

8

HealthView works with Apple's built-in Health app to offer more detailed feedback and statistics. Track your steps walked, flights of stairs climbed, calories burned and other fitness stats. For iPhone only.



GAME

Pixel Soldiers: The Great War

jollypixel.com

Price: £1.69

2.2



Alexi



Light Meter



Pixel Soldiers: The Great War



Exacto Photo Cut



HealthView





Best New Mobile Games

STRATEGY

Star Wars Force Arena

www.starwarsforcearena.com 4  7

Fill the gap until the next *Star Wars* film is released by playing this massive, action-packed strategy game, which features more than 80 characters from the space saga. Choose your hero, then form your own squad or join forces with friends, and head to the battle arena to blast away the baddies. Victory unlocks rewards and additional characters for your next skirmish, or you can just buy them with in-app purchases if you're feeling impatient. Force Arena can be a bit slow to load, but the gameplay and graphics are excellent.



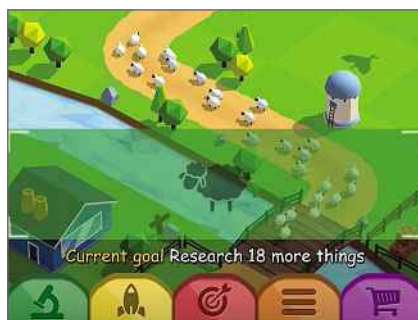
Our rating

★★★★★

NEW

TYCOON

Sheep Tycoon: Make Money

bit.ly/sheep416 4.0.3

Counting sheep may help you sleep, but wouldn't you prefer to be counting money? Well, now you can, thanks to this business-simulation (or 'tycoon') game in which you assume the role of an entrepreneurial farmer. Just keep tapping your screen to clone your sheep, complete research goals and expand your farm with shearing centres, earning as much money as you can along the way. There are plenty of quirky touches to keep you amused as your build your ovine empire, including a sheepdog that guards your cash.



Our rating

★★★★☆

NEW

SKILL

Super Toss the Turtle

www.supertosstheturtle.com 2.3  7

Toss the Turtle might sound like a particularly filthy euphemism, but it was a popular online game eight years ago and now it's finally (well, it *is* a turtle) made the transition to mobile – in super form! The aim of the game is to become the "ultimate turtle tosser" by firing the titular reptile as far as possible using cannons, guns, bombs and even nuclear weapons. Various obstructions and enemies are placed in your way, but booster items and upgrades extend your turtle power and reach. It's very addictive.



Our rating

★★★★★

NEW

X Don't install...

aiSystem Widget

bit.ly/widget416

Google Play is littered with ancient apps that are no longer updated by their developers, and this is one of the crummiest examples. It's a widget that's supposed to monitor



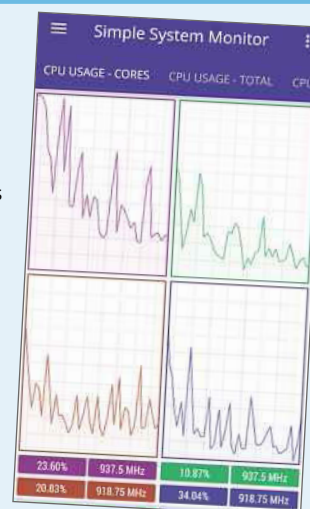
system resources such as processor, battery and memory on your phone or tablet, but since it was last updated in 2010, it no longer works properly. Not only that, but it's still charging users £1.86 to install it. If you're reading this Google, it's definitely time to get rid!

...Install this instead

Simple System Monitor

bit.ly/system416 4

If your phone or tablet frequently freezes or restarts, it's likely that its processor has become overloaded or it's run out of memory. Simple System Monitor (bit.ly/system416) lets you diagnose both these problems and more before it's too late, by displaying graphs of your CPU, GPU and RAM usage, as well as network activity. These track each component's performance, so you can spot if anything looks amiss, while another useful option shows if individual apps and processes are hogging resources. It can also display your battery's health and temperature, and be set to run in the background. Sadly, some features don't work in Android 6 (Nougat) and later, but it's still a useful tool to have installed.





FAQ

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

Our guide to smart glasses

The makers of smart glasses have a clear vision for the future. **David Crookes** takes a closer look at the tech behind the specs



Do smart glasses make you look clever?

Well, that very much depends on your taste. While glasses have been scientifically proven to make us appear more intelligent – albeit at the expense of attractiveness, apparently (bit.ly/glasses416) – smart glasses are designed to make your life easier. They connect to the internet to deliver digital information to your eyes using what's called a heads-up display, or HUD. Several different types are in development and they appear to be very much the 'in thing' right now.

Hang on, didn't Google create smart glasses a few years ago?

It certainly did. Back in 2013, the search giant released a prototype called Google Glass (www.google.com/glass) which cost \$1,500 (about £1,231). Worn like normal glasses, Google Glass split



Google Glass raised privacy concerns and stopped users brushing their hair

opinion because some people found the camera – which snapped photos and recorded 720p HD video – to be rather creepy. It was operated using a touchpad on one of the arms or by voice control, and the information was presented on a small screen that sat above the right eye. The specs could also tell you the weather, flip through your calendar, make phone calls and more, but Google pulled the plug on the project in 2015.

So why are smart glasses making a comeback?

Think of it as less of a comeback and more the result of ongoing research and development. Google hasn't given up on smart glasses and is continuing to study and refine the technology. And other companies have followed suit, as was demonstrated at the CES tech show in Las Vegas in January, which was awash with smart eyewear. Other major names and organisations besides Google are getting involved, including Snap, Epson, Sony and Oxford University, but there are plenty of start-ups displaying fresh thinking and new approaches to this fledgling market, too. The crucial thing is that there is also some demand for smart specs – it's a technology that could prove very useful to lots of people.

How much demand is there for smart glasses?

In October last year, a company called Vue used the crowdfunding site

Kickstarter to promote a concept for smart glasses that included prescription lenses (bit.ly/vue416). The project raised a staggering \$2,215,583 (around £1.82 million) from 10,410 backers and the tech is now in production. Funders appeared to like the unshowy design of Vue: the glasses look like ordinary frames, with a discreet touch interface on the side that allows for swiping and tapping. The smart specs let you listen to music using bone-conduction audio (which sends vibrations to your inner ear), track your fitness activity, enable hands-free phone calls, provide directions and tell you the time.

Can they use apps?

Yes, some of them. They are being pitched as wearable computers, and developers are already keen to create software for them. The website Glass App Source (www.glassappsource.com) was set up as a directory for so-called 'glassware' – that is, apps for Google Glass. With no agreed set of standards for smart glasses and lots of different versions in development, a dedicated cross-platform app store is some way off.



Women will make passes at chaps who wear Vue glasses – and vice versa!



Snap Spectacles are so much fun that you might forget to put any clothes on

Aren't smart glasses expensive, though?

Google Glass was but Vue is priced at a more reasonable \$269 (£216).

Meanwhile, Snap Spectacles (www.spectacles.com), from the team behind Snapchat, costs just \$129 (£100). Available in three colours, these allow you to tap a button on the frame, record 10 videos from a first-person perspective and add your movies to Snapchat's Memories feature. Lights are used to show that you're recording and the footage captured is circular (it's meant to be fun rather than Oscar-worthy).

Don't some specs use augmented reality, too?

Indeed they do. For example, the ODG R-8 (osterhoutgroup.com/r8) has been dubbed Google Glass 2.0 and is expected to cost as much as a couple of thousand pounds (so answering the previous question with a big fat "yes"). These 720p HD-resolution glasses have a 40-degree field of view and seamlessly incorporate augmented reality (where the digital world is overlaid on the real one). However, they are far less 'normal looking' than other smart glasses, having the appearance of a pair of chunky shades worn by Arnold Schwarzenegger in the Eighties. They'll be used for viewing film, games, navigation, sports and "education experiences", according to the manufacturer.



ODG R-8 offers clever augmented reality but looks like part of a motorbike

Do smart glasses have any sporting benefits?

Very much so. The Kickstarter project Solos (bit.ly/solos416), which raised \$128,179 (around £104,680), was

IS APPLE WORKING ON SMART GLASSES?

Apple is strongly rumoured to be planning its entry into the world of augmented reality with some smart glasses of its own. Tech journalist Robert Scoble said the company was collaborating with lens specialist Carl Zeiss, and that a product could be released some time in 2018.

Of course, given that the rumour hasn't been confirmed, there are no concrete details of what Apple glasses would be like. But as with the company's first venture into the wearables market, the Apple Watch, Apple specs would probably sell well - initially, at least - and help to kickstart



Rumours suggest that Apple will launch its own smart glasses in 2018. Or not

the smart-glasses revolution. Watch this space, we reckon. You can see a video speculating on the nature of 'Apple Glass' and its possible arrival in 2018 at bit.ly/apple416.

Solos tells you your average cycling speed and if children are laughing at you

designed for cyclists and developed with USA Cycling. These specs are said to have the world's smallest heads-up display and they offer real-time visual data including speed, calories, heart rate, distance and elevation. They also have a host of sensors and work with apps such as Strava and MapMyRide. Meanwhile, Eversight (eversight.com) has created its Raptor smart glasses that offer much of the same, including turn-by-turn navigation and the ability to operate them with swipe gestures so that your eyes can remain on the road.



So are there lots of health benefits to be had?

Very much so, along with some potentially life-changing uses. The clever bods at Oxford University have produced smart glasses to help visually impaired people. Put in development by the spin-off company OxSight (oxsight.co), they enhance shapes and allow wearers to better differentiate light and dark. Another firm, Aira (aira.io), is also helping people who are blind or visually impaired. Using a camera built into the glasses, an Aira agent is able to guide the wearer through various situations in real time while tracking their location on a Google map.

Could smart glasses help with everyday work?

Aira and OxSight won't, but others such as the Vuzia Blade 3000 (bit.ly/blade416)

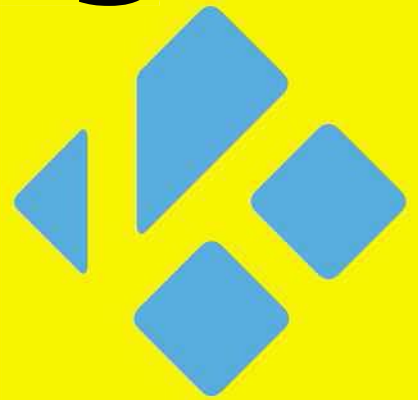
feature Bluetooth and Wi-Fi, and have the ability to display your emails. Some smart glasses are being developed with business use in mind, such as the Vuzix M100 which costs £799 and runs on Android. The manufacturer says it is being used in telemedicine, warehousing and a host of other industries. An upgraded system called Vuzix M3000 was showcased at the CES tradeshow, which we covered in this section last issue (bit.ly/webuser415).

Epson displayed its Moverio BT-300 smart glasses at CES, too (bit.ly/epson416). These smart specs combine business with pleasure, proving as useful when flying drones and working out in the gym as they are in a work environment.



Get a close-up view as your drone crashes into an unfortunate seagull

Watch *Anything* On KODI

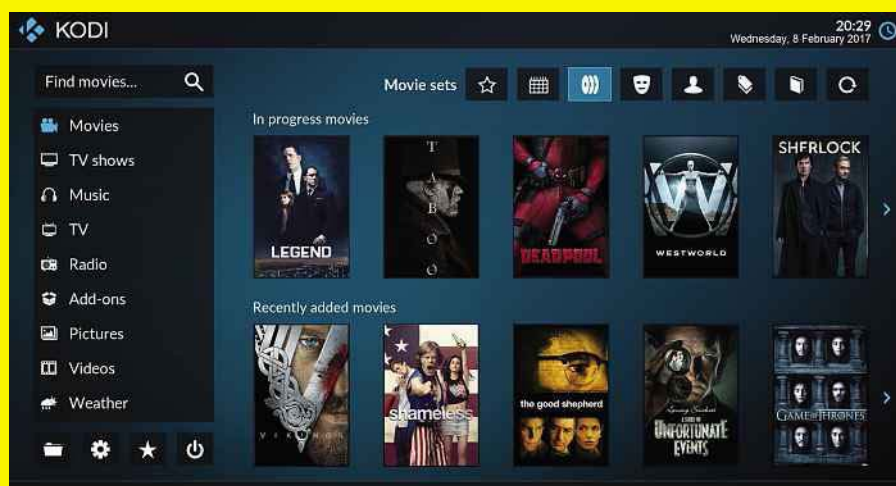


COVER
FEATURE

Who needs Sky anyway? **Wayne Williams** explains how you can expand your viewing horizons using the amazing free software that everyone's talking about

Kodi (kodi.tv) has been around in one form or another since 2002, but in the past year its popularity has exploded, and it will undoubtedly continue to rocket in 2017. From the latest add-ons to the legal issues surrounding Kodi set-top boxes, there's always something new to discuss about this fantastic free media centre and although *Web User* has given Kodi plenty of coverage already, there are still loads of tips and tricks to reveal.

In this Kodi special, we explain how you can watch all Kodi content on a variety of devices, from your phone to your television, while staying on the right side of the law. Over the following six pages, we pick the 13 essential Kodi add-ons you should be using, explain how to install them and show you how to get more from this versatile streaming software. We also take a look at the legal intricacies of using Kodi.



HOW TO INSTALL KODI ADD-ONS

Installing third-party add-ons in Kodi is mostly easy, but it's not particularly intuitive to the uninitiated and the process varies depending on the add-on. At its most basic, you can install an add-on through Kodi by going to Videos, Add-ons, and clicking 'Get more'. Scroll down the list to the add-on you want (assuming it's listed – it might not be), select it and click Install. You'll then be able to open it by going to Videos, Add-ons and clicking its name.

Add-ons that don't appear in the 'Get more' list can be trickier to install, and the process is likely to require more steps. However, there's a brilliant add-on you can use to install them (and remove them if they're no longer required), which is called – appropriately enough – Addon Installer.

To use this, you'll first need the



Install the Addon Installer to make installing Kodi add-ons much easier

Fusion Installer. Go to the System menu, open the 'File manager' tab and double-click 'Add source'. Click <None> under the field 'Enter the paths or browse for the media locations'. Type <http://fusion.tvaddons.ag> and click Done. In the 'Enter a name for the media Source' box, type **fusion** and click Done, then OK. Return to the main menu and go to Settings, under

System. Select Add-ons on the left and click 'Install from zip file'. Select the Fusion folder, click the 'Begin here' folder and select the 'plugin.program.addoninstaller-1.2.9.zip' file from the list (the exact number will change to reflect the latest Kodi build). Return to the main menu and go to Programs, then launch 'Addon Installer'. The installer will run and configure itself.

Once this rather convoluted process is complete, you can use Addon Installer to install any available add-on. Select a category, pick an add-on and click its Install button. When the 'Success' message appears, click OK.

You'll find your installed item in the Add-ons tab under Videos. If an add-on fails to open, try selecting or right-clicking its entry, then update it or enable any required settings.

INSTALL THE BEST KODI ADD-ONS

There are thousands of Kodi add-ons of widely differing quality. Here, we pick our 13 favourites for streaming TV shows, films and more



Exodus

Probably the most popular addition to Kodi, Exodus comes from the maker of the now-defunct Genesis add-on. It provides free access to pretty much anything you could wish to watch, including movies, TV shows, your own videos and live TV channels (including Sky Premiere, Sky Showcase and Film4). Films and TV shows are sorted by category, such as People Watching, Most Popular and Highly Rated. When you select something to watch, the add-on works its way through a list of providers and presents you with a choice of viewing options.

You can get Exodus directly through the Addon Installer, which we covered in the section above. See our Mini

Workshop on page 40 for instructions on how to find and view content on Exodus.



UK Turks Playlists

This add-on is easily one of the best available for Kodi and offers a huge selection of content to watch, ranging from classic TV shows and films to cartoons and documentaries. It also offers live TV (the list of channels is exhaustive) and live sports. You can view adult content, too, if you enable this in Settings.

If you want to find out about future changes coming to the add-on, you can follow [@uk_turk](#) on Twitter. The account's tweets are protected, so you'll need to send a follow request. You can

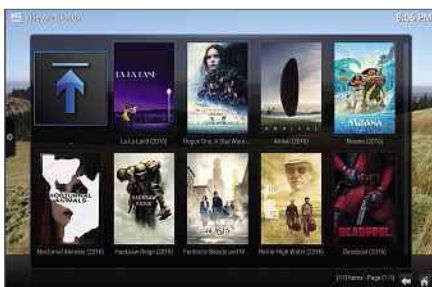
get UK Turks Playlists through the Addon Installer mentioned in the previous section, above.



Specto

Specto is an updated offshoot of Genesis that lets you stream and enjoy the latest TV shows and movies, and watch live TV channels. It's very similar to Exodus but with a greater choice of streaming-quality options. You can customise the movie and TV sources and numerous other settings.

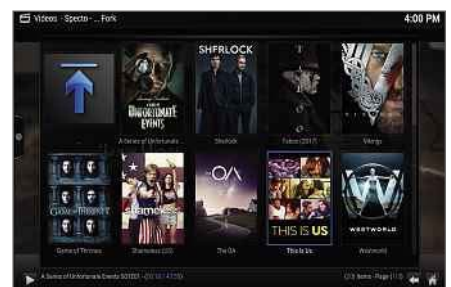
You can't currently get Specto through the Addon Installer so you'll need to install it directly through Kodi instead. The process is straightforward, if a little longwinded. Follow the instructions at bit.ly/specto416.



Exodus lets you watch virtually anything you can think of – not always legally



Whatever you enjoy watching, you'll find loads more of it on UK Turks



Fans of the now abandoned add-on Genesis will like the very similar Specto





Watch your favourite BBC channels via the unofficial iPlayer WWW add-on



Catch up with A Touch of Frost and loads of other classic ITV series



When you're bored of TV shows and films, you can watch user videos on YouTube



iPlayer WWW

BBC iPlayer is available for loads of devices, so it only seems right that you should have access to it through Kodi. The iPlayer WWW add-on is unofficial, but it does a great job. You can view catch-up and on-demand content, and also tune into BBC channels live. You can't currently get iPlayer WWW through the Addon Installer, but it's very easy to install. Go to Videos, Add-ons and click 'Get more'. Scroll down the list to iPlayer WWW. Select it and click Install, then go to Videos, Add-ons and click iPlayer WWW to launch it.



