



BACK UP ALL YOUR PHOTOS FOR FREE!

ISSUE 337

For people who love the internet



# Webuser

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29 January 2014

● Best software ● New websites ● Expert tips

## TOP SECRET!

Brilliant hidden tricks for your favourite sites

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- Spotify
- Gmail
- Facebook
- Amazon
- Twitter
- YouTube
- + And loads more...



Take a peek  
p42



PLUS

FREE HARDWARE UPGRADES

- ✓ Drivers ✓ Routers ✓ Scanners
- ✓ iPads ✓ Laptops ✓ Graphics cards

MAKE YOUR OWN  
WINDOWS 8 APP

Spotify

You  
Tube



# BROADBAND IS BROADBAND IS BROADBAND, RIGHT? WRONG.

There's now enough research to prove that those businesses with superfast fibre optic broadband find it transforms the way they work. It makes them faster, more efficient, more innovative. The Government estimates that if UK businesses switch to fibre broadband, it will add an extra £18 billion to the economy\*. And you can have your slice of that from 99p a day, with our BT Infinity for business. Here are five good reasons why your business could be better off with superfast fibre optic broadband.

## 1. INFINITY FOR BUSINESS CAN HELP PEOPLE GET MORE DONE.

It's not just frustrating waiting for files to download or web pages to appear. It's inefficient and expensive. Infinity for business is as much as 5 times faster than average UK standard broadband. Imagine that for a moment. You'll be downloading a big 100MB file in less than half a minute. Uploading 30 photos to your website in under a minute. 'Time is money', as the cliché goes, and you could be doing more with your time.



## 2. IT'S LIKE A FAST LANE FOR YOUR BUSINESS.

You know that time of day when everything's slower – you can't get online quickly because everyone's online? It doesn't happen with BT Infinity for business. It understands that you need to get things done urgently, so it's like a VIP service for your business, because it's consistently fast, even at the busiest times.

## 3. FIBRE MAKES BUSINESSES MORE INNOVATIVE. FACT.

Research shows that superfast broadband fuels innovation in companies like yours\*\*. People are using it to cut down on travelling to meetings by using high quality video conferencing. You can do it on your laptop, with no fancy equipment needed. And if you like to do your thinking outside the office, you will have



free, unlimited access to our network of over 5 million Wi-fi hotspots. It means you and your people can connect when they're in different places, just as easily as you do when you're in the office. Simply, you work in a better, more flexible way.

## 4. YOU'LL GET TECHNICAL SUPPORT, ROUND THE CLOCK.

Our network is 99.99% reliable, and you'll have a technical expert to speak to 24/7. Our experts specialise in businesses like yours and can help with technical niggles like setting up email, or Wi-fi connections. And, of course, the great advantage of being with BT is that we've worked with more businesses than anyone else.



## 5. THE COST? FROM 99p A DAY. NO REALLY.

Perhaps you think that superfast fibre optic broadband is too expensive. That's not true. You can have BT Infinity for business installed for free by our experts, and have it up and running from £30 a month. When you



think of the difference it could make to your working day – and the impact it could have on your company as a whole, it's one of the easiest business decisions you'll ever make.

## ON YOUR TO-DO LIST TODAY. GET THE BROADBAND YOUR BUSINESS DESERVES.

Call the number below, and feel free to ask any question you like. We can talk you through the process and reassure you on how simple it is to make the switch. And you can go online to see the difference BT Infinity for business has made to other companies. Over 60,000 businesses have already switched. We look forward to talking to you and making a difference to yours.

## BT Infinity for business

Making technology work for people.

0800 345 7958

[bt.com/superfastbusinessbroadband](http://bt.com/superfastbusinessbroadband)



\*Federation of Small Businesses, referenced by Jeremy Hunt, Media keynote speech, 8 June 2010. \*\*Getting up to speed: making superfast broadband a reality, NESTA policy briefing, January 2009. The speed to upload 30 photos is based on each photo being 2MB (60MB total file size). 5 times faster is based on BT Infinity for business Option 1 average customer speed (24 hours) and UK average standard (ADSL) broadband speed from Ofcom broadband report, May 2013. Broadband speed can be affected by a number of things: how far your business is from the fibre cabinet as well as the wiring in your building. Not all lines in an Infinity-enabled area can support the service. BT Infinity for business may require a BT line or similar and a fibre compatible router such as the BT Business Hub provided with Infinity. Terms and conditions apply. The speeds provided by BT Infinity for business are more consistent than standard broadband, giving you prioritised traffic with 16Mb assured throughput at 90% of the internet busy period. You'll need to be in range of a BT Wi-fi hotspot, have a wireless device and register for BT Wi-fi. Our Fair Use Policy and terms and conditions apply. 99p a day is based on BT Infinity for business Option 1 for £30 a month with a 24 month Minimum Period.

## Strictly confidential

**B**ack in the Nineties, I wasted hours trying to see the “3D surprise” in Magic Eye pictures (stereograms, as they’re properly called). But no matter how long I stared, the darn things never worked, making me feel like I was missing something amazing. In a similar way, you can visit the same websites every day without looking closely enough to uncover their surprises.

In this issue’s cover feature (page 42), we reveal 55 of our favourite secret tools to ensure you don’t miss anything amazing online. There are hidden games,

handy shortcuts and experimental features, as well as fun stuff like a moonwalking Android logo.

Sometimes, the reason you can’t see something is because it isn’t available in the UK. On page 54, we round up the best products and services you can’t get yet, and predict when they’ll get here.

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



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**WE LIKE...**

**Scalextric gets a mobile makeover**

The forthcoming Scalextric Race Control System lets you race cars using your phone or tablet as a Bluetooth controller.

**Google Now on your PC**

Google’s voice and search app, Google Now, has made the move from mobile to desktop. It’s available via Chrome Flags on Chrome Canary ([bit.ly/canary337](http://bit.ly/canary337)).

**WE DON’T LIKE...**

**HTC One X won’t get Android KitKat**

Mobile maker HTC has pulled the plug on its popular HTC One X phone, confirming that it won’t be updated beyond Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean.