ITV

You can watch ITV's channels live on Kodi and enjoy catch-up and on-demand content. To install the add-on, go to System, File Manager, double-click 'Add source' and click <None>. Type <http://xuniversitytalk.me/xfinity> and click Done, then click OK and go back to the Home screen. Select System, then Add-ons. Select 'Install from zip file', then 'xfinity', then 'XuniversityTalk_Repository' and 'Install from

repository'. Finally, select 'XuniversityTalk Repository'. Select 'Video add-ons', followed by ITV, and click Install.



SALTS

Short for Stream All The Sources, SALTS comes from the creators of 1channel.ch. Once launched, you can select Movies or TV Shows, then browse by categories such as Trending, Popular, Anticipated and Recently Updated. Hover over any item to display stills and artwork.

Select something to watch and, once the add-on has fetched all the sources, you can select the one you want and begin viewing. SALTS offers a lot of



If you like watching US TV shows, SALTS puts them all at your fingertips



YouTube

What good is a streaming service without YouTube? As you'd expect, this unofficial Kodi add-on gives you access to everything on Google's video site and lets you adjust the picture quality. You can sign into your YouTube account to view your subscriptions, see what's popular right now, browse channels and search for videos. It's also possible to browse and watch live YouTube broadcasts. Install it through the Addon Installer.

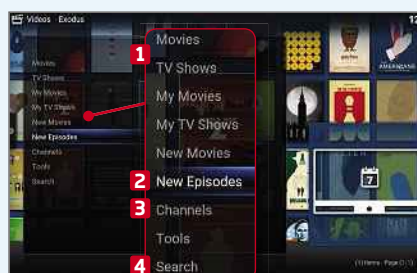


Velocity

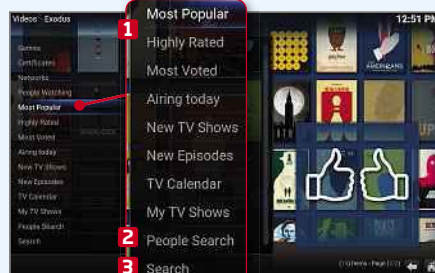
Velocity is one of the newest Kodi add-ons and comes in two versions - the standard release for everyone; and Velocity Kids for younger viewers. When you launch the add-on, you'll be faced with a screen that gives you access to Movies and TV Shows, along with various settings. The Movies section offers the standard category



MINI WORKSHOP | Watch anything on Kodi using Exodus



1 Once installed, launch Exodus by going to Videos, Add-ons and clicking Exodus on the left. Select Movies or TV Shows 1 at the top, depending on what you want to watch. You can also catch up on New Episodes, 2 browse the list of Channels 3 or search for something by name. 4



2 Select TV Shows. You can find something to view by exploring one of the categories on the left. Most Popular or Highly Rated 1 are good places to start and present you with thumbnails for popular series. People Search 2 lets you find shows featuring a particular actor, or you can run a regular search. 3



3 Select a show by clicking its thumbnail. You'll be presented with a choice of seasons. Pick one to view a list of episodes. 1 Hover your mouse over an entry to find out what it's about. 2 Double-click an episode and the add-on will check the available streaming 'providers' and list them. Double-click one to start watching.



Velocity has one edition for everyone and another that's just for kids

options, such as Most Popular, Trending, Most Watched and Most Played.

You can get both versions of Velocity through the Addon Installer.



FilmOn Simple

This add-on gives you access to the masses of international content on FilmOn, including TV programmes, movies, sports and music, as well as live UK television. It's not as polished or as reliable as other add-ons, but it's still worth a look. You can get it through the Addon Installer. There's also a FilmOn.TV add-on but we've found that this mostly offers dead links and doesn't play live channels.

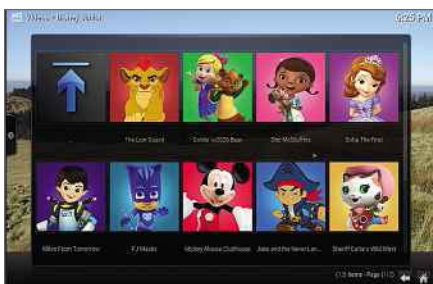


The FilmOn add-on is a little scrappy, but it's great for watching global TV



Disney Junior

If you want to keep young children entertained, then fire up Disney Junior. The add-on lets you watch episodes of popular Disney shows, such as *The Lion Guard*, *Doc McStuffins*, *Sofia the First* and *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse*. To install it, go to Videos, Add-ons and click 'Get more'. Scroll down the list to Disney Junior,



Cartoon-loving young viewers can get as much from Kodi as their parents

then select it and click Install. You'll find it under Videos, Add-ons, Disney Junior.



Freeview

This handy add-on provides quick and reliable access to live and catch-up UK TV. Live channels



Hello? Is it the Freeview add-on for Kodi that Lionel Richie is looking for?

include those from BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and 5, as well as plenty of others offered by Freeview. The Catchup section covers seven channels - Blaze, Dave, Drama, Quest, Really, truTV and Yesterday - but nothing from the main four broadcasters, unfortunately.

You can install Freeview through the Addon Installer.



1Channel Primewire

This add-on lets you enjoy a wide selection of movies and TV shows, sorted into categories including Genres, Featured and Highly Rated. You can customise it by installing themes and icons, and tinker with settings relating to the website, user interface, video playback and

IS KODI LEGAL TO USE?

In short, yes. Kodi itself is perfectly legal. The software is designed to give users easy access to lawfully owned content - including videos, music, games and other media - across a range of devices. However, many third-party add-ons for the platform provide access to pirated content, and that's where the problems start. If you install an add-on that offers the latest blockbuster movies for free, it shouldn't come as a surprise to find that the content isn't there legally, and you'll be breaking the law by watching it.

Kodi is keen to distance itself from add-ons that allow easy access to illegal media. Its About Kodi page (kodi.tv/about) clearly states:

"The official Kodi version does not contain any content whatsoever. This means that you should provide your own content from a local or remote storage location, DVD, Blu-ray or any other media carrier that you own.

Additionally Kodi allows you to install third-party plugins that may provide access to content that is freely available on the official content provider website. The watching or listening of illegal or pirated content which would otherwise need to be paid for is not endorsed or approved by Team Kodi".

As we reported last issue, UK ISPs recently started sending "educational" letters to suspected pirates on behalf of Get it Right from a Genuine Site (www.getitrightfromagenuinesite.com),

a government-backed initiative acting on behalf of copyright owners that warns about sharing illegal content. Kodi was mentioned in a BBC News story about these anti-piracy letters but the company objected, stating: "this is of course completely wrong and is even damaging the integrity we as Team Kodi try to keep and distance ourselves from any form of content stealing". BBC News added a correction (see bit.ly/kodi416). As we went to press, a Middlesbrough shopkeeper was in court charged with selling set-top boxes with Kodi pre-installed. He pleaded not guilty.

In conclusion, watching copyrighted movies and TV shows for free on Kodi is still illegal, but it won't (for now, at least) result in your ISP delivering a slap on the wrist.



Kodi was wrongly featured in a BBC News story about piracy

performance. It's definitely worth spending some time getting the add-on



1Channel is easy to use and can be customised to suit your tastes

set up as you require.

You can install 1Channel Primewire through the Addon Installer.



You'll never again be stuck for something to watch if you install Phoenix because this add-on is the gateway to a vast amount of content. In addition to Phoenix TV, Phoenix Sports and Phoenix New Releases, there are themed categories to explore such as Incredible TV, Diva's Den, Documentary and Cartoon Crazy.



Phoenix provides a gateway to a vast amount of content

You can get Phoenix through the Addon Installer.

WATCH KODI ON ANY DEVICE

The beauty of Kodi is that you aren't limited to using it on a PC but can also install it on phones, tablets, Raspberry Pi and TV-streaming sticks. Here, we explain how to install the media centre on different devices

Android phones and tablets

If you have an Android device, you can install Kodi directly from Google Play. Go to bit.ly/kodiandroid416 and install it from there, or access Google Play on your device. Give the app the permissions it wants and, once installed, Kodi will look and behave as it does on any other device. To use Kodi on an iPhone or iPad, you'll need to jailbreak the device, which isn't advisable.



Watch Kodi in your hand or lap by installing the free Android app

Raspberry Pi and other mini systems

Instead of using a PC as your Kodi media centre, you can use a Raspberry Pi or similar mini computer. There are

a couple of good Linux-based operating systems based on Kodi – try OpenELEC (openelec.tv) or OSMC (osmc.tv). You can download an OS directly from the developer's website or install it through Raspberry Pi's NOOBS (New Out Of the Box Software, bit.ly/noobs416).

As an alternative to the Raspberry Pi, you could try Asus' Tinker Board (bit.ly/tinker416). This costs just £55 but it can handle 4K video and its Linux-based operating system comes with Kodi pre-installed.

TV-streaming stick

Arguably the best way to enjoy Kodi is by installing it on a streaming stick, such as the Amazon Fire TV Stick or Google Chromecast. Installing Kodi on the Fire TV Stick is a little complicated and requires you to navigate to Settings, System, Developer Options and turn 'Apps from Unknown Sources' to On. You'll then need a file-management app such as ES File Explorer. Install this through the Appstore, then launch it and go to Add. In the path box, enter <http://kodi.tv/download> and add the link to your favourites. Click the ARM link, then click the three-dot icon in the bottom-right corner and select 'Open in new Browser'. Once Kodi has downloaded, select Open, Install.

You can stream content directly from Kodi to your Amazon Fire TV Stick

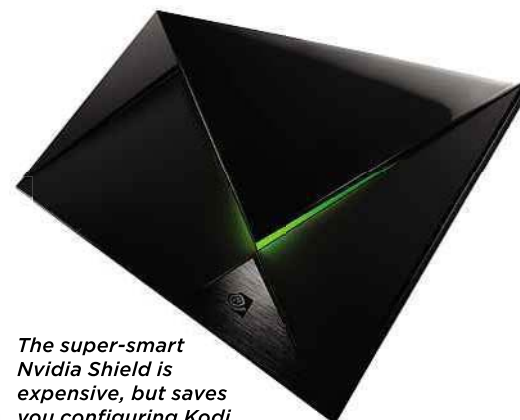


For the Chromecast, you just need to install Kodi on your Android device and 'cast' to the device. Open the Chromecast app and select 'Cast screen/audio'. Once it's linked to your Chromecast, open Kodi and find something to watch. The content will play simultaneously on your device and your TV.

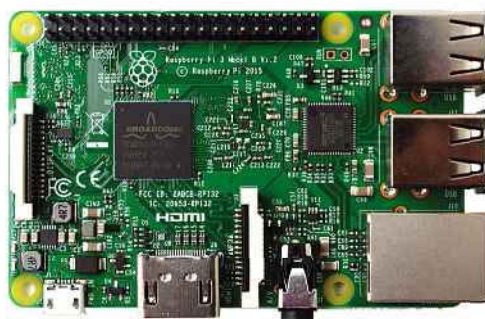
Pre-loaded box

There are numerous set-top boxes that come with Kodi pre-installed. Just type 'Kodi box' into Amazon or eBay, and you'll be presented with a long list of options at varying prices. The benefit of buying a box like this is you don't need to get hands-on with the software – Kodi should be pre-installed and ready to use – but make sure you read both device and seller reviews.

If you don't mind spending a lot more money (around £200), the Nvidia Shield (www.nvidia.co.uk) is one of the best options and includes automatic Kodi updates, fast performance and 4K support for Netflix. It's also more trustworthy than knock-off Kodi boxes.



The super-smart Nvidia Shield is expensive, but saves you configuring Kodi



The tiny and cheap Raspberry Pi runs Linux-based Kodi software

SECRET HACKS FOR WATCHING KODI

Once you're up and running with Kodi, you can try lots of tricks for improving your viewing. Here are our favourite tips for making the most of the media centre

Stop videos buffering

If your Kodi streams keep hanging and buffering, you may be able to improve playback by increasing the size of Kodi's video cache. However, this involves a spot of programming and then copying the results to your user data file, the location of which varies depending on the device you're running Kodi on. The instructions for expanding the cache can be found at bit.ly/cache416.

A simpler solution is to reduce the quality of the video playback. This may mean that your streaming doesn't look as good, but it should be a lot smoother.

Set up multiple profiles

If you plan to use Kodi with other family members, you may want to set up separate profiles for each user – especially if you have very different tastes! To do this, go to System, Profiles, Profiles, 'Add profile'. You can customise each profile in whatever way you like.



Set up user profiles in Kodi so that nobody interferes with your viewing

Change your ISP security settings

If your router was supplied by your ISP, you may find that some of its security

settings interfere with Kodi. These security settings are designed to keep you safe from dubious software, but they may also prevent you from getting the best from the streaming service. The TV Addons site provides helpful suggestions for customers of BT, EE, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media (bit.ly/isps416).

Change the look of Kodi

One of the best things about Kodi is its customisability. To change the default skin, go to System, Settings, Appearance, Skin, Skin and click 'Get more'. Browse the selection for a skin you like. You can also change the background by going to System, Settings, Appearance, Skin, Settings and clicking Background Options. Select 'Enable custom background', then click 'Background path' and browse for an image to use.



Change Kodi's appearance and background to make it feel more your own

Use keyboard shortcuts

If you're using Kodi on a PC, you can use keyboard shortcuts such as '\ ' which switches the media centre between full screen and windowed view, along with 'P' for play, 'F' for fast forward and 'R' for rewind.

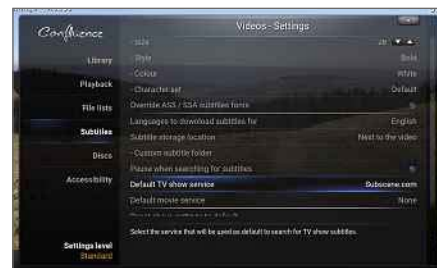
Try a different build

You can download and install special builds of Kodi which have their own individual look and come with third-party apps pre-installed. Some of the most notable include Dad Life (created for British families) and Nemesis.

You'll find a list of the best builds at bit.ly/kbuilds416, along with links explaining how to install them.

Turn on subtitles

Some (but not all) add-ons offer support for subtitles and one of our favourites is the excellent AutoSubs. To install it, go to System, Add-ons, and select 'Install from repository'. Click 'Kodi Add-on repository', then select Subtitles in the list. Choose a subtitle service – Subscene.com or OpenSubtitles.org (you need to create an account for the latter), then click Install and go back to the previous screen. Select Services and install AutoSubs. On the Home screen, go to System, select 'Video and Subtitles' and set your preferred subtitle language and the language(s) in which you want to download subtitles. Click 'Default TV show service' and pick the subtitle service you selected earlier. ■



Add subtitles to Kodi so you'll always know what people are saying on-screen

NEXT ISSUE

on sale Wednesday 22 February 2017

Brilliant Paid-For Software You Can Download For Free

We round up the best premium programs and apps that are now available for nothing



PLUS...

REBOOT MORE EASILY

Restart your router and other devices without touching them

SHOP ONLINE FOR LESS

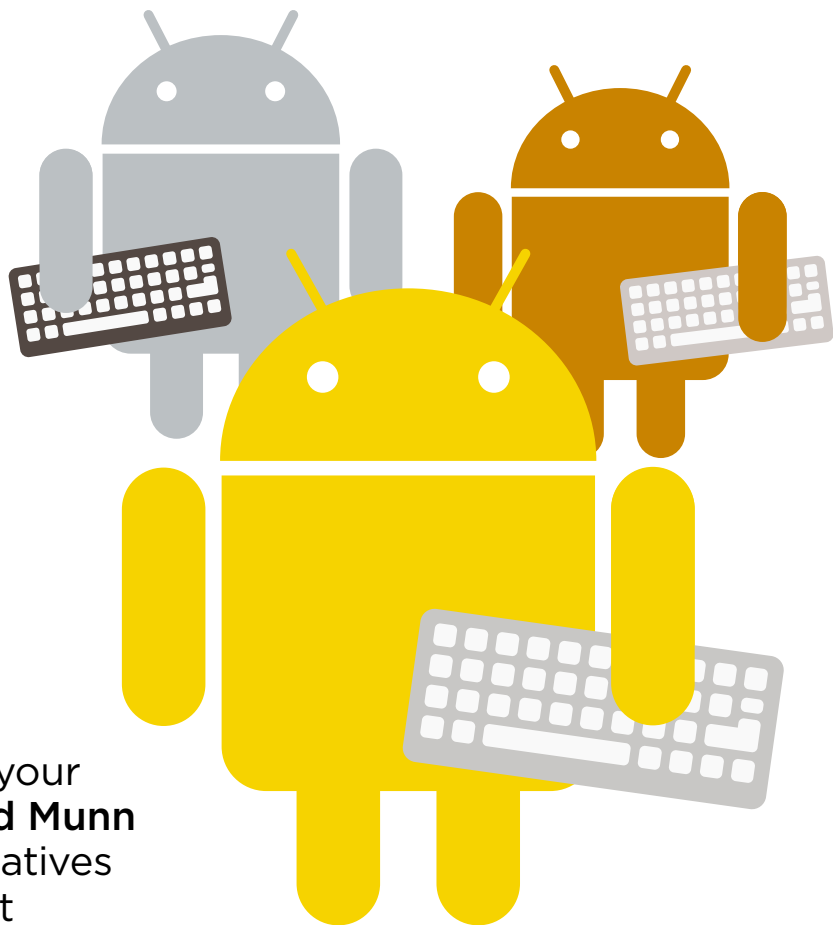
Automatically apply discount codes at your favourite stores

WIPE YOUR HARD DRIVE

Erase your PC securely so you can sell, recycle or destroy it

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Upgrade your Android keyboard



Does the default Android keyboard leave you tapping your fingers in frustration? **Edward Munn** looks at six of the best alternatives for quick, effortless text input

SwiftKey | **Free** | bit.ly/swiftkey416 | ★★★★★

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

**WebUser
GOLD
AWARD**

What we liked:

SwiftKey won our last round-up of Android keyboards in 2014 (bit.ly/webuser348) and, despite significant competition from Gboard, it's managed to retain its crown. Like its rival, SwiftKey is totally free and has a simple interface that's easy to get to grips with. It also lets you switch easily between three different methods of text input: typing, swiping your finger between letters and voice dictation.