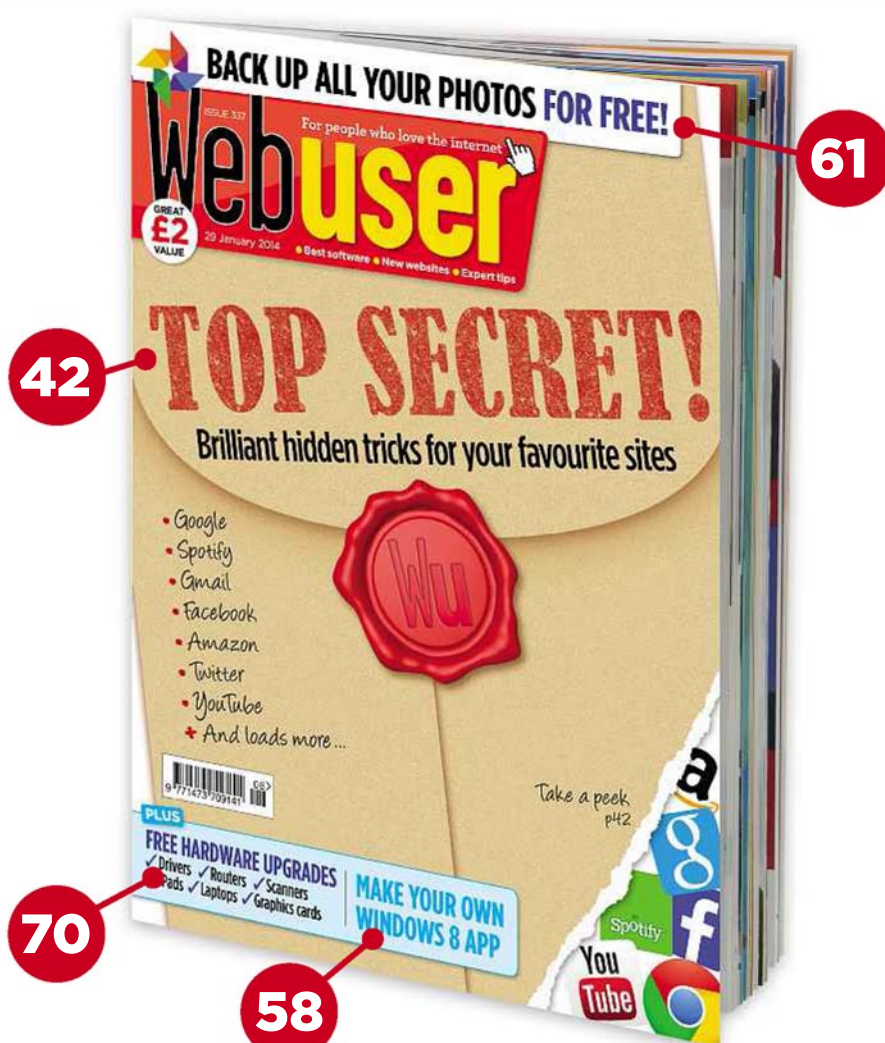
**Spamming fridges**

More than 750,000 spam emails were sent from smart appliances including fridges and TVs in just two weeks in December, according to US security experts.

ISSUE 337

29 JANUARY 2014

ON THE COVER



Average sales, Jan-Dec 2012,  
28,495 copies per issue



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# TOP SECRET!

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# ESSENTIAL MASTERCLASS

Your top priority this fortnight

## Younited | [www.younited.com](http://www.younited.com)

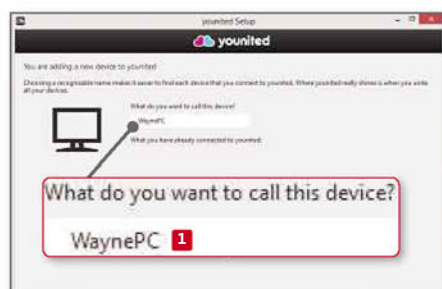
Younited gathers content from all your devices and cloud services, so you can access your files securely from anywhere

**C**hances are your personal content is stored across numerous devices and cloud services, with some files and photos duplicated on home and work computers, smartphone and tablet, as well as Facebook and Google Drive.

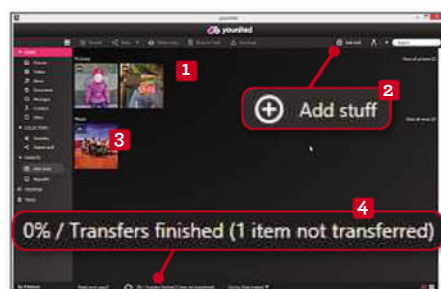
Younited, from Finnish security company F-Secure, gathers all your

photos, music, videos and more so you can view, organise and share from one secure place. And Finland's privacy laws mean there's less chance of someone snooping on your files ([bit.ly/priv337](http://bit.ly/priv337)).

The service is currently invite only, but if you reserve a spot, you should receive login details pretty quickly.



**1** Once you've received an invite, you can download the Younited app using your email address and the password provided. There are apps for Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, Windows Phone 8 and the web. Install the software, log in and enter a new password. Add your device - you can change its name if required. **1**



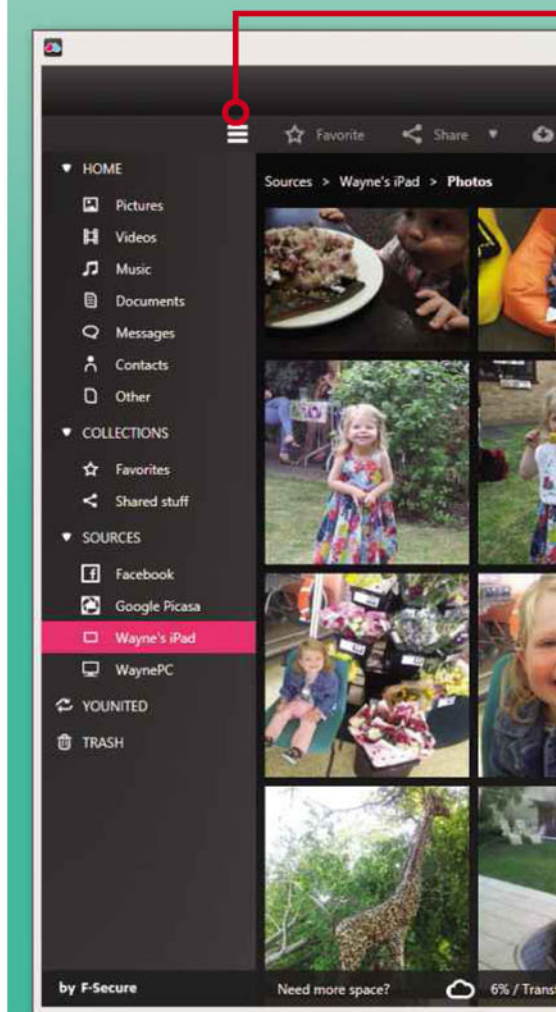
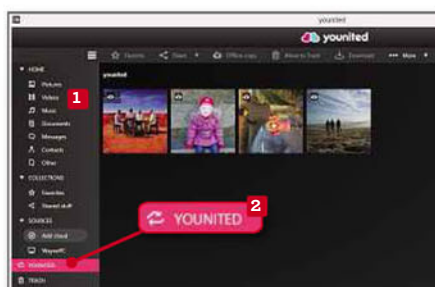
**2** Click Let's Start. Add content stored on your computer by dragging and dropping it onto the main window. **1** You can also click the 'Add stuff' button **2** and browse for items to upload. Thumbnails of files you add are displayed. **3** The transfer information appears at the bottom. **4**



**3** Click a photo to view it. **1** You can favourite it, **2** share it via email, Facebook and Twitter, **3** or grab the web link. You can also delete **4** or download it. **5** Hover your mouse over the image to open it, go full screen, start a slideshow and view information. **6** You can also jump back and forth **7** between items.