What has always elevated SwiftKey above its competitors is the quality of its auto-correction and its ability to predict your next word – and it still feels way ahead in this department. Even when you tap several wrong keys, the app usually knows what you meant to type and, because it also learns over time, frequently used phrases and information such as your email address can often be entered with only a couple of taps.

The app also offers an unrivalled range of customisation options, so you can configure it to your precise requirements. There are five different sizes to choose from, and you can now install any of its themes for free – even those that used to be paid-for. There's

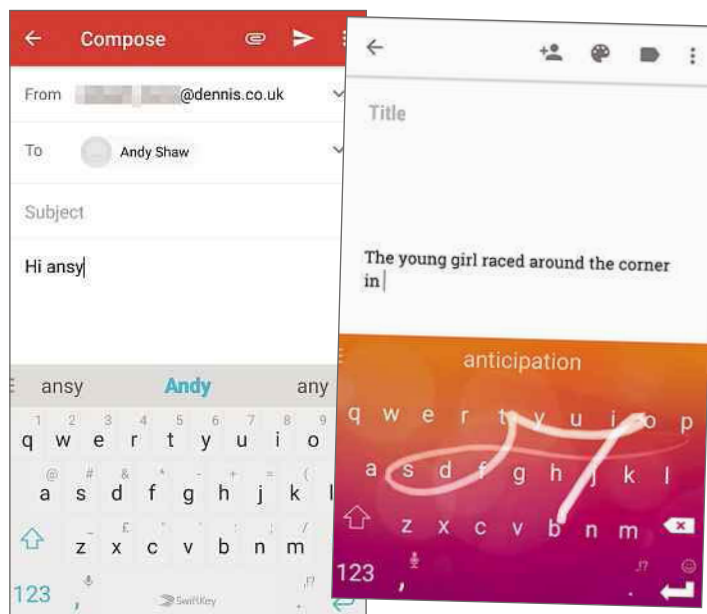
also a Compact layout that makes one-handed text input on large smartphones easier; a Thumb layout for tablets (and when using your phone in landscape); and an option to undock the keyboard entirely and move it around.

A standout recent addition is its Clipboard, which lets you manage copying multiple passages of text between any apps.

Ultimately, we think SwiftKey offers the most intuitive user experience of all Android keyboards, making text input quick and effortless.

How it can be improved:

Though the app offers an incognito mode, some users may find SwiftKey's data collection excessive. Its impressive number of features may make the app a bit sluggish on older devices.



OUR VERDICT

SwiftKey is still the king of Android keyboards, offering an unmatched combination of features, usability and performance. Its impressive auto-correct and prediction make it one of the first apps we'd install on an Android device, and it's more customisable than its rivals.

Gboard | Free | bit.ly/gboard416 | ★★★★★

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

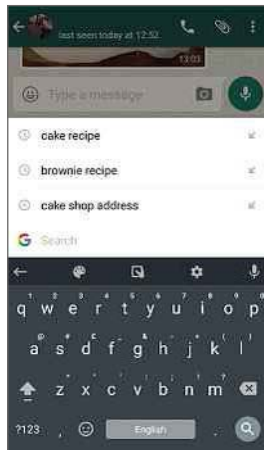
WebUser
SILVER
AWARD

What we liked:

Formerly called Google Keyboard, Gboard has come a long way since our last

round-up of Android keyboards. It has kept its simple layout and versatile range of text-input methods (typing, swiping and dictation are all supported), but look a little closer and you'll find a number of significant improvements. Selecting punctuation is quicker and easier now there's an option to long-press keys for symbols, and there are new gestures to make everyday actions faster – for example, swiping left from the backspace deletes multiple words at once.

Like SwiftKey, Gboard can be customised, letting you choose a theme and size, and enable 'one-handed mode'. But its standout feature is that it



lets you search Google at the touch of a button. This puts all the search engine's information directly at your fingertips at all times, and the results can be shared instantly to your current app. Gboard even includes a GIF search engine.

How it can be improved:

SwiftKey has more accurate corrections and predictions, and we liked the layout of our Gold Award-winning keyboard more, particularly its larger spacebar.

OUR VERDICT

If your phone comes with Gboard installed, there's almost no reason to change it. It has excellent tools and usability, and is almost as accurate as SwiftKey at predictions and auto-correction. Its Google search option is a bonus, too.

Swype | 78p | bit.ly/swype416 | ★★★★★☆

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

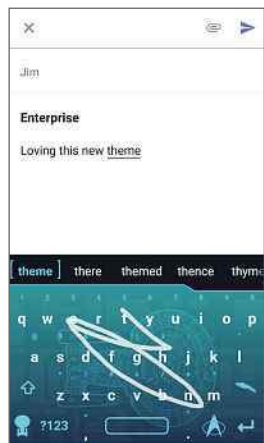
WebUser
BRONZE
AWARD

What we liked:

Swype was the first keyboard app to let you enter text by swiping your finger or thumb

between letters instead of tapping them, and it still does this better than anyone else, letting you enter text with incredible speed and accuracy. Like our other award winners, you can also opt to tap individual letters or use voice dictation, and it even offers a handwriting option, which is handy if you've got a device with a stylus.

To ensure compatibility with the greatest number of devices (and different hand sizes!), Swype lets you change its size and you can pick from a range of different layouts including compact, split and thumbs-only designs. Once you've paid the one-off



fee of 78p, you can pick from its full range of themes. Unlike its competitors, Swype shows up to five words on its suggestions bar and you can swipe this list across to reveal more options.

How it can be improved:

Swype is the only paid-for app of our award winners, so SwiftKey and Gboard immediately offer better value. We also found Swype's spacebar too small when using the standard input method of tapping individual letters.

OUR VERDICT

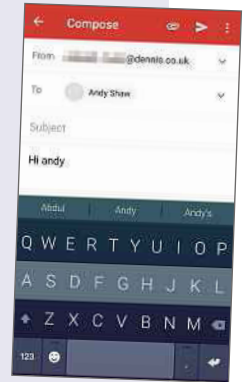
At 78p, Swype represents excellent value if swiping is your thing. However, we'd still recommend trying our other award winners first, both of which are free.

BEST OF THE REST

Fleksy | Free

bit.ly/fleksy416

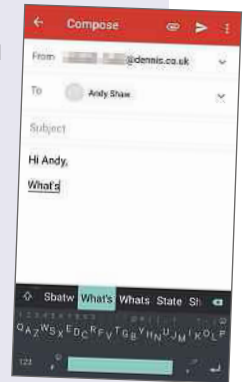
Fleksy is totally free and has a clear design with large keys. However, we didn't find its gesture-based controls (which let you flick between suggestions and delete whole words, among other tools) very intuitive and we dislike that these are included at the expense of being able to swipe to enter text. If you want to try something unique and are happy to persevere with the app, Fleksy is worth a try, but otherwise we'd steer clear.



Minuum | £2.44

bit.ly/minuum416

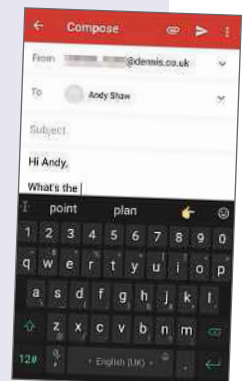
Like Fleksy, Minuum offers something original in its compressed layout that frees up plenty of screen space while still correcting your typing with remarkable accuracy. If you don't get on with this mode, you can still expand the keyboard to a normal size, but unfortunately there's no swiping functionality and at £2.44 (after a 30-day free trial), it's the most expensive app in our round-up.



TouchPal | from free

bit.ly/touchpal416

TouchPal is a full-featured keyboard that offers swiping and dictation, in addition to standard typing input. However, the app feels a little cluttered compared to its competitors, and its focus on garish themes and cute emoji symbols suggests that it's aimed at a teenage market. To our annoyance, the app also displays ads on the keyboard unless you upgrade to the premium version for 83p a year.



What your browser LEAKS about you



Every time you go online, you reveal more personal info than you realise. **Robert Irvine** explains how to identify and plug these leaks

What you're doing right now

To get a feel for how you're being watched online, visit Click (clickclickclick.click), a creepy but illuminating 'experiment' that gives you a running commentary of everything you do from the moment you visit.



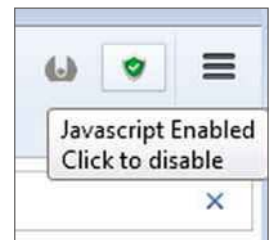
Click reveals how much data websites can gather about your online activities

This includes every click and movement of your mouse, the size and position of your browser window and the length of time you spend on and away from the site. The idea is that you unlock 'achievements' by performing different actions, as directed by a increasingly pushy voice ("turn on your webcam"), but Click also demonstrates how much info *any* website could potentially know about you. We tried browsing in private mode, disabling cookies and using a VPN and Click still kept watching us.

How to plug the leak

The team behind Click says: "basically it's all JavaScript, which is in the hands of every web developer today". Indeed, the only way we managed to foil Click was to disable JavaScript: in Chrome, go to Settings, 'Show advanced

settings', 'Content settings' and choose 'Do not allow any site to run JavaScript'. In Firefox, type `about:config` into the address bar, press Enter and click 'I accept the risk!'. Find the preference 'javascript.enabled' and double-click it to change its value to 'false'. However,



Use ToggleJS to switch off JavaScript that tracks your activities

disabling JavaScript will stop many sites working properly, so it's better to use an add-on such Quick Javascript Switcher for Chrome (bit.ly/quick416) or ToggleJS for Firefox (bit.ly/toggle416) to switch it on and off as required.

Your approximate physical location

Most browsers have built-in geolocation that tells websites where you are so they can give you relevant local information, such as nearby amenities or the weather forecast. This uses your computer's IP address to determine your country, region, city and even your street,



Our IP address suggests that we're floating in the River Thames

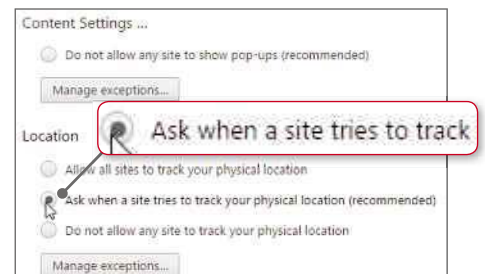
although it's rarely able to identify your exact location. For example, the website IPTrackerOnline (www.iptrackeronline.com) placed us 2.5 miles away and in the middle of the River Thames – more *Wet User* than *Web User*!

Other methods of pinpointing your location, such as the GPS (global positioning system) feature on your phone and the Wi-Fi hotspot you're connected to, are significantly more accurate. You'll also find that HTML5 geolocation, as featured at browserleaks.com/geo, gets much closer to you than the IP-based type – in our case, it located us a mere 0.6 miles away.

How to plug the leak

You can either turn off geolocation completely or make your browser ask to allow it on a site-by-site basis.

In Chrome, open 'Content settings' and, in the Location section, select either 'Do not allow any site to track your physical location' or 'Ask when a site tries to track your physical location'. Firefox always requests your permission to share your location, but if you'd prefer to disable geolocation, go to `about:config`, find the entry 'geo.enabled' and set it to 'false'.



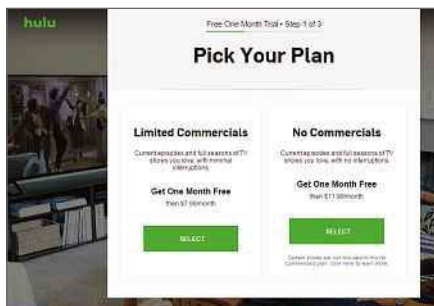
Make Chrome ask you whether you want to share your location with a website

Which country you're browsing from

It's usually beneficial for the web to know you're in the UK, so you can watch BBC iPlayer, shop at Tesco, buy your lottery ticket and other domestic activities, but not when you're trying to access content that's unavailable to Brits. US-only streaming services such as Hulu and Pandora automatically spot and block overseas visitors, while other sites restrict what can be played, downloaded or bought based on where your browser reveals you are.

How to plug the leak

The most reliable way to disguise your location is to use a VPN (virtual private network) such as CyberGhost (cyberghostvpn.com), which spoofs your location to show you as being in the US (or another country, if available). Opera's built-in VPN works very well (www.opera.com) and Hola (hola.org) lets you hide your location securely using its browser add-ons, which don't run on its controversial peer-to-peer network. As an extreme measure, you could use Tor (www.torproject.org) for total anonymity, but this isn't as simple as a standard VPN.



Opera's VPN lets you easily access the US-only streaming service Hulu

Whether you're using an ad blocker

Many websites that offer content for free – including The Telegraph, The Guardian and All 4 – are able to detect that you're using an ad blocker and will either politely ask you disable it or stop you viewing their content if you don't. Even if you don't mind obliging with the request, you might feel concerned that your ad-blocking ways have been exposed when it all seemed so easy and guilt-free before.

How to plug the leak

One way to stop sites knowing you're using an ad blocker is to install Anti-Adblock Killer (bit.ly/anti416) for Chrome, Firefox, Opera, Safari and Edge. This app disguises your installed ad blocker – including Adblock Plus, Adblock and uBlock Origin – so that sites don't refuse you entry or pester you to disable it. For Anti-Adblock Killer to work effectively, you'll first need to install a userscript manager such as Greasemonkey (www.greasespot.net) or Tampermonkey (tampermonkey.net). Also, be aware that it won't work on every site that blocks ad blockers.



Anti-Adblock Killer conceals your browser's ad blocker from websites

Your system specifications

Even if your browser is loaded with privacy tools such as Adblock Plus and Privacy Badger, it's still leaking info about your software and hardware. Just visit anonymity-tracking tool Whoer (whoer.net) and you'll see details of the operating system and browser you're using; the plugins and scripts you have enabled; the name of your ISP; and even the size of your monitor. Whoer also rates your anonymity out of 100, based on the data you're unwittingly revealing. You might not care if anyone knows you're running Windows 7, and it helps websites display correctly on your system, but when combined with other info this data gives your computer a unique fingerprint that could be used to target you.



Whoer tells you what data your browser is leaking about your computer

How to plug the leak

Whoer kindly offers advice about how to improve your anonymity – for example, by disabling dangerous plugins such as Flash, switching to a safer server and tightening your anti-tracking settings. A particular concern is the WebRTC technology used for streaming audio and video, which leaks details such as your IP address even from behind a VPN. You can prevent WebRTC leaks in



Discover exactly how to plug the leaks that have been uncovered by Whoer

Chrome, without blocking it altogether, using WebRTC Leak Prevent (bit.ly/webrtc416), which controls hidden settings in the browser. In Firefox, WebRTC can be disabled through 'about:config' by changing the entry 'media.peerconnection.enabled' to 'false'.

PART TWO: Next issue, we reveal what your PHONE leaks about you

FORCE WEBSITES TO USE MOBILE VERSIONS

Most websites perform a 'user agent' check when you visit them, which detects your browser, operating system and device so that content can be displayed accordingly. By fooling a site into thinking you're using a phone or tablet, it may load its slimmed-down mobile version, which uses much less data and therefore loads faster. You can do this by installing User-Agent Switcher for Chrome (bit.ly/userc416) or Firefox (bit.ly/userf416). Both work by pretending that you're using a different browser on a different device and operating system. Just click the toolbar button and select a preset from the drop-down menu. Bear in mind that although streamlined pages may load faster, certain features may not be available.



Prevent your browser from revealing the type of device you're using



Most PC blunders can be fixed instantly, but how do you correct mistakes on your phone or tablet? **Edward Munn** explains how to turn back time on your Android or iOS device

Regain access when you forget your password

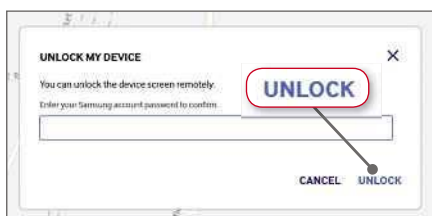


ANDROID

If you forget the lock-screen password or PIN for your Android device, it could result in you being locked out and unable to access your data. Fortunately, there's an easy way to get back into your phone or tablet if it runs Android 4.4 or earlier and you know your Google account credentials. After entering the wrong password or pattern five times, you'll see a 'Forgot PIN?' button. Tap this and you'll be prompted to log in with your Google email address and password.

Unfortunately, if your phone runs Android 5.0 or later, things aren't quite so easy. If you've set up Android's Smart Lock feature, which unlocks your device when you connect to familiar networks and Bluetooth devices, this might allow you to regain access to your phone. Alternatively, if you have a Samsung phone or tablet, you can try logging into the Find My Mobile website (findmymobile.samsung.com) with your Samsung account, where you can use the 'Unlock my screen' option to try and bypass the lock screen.

If you have no luck with these methods and still can't remember your pattern or PIN, Android's steadfast security measures mean you'll probably have to factory-reset your device. You can do this using Android Device Manager (google.co.uk/android/devicemanager) or by looking up how to boot your particular phone or tablet



into recovery mode. Hopefully, you won't lose all your data because much of it, including the apps you installed and your contacts and emails, will be synced to your Google account and can be restored when you set up your device again. To avoid losing all your precious snaps, however, you'll need to have already set up a method for backing them up automatically to Google Photos or another cloud service.

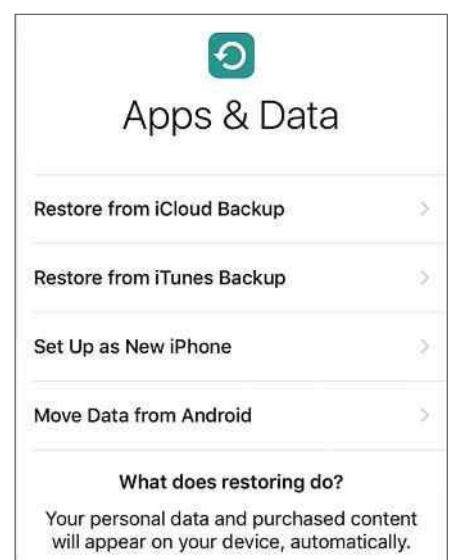


IOS

If you get locked out of your iPhone or iPad and don't have TouchID set up, you will need to totally wipe the device to regain access. In fact, even if you do use TouchID, you'll need to know the passcode to get in if you've restarted your iPhone or iPad.