**4** Select a song or video and start streaming it by clicking the Play button. A control bar **1** appears at the bottom of the screen and you can use this to pause playback, jump to another part and control the volume. **2** The cloud button **3** lets you cycle through all the items that you've added.



**5** Use the sidebar to filter uploaded content. **1** Like Dropbox, Younited creates a synced folder on your PC. Content you add to it will be uploaded automatically. Browse and sync the items by clicking the Younited button. **2** You get 10GB of free space and can upgrade to a paid-for account if you need more.

## OPEN/CLOSE FILTERS

Click this button to hide or restore the left-hand sidebar. Hiding it will display an extra column of thumbnails

## OPTIONS

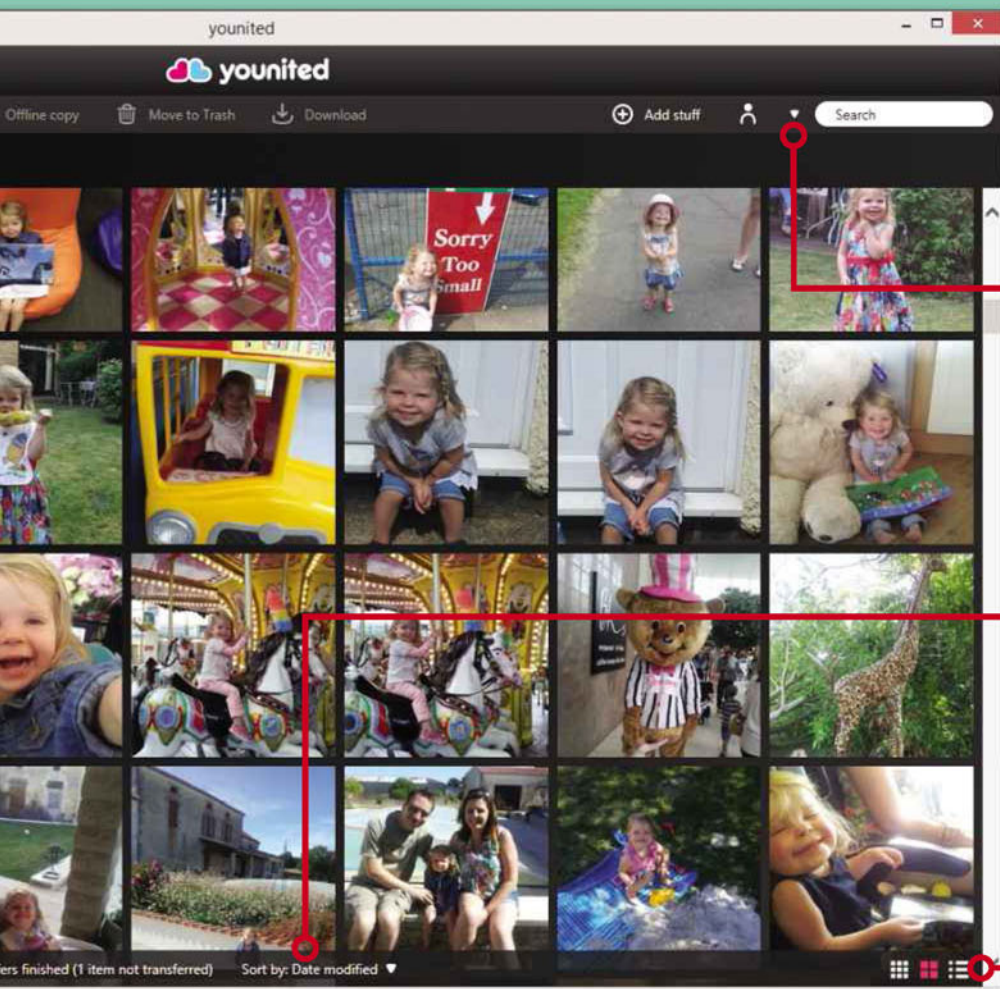
Download the mobile apps here, view quarantined items Younited has deemed unsafe, and check how much free space you have remaining

## SORT BY

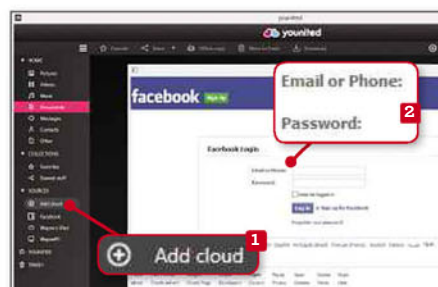
If you have a lot of content synced or connected, you can sort the selection by name, date created, date modified or size

## SWITCH VIEWS

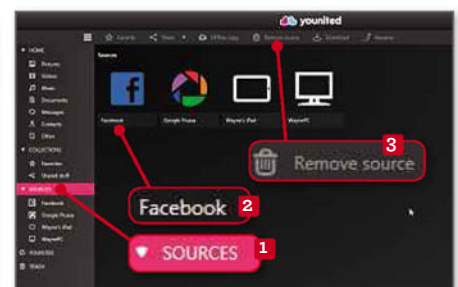
Switch between the standard small thumbnails, large thumbnails and list views



**6** Install the Younited app on another device, such as a phone or tablet, and log in using the same username and password. It will appear under Sources. **1** You can choose exactly what content and information to share, including photos, videos and contacts. Select the new device to browse files added from it.



**7** To get the most out of Younited, connect your existing cloud services. Click Add Cloud **1** and select a service to add. At the moment, you can only choose Facebook and Google Picasa, but other services are on their way. To add Facebook, select that option and log in with your credentials. **2**



**8** Click Sources **1** to see the places you've added so far. If you no longer want to have one of your services or devices connected, click the button for that option, **2** then click Remove Source. **3** Sources have to be removed individually - you can't delete several at the same time.

# NEED TO KNOW

Top news stories and how they affect you



## Obama's NSA reforms fail to stop surveillance

### What happened?

US President Barack Obama announced minor changes to how the National Security Agency (NSA) will collect data on its own citizens, but he didn't put an end to bulk collection of information.

The speech from Obama was the US government's formal response to the revelations about the NSA from whistleblower Edward Snowden.

In his speech, which you can watch on The White House Blog ([bit.ly/obama337](http://bit.ly/obama337)) Obama said the government will no longer store information about phone calls made by Americans. However, he didn't make clear who will hold onto this data, suggesting that it could be telecoms firms themselves.

Regarding the collection of data from foreign nationals – as in, the rest of the world – Obama said that the NSA would no longer spy on leaders of allied governments and would provide better

protection of the data it collects about individuals.

Although Obama didn't promise to stop the NSA collecting any of the data being debated, he said that the government will run a review looking at the issues.

His speech came on the same day as the latest revelation from Snowden's leaked documents, which showed the NSA collects 200 million text messages a day – including some sent by Britons. The Dishfire surveillance programme reportedly gathers text messages at random and shares the data with other spies, including those working for the UK. However, an NSA spokesperson denied this, saying the agency only collects SMS data on "valid" targets.

Other reports suggested that the NSA infected 100,000 PCs around the world in order to watch activity on them. While most computers were hacked via standard networks such as the internet, the NSA also used radio waves to access unconnected machines. Targets allegedly include the Chinese and Russian military, and EU trade bodies.

### How will it affect you?

Given the constant stream of spying revelations, it's hard not to assume that everyone's PC and mobile phone is being snooped on in some way. That's the feeling Obama was probably trying to assuage with his speech, but he's promised little real change, especially for those of us who aren't US citizens.

While David Cameron has the US



president's assurances that NSA spies won't target his communications, average Britons don't have that guarantee. Frankly, there's little we can do about it.

There's no way of knowing if your text messages have been nabbed by the NSA during its daily trawls, though it's unlikely average individuals will have had their PCs hacked. However, given the scale of the NSA's digital efforts, it's increasingly difficult not to be a little paranoid.

### What do we think?

Obama may have been doomed from the start on this one: if he promised significant changes, the NSA and its supporters would be angry, but if he outlined minor improvements, our concerns about privacy would remain.

By acknowledging that changes need to happen, and promising an in-depth review, Obama lost on both accounts. Some see his speech as an admission that the NSA overstepped the mark, and say it suggests he's not as concerned about security as he needs to be. Others see it as a PR move, designed to do nothing about the NSA's activities, while appearing to take action.

If nothing else, Obama's speech and the NSA review give credence to the claims of Edward Snowden, because this debate wouldn't have happened without the documents he leaked – but whether it leads to any real change remains to be seen. Either way, we expect this issue to run and run.



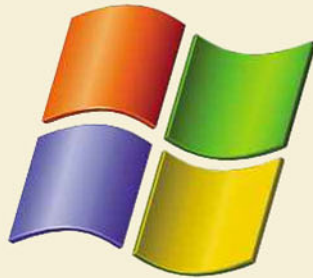
## Microsoft extends XP security support

### What happened?

Microsoft is set to end support for Windows XP in April, and has so far resisted calls to keep releasing updates and security patches for the 13-year-old operating system, despite the fact that hundreds of millions of people still use it. However, the company has made one slight U-turn, saying it will issue updates to its own anti-virus software for XP for an extra year.

Microsoft Security Essentials on XP PCs will now receive updates until July 2015, but the software giant warned that this won't keep users safe, saying the "effectiveness of anti-malware solutions on out-of-support operating systems is limited". That means that anyone still on XP should upgrade to Windows 7 or 8, or even a free open-source OS such as Ubuntu, before April to avoid the looming security risk.

With all these concerns about XP, Microsoft will undoubtedly be keen to shift the focus to its current and future operating systems, with details of the next version of Windows due to be confirmed in April. Rumours suggest it will be called Windows 9 – no surprise given it follows on from Windows 7 and 8 – and will arrive in 2015. The same reports say that Windows 9 will address complaints with the latest OS, 8.1, making the operating system easier to use on desktop PCs while keeping the new touch-focused Start screen for tablets.



### How will it affect you?

If you're still using Windows XP, the extended support for Security Essentials might be welcome news, but other security companies have also extended support, so it wasn't as though you'd be left entirely without anti-virus protection. Also, it raises the prospect that Microsoft might change its mind about ending support for XP in April, but you shouldn't depend on that.

If you've been holding off switching to Windows 8 because of complaints about how difficult it is to use, the news that Windows 9 will address these problems may persuade you that it's worth waiting for.

### What do we think?

Although Microsoft has taken a small step to help XP users, this remains a difficult situation. The company has to persuade users to upgrade from XP, but it must find a way to do that without leaving millions at risk.

Hopefully, this April will see a better solution than merely allowing anti-virus software to be updated, but the fact is that XP users are running on borrowed time. If you're still using XP, or know someone who is, it's time to upgrade.



## Google lets strangers send you emails

### What happened?

Google raised eyebrows by integrating Gmail and its social network Google+, so that anyone can email you, even if you don't know them. Your Gmail address won't be made public, but strangers can effectively email your name. To address spamming and privacy concerns, Google said you'll only see the first email from a sender, and any follow-up messages will be blocked if you don't acknowledge their initial message. Famous users will have such emails blocked by default.

### How will it affect you?

If you use Google+, anyone who adds you to a circle

will be able to send a message – but only one – directly to your Gmail inbox. You may not use Google+ regularly, but if you're a fan of Google's services, you may have an account without even realising it.



### What do we think?

We can't see who benefits, from this, other than potential spammers. If someone wants to get in touch, they can leave a message via Google+. We'd advise opting out of this Gmail feature by changing the 'Email via Google+' setting to 'No-one'.

## Apple told to refund in-app purchases

### What happened?

US regulators have forced Apple to refund any customer whose child made an in-app purchase without their consent, a move that will cost the company a minimum of \$32.5 million (about £19.8 million). Apple has frequently been criticised because its App Store allows purchases to be made for 15 minutes after a password has been entered, giving children plenty of time to rack up hefty bills.

### How will it affect you?

If you're one of the "tens of thousands" who has been affected, according to the US Federal Trade Commission, you could be offered a refund – and that's in addition to a \$5 gift card Apple gave parents of



spend-happy children last year. Also, Apple must now get "informed consent" of any purchases from the account holder.

### What do we think?

We're pleased to see this topic in the spotlight: children love tablets and smartphones, and many parents let their kids use their devices without realising the potential for a big bill. An increasing number of free games now offer paid-for extra content, so it's vital keep an eye on your app-happy youngsters.

# WHAT'S NEW ONLINE

10 brilliant things to do on the web this fortnight

## Read BBC's World War One guides

As part of its World War One season, the BBC has launched 25 interactive guides exploring various issues that remain hotly debated today, such as the use of propaganda and whether poetry has distorted our view of the conflict. The guides, which contain video and audio content, have been compiled by BBC presenters and experts, including Dan Snow, Kate Adie and Michael Portillo. Read the BBC's Media Pack for more information on how it plans to cover the centenary of World War One on TV, radio and online: [bit.ly/war337](http://bit.ly/war337).