You can avoid losing all the data on your device by restoring it from a backup. If you've set up iCloud backups, your device will attempt to back up to the cloud daily, so you should have a relatively recent copy of your data. If you don't use iCloud but have synced your iOS device with your PC via iTunes in the past, you can attempt to create

an up-to-date backup even when you're locked out. To do this, connect your iOS device to the PC (via USB cable) with iTunes open. Providing it doesn't ask for a passcode, open the device's page in iTunes and click 'Back up now'. If it *does* ask for a passcode, you can try connecting the device to another PC that you've synced it to and see if it'll let



you create a backup.

To restore your iOS device from a backup, you first need to wipe it. You can do this by visiting the 'Find my iPhone' page at icloud.com or using Recovery Mode. To access recovery mode, connect the device to a PC with iTunes open and press and hold the Power and Home buttons (or Power and Volume Down buttons if you're using an iPhone 7). Keep holding the buttons down, even when you see the Apple logo appear, and only release them when the Recovery Mode screen loads. A window should appear on your PC notifying you that the device needs to be 'updated or restored'. Click Restore and, when it's finished wiping your data, you can set the iPhone or iPad up from scratch, choosing to restore it from an iCloud backup or iTunes backup.

Undo emails sent from Gmail

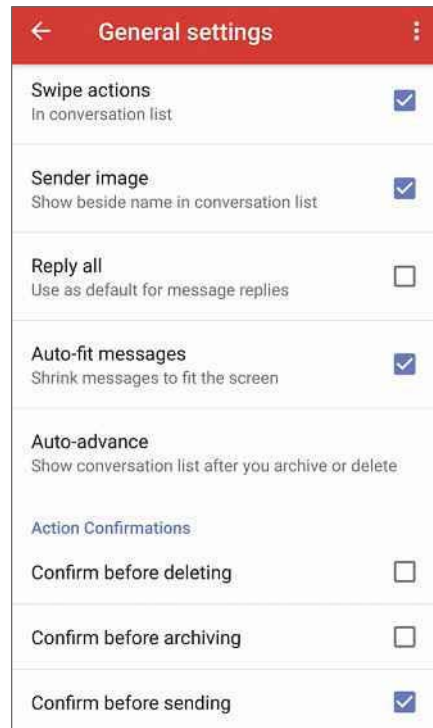
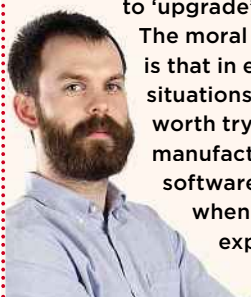
Unlike the browser-based version of Gmail, there's no simple option to enable 'Undo Send' in Gmail for Android if you want to retrieve messages you've sent in haste. However, the feature does exist in Google's other email app, Inbox (bit.ly/inbox416), so it might be worth switching if you often find yourself wishing you hadn't tapped the Send button.

Alternatively, you can ensure you

MY WORST MOBILE BLUNDER



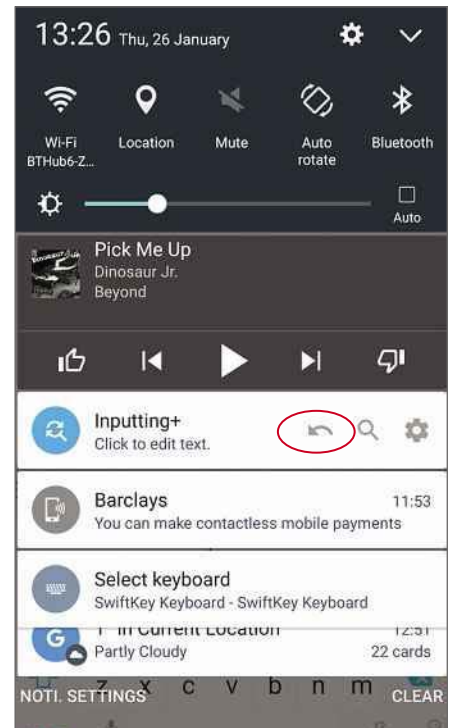
My worst mobile mistake nearly left me with a bricked phone. I'd rooted my LG G2 in attempt to install the open-source operating system CyanogenMod and, unfortunately, the instructions I followed failed to include one important step, leaving my phone repeatedly booting and restarting (known as a boot loop). I couldn't even boot the device into Recovery Mode. Thankfully, I eventually fixed the problem using LG's Mobile Support Tool. I connected my phone to my PC via a USB cable, and somehow it recognised the device and offered me the option to 'upgrade' my software. The moral of this story is that in emergency situations, it's always worth trying the manufacturer's software, especially when you've explored all other options!



don't send an email by mistake by turning on Gmail's 'Confirm before sending' option. To enable it, open Gmail's main menu, select Settings and open 'General settings'. At the bottom of the page, tick the box to 'Confirm before sending'. Once it's enabled, you'll have to tap the Send button and then OK before your email is sent, reducing the risk of embarrassing yourself, upsetting your friends and incurring disciplinary proceedings.

Undo typing mistakes quickly

If you've ever wished that you could use the Windows keyboard shortcuts for undo (Ctrl+Z) and redo (Ctrl+Y) on your Android device, then your wishes have been granted by an app called Inputting+ (bit.ly/input416). Whenever you're typing, this handy tool displays a notification that enables you not only to undo and redo typing but also to find and replace text (Ctrl+F in Windows). After installing the app, you'll be prompted to open Accessibility in your device's Settings, where you must turn

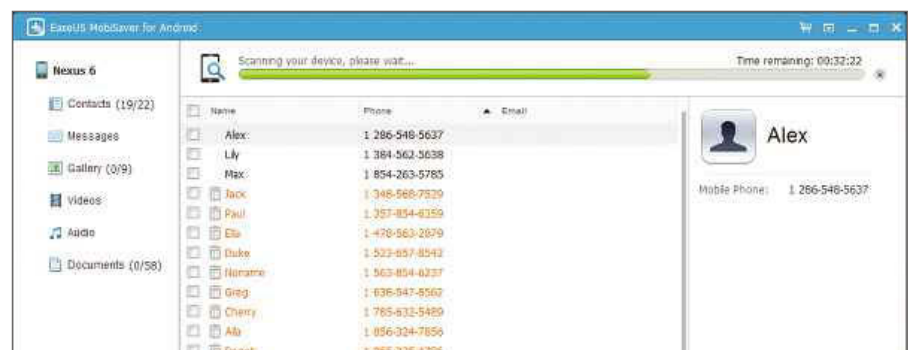


on Inputting+ so it can observe your actions and allow quick undo and redo.

Recover accidentally deleted files





It's important to always have a recent backup of the files on your phone or tablet, as highlighted by our first tip. If, however, you delete something in haste that you haven't yet backed up, don't despair because there are data-recovery tools that may be able to help. EaseUS MobiSaver for Android (bit.ly/easeus416) is free to download. It only lets you recover one file, but it shows previews of all the files that can be recovered should you upgrade to the Pro version, which costs \$39.95 (around £32). This lets you make an informed decision about whether it's worth buying the software - if you've had a complete disaster, you'll probably decide the one-off fee represents value for money. After all, you'll also be protected for any future blunders.

The program is also available for iOS users, although the Pro version costs a rather steep \$59.95 (£47.64). ■



Broadband Deals

Call FREE on 0800 083 2357 to switch your broadband

	Provider	Package name	Monthly price	Contract length	Broadband speed	Allowance	First-year cost*
1		Sky: Broadband	£27.40 (£17.40 for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	CHEAPEST £208.80
2		TalkTalk: Broadband	£25.50 (£20.00 for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	£240.00
3		EE: Broadband	£28.50 (£21.00 for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited *	£252.00
4		Virgin: Broadband	£45.00 (£29.00 for 12 months)	12 months	50Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited *	£348.00

Terms & Conditions apply - see ISP sites for details

* Fair-usage or restriction policy applies.

Data supplied by www.broadbandgenie.co.uk. Correct as of 24 January 2017.

Ofcom

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

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

**SNEAK
PREVIEW!**

Computer active

WINDOWS 10: CHANGE YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS NOW!

Microsoft's new security options -
what to turn on and off

- Essential monitor settings to tweak

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Take a Screen Break

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

WIN A MAGBOOK!
Be the first to send the correct answers to webuser@dennis.co.uk to win the *Definitive Guide to Google Hidden Tools*



CAN YOU GUESS THE TV SHOWS FROM THE EMOJI?

1



2



3



4



5



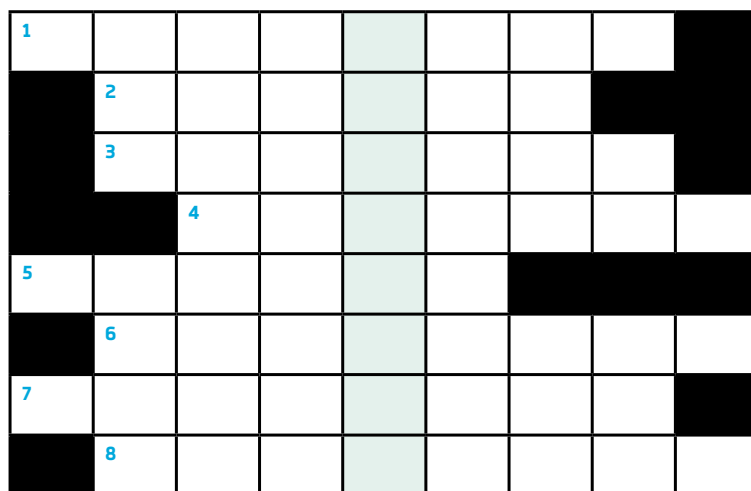
6



WEB USER WORD PUZZLE

Enter the answers in the grid to reveal a computer term in the highlighted column

- 1 1983 Brian De Palma movie starring Al Pacino
- 2 Cocktail with white rum, mint and lime
- 3 Sherlock Holmes's brother
- 4 Left-handed US tennis champion nicknamed 'SuperBrat'
- 5 Capital of Canada
- 6 Sign of the Zodiac
- 7 Beatles album featuring *Eleanor Rigby*
- 8 US President 1923-29



COMPETITIONS

WIN!

Wireless HDMI Sender (SV1760)

One For All's Wireless HDMI Sender (SV1760) lets you stream music, TV and films from any device with an HDMI output to another. It's compatible with all Sky, Virgin and Freeview boxes (with an HDMI socket), and can stream Full HD from Blu-ray players. To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'sender' in the subject line. For more info visit www.oneforall.co.uk, and watch its YouTube channel: bit.ly/tube410.



WORTH £199

WIN 1 OF 3

KitSound headphone & speaker bundles

In this KitSound competition, we are giving away three prize bundles, each containing a pair of Metro Headphones (worth £25 each) and Hive 2 speakers (worth £60 each). To enter, email your address to webusercomp@dennis.co.uk with 'boom' in the subject line. For more information visit www.kitsound.co.uk and follow @KitSoundUK on Twitter.



WORTH £85 EACH



Practical WebUser

16 pages of workshops, tips, projects and problem solving

Edit 4K video for free

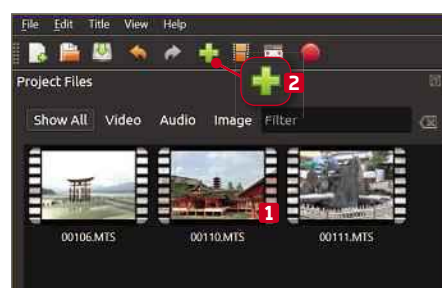
www.openshot.org

Editing 4K footage requires a powerful video-editing tool such as OpenShot, which is now 10 times faster than before. Here's how to use it

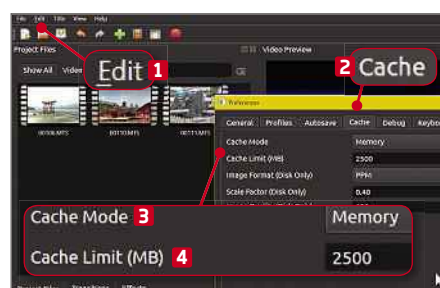
4K, or Ultra HD, is becoming more popular as manufacturers release new TVs, monitors and camcorders that are compatible with the format. Top-of-the-range phones, such as Apple's iPhone 7, can also shoot in 4K (although this mode is usually turned off by default) and let you edit your footage on the device, but if you want to make a lot of changes, build up a movie from

multiple clips, add audio and images and apply effects, then a dedicated video editor is the best solution.

The good news is you don't need to spend money on editing software because OpenShot is free and available for Windows, Mac and Linux. The latest version of the software is up to 10 times faster than the previous release, and is much better at handling HD and 4K video.



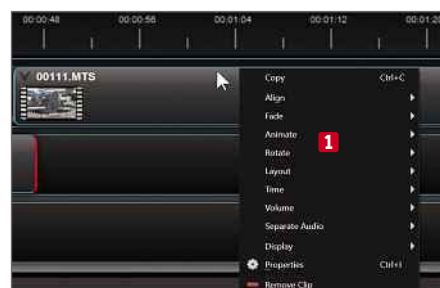
1 To begin, drag and drop some files to the Project Files window. **1** OpenShot accepts most popular formats of video, audio and images. You can also add content by clicking the green Import Files button **2** and browsing for the items you want. Select some files, then click Open.



2 Before you do any editing, adjust the settings to improve performance. Go to the Edit menu **1** and choose Preferences. Click the Cache tab. **2** Choose the Cache Mode (Memory or Disk) **3** and customise the Cache Limit. **4** If you have a lot of memory or hard-drive space, you can increase this figure.



3 Once you've added all the files you want to use to build your video, drag the clips to the timeline **1** below. There are plenty of tracks available, so you can add multiple overlapping videos. If you overlap one video with another, OpenShot will automatically create a transition. View the clips in the preview window. **2**



4 Right-click a clip to open the context menu. **1** From here, you can align a track; fade the start, end or all of the video; add an animation (options include zooms and pans); rotate the clip; speed up or slow down time; and adjust the volume.



5 The Layout **1** option on the right-click menu lets you choose where video clips appear on screen. **2** You can have four clips on display simultaneously, one in each corner, **3** and they will all play at the same time. If you want to start over again, return to the Layout options and choose Reset Layout. **4**

TRANSITIONS

To add a fancy transition, open the tab, then drag and drop one of the choices to the start or end of a clip in the timeline below

ZOOM

Use the slider to zoom in and out of the timeline – handy if you have long clips to squeeze in



6 If you want to trim a video, move to the point in the clip where you want it to start and mark it by clicking the green triangle. **1** Right-click the clip to open a menu and select Slice, **2** Keep Right Side. **3** Next, mark the end point, right-click the video and select Slice, Keep Left Side. **4**



7 When you've arranged everything as you want it on the timeline, preview your movie to see how it looks so far. Use the controls **1** to start and stop playback, rewind and fast forward, and jump from one section to the next. If the results aren't quite right, tweak them and start again.



8 When you're happy with how your movie looks and sounds, click the Export Video button **1** and OpenShot will save the contents of the timeline as a single video file. You will need to choose a resolution to save it in. Click the Profile drop-down menu **2** and pick the one you want. Scroll up for 4K options.



Access Windows settings buried by Microsoft

Ultimate Settings Panel: bit.ly/ultsp416 | ⌚ 20 mins | 🖥️ 7, 8, 10

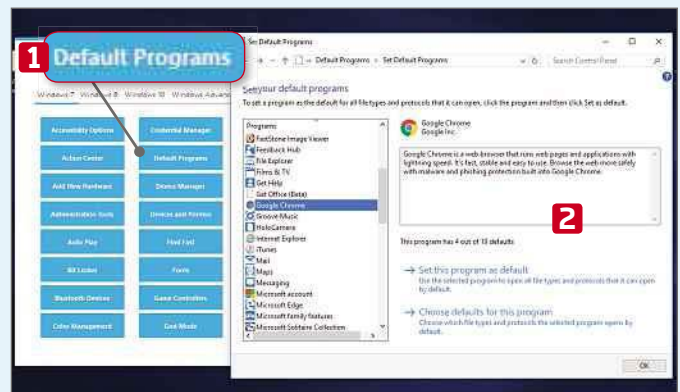
Windows used to have a single Control Panel from where all your PC's settings could be configured. Since Windows 8, however, some (but not all) of these settings have been transferred to the new Settings app, which changes from one update to the next, making it difficult to keep track of what's kept where. To make matters worse, some options can't be accessed from either tool and are launched in a completely separate way.

Keeping track of all these tools is a lot of hassle. Yes, you can use the taskbar's search box to find them, but that's no good if you don't really know what you're looking for.

Ultimate Settings Panel returns all the Windows settings to a unified Control Panel-style interface where you can tweak everything to your heart's content in a single, easy-to-use program. The software's website is at www.ultimatesettingspanel.co.uk but you need to go to the developer's site at bit.ly/ultsp416 to download it.



1 The classic hidden Windows setting is God Mode – a folder containing a huge range of customisation tools – and Ultimate Settings Panel can take you straight to it. Select the Windows 7 tab **1** and click the God Mode button **2** to open the folder, where you'll find all the usual hidden tools.



2 Windows 10's Settings app is now the default location for changing settings but often the Control Panel's alternative still exists. For example, on the Windows 7 tab, the Default Programs button **1** takes you to the familiar Control Panel version **2** with more options than the newer Settings version.



3 Still on the Windows 7 tab, 'Programs and Features' **1** takes you to the old tools for uninstalling programs; and User Accounts **2** bypasses the new version. On a Windows 10 PC, some options, such as Screen Resolution **3** and Windows Update, **4** still route you to the Settings version.



4 The Windows 8 tab **1** has more of these hidden tools, such as the On-Screen Keyboard, **2** which lets you enter important passwords more safely (by protecting you from keyloggers), and the Snipping Tool for taking screen shots.



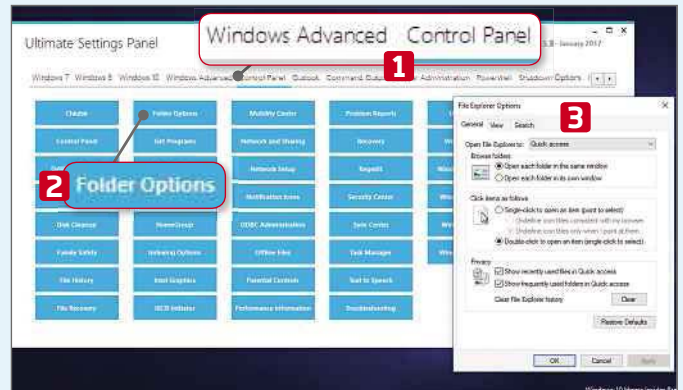
EXPERT TIP

Andy Shaw says

The installation software sets up a shortcut icon on your Desktop that launches the software. However, it's better if you run it as an administrator, otherwise some of the tools will ask you to confirm that you want to make a change to Windows. Open the Start menu and right-click the Ultimate Settings Panel icon. Select More, then choose 'Run as administrator'.



5 The Windows 10 tab **1** has many of the same tools as the Windows 8 tab, but there are a few extra options that take you straight to the relevant Windows 10 app, such as Microsoft Store, **2** Photos App **3** and Windows Action Manager. **4**



6 The Windows Advanced and Control Panel tabs **1** also have tools worth exploring. Shortcuts to tools such as Folder Options, **2** Regedit and Disk Cleanup take you straight to the tools you're looking for, **3** which saves you the trouble of remembering how to get to them.



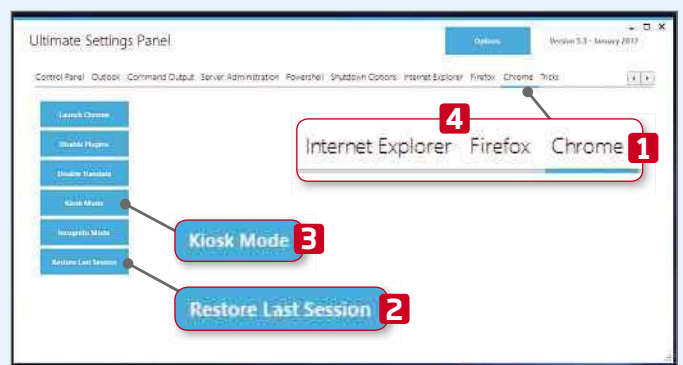
7 There are some interesting extra tools on the Shutdown Options tab. **1** If you can get to it in time, the Abort Shutdown button **2** stops a shutdown that you've already initiated but want to cancel. You can also do the opposite and force a shutdown, **3** even if something else is blocking it.



8 Select the Command Output tab. **1** This section saves you a lot of typing by displaying the text of a particular Command Prompt tool, so you don't have to open the prompt and enter it. For example, click IP Config **2** to open a Command Output window with info about your IP addresses. **3**



9 If you want to copy the information to another program, highlight it with your mouse and press Ctrl+C. Paste it to the target program (Notepad, in our example) **1** with Ctrl+V. You can also save the text as a '.txt' file by clicking the 'Export to TXT' button. **2**



10 Click the Chrome tab **1** for different ways to open Chrome. Restore Last Session **2** reopens all the tabs you were browsing the last time you used it, and Kiosk Mode **3** launches a full-screen view that's difficult to shut down. There are also tabs for Internet Explorer and Firefox. **4**



Cast videos to watch on your PC monitor

When you want to watch content stored on your iPhone, iPad or laptop on a bigger screen, and your TV's otherwise engaged, why not cast it to your PC monitor instead? In this Workshop, we look at two free,

easy-to-use tools that let you mirror the video and audio from an iOS device or laptop on another PC without the need for any additional hardware.



LonelyScreen: bit.ly/lonely416 | 10 mins | XP, Vista, 7, 8+, 10



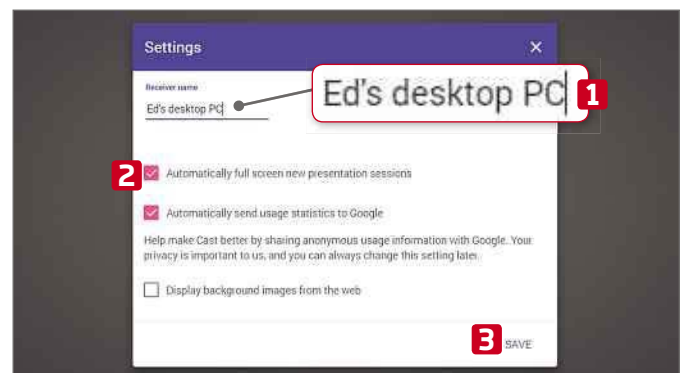
1 To cast your iPad or iPhone screen to your PC, install LonelyScreen on the PC, pick a name for your server **1** and then click Save. **2** Next, check that your iOS device and PC are both connected to the same network.



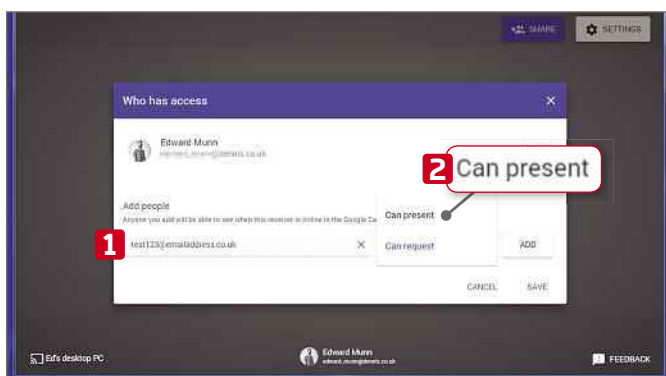
2 On your iOS device, swipe up from the bottom of the screen and tap AirPlay Mirroring. **1** Choose your server from the list **2** and your screen and audio will be mirrored to LonelyScreen. If you change your iOS device's orientation, this will be automatically reflected on your PC.



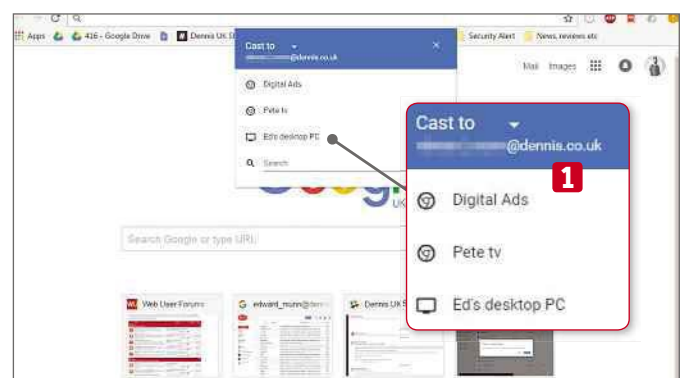
3 Resizing LonelyScreen's window lets you change how large the stream appears on your monitor. **1** You can also click the up arrow and select 'Start recording' to save the stream. **2** After selecting 'Stop recording', click the appropriate buttons to play the video **3** or open its containing folder. **4**



4 To cast from a laptop to another PC, install Google Cast for Education (bit.ly/cast416) on the PC you want to cast to. Launch the app and enter a name for your receiver. **1** The app is set to display your stream full screen. **2** Click Save. **3** The receiver app displays the current time and date.



5 Click Share to allow other people to use your cast receiver. After adding an email address, **1** select 'Can present' **2** from the drop-down menu to let them cast without requesting permission each time.



6 On the laptop you want to cast from, open Chrome, then click its menu button and select Cast. Click the down-arrow to choose 'Cast desktop' or 'Cast tab', then select your receiver from the list. **1**

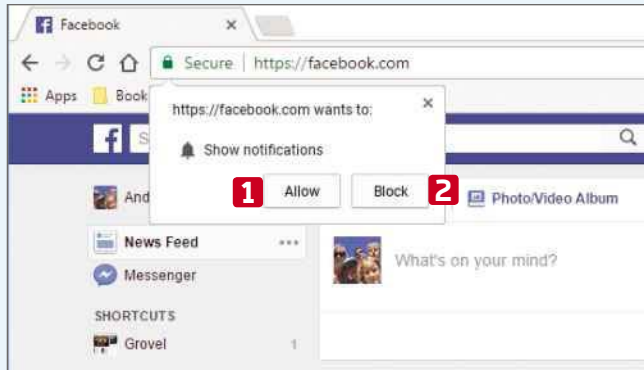
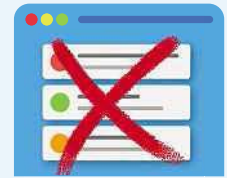


Stop websites asking to send notifications

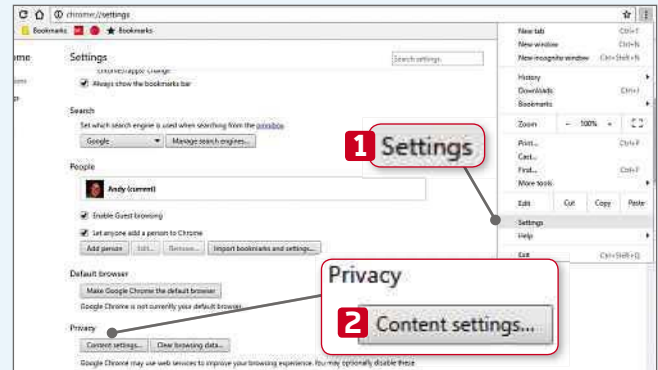
Some websites are constantly trying to win attention and one of their tricks is to use browser notifications to let you know when they have new content. Most people reject this kind of nonsense, but even having to reject sites'

All browsers | 10 mins |

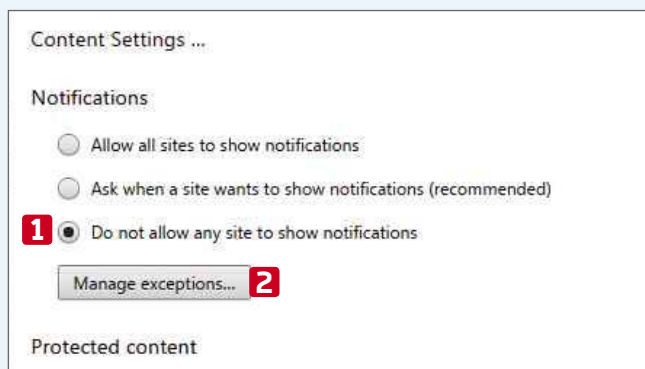
advances can become annoying. Here, we show you how to turn website notifications off in Chrome and Firefox, and manage them in Edge.



1 When you visit a site that wants to send you notifications, you get a special pop-up that lets you Allow **1** or Block **2** them. If you choose Block, you won't see the pop-up from that site again, but it will still appear when other sites attempt to pull the same trick.



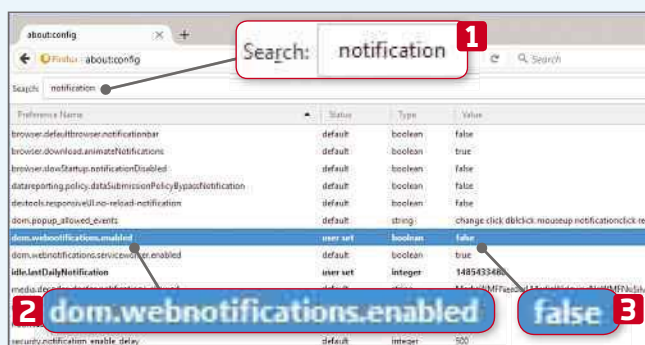
2 To block all further notifications from all sites in Chrome, click the menu button and choose Settings. **1** Scroll down to the bottom and click 'Show advanced settings'. Under Privacy, click the 'Content settings' button. **2**



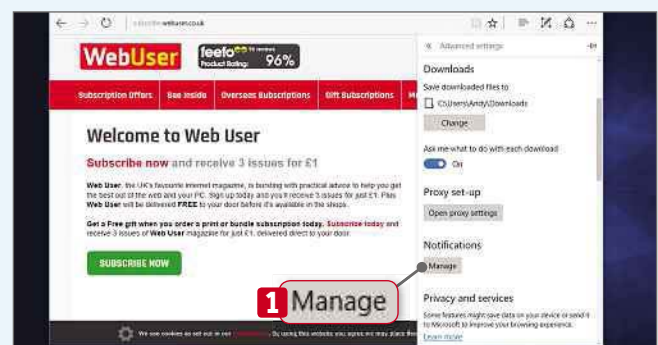
3 Scroll down to Notifications and click 'Do not allow any site to show notifications'. **1** If you still see notifications from some sites, you may have already added them to the exceptions. Click 'Manage exceptions' **2** to see which sites are allowed, then block any you don't want.



4 Firefox doesn't have a standard setting to universally block notifications but you can use its advanced configuration tools to stop them appearing. Type `about:config` into the address bar **1** and click the 'I accept the risk' button. **2**



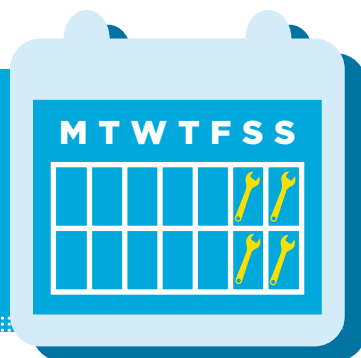
5 Type notification in the search box **1** and press Enter. Double-click `dom.webnotifications.enabled`. **2** This turns the Value column to 'false', **3** and stops the requests from appearing on your browser.



6 Edge doesn't yet allow a universal block but you can block and manage sites individually. Click the menu button, choose Settings, then click 'View advanced settings'. Scroll down to Notifications and click Manage. **1** Here you can reassign sites you've previously given access to.

Weekend Project

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



How to...

Browse the web faster by changing your DNS server

The DNS server assigned by your ISP may not be your best option. **Wayne Williams** shows you how to switch to a better alternative

DNS (Domain Name System) is the service used to translate the site addresses that you type into your browser into IP addresses that web servers and internet routers can understand. When you type a web address into your browser's address bar, a DNS server will look up the IP address that's linked to it, allowing the correct site to be opened. Larger websites, such

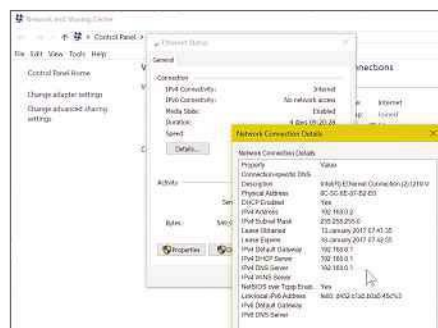
as Facebook, use a pool of IP addresses rather than just one.

If you've never thought about your DNS before, you're probably using the one assigned by your ISP, which will be pre-configured in the settings of your ISP-supplied router. However, you're under no obligation to stick with it, and switching to an alternative can offer speed and security benefits.



Identify your DNS

If you have no idea which DNS server you're currently using, you can find out directly in Windows. Click Start, then type **network** and **sharing** and click 'Network and Sharing Centre'. The window displays your active networks. Next to Connections, you'll see a link for the method you use to connect to the internet (Ethernet or Wi-Fi). Click this to open another window showing the status



of your network adapter. Click the Details button to see the DNS information listed next to IPv4 DNS Servers.

Another way to find out the details of your DNS server is to go through Command Prompt. Press Windows+R, type **cmd** and press Enter. In the box that

The Network Connection Details box provides all sorts of information, including the DNS server



```

C:\Users\Wayne> ipconfig /all | findstr /R "DNS\ Servers"
DNS Servers . . . . . : 192.168.0.1
DNS Servers . . . . . : fec0:0:0:ffff::1%1
  
```

Find the DNS server you're currently using by entering this command into the Command Prompt

appears, type `ipconfig /all | findstr /R "DNS\ Servers"` and press Enter.

Alternative DNS servers

There are lots of different DNS servers available to switch to, but the two best known are OpenDNS (www.opendns.com) and Google Public DNS (bit.ly/gdns416). Using these instead of your current default choice could speed up your browsing experience and improve your security.

Google's Public DNS IP addresses (IPv4) are:

- 8.8.8.8 (primary)
- 8.8.4.4 (secondary)

The IP addresses (IPv4) for OpenDNS (now owned by Cisco) are:

- 208.67.222.222 (primary)
- 208.67.220.220 (secondary)

We show you how to change your DNS settings on your PC in our Mini Workshop, below, and on your mobile device on page 61.

Find the fastest DNS server

Switching to the likes of OpenDNS or Google's Public DNS might speed up the lookup process (resulting in websites loading quicker), but it's also possible that your default DNS server is faster,



DNS Benchmark finds your fastest DNS. Click Nameservers, then Run Benchmark

DNS Jumper speed tests various DNS servers and lets you switch to the fastest

or that another entirely different one produces the best results. There are several free tools you can use to scan all the major (and some minor) DNS servers, to find out which one is fastest for you.

Back in Issue 412 (bit.ly/webuser412) we looked at DNS Benchmark (bit.ly/dnsbm416) which does an excellent job of identifying the fastest DNS server and doesn't require installation. However, it can't automatically switch to the best result – you have to make the change manually.

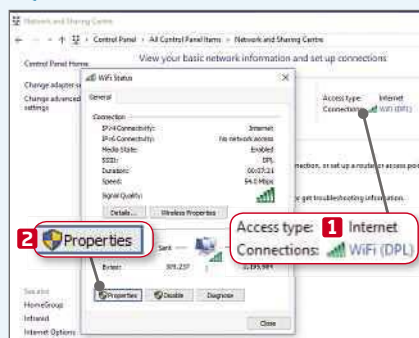
If you want software to manage the change for you, try DNS Jumper (bit.ly/dnsj416). Once it's finished speed testing the various DNS servers, it can switch you to the fastest one. We looked at how to use it in our cover feature in Issue 415 (bit.ly/webuser415).