You can also read diaries from British soldiers written during World War One on the

National Archives website ([bit.ly/diaries337](http://bit.ly/diaries337)). About 1.5 million diary pages have been digitised, of which around 300,000 are now online. The remaining pages will follow later this year.

[www.bbc.co.uk/ww1](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww1)



## Use Google Play Movies & TV on iOS

[bit.ly/play337](http://bit.ly/play337)

You can now watch films and TV programmes you've bought or rented from Google Play on an iPad, which will suit those people who have recently moved from an Android to an iOS device. There is a catch, though – you can't actually buy anything through the app because that would give Apple a cut, which wouldn't please Google!



## Watch BBC Instafax on Instagram

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

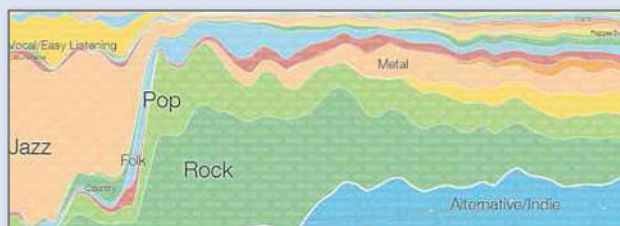
BBC News is trialling a service on Instagram called Instafax, which shows 15-second videos that round up the day's news. It will run until 15 February, when the BBC will decide if it's popular enough to continue.



## Google's Pop Music Timeline

[bit.ly/music337](http://bit.ly/music337)

This rainbow-coloured chart is Google's visualisation of the past 64 years of pop music. It spans genres from easy listening to metal, tracking their popularity over the years. Click an album cover to go to its page on Google Play Music, where you can buy tracks.



## See what's 'trending' on Facebook

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

Facebook's new Trending tool, which is launching over the next few weeks, highlights the most discussed current topics on the site, personalised to your interests. So, for example, if you're a fan of *Doctor Who*, and lots of your friends are talking about it, you'll see this indicated by a blue 'trending' arrow and a headline explaining why that topic is popular. Clicking a topic takes you through to the most popular posts about it.



## Stream unlimited music on Spotify

[www.spotify.com/uk](http://www.spotify.com/uk)  
Spotify has lifted the streaming limit for its free service, previously restricted to six months' unlimited listening, then 2.5 hours a week. You'll have to listen to adverts between songs, though.



## 5 TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER



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

The latest Windows rumours and gossip from blogger Paul Thurrott

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

Photos of faces 'seen' in buildings, fruit, clouds and other objects

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

Deals, competitions, offers and money-saving codes from Tesco

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

The government's new campaign encouraging people to stay safe online

[@avast\\_antivirus](https://twitter.com/avast_antivirus)

Tips and help on how to use Avast's security software, plus answers to problems

## Get 50GB free on Box

[bit.ly/box337](http://bit.ly/box337)

To celebrate the launch of its iOS app, Box is giving new users 50GB of free online storage. To take advantage of the offer, which runs until 15 February, you'll need to install the iOS app onto your Apple device, which needs to run iOS 6 or later. Make sure you click the confirmation link in the email that arrives. If you already have a Box account, it will be topped up to 50GB.



## See updated Google Maps images

[bit.ly/maps337](http://bit.ly/maps337)

Google has released a map showing satellite images that were updated in December, indicated by the red markings. There are hundreds of locations worldwide, including areas of the UK along the south coast, the west midlands and north east. Can you see your house?

## Sync VLC with Dropbox

[bit.ly/vlcapp337](http://bit.ly/vlcapp337)

The new version of the VLC app for iOS syncs your files with Dropbox and Google Drive. It also supports multi-touch gestures, which let you pause a video by tapping with two fingers, and move through it by swiping horizontally.



## Use faster Vimeo video player

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

Vimeo has improved its video player to make videos load "twice as fast" (so it claims), both on the website and embedded elsewhere. You can read about other tweaks on the Vimeo blog: [bit.ly/vimeo337](http://bit.ly/vimeo337).



## FIRST LOOK Motorola Moto X

[bit.ly/motox337](http://bit.ly/motox337)



Six months after it went on sale in the US, Motorola's high-end Android 4.4 (KitKat) smartphone has arrived in the UK. The success of the cheaper Moto G hasn't put the Google-owned Motorola into profit, so there's a lot riding on the Moto X.

The phone's 720p display, dual-core 1.7 GHz processor, 2,200 mAh battery and 10MP camera fall short of similarly-priced rivals, but hardware is only as good as the software that runs on it, and the Moto X is packed with smart, usable features designed for everyday users rather than hardware geeks.

The most notable feature is Google Now voice activation. Say "OK Google Now", ask a question such as "what time is it?" or "where am I?", and it will answer out loud.

You can search, call, text, play music and operate apps this way, too. It's especially useful if the phone is in your pocket, because there's no need to stop in the street, find and unlock your phone, open an app and fiddle with the

keypad. When you take your phone out of your pocket or bag, a 'peek' notification button appears on screen. When you put your phone back, it locks automatically.

Battery life is superb. It's advertised as 'all day' but it's more like 'all days', thanks to two lower-powered co-processors that support always-on functions, including voice, notifications and a camera app that opens when you shake the phone.

At £380, the Moto X is expensive, but its features and performance make it easy to recommend. Whether it saves Motorola remains to be seen, especially since February isn't a great time to launch a device and the £135 Moto G is much better value for money.