Easy ways to change your DNS server

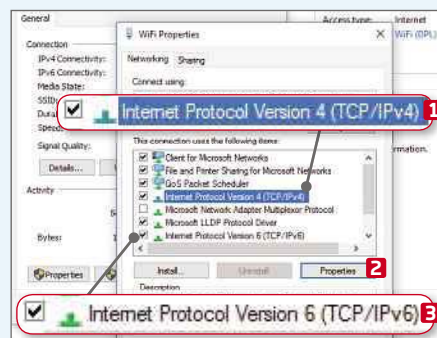
Changing your DNS settings manually takes a bit of effort but there are several great free programs that simplify the



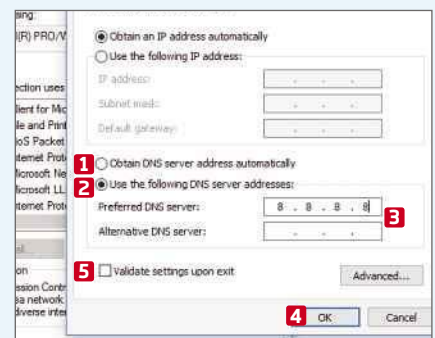
MINI WORKSHOP | Manually change your DNS in Windows



1 Although we're using Windows 10 here, the process for manually changing your DNS server is the same in all versions of Windows. Type `network` and sharing into the search box and open the 'Network and Sharing Centre'. Click the link for the connection type, **1** then click the Properties button. **2**



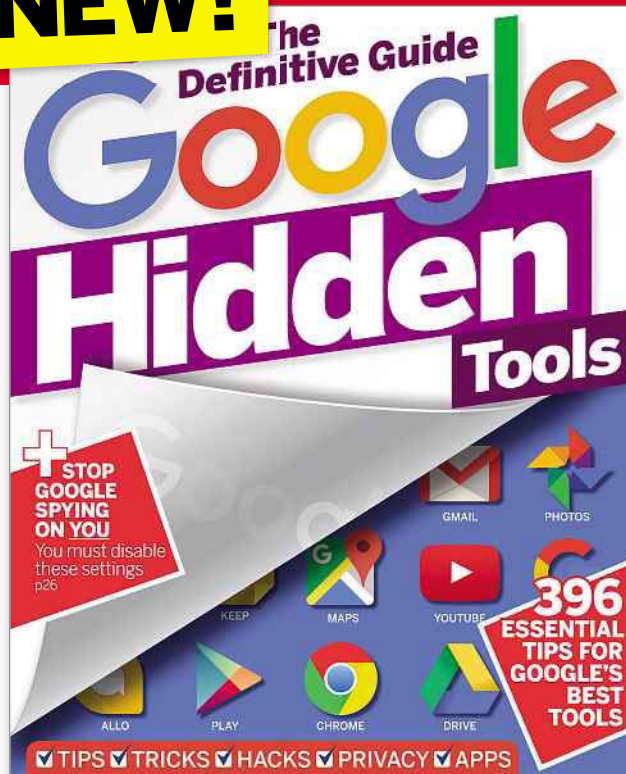
2 In the Wi-Fi/Ethernet Properties window, locate and click Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4) to highlight it, **1** then click the Properties button. **2** There's an entry for Internet Protocol Version 6 (TCP/IPv6) **3** in the list, but you can ignore this because you probably won't be using it.



3 If any DNS details are shown, make a note of them in case of problems. In this example, Windows is obtaining a DNS server address through the router. **1** Select 'Use the Following DNS Server Addresses'. **2** Enter the Preferred and Alternate **3** server details, then click OK **4** and restart your PC. You can validate the settings upon exit. **5**

WebUser Bookstore

NEW!



THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO GOOGLE HIDDEN TOOLS

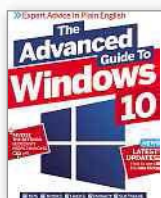
In the new and updated Definitive Guide to Google Hidden Tools, the experts at *Web User* and *Computeractive* lift the lid on Google's most popular services to reveal more than 390 ways to make them even more efficient, useful and tailored to your needs. You'll find clever new add-ons for Chrome, smart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

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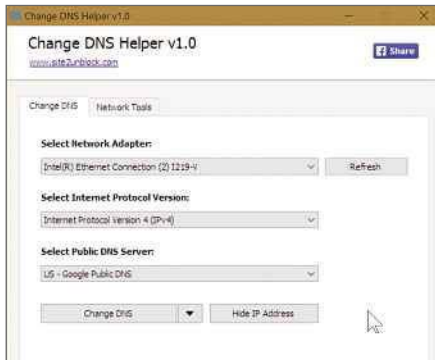
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This 148-page book is the perfect way to get started with Microsoft's fantastic operating system. You'll learn how to master all the new tools and software, and how to upgrade without losing anything. It has been updated to include fixes for problems that have appeared since Windows 10 launched.



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Change DNS Helper lets you quickly switch between the main public servers

switching process.

NirSoft's QuickSetDNS (you can search for it at www.nirsoft.net) lets you quickly switch between a number of DNS servers. This means that if you're experimenting with different options, you can switch between them in a couple of mouse clicks.

Change DNS Helper (bit.ly/change416) is a similar tool and lets you switch between preferred DNS servers. There are installable and portable versions available.

ChrisPC DNS Switch (changedns.how) provides you with a preset list of DNS servers you can change to, sorted by categories such as Anonymous, Family Safe and Secure. It also lets you enter your own choice of DNS servers. The only drawback is that every time you close the software, or leave it unattended for a while, you'll be nagged to upgrade to the paid-for Pro edition, which can become annoying.

Change your router's DNS

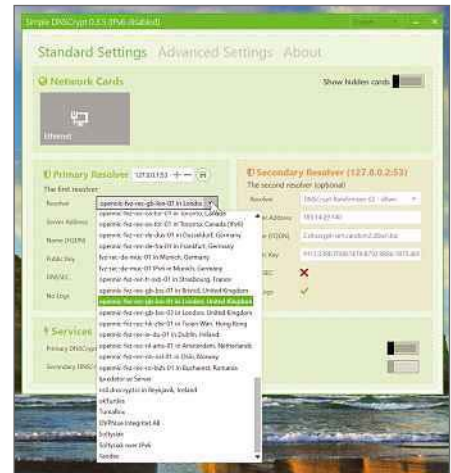
If you want to change the DNS for your entire network, you'll need to change it in your router settings. Open your web browser, enter your router address (this will probably be printed somewhere on the router, or you can use the Command Prompt's `ipconfig` command and look for the Default Gateway) and log in. Look for a DNS option, then change the Primary and Secondary DNS server information as required.

If you can't find a DNS entry, try running a Google search for how to change the DNS on your make and model of router. If you can't make that change at router level – Virgin Media's Super Hub, for example, doesn't let you change the DNS unless you switch to Modem Mode and use a different router – you'll just have to change the settings on each of your devices instead.

Secure your DNS

It's possible for attackers to eavesdrop on your DNS requests – which can reveal the sites you're visiting – and spoof DNS services to redirect you to fake websites. DNSCrypt from OpenDNS (dnscrypt.org) can stop all of this by encrypting your requests and making sure nothing has been tampered with. There are front ends available for DNSCrypt which make it easier to use. If you're running Windows, try Simple DNSCrypt (simplifiednscrypt.org). For Mac users there's DNSCrypt-OSXClient (bit.ly/dc416).

You can also use DNS Lock (bit.ly/



Simple DNSCrypt secures your DNS server. Enter the details you want to protect

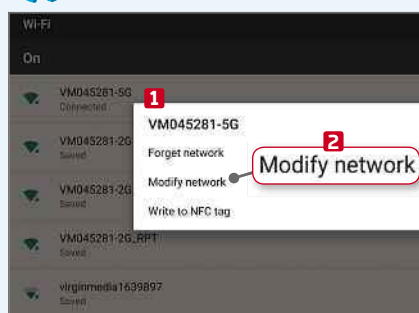
`dl416`) to prevent your choice of DNS server from being changed. When it starts, enter the primary and secondary DNS server addresses in the box and click 'Install Service'.

Flush the DNS cache

Operating systems automatically cache IP addresses (and other DNS results) to speed up future requests to the same sites. If a site won't load, because bad results have been cached or you've made changes to your DNS setup, you can flush (clear) the DNS cache. This is very easy to do. Press Start and type `cmd`. Right-click the Command Prompt entry and click 'Run as administrator'. Type `ipconfig /flushdns` into the window and press Enter. ■



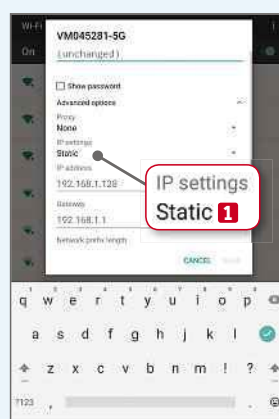
MINI WORKSHOP | Change DNS settings on your smartphone or tablet



1 You can change the DNS servers on Android and iOS devices but this will only apply to the current network. If you use more than one network, you'll need to change the settings on each one. In Android, open the Wi-Fi networks list. Long-press your network, **1** then tap 'Modify network'. **2**

2 Make sure your device is in portrait mode, then tap 'Advanced options'. Tap 'IP settings' and change it to Static. **1**

Be warned, this change will prevent you using DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) to get an automatic IP address. You will now be able to enter your preferred server choices in DNS 1 and DNS 2.



3 The process for changing your DNS on an iPhone or iPad is similar. Open Settings, Wi-Fi and tap your current network. Tap the DNS entry, **1** clear the current settings and enter your new server details. If you're entering more than one DNS server, separate them with commas – '8.8.8.8, 8.8.4.4' for Google's Public DNS.



NEXT ISSUE

How To... Erase files and dispose of an old PC's hard drive

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Web User's Top Tips

Find files easier and faster by mastering the search secrets of Cortana and Windows Explorer

TOP TIPS FOR WINDOWS SEARCH TOOLS

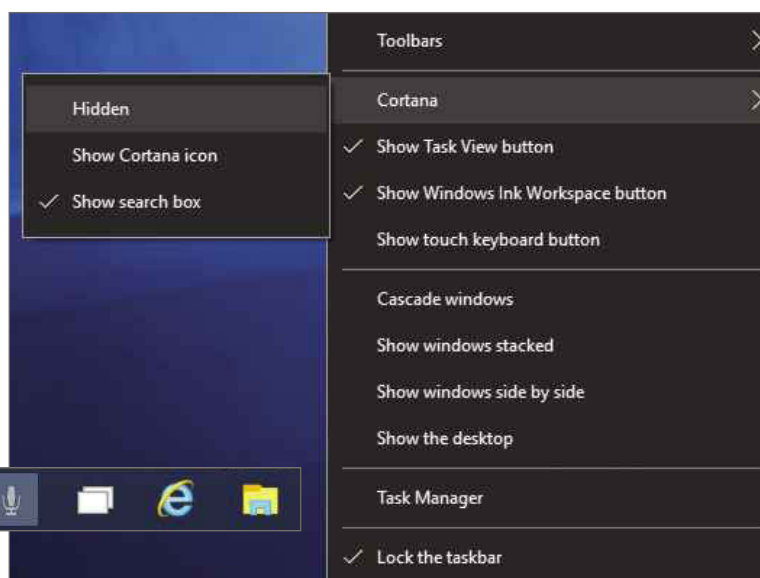
Hide Cortana and its taskbar search box

Cortana – and its Windows 10 taskbar search box – has polarised opinion: you either love it or hate it. If you're of the latter mindset, you can configure Cortana to make it less intrusive.

Right-click an empty part of the taskbar and hover your mouse over the Cortana option. Of the three settings, 'Show Cortana icon' shrinks the search box down to a button that sits by the Start icon; and Hidden completely removes Cortana and the search box from the taskbar. This latter option doesn't disable Cortana – when you want to use it to search for something, just press Windows+S to open the search panel, then type in your search term.



You can choose to hide Cortana if you're not keen on having its search box hogging the taskbar

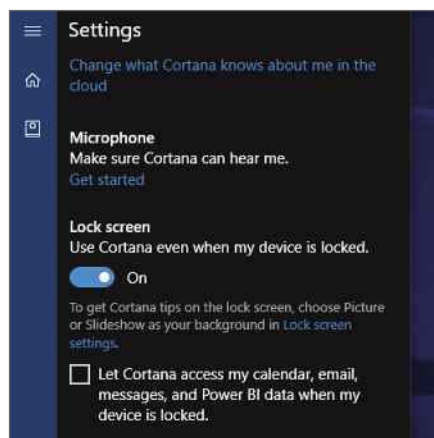


Disable Cortana's lock-screen backdoor

Even if you've used Windows+L to lock your PC, Cortana can still be summoned, so if you want to make sure your private files can't be accessed then you should block Cortana from the lock screen.

Click the taskbar search box or press Windows+S, then click the cog icon on the left. Under 'Lock screen', clear the tick against 'Let Cortana access my calendar, email, messages and Power BI data when my device is locked'. This means Cortana can be used to search but it won't reveal anything personal.

If you want to completely disable Cortana on the lock screen, switch off



Disable Cortana on the lock screen using these settings

the option to 'Use Cortana even when my device is locked.'

Search for files with Cortana

Cortana in Windows 10 can find files on your PC's hard drive. The file-search tool isn't perfect and the number of results are limited, but it's worth trying before you switch to other methods.

Click the search box in the taskbar and enter the filename or partial filename. A list of search results appears that may include Documents, Pictures, Videos or Music. Click these titles to filter the search results by category.

You can make Cortana search for files of a particular type. For example, to search for documents, type `documents: <search term>`

To list the PDF documents on the hard drive, type `documents: *.pdf`.

To view the MP3 music files on the hard drive, type `music: *.mp3` and to list videos, type `videos: *.mov` (or whatever video file type you're looking for). To find photos, enter `pictures: *.jpg`. The * in a filename is called a wildcard, which matches anything, so *.jpg means any filename that ends in .jpg. You can also enter exact filenames to find just one file, such as `mydog.jpg`.

Perform category searches

If, after typing a filename or folder

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.

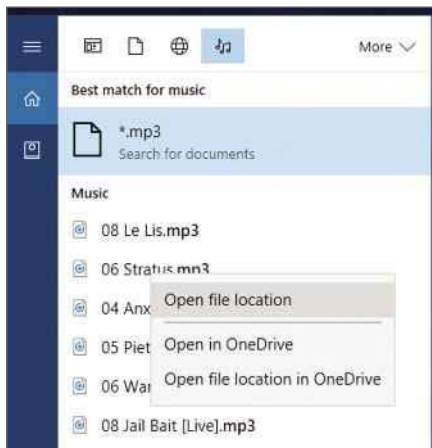


to search for in Cortana's search box, you don't see the result you're after, click the More option at the top. This displays a list of categories including Apps, Documents, Folders, Settings and more. Click the category to filter the search and view the new results.

Find the containing folder

If the file you are looking for is displayed in the search results, left-click it to open the file in its associated app. For example, a Word document will open in Word, and a photo will open in the Photos app or whatever photo editor you use.

If you right-click a result, you get an option to 'Open file location'. This opens an Explorer window showing the folder containing the file. It also selects the file, so you can easily see which one it is.



Right-click search results to locate a file you've found in an Explorer window

Open folders with Cortana

Suppose you want to open your Documents folder to find a file or the Pictures folder to find a photo, you could open Explorer, wait for it to load, then find and click the Documents or Pictures folder.

Cortana can do it faster. Press Windows+S and type the folder you want. For example, Press Windows+S, type documents and press Enter. Explorer opens with the Documents folder. To see the downloads folder, press Windows+S, type downloads and hit Enter. It is fast and easy.

This option searches your personal C:\Users\YourName folder first, but if what you're looking for isn't there, it searches OneDrive. So, if you have a folder in OneDrive called 'myfiles', then pressing Windows+S, typing myfiles and pressing Enter opens it in an Explorer window.

You can also type a file path. Press Windows+S and type c:\users to launch Explorer with the Users folder open.

TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

More advanced tips for when you're feeling brave

Search for files with Explorer

Searching with Explorer hasn't changed much for a while, so the following tips apply to all versions from Windows 7. Open Explorer and you'll see a search box in the top-right corner of the window. The obvious way to use it is to type in the name of the file you want to find, but there are hidden tools that can dramatically improve your search results.

When searching with Cortana, you can't tell it where to begin the search and you can't specify a particular folder. The solution is to open Explorer, navigate to a folder and type a filename into the search box. The search starts with the current folder and includes subfolders.

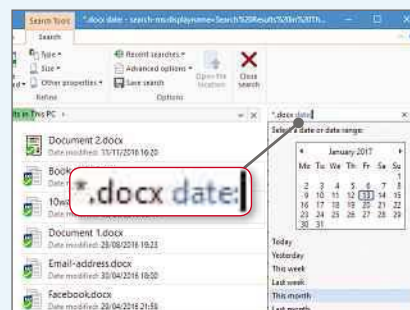
By the way, if the search box is too small, hover your mouse over the gap to the left of it, then click and drag it to increase the size.

Advanced search options

There are a number of advanced search tools that can be used when searching in Explorer. For example, if you click in the search box, a new Search menu option appears. Click it to display the extra search tools in the ribbon bar.

On the left, you'll find buttons for This PC, 'Current folder' and 'All subfolders'. This determines where the search is performed. Select This PC. Click 'Date modified' and select Today or 'This week' to see the files that have changed recently. It will show lots of Windows system files but if you then add a search term to the search box, you can filter these out and just show the files you are interested in. For example, add *.docx or *.jpg to see the Word files or photos that have been edited recently.

If your hard drive is nearly full and



Use advanced searching in Explorer. Type date: to filter the results by date

you want to find out what is using up all the space, click This PC in the search bar, click 'All subfolders' and then click Size. Select Gigantic from the submenu that appears to see all files over 128MB. If thumbnails are displayed, select the View menu and set it to Details so you can see the filenames and sizes.

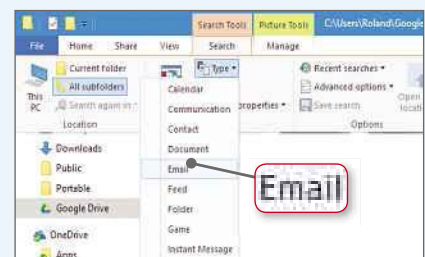
Take control of keywords

You may have noticed that Explorer enters special terms into the search box when menu items are selected, such as selecting Today from the 'Date modified' menu. You can type these directly. Type these keywords into the search box to see what happens:

kind:
type:
name:
date:
datecreated:
datemodified:

Each displays a list of options that helps you refine the search.

Searches can sometimes produce a lot of results. To limit searches to specific types of files, click Type on the Search tab in the ribbon and select a file type. Once you know the categories, you can type them in yourself, such as kind:=game, kind:=calendar, kind:=folder and so on.



Limit searches to files of a specific type to filter the results

Use specific words and phrases

Type two or more words into the search box and, if one or both appear in a filename or folder, it will appear in the search results. Put quotes around words to look for the exact phrase, such as "holiday 2016".

You can filter the results by excluding certain words, so if you search for train -station the results will include all files containing 'train' in the name, but not if they also include 'station'.

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



TV STREAMING

Use a Fire TV Stick with a BT router

Q I received an Amazon Fire TV Stick for Christmas, but I can't get it working on my TV.

I searched the web and found that my old BT router (Home Hub 3) may not work with Amazon's TV Stick. When I called BT to update my router, I was told I'd have to pay almost £90 for the new model. That's too much, so I was wondering if you know how I might get the device working with the equipment I've got?

Mike Fisher, via email

A The problem is caused by an incompatibility with BT's Smart Setup tool, which is supposed to make connecting devices easier but in this case gets in the way. All BT hubs use this tool, so upgrading to a later model won't solve the problem. However, turning off Smart Setup should work.

Open your web browser and enter the Home Hub's IP address into the



You shouldn't need to buy a £90 router to install a £35 TV streamer

address bar – it's usually 192.168.1.254. If that doesn't work, press Windows+R, type `cmd` and press Enter. When you see the Command Prompt window, type `ipconfig` and press Enter. Look for the Default Gateway and type the numbers into the address bar.

This should take you to your router's configuration tools – you may have to enter a username and password which you should find printed on a sticker attached to the back or base of your router. Once you're in, go to the advanced settings and look for the Smart Setup feature. Set it to Off and you should be able to set up the Amazon Fire TV Stick as stated in its instructions.

drop-down menu. Apps that take up the most storage space will now be at the top of the list. Look down the list to see if there are any you can live without – some games, for example, can use 2GB or more. Select an app you no longer need and tap the Uninstall button.

When installing new apps from the Store, check the size and avoid large apps that use a lot of space. To keep Windows 10 running smoothly on your tablet, keep apps to a minimum.

EMAIL

Exorcise a ghost email address

Q I received an email from Yahoo telling me to change the password for my email account. When I did this on my PC, everything went fine, but when I tried it on my Apple MacBook, something went wrong in the Mail app so I couldn't log in.

I decided to delete the account and set it up again as a new account with the new password. However, the Mac says "This account already exists," even though it has been deleted. I have looked everywhere for the account, but can't find it, so why does my Mac say it exists?

Brian Murray, via email

A This problem seems to be related to Apple's iCloud service. This stores settings, accounts, passwords and other information and syncs it across your PCs and other devices. Even though you have deleted the account on the Mac, it still exists in iCloud, which is why you're seeing this error message.

Go to System Preferences and click iCloud. Sign out of iCloud and restart the Mac. You should now be able to create the new email account by going to System Preferences, Accounts. Once it's up and running, return to System Preferences, iCloud and sign back in. Everything should now be fine.

SECURITY

Bypass a password you haven't set

Q I left my Toshiba Satellite laptop switched on for several hours and when I returned to it, the screen had

MOBILE

Boost a Windows 10 tablet

Q I updated my Acer 10 tablet to Windows 10, but it has a small hard drive so installing too many apps causes problems. Now it doesn't shut down as easily as it did. The blue light stays on for a long time and I have to hold the button down for ages before it goes orange.

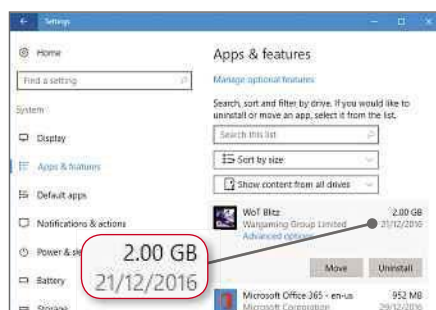
R Cull, via email

A If your Windows tablet has limited memory and storage space, you need to be careful about what you install. Apps can consume a lot of resources, which means performance – including shutdown time – suffers.

To avoid overloading your tablet, store as much as you can online. Right-click (tap and hold) OneDrive in Explorer's left panel and select 'Choose

OneDrive folders to sync'. Clear 'Sync all files and folders in OneDrive'. Files will now be stored online and not on your tablet. Store music in OneDrive and photos in OneDrive or Google Drive.

Next, open Windows 10 Settings and go to System. Select 'Apps & features' and choose Size from the 'Sort by'



Check Windows 10 Settings to see which apps are taking up the most space



frozen. I couldn't even use Ctrl+Alt+Del.

I turned it off at the mains and took out the battery. An hour or so later, I plugged everything back in and turned it on. It then asked for a password before Windows launched. I assume it's the BIOS that requires a password. In the three years I've had the laptop it has never asked for a password and I don't recall ever having set one.

I am the sole user of this PC. How do I get past an unknown password?

Richard, via email

A You could have up to three passwords on your PC: the BIOS password, a supervisor password and your Windows password. The first two appear as soon as you switch on the laptop, before Windows loads. You may be able to skip these by holding down the left Shift key as soon as you switch on. Alternatively, a default password of 'TOSHIBA TOSHIBA' may work.

If you can't log into Windows 7, there is a way to access a hidden admin account. You can then log in from there and reset your account password. Start the PC with a Windows disc and select the option to repair the computer, which is offered early in the setup.

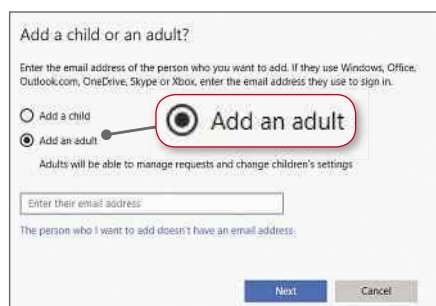
Select the Command Prompt option, type **regedit** and press Enter. Select HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE, then click the File menu and choose Load Hive. Enter the file

C:\windows\system32\config\sam

then go to:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\hive-name\SAM\Domains\Account\Users\000001F4

Double-click F on the right to edit the value. Look for the line that starts 0038, double-click the 11 next to it and change it to 10. Then close the Registry Editor and restart the PC. The Admin account appears on the login screen and doesn't require a password.

Once you've logged in, create a new account that you can access if you're ever locked out of your main account.



Add a second account as a backup in case you lose access to your main one

GENERAL PC

Shrink oversized windows

Q Since using SnailDriver to scan my Acer Aspire Windows 7 64-bit laptop and update the drivers, all the windows are too large to fit on the screen. Can you help?

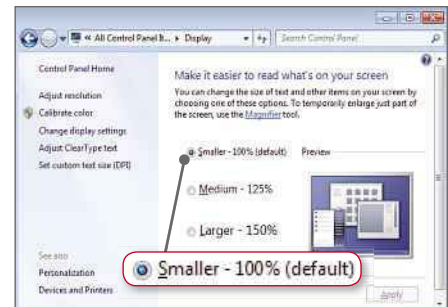
John Imrie, via email

A The problem is with the display, so right-click the Desktop and select 'Screen resolution'. Select the resolution that best fits your monitor. Click 'Make text and other items larger or smaller'. Select 'Smaller - 100%' and click Apply.

If this doesn't help, try uninstalling the video driver. Open the Control Panel, choose 'Small icons' and click Device Manager. Click the arrow next to 'Display adapters', then double-click the graphics adapter. Select the Driver tab and click the Roll Back Driver button to restore the previous driver.

Driver updaters often update several drivers at once so if a problem occurs, you won't know which one caused it and will have to uninstall them all. These tools usually create a system restore point before they start, so you can undo unsuccessful updates. Go to Start, All Programs, Accessories, System Tools and select System Restore. Click Next on the first screen and select a restore point from before the driver updates. Click Next and follow the instructions. The PC will restore the old settings and reboot.

In future, it's best to update drivers one at a time, and only to fix a problem.



If windows are too big to fit on the screen, try making the text size smaller

If your hardware is running well, the best advice is to leave it alone.

GENERAL PC

Better Windows search

Q I'd like to remove the Cortana search box in Windows 10 and revert to the Search Box that all versions of Windows had before. Is it possible? I'm aware that Cortana can be switched off in Settings.

Before Windows 10 came along, typing .jpg into the search box would show all the .jpg files on your PC. Cortana doesn't seem to be able to carry out this simple function - or have I missed something?

Cliff Evans, via email

A You can't replace Cortana with the old Windows 7 search box, but you can use Windows 10's search tools to do what you want. This issue's Top Tips is about Windows search, so turn to page 64 to find out how. You might also consider installing an alternative search tool such as Everything (voidtools.com).

GENERAL PC

Run old software on a new PC

Q I have an old program I used in Windows 7, but since installing Windows 10, I can't run it. I'm told it's because I now have 64-bit Windows whereas before it was 32-bit. How can I get the program working again?

C Miller, via email

A A 64-bit version of Windows can run 32-bit software and 32-bit Windows can run 16-bit software. Your software is probably 16-bit, so you'll need a 32-bit version of Windows to run it. Windows 7 is your best option, and you can run this in a virtual machine using VirtualBox (www.virtualbox.org).

Download VirtualBox and the



Run old versions of Windows and compatible software using VirtualBox

extensions pack, then run VirtualBox, open the File menu and choose Preferences, Extensions. Click to add the extensions. Next, place a Windows 7 32-bit installation DVD in the drive and quit any programs that open. Run VirtualBox again, start the virtual machine and install Windows 7 on it from the DVD. Once Windows 7 is up and running in VirtualBox, you can install and use your 16-bit software.



This fortnight Roland has been using his VPN for extra protection while he's been working on public Wi-Fi hotspots

Your Top Tips

Our pick of the best advice from our readers. To get help or offer it to others, visit forum.webuser.co.uk



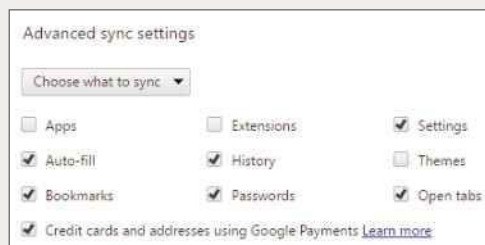
TOP TIP

BROWSERS

Opt out of Chrome sync

I have two PCs – a laptop with 4GB of memory and a Desktop with 8GB. Memory isn't a problem on the desktop PC, so I have lots of useful extensions installed in Chrome; but the laptop is less powerful and has less memory, so a dozen extensions slow it to a crawl. If you have a similar setup, you can customise what is synced between Chrome on your computers so your laptop version isn't loaded with memory-hogging extensions.

Click the menu button, select Settings and, at the top, click 'Advanced sync settings'. Select 'Choose what to sync' in the menu at the top, then clear the tick against



Choose what you want Chrome to sync across computers

anything you don't want shared with your other PCs. I cleared Apps, Extensions and Themes on my 4GB laptop, because they use up memory. It keeps Chrome on my laptop light and fast, but everything loads up when I boot up my desktop PC.

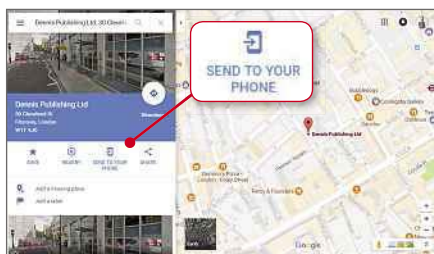
John Cornwall, via email

MAPS

Send directions to your phone

Have you ever searched for a shop or restaurant on your PC and then wished you'd done so from your phone, so you could get directions in Google Maps and use the device for navigation? This is now a problem of the past, because the Google Maps website includes an option to send business listings to your phone.

From Google Maps, scroll down to the bottom of the listing (just below the user reviews) and you'll see a 'Send to your Phone' button. Click it, select the device you want to send it to and a notification appears on the appropriate device, so



Google Maps lets you send a location directly to your phone

you can navigate to it or get directions.

On Android, the notification stays there until you clear it, so even if you're not walking or driving somewhere until later on, you'll have the directions at your fingertips just when you need them. The method even works even for addresses and postcodes (not just businesses), so I've been using it whenever I need to travel to a new location.

Ronnie S, via email

GENERAL PC

Retrieve lost windows

Last week, I somehow moved a window so far off my screen that I had no way of retrieving it. I could still see its title bar, but however hard I tried to click and drag it, Windows wouldn't let me drag it back on screen. I then remembered reading about someone solving this problem via a keyboard shortcut.

I searched Google for keyboard shortcut maximise and learned that it was Alt+Spacebar. After pressing Alt+Tab to make sure the correct application was selected, I pressed

Alt+Spacebar and the window filled my screen. From here, I was then able to drag the title bar from the top of the display to 'Restore down' without losing it off the bottom of my screen.

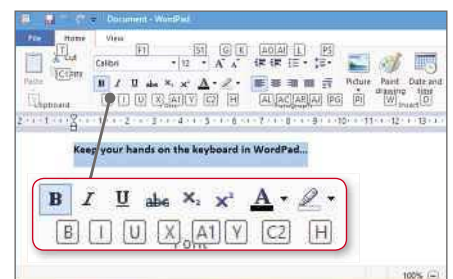
Mike Arnall, via email

GENERAL PC

Keyboard shortcuts for WordPad

Here is a trick you can perform in WordPad and Microsoft Word. When you want to apply a formatting tool on the Home tab, but don't want to take your hands off the keyboard and reach for the mouse, press Alt+H. Letters and numbers appear by the buttons on the ribbon toolbar. You just press the relevant key to apply the formatting.

A Baker, via email



Press Alt+H to show keyboard shortcuts in WordPad and Word

BROWSERS

Break a browser crash loop

A feature in some web browsers, including Microsoft Edge in Windows 10, is that they can start up with the same tabs you had open last time. It means you can carry on browsing the web from where you left off.

This sounds great until you run into a site that has pop-ups, malware or something else that crashes the browser or causes it to freeze. To shut down your browser when this happens, press Ctrl+Shift+Esc to open Task Manager, then right-click the browser and force it to close. However, when you next open



the browser, it will load the same tabs and your browser will crash again.

The solution is to switch off the Wi-Fi on your computer. When you now open the browser, it will again try to open the tabs, but with no internet connection it won't be able to download their content. You can then close the problematic tabs and turn the Wi-Fi back on again, and the problem will be fixed.

Dave Bass, via email

GENERAL PC

Auto-save screenshots of important emails online

Whenever I get an important email, such as a receipt for something I've bought or the details of a new account I've set up, I always save a screenshot. It's good practice to save the information and have a backup. In Windows 10, you just press the Windows+PrtScn.

Screenshots are saved to a Screenshots folder in the Pictures folder, but you can save them to OneDrive instead. In Windows 10, you'll find the OneDrive icon in your notification area (you may have to click the arrow to show hidden icons). Click the OneDrive icon and choose Settings from the menu. The Auto-save tab contains an option to 'Automatically save screenshots I capture to OneDrive'. If your PC crashes or your hard drive corrupts, you'll still have your screenshots in OneDrive, which you can access from a browser.

Jake Egan, via email

ANDROID

Get Nougat-style shortcuts

Nova Launcher recently added a feature similar to that in Android Nougat, which lets you access context menus for apps by long-

pressing them on the home screen. Ordinarily, when you long-press an icon in Nova Launcher, it gives you the option to Edit, Remove or Uninstall the app, or view App Info. Now, as well as these 'Icon options',



Long-pressing an app on Nova launcher displays its context menu

some apps also display a number of handy contextual shortcuts. For example, long-pressing Twitter displays options

to search, compose a new tweet or write a new message. For Google Keep, there are shortcuts for adding a new note, audio note, photo note or list. This handy new feature is available for both the free and premium version of Nova, and makes certain actions much quicker.

If you choose to lock your Desktop with Nova, you can still access the shortcuts by only pressing the app icons until they appear and not until the 'Desktop is locked' prompt appears.

Ed Wright, via email

BROWSERS

Open links as another user

In Issue 415 (bit.ly/issue415), Tom Riches offered a handy tip about using Chrome with more than one Google account at the same time, by logging in with the browser's Users tool. Like Tom, I've started using this method to help keep my work and personal accounts separate.

One great option that he forgot to point out is that when you come across a link when you're using your work account, but want to open it in your personal account (or vice versa), you can



Right-click a link in Chrome to open it as another user

right-click it and select 'Open link as [name of Google account]'. If you don't want a personal web page to show in your work account, this is the easiest way to view it without having to copy and paste the URL from one window to another. If you don't have a window open for your home account, Chrome will open one, but if you do, the page simply loads as another tab in that window.

Graham White, via email

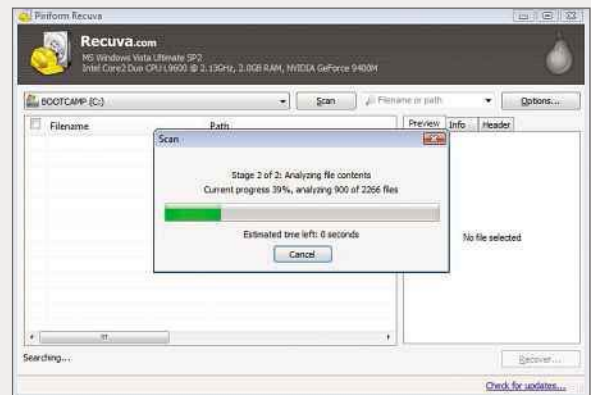
BLUNDER OF THE FORTNIGHT

GENERAL PC

Recover lost files

Last month, I formatted a flash drive in a hurry, without checking first that I'd backed everything up. Unfortunately, it turned out that there were some photographs on the drive that I didn't have copies of, so I searched Google for file-recovery tools to see if I might be able to restore them.

One of the tools I discovered was Recuva (www.piriform.com/recuva). It stood out to me because it's made by Piriform, the developer of CCleaner. Based on this, I thought I'd give the tool a try and I was incredibly relieved to be able to recover all the files that had been stored on the drive. When you use the tool, it's important to recover the files to another location, not the drive itself,



Piriform's Recuva can recover files from damaged and newly formatted drives

or you risk overwriting them!

Unlike many of its competitors, Recuva lets you recover all your files for free. However, paying £20 for the Professional version of the program unlocks automatic updates and entitles you to premium support. It's not often you hear a success story with file recovery, so I wanted to share mine!

Robert W, via email

Have you managed to fix a PC-related disaster?

If so, please send your story to webuser@dennis.co.uk





Readers' Helpdesk

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

GENERAL PC

How do I set Foxit as my default PDF viewer?