# BEST NEW WEBSITES

We review this fortnight's best new and relaunched websites

## Webuser SITE OF THE FORTNIGHT

HEALTH

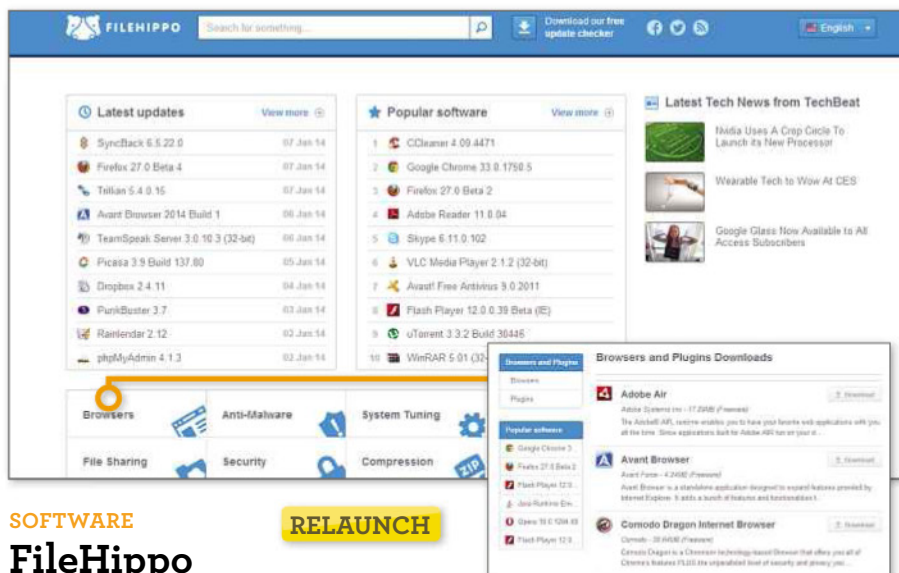
RELAUNCH

### Blood.co.uk

[www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

We admit we were initially alarmed to read the NHS blood-donation site is "now self service". But rather than doing your own needlework, this means you can now make and change appointments, update your contact details and view your donation history online. The new-look Blood.co.uk tells you everything you need to know about giving the red stuff, from the current stock levels of different blood types to details of who can and can't donate. There are clear explanations of how to prepare for a session, what happens and where your blood goes afterwards. If you need convincing, there are moving stories from donors and recipients whose lives have been saved, as well as interesting information about blood, such as a timeline showing the history of transfusions. Most importantly, you can quickly find a donation session in your area. Overall, it's a blood-y brilliant resource!

Our rating



SOFTWARE

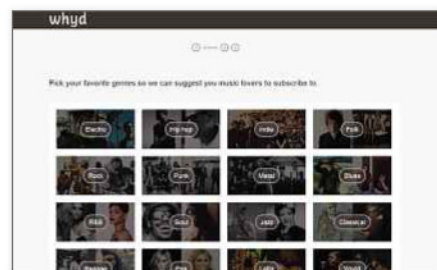
RELAUNCH

### FileHippo

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

FileHippo has long been one of our favourite sources of free software, and we love it even more now its dated design has been given a fresh, modern look with a new hippo logo. The cleaner layout gives the content room to breathe, especially the homepage which used to be overcrowded with programs. Clear categories and an improved search facility make finding software a breeze, and we love the bigger green download button that tells you precisely where to click. Frequent users of FileHippo will be pleased that all their favourite features are still here, including the invaluable Update Checker, but in a smarter and speedier interface.

Our rating



MUSIC

NEW

### Whyd [whyd.com](http://whyd.com)

After more than a year in private beta, this music-streaming service is now open to everyone. It lets you add songs from various online sources, including YouTube, SoundCloud and Deezer, to play whenever you want, simply by clicking a button on your browser's toolbar. You can also subscribe to other users with similar tastes, so tracks they add appear in your main stream. That's all there is to it, really, aside from the usual social options for sharing, commenting and liking. It's slick, very easy to use and an excellent way to create an endless playlist.

Our rating



## RATINGS GUIDE

- 5** Superb. Impossible to fault in terms of design, content and features. Bookmark it now!
- 4** Very good. Combines a smart design with appealing content. Definitely worth a visit
- 3** Good. Lacks some functionality. Have a look if the subject interests you

Web User looks at hundreds of websites, but only those we award three stars or higher appear in Best New Websites

**Alison Mudd**  
Alison Mudd became a blood donor following the death of her husband Tony from cancer...  
[Read More >](#)

**Archie Ramshaw**  
Archie Ramshaw may be only two years old, but a rare blood disorder means that he has...  
[Read More >](#)

**Barry Hyman**  
Barry Hyman has been donating blood for more than 50 years...  
[Read More >](#)

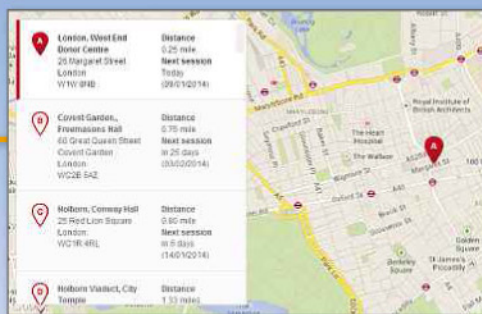
**Doug Collier**  
Blood donor Doug elevated at the...  
[Read More >](#)

### Blood Transfusion Information for Patients

The resources that follow are approved by the National Blood Transfusion Committee and NHS Blood and Transplant, and every effort is made to supply the latest evidence based (or expert opinion based) information.

- > [Blood transfusion - Frequently asked questions](#)
- > [Blood transfusion - patient information resources](#)
- > [Alternatives to blood transfusion - patient information resources](#)

Please also see the 'Blood Transfusion' section of the NHS Choices website, which gives an account of the blood transfusion process, including the benefits and risks of the procedure and a patient's experience of blood transfusion. There are further links from within NHS Choices to other sources of information from organisations involved with blood transfusion, such as the British Blood Transfusion Society and the UK Transfusion Services



#### Why give blood

Learn about the life-saving treatments made possible through blood donations, and the reasons we value every blood type

[Why give blood >](#)

#### Can you give blood?

Find out about health conditions, medications and travel information that could affect your ability to give blood

[Find out more >](#)

#### Not everyone can give blood

Most people can give blood but there may be reasons why you are not eligible

[Find out why here >](#)

#### Preparing to donate blood

For most people it's a simple as turning up, but we've prepared a checklist for your session

[View checklist >](#)

Check the latest information on your local area

What We Do

Featured Areas

### LOCAL

## StreetCheck

[www.streetcheck.co.uk](http://www.streetcheck.co.uk)

If you're moving to a new area, or just want to know more about your current neighbourhood, StreetCheck has information about nearly two million postcodes across the UK. Search for a postcode or street to view details of housing types, age and ethnic groups, employment, health and more. The statistics are taken from the 2011 Census and presented without analysis, although this is apparently coming soon. In the meantime, just enjoy having so much useful, national data at your fingertips, complete with pie charts and graphs that make it easy to understand.

Our rating



### FLIGHTS

## Compareandfly.com

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

Beat the soaring cost of air travel by finding the best deals through this comparison service. You can search for single and return flights, specify your preferred airline upfront (or view all) and filter the results by number of stops, departure time and journey duration. Compareandfly.com is reasonably fast and we like that all prices include taxes, but we found that it didn't search as many travel operators as rival services, and that flight durations were occasionally wrong. Still, the destination guides are worth reading and you can also book hotels through the site.



### TECHNOLOGY

## Internet Live Stats

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

This spin-off from Worldometers ([www.worldometers.info](http://www.worldometers.info)), which appeared in our 'Watch the world in real time' feature in Issue 328 ([bit.ly/webuser328](http://bit.ly/webuser328)), is full of fascinating facts for geeks. You can view constantly updated statistics about the number of global internet users, websites, emails sent, Google searches, smartphones and tablets sold today, and much more. Click the Watch tab to see these figures displayed visually or 'Trends and more' for a further breakdown of the data, including web users by year, region and country. It sounds dry, but it's oddly fascinating.