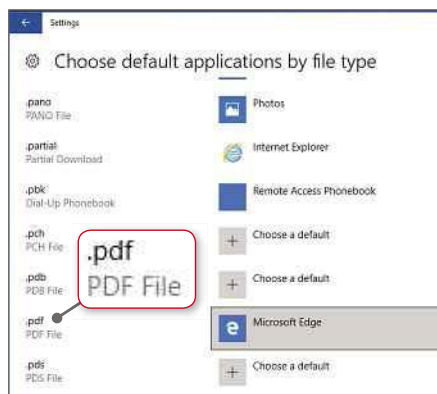
Q I have installed Foxit Reader (bit.ly/fox416) on my PC and would like to make it the default PDF viewer in Windows 10. When I go into 'Default apps' from Settings, System, I can't see anything related to PDF files, so how do I make it the default?

bob.gas, Web User Forums

A From 'Default apps', scroll down until you see the option to select 'Choose default applications by file type'. From this menu, scroll down to '.pdf' and you'll see Edge is set as the default program. Click it, then choose Foxit from the list that appears.

Alternatively, you can open Foxit Reader and select Edit from its menu, then Preferences and File Associations. Click the button to 'Make Default PDF Viewer' and then select OK.

Stewart40 and ezyduzzit, Web User Forums



Windows lets you set the default program for all file types

SOFTWARE

How do I get rid of True Key?

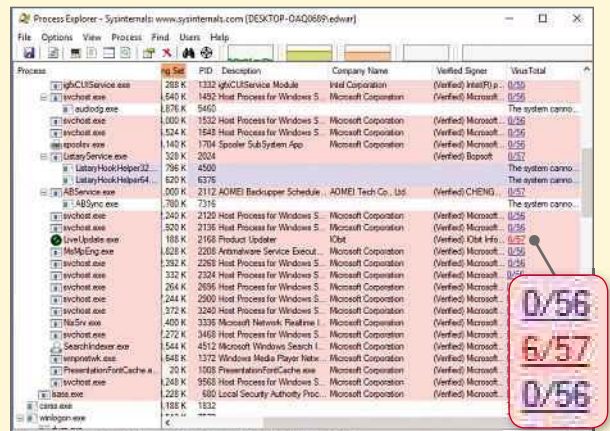
Q I just downloaded Adobe Flash and somehow also ended up with the password manager True Key. I don't want it, so I tried removing it using Windows' 'Add or remove programs' tool, but I can't see it listed there, nor in Revo Uninstaller.

GENERAL PC

What is 'Program' in my Start-up?

Q Does anybody know what 'Program' – which appears in the Start-up section of my PC's Task Manager – could be, and whether it is safe or not? When I right-click it, both 'Open file location' and Properties are greyed-out. I've not been able to find any answers online, so I've disabled it.

rufford155, Web User Forums



You can use Process Explorer to scan running Windows processes using VirusTotal

A To check if it's safe or not, try downloading Process Explorer (bit.ly/process416). Open the tool's Options menu and ensure Verify Image Signatures is ticked. Next, hover your cursor over VirusTotal.com, click Check VirusTotal.com and agree to the terms. In the VirusTotal column, you should treat any processes with a fairly high value (of around 50) as suspect.

Another way to identify what it belongs to is to right-click any of the column titles in Task Manager's Start-up tab and select 'Command line.'

This shows you where the program is running from. You could also try downloading Autoruns for Windows (bit.ly/autoruns416) to find out more about the program.

If it's not a threat but you still want to remove it, you can try using the removal tool FreeFixer (www.freefixer.com). Any files that can be removed will have a tick box next to them, as well as an info button that shows which program they belong to.

Cantrel and Stewart40, Web User Forums

Does anyone know how I can get rid of True Key, please?

bob.gas, Web User Forums

taking care not to include True Key.

Cantrel and Madeline, Web User Forums

A Go back to 'Add or remove programs' and look for Intel Security True Key – rather than just True Key. You could also look to see if there's anything shown in C:\Program Files for True Key. If there is such a folder, see if it contains an uninstaller.

If that doesn't work, try a system restore from before you installed the package and then simply install Adobe Flash again,



Be careful to untick the box for True Key by Intel Security when installing Adobe Flash Player



Star Email

Illegal streaming has overtaken downloading

Reading your main news story in Issue 415 (bit.ly/webuser415) – ‘ISPs send warning letters to illegal downloaders’ – only confirms to me how far behind internet companies really are.

Five years ago, the downloading of copyrighted films, TV shows and music was undoubtedly a massive problem – everyone was doing it. There were Russian websites you could download the latest releases from, peer-to-peer networks like Gnutella and BitTorrent, and tools for downloading songs and videos from YouTube and iPlayer.

Now things have changed and most people I know prefer to stream rather than download, but don't necessarily want to pay for services like Netflix and Now TV. I probably don't need to tell you that loads of sites have sprung up that let you stream everything for



free, provided you're prepared to put up with a few ads. I won't name them, because I don't want to get in trouble, but there are loads out there, and most of them are available through Google.

Streaming is even better than downloading for people who don't care about breaking the law – it's quicker and

doesn't leave as much evidence on your computer. So why aren't the ISPs and the copyright owners going after illegal streamers rather than downloaders? Because they're clueless, that's why. Few people bother to download Premiership football matches, but there are thousands who stream them live and never get caught. Why would they when web companies have no idea what they're doing?

Don't get me wrong – I'm not advocating illegal streaming or downloading. I just think the latest measures taken by ISPs – by which I mean these toothless warning letters – are very backward-looking and likely to have no effect at all on internet piracy. Perhaps they know they can't win so they've given up trying.

Paul Cheetham, via email

Websites must do more to combat fraud

My Mum recently used her PC to buy a £5 washing-machine part from eBay. What she did not know is that LastPass had logged her in as me, so the £5 charge came out of my PayPal account.

When I use eBay, I always make sure that ESET is running in safe-banking mode, but my Mum did not know this and entered her

bank-card details.

A key-logging program must have been running on her PC because a few days later someone purchased a new iPhone for £525

using her banking details.

I rang eBay but their stupid automated system assumed she must have an eBay account. The fraudster never even got my Mum's Christian name correct but was still allowed to make a purchase.

Neither eBay nor the bank will reveal

where the item was delivered to, so the fraudster has kept the stolen item. I think eBay should be responsible and send the police the address – to see if they can find the purchased item and arrest the buyer – but they never do, so online fraud keeps happening.

Websites must do more to check that the name entered for transactions matches the name on the card. For purchases of more than £100, they could

send a security code to your phone to prevent fraud.

Adrian Bonnington, Northampton

We have no say over what we buy

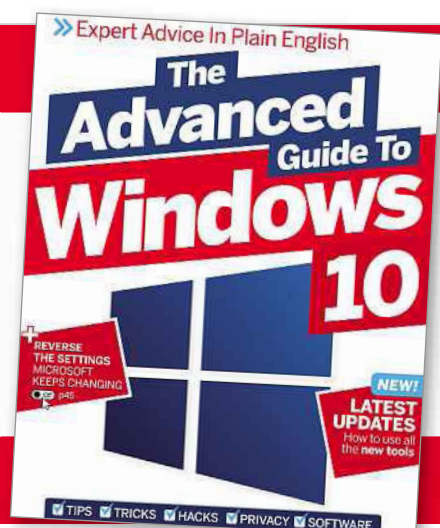
Regarding M Belshaw's letter in Inbox, Issue 414 (bit.ly/webuser414), 'Who really owns our PCs?' – you can say the same about almost anything. You buy a new TV and the broadcasters decide what



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“ I didn't just lose my shirt on the Blackjack tables in Las Vegas, I lost a leg of my trousers too ”

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

you watch, and the same applies to radio. You buy a car and the manufacturer decides what audio equipment it has installed. You buy shoes and, again, the manufacturer decides what material they are made from.

You get the picture by now.

Stan Elliott, Co Down

Will Bad Ad Johnny take on Windows 10?

I've just read Best New Browser Tools in Issue 413 (bit.ly/webuser413), specifically the tip 'Block online ads - with attitude!' about the Chrome extension Bad Ad Johnny (bit.ly/badad413). It's brilliant: it blocks all ads and it blocks data loggers and more.

Given that Windows 10 contains a data logger (which is illegal, in my view), will Bad Ad Johnny work in Windows 10? If 'yes', I would use it and maybe even switch to Windows 10. I would be happy to pay for it.

It's worth bearing in mind that if software producers cannot survive without advertising, they deserve to fail. If software is good and needed, then users will be happy to pay for it.

In the meantime, I remain a happy Firefox and Adblock Plus user.

Ian McGarrigle, via email

Web User says: We can confirm that Bad Ad Johnny will work in Windows 10, but it will only block ads that are shown in your browser. To stop Windows 10 collecting your data, we'd recommend the privacy tools O&O ShutUp 10 (bit.ly/shut416) or AntiSpy for Windows 10 (bit.ly/antispy416).

Customer support is so important

Yet again, in Issue 413, we have a glowing review of a Lenovo product, the Yoga Book. Yet

nowhere do I see it mention that Lenovo has non-existent customer support. It matters not how simple your

question might be to Lenovo, or whether you email or post on the company's Facebook page; one thing guaranteed is that you will not get a response.

As decent customer service is of the utmost importance, I wonder why your magazine chooses to ignore this aspect. You may well be testing a product but, if the support is not there, then you may as well test a brick.

Glenn Faulkner, Facebook

How can BT justify its price rises?

I've just found out that in April BT is going to put up its broadband prices *again*. Is my internet getting any faster? No. Any more reliable? No. Is it any quicker to get through to someone in the customer-support team when I need to? Definitely not. So how can BT, which makes more than £2bn profit every year, justify charging its customers even more money for the same (not always brilliant) service? If it wasn't so much hassle, and you didn't also have to pay for leaving your contract, I'd switch to another ISP without hesitation. As it is, I suppose I'll just have to scrape by come April. I wonder how long it will be before BT starts blaming Brexit for its broadband-price rises?

Brian Aldridge, via email

Not all Walters are softies

Being of the name Walter, I take umbrage with your use of the term "Walter the Softy" in your Homepage letter in Issue 415. On behalf of all the Walters of this world, I request that you have a go instead at perhaps "Robert the Softy" or "Dennis the Softy", with of course the greatest respect.

Walter the Not-at-all-Softy, via email

Stop making us paranoid about security

I had to laugh on reading your Security Alert item in Issue 415 about how hackers could potentially steal our fingerprints from photos. I think the 'professor'



behind this revelation must have been reading too much science fiction.

Are we really supposed to believe that at this very moment, cybercriminals are avidly browsing our Facebook photos, looking for shots of us flicking the 'victory sign' so they can zoom in on our fingers and clone their detail? What do they do then - sell the prints on the 'dark web' or perhaps create plaster casts to flog on the street? I mean, what possible threat can it pose unless we happen to use fingerprint recognition on our phones and the criminals are able to steal those, too?

Methinks these researchers have too much time on their hands, coming up with cybersecurity scare stories to keep us all as paranoid as possible. There are enough real threats in the world without us being encouraged to worry about fingerprint theft. What next, will hackers begin targeting our hair?

Nick Potter, via email

Barry needs to get his bite back

What with his £150 smartwatches and all-expenses-paid trips to Las Vegas, I fear your columnist Barry Collins may be losing touch with the real world. I prefer to read his opinions about matters I can relate to, such as broadband rip-offs and TalkTalk being crap. When all you've got to worry about is not having HD films to watch as you fly across the Atlantic, it's time to take stock of your life. Come on Barry, put away your fancy gadgets, bare your teeth and start sticking it to The Man again!

Pauline Fielding, via email

The Wii U was *not* rubbish!

This morning, while sitting in the dentist's waiting room, I was idly flicking through an issue of your magazine from last





November. I read the article about the Nintendo Switch, which described the Nintendo Wii U as "a load of rubbish".

I own all three of the last-generation consoles and the Wii U is by far my favourite. The ability to carry on playing on the gamepad while freeing up the TV is wonderful. This is the console that gave us Mario Kart 8, Splatoon, Mario 3D World, Zelda: The Wind Waker HD and Zelda: Twilight Princess HD, to mention just a few.

Your comment is the kind of thing I would expect from a Sony or Microsoft fanboy on Twitter. Perhaps you think the Sony PSP and Vita were rubbish because their sales were dwarfed by those of the Nintendo DS and 3DS?

Anthony B, via the dentist



Give us more Linux advice

As many more of us are getting fed up with Windows, why can't you have a Linux section in your excellent magazine? Linux magazines can be very technical but I'm sure you could simplify the information.

I have used Linux Mint since Microsoft ended support for Windows XP, initially as a dual-boot operating system. After a while, I ditched Windows completely.

Craig, East Sussex



Driverless cars shouldn't crash

Alan Lesley-Bayne makes some interesting points in your Star Email in Issue 415 about who to blame for driverless-car accidents. I would say that the party responsible is the person 'operating' the car – after all, these vehicles don't just start themselves but require somebody to press the 'Go' button, or however they work.

Alternatively, the manufacturer should be blamed for not testing the car properly to prevent crashes and other accidents.

Colin Helms, via email

What you say...

NETFLIX NOW HAS ALMOST 100 MILLION SUBSCRIBERS WORLDWIDE. WHAT DO YOU WATCH ON THE SERVICE?

My mother asked me to get her Netflix last November so she could watch *The Crown*. Since then there's been no stopping us. We like the clever progress bar that shows which programs we've watched, and the on-screen preview when fast-forwarding and rewinding.

Chris Armstrong

I've watched *The Crown*, *Stranger Things* and *The Good Wife*, and I'm thinking of giving *Designated Survivor* a whirl. Tried a few episodes of *The OA* but didn't like it. Loved all the rest.

Lynn Sharpe

I want *Better Call Saul* and *Narcos* to come back.

Andrew Wakeman

The menu screen! I spend more time scrolling through that and trying to decide what to watch than actually watching anything.

Dario @dario006

HAS YOUR PHONE OR TABLET BEEN UPDATED TO ANDROID 7.0 (NOUGAT) YET?

No, not my LG G4 phone. It's moderately annoying, because I'm eager to try Nougat.

Jenny Jacks @JenJacks3

No, I've still got Marshmallow 6.0.1. It's not frustrating at all. My Samsung Galaxy A5 is a beautiful phone that works perfectly.

Geoffrey Boow

I should be so lucky. I'm not complaining really. I'm on

Marshmallow, but my competent if slightly dodgy Chinese phone had to be flashed to install it.

Patrick @StubCrouch

I didn't even get the Android Marshmallow update so I bought an iPhone instead. I've no regrets.

M @x_magz

BUT IS INCREASING ITS BROADBAND PRICES BY 6%. WILL YOU SWITCH ISP?

I certainly will. Totally livid. They just keep hiking the charges every year and get away with it. The service is pretty poor, too, so it's time to switch.

Chris Cole

Someone has to pay for the Premier League rights, and it's broadband and BT Sport customers. At least line rental is frozen, though.

Martin Phillp

It's the same with all the ISPs and utility companies. As soon as you're signed up, the prices increase.

Brian Brown

Prices keep going up. Soon people on low incomes won't be able afford the service.

Darren Pike

WILL APPLE'S PRICE RISE FOR APPS PUT YOU OFF BUYING THEM?

I've never been tempted to buy anything Apple, never mind apps. Overpriced rubbish fuelled by greed.

Gary Olsen

Of course it will put me off. How dumb would you have to be not to be put off by that large a price hike?

Graham Smith

I haven't bought an app in years.

Athol A Witter

Never bought an app. All mine have been free.

Phil Rubery

! Page 404



Barry Collins isn't duped by tech firms' excuses for price hikes beyond their control

Let the Brexit tech rip-offs begin!

Having just returned from Las Vegas, I can bear painful witness to the post-Brexit slump in sterling. I didn't just lose my shirt on the Blackjack tables this year, I lost a leg of my trousers too.

But you don't have to visit the US to feel the pinch of the plummeting pound because tech companies are lining up to rub handfuls of salt into our open wounds. Apple, Microsoft, Dell and HP are among the many companies that have used our post-referendum exchange-rate wobble as an excuse to push up their prices.

Apple's price rises are the easiest to digest. Until recently, the cheapest paid-for app in the App Store cost 79p. Post-Brexit, Apple has decided to shove that price up to 99p, an increase of nearly 25%. MacBooks, iPads and other Apple products have been subject to similar price rises: the cheapest Mac Mini, for example, increased by 20% from £399 to £479 back in October.

That's fair enough, you may argue. Since June, the value of the pound to the dollar has fallen from around £1.50 to £1.20 at the time of writing, a fall of 20%. Apple and the others aren't charities: if they're literally earning less buck for their bang, they're

entitled to pass on the costs. Indeed, Apple (sort of) makes that very point in the boilerplate statement it issues every time a journalist questions such price hikes: "Price tiers on the App Store are set internationally on the basis of several factors, including currency-exchange rates, business practices, taxes, and the cost of doing business," the statement reads. "These factors vary from region to region and over time."

That last point is the one that sticks in my craw, because Apple is absolutely right: these factors *do* vary from time to time, yet Apple only ever adjusts prices when the exchange rate tumbles. For example, according to the exchange-rate tracker on Xe (www.xe.com), the pound was worth \$1.38 in January 2009, yet by August that year had risen to \$1.68, an increase of 20% over almost the exact same time frame as the Brexit vote to now. Anyone remember the Apple announcement about how App Store prices have dropped to reflect the strong pound? No, neither do I, and a Google search

bears no fruit either. A similar, steady surge in the pound occurred between July 2013 (\$1.50) and July 2014 (\$1.70), but yet again there was no price adjustment in favour of British

consumers.

We're not being asked to take the rough with the smooth. When the exchange rate nosedives, Apple and co ask us to make up the difference; when

the exchange rate climbs, the tech giants pocket the profits.

Whenever they're challenged on such anomalies, the tech companies make out that simpleton journalists like me can't possibly fathom the huge matrix of economic factors such as inflation, sales taxes and the grade of leather used for Tim Cook's new office chair, which all feed into pricing decisions.

Perhaps not. But I do know this: Britain won't be part of the EU for much longer. We no longer have to play by its rules. Who's up for a windfall tax on tech companies that exploit British consumers with unjustified price hikes? How do you like them Apples?

“Anyone remember the Apple announcement about how App Store prices have dropped to reflect the strong pound? No, neither do I.”



Illustration: Andrew Torrens

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