## CYCLING

### Nolobi

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

Nolobi creates and sells fixed-gear, single-speed bicycles in a variety of groovy colours. Its revamped website is faster, friendlier and easier to use, and does a splendid job of promoting its beautiful bikes. We love the way each model introduces itself – “Hi, I’m green and single” – and that you can design your dream ride by choosing different coloured wheels and accessories. Proud owners can share photos and videos in the gallery, and there’s a handy section explaining the “hows, whys, dos and don’ts” of fixed cycling. The bikes cost £290, with free delivery in the UK, and are sent boxed for self-assembly.

Our rating



## RELAUNCH



## EMPLOYMENT

### Trading Times

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

This site aims to help the over-50s, family carers and single parents find part-time work by matching them with local businesses. Create a free profile containing details of your skills, availability, location and the type of jobs you’re interested in, and Trading Times will match you with suitable employers. The latter can’t see names and contact details until they pay a one-off fee of £35, after which they can interview and hire candidates. It’s a great idea and the advice forum and success stories make the site more than just a jobs board. If you’ve got time to spare and experience to share, it’s definitely worth a look.

Our rating



## NEW



## FOOD

### Walkers

[www.walkers.co.uk](http://www.walkers.co.uk)

Crisp munchers of the world rejoice: Walkers has brought back its ‘Do us a Flavour’ competition, previously won by a variety called Builder’s Breakfast, which tasted as disgusting as it sounds. This time, to avoid suggestions that are too silly, the site provides a choice of ingredients to use as a base. Create and name your variety online, upload a suitable photo (which may be asking for trouble) and submit your entry. Enter as many flavours as you like to win £1 million if yours is the most popular (six finalists will go on sale). You can also browse a gallery of entries, which currently include ‘Bacon sundae’. Yum!

Our rating



## RELAUNCH



## TOURISM

### Take Me to Suffolk

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

This site from Visit Suffolk ([www.visitsuffolk.com](http://www.visitsuffolk.com)) promotes the wealth of things to see and do in the county. It’s based around a large map that’s covered with markers for different activities and amenities, such as culture, travel and family fun. Click a marker for more information, including a link to a relevant website, and to add it your personal itinerary or Pinterest board, or just click ‘Take me somewhere lovely’ for a random selection. The site’s vibrant, interactive design does a great job of conveying all that Suffolk has to offer, from Newmarket racecourse to the Lost Village of Dunwich, as well as helping you find places to eat, drink and stay.

Our rating



## NEW



## TECHNOLOGY

### Thingful

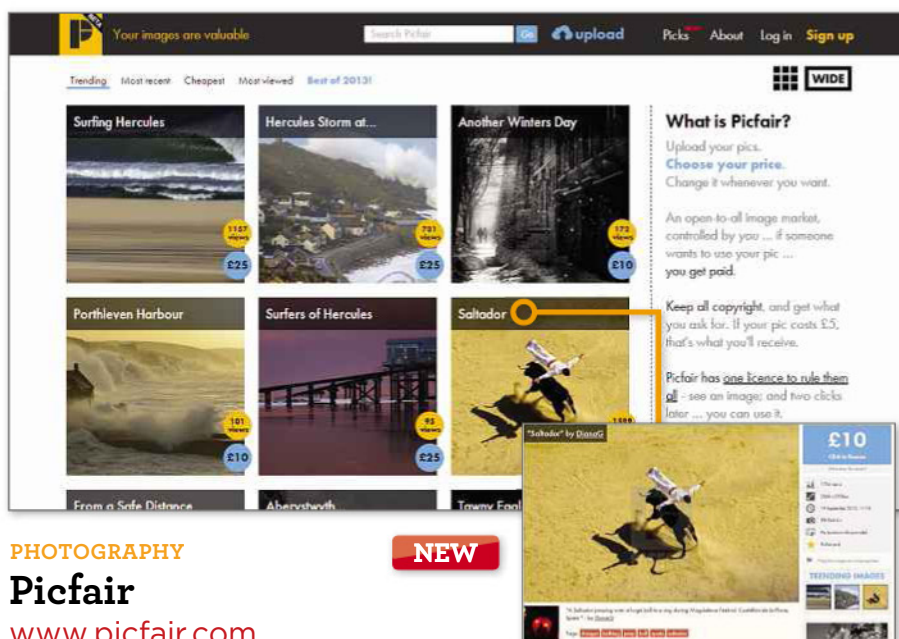
[www.thingful.net](http://www.thingful.net)

If our ‘Future of the Web’ feature in Issue 334 ([bit.ly/webuser334](http://bit.ly/webuser334)) inspired you to learn more about the Internet of Things, this site should prove interesting. It lets you explore connected devices across the world by browsing a global map, which features colour-coded circles to indicate different categories of innovation. These include environment, health and transport, and you can click a circle to discuss the device on Twitter. Thingful is fairly basic, and it annoyingly resets each time you leave the map, but you can’t help being impressed by the sheer number of ‘things’ already online.

Our rating



## NEW



## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Picfair**[www.picfair.com](http://www.picfair.com)

Selling your photos online can involve a lot of patience and not much profit, but Picfair's "open market" for images hopes to change that, by letting photographers keep 100 per cent of the money paid for their snaps. Upload a photo, name your price (you can change this at any time) and tag it with relevant keywords – a watermark is added automatically. A buyer for a full-size image must pay your fee plus 20-per-cent commission to Picfair for a single use. We love the site's simple system and one-size-fits-all licence, and that you retain copyright to your work. Some prices seem a little over-optimistic, but Picfair itself is fantastic.

Our rating



## ALSO NEW

**Absolut**[www.absolut.com/uk](http://www.absolut.com/uk)

The vodka brand's super-stylish site combines fashion, music and art with info about its drinks.

**Isles of Scilly Travel**[www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk](http://www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk)

Book a trip to the Scilly Isles by passenger ferry or Skybus plane at this tastefully revamped site.

**Health Bingo**[www.healthbingo.co.uk](http://www.healthbingo.co.uk)

This bingo site from the Health Lottery offers 75- and 90-ball games, and online slot machines.

**Swag**[www.swaguk.co.uk](http://www.swaguk.co.uk)

The jeweller has redesigned its website to make it work more smoothly on tablets and phones.

**Local Darkroom**[www.localdarkroom.com](http://www.localdarkroom.com)

This site helps photographers find a public or private darkroom in which to develop their prints.

**KATE'S WEB CALENDAR**

Kate Russell's top websites and apps for the next 14 days

**SCAN FOR VIRUSES USING VIRUSTOTAL**[www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com)

On 30 January, it will be 32 years since the first computer virus was found "in the wild". The Elk Cloner virus was created by a 15-year-old boy as a joke and did nothing more malicious than display a poem instead of launching a game. Modern security software catches most viruses in circulation today, but it's always useful to have a second opinion. The free online service VirusTotal is a great way to check suspicious links and files before opening them, and it can also identify 'false positives', which occur when an over-cautious security tool advises you not to visit a website that's perfectly safe.

**RAMP UP THE RED TO FIGHT HEART DISEASE**[www.rampupthered.org.uk](http://www.rampupthered.org.uk)

You might see red on 7 February, but don't worry, it's probably just people dressing up in support of the British Heart Foundation's 'Ramp up the Red' day. If you want to join in the fun and help raise money for the charity, check out the suggestions on their website. Pretty much anything goes, from donning red lipstick to squeezing into a red spandex morph suit (as long as you can get away with it at work). Heart and circulatory diseases cause more than a quarter of all deaths in the UK,



so every pound raised makes a difference, and could well go toward helping someone you know.

**TUNE INTO WEB TIPS ON SAFER INTERNET DAY**[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Safer Internet Day is here again on 11 February and this year involves more live broadcast activities, with an eight-hour online TV marathon streamed between midday and 8pm. There will be separate hours dedicated to teachers, parents, toddlers, teens and everyone in-between, so check out the schedule on the SIDtv website ([www.saferinternetdaytv.com](http://www.saferinternetdaytv.com)). The programmes will include a panel discussion that features policy and safety managers from Facebook, Twitter and Xbox answering online-safety questions posed by young people and their parents.

Kate presents Webscape for BBC Click and blogs at [workingthecloud.biz](http://workingthecloud.biz)

# KEEP YOUR PC SAFE

Expert tips, latest threats and jargon-free info

## SECURITY Q&A

Your questions answered by security specialists.

This issue's expert: Sean Sullivan, Security Advisor, F-Secure Labs ([www.f-secure.com](http://www.f-secure.com))



### **Q** Following CryptoLocker, are we likely to see more ransomware in 2014?

Caroline Gilbert, via email

**A** We've already seen some attempts at new ransomware families in early 2014. So far, they have been poor imitators when compared to CryptoLocker, but even these crude attempts will be learned from. I strongly suspect that there will be ransomware that specifically targets photos, and bases the ransom amount on the quality of the images. High-resolution pictures (which are evidence of an SLR-camera enthusiast) will command a higher ransom.

The only thing that has limited ransomware schemes until now is payment. The difficulties in making a "customer transaction" has limited past ransomware to using the same methods, so one ransom price applies to all victims. But it is becoming much easier to process payments, and this will open the door for new and increasingly clever schemes.

### **Q** How much privacy can you expect when using a free online-storage service?

John Plaskett, via email

**A** Very few services are truly "free" – most are 'freemium', which means you still have to pay for certain features. The free version of a service should be at least as secure as the paid-for option, because it doesn't make sense to have separate software engineer for each. The privacy aspects of a "free" service depend on the provider. Does it focus more on businesses

or consumers? Does it have a history of service, or is the provider a start-up? Where is the service located? These are all good questions to consider when making your choice.

Take Google Drive as an example: like Gmail, the "free" service is underwritten by data analytics. This means that no individuals are going through your files, but the system itself is, looking for patterns and behaviour to learn from. And, in that context, the information can benefit Google's advertising business. If you consider this to be a fair trade-off, all well and good. But if you'd rather not have analytics produced from your files, consider a different service.

Be aware, however, that even the most privacy-conscious service will perform a basic analysis of file types in order to provide better quality of service for all its customers.

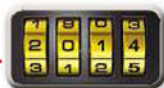


Email us your security questions at [webuser@dennis.co.uk](mailto:webuser@dennis.co.uk)

## DECODED | Security jargon explained

### Prison Locker

Initially described as "bigger and meaner than CryptoLocker", Prison Locker hit the tech headlines after a post in an underground forum sought help in developing a file-encrypted-ransomware creation kit, which hackers could get for just \$100 (about £61). However, security firm AlienVault Labs dismissed the scare stories as "hype", because there have been no reported sightings of Prison Locker, although it conceded that the "project" may be in development. To protect your PC against ransomware, make sure you regularly back up your files.



## SECURITY ALERT!

### PATCH TUESDAY January

#### Warning over Java security holes

Oracle released a whopping bundle of critical fixes for Java on 14 January, again prompting security professionals to warn that it's too risky to have on your computer.

Oracle's quarterly Patch Tuesday update covers 144 different vulnerabilities, including 36 in Java. All but two of the Java flaws are remotely exploitable without authentication, so a hacker can use them to break into your system without a username or password. See the full list of updates at [bit.ly/oracle337](http://bit.ly/oracle337). If you have Java installed, switch it off or apply the update immediately. "Consider whether you need Java enabled in your browser," security expert Graham Cluley said. [bit.ly/javapatch337](http://bit.ly/javapatch337)

#### Windows holes patched

Microsoft has released four patches for products including Word, Windows 7 and XP. All the patches are rated as important rather than critical. Vulnerabilities covered by the update include kernel-level bugs in XP and 7, and remote-code execution flaws in Word. The release follows Microsoft's partial u-turn on XP, which will still receive anti-malware support after April (see page 9). [bit.ly/mspatch337](http://bit.ly/mspatch337)

#### Adobe fixes Flash and AIR

Adobe has urged installation of critical updates to Flash Player and Reader software following the discovery of remote-code execution flaws, none of which has been seen to be exploited in the wild. It's also released scheduled updates for Adobe AIR on Windows and Android, and Acrobat for Windows. Get the updates via the software updater or from [bit.ly/adobedownloads337](http://bit.ly/adobedownloads337). [bit.ly/adobepatch337](http://bit.ly/adobepatch337)





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# BUILD A BETTER SITE

Specialist tips, top tools and practical help

## WEB DESIGN & HOSTING Q&A

Your questions answered by professional experts.  
This issue: Mark Esho, Managing Director of Free Virtual Servers ([www.freevirtualservers.com](http://www.freevirtualservers.com))



**Q I've heard that you shouldn't publish your email address on a website. What's the best alternative that still lets people get in touch?**

Pritesh Mistry, via email

**A** You can disguise your email address by replacing the symbols with actual words. So `prites@website.com` would become `prites[at]website[dot]com`. This makes it less likely to be picked up by bots or spam crawlers, but it can still be read and understood by humans.

Alternatively, if you own the website and know some coding, you can create a contact form with CAPTCHA technology to authenticate real users. This lets people get in touch without even knowing your email address.

**Q I can do HTML and CSS, but want to create sites that are**

**more interactive. How do I achieve this?**

Greg Hall, via email

**A** Scripting languages are an essential part of an interactive website. Modern dynamic websites commonly use both server- and client-side scripting languages, often in conjunction with one another.

An email contact form is a perfect example of a server-side interaction. There are hundreds of online tutorials to get you started. Be sure to select a language that suits your needs and server environment. A popular choice for servers running Linux is PHP, or ASP for Microsoft.

JavaScript is the chosen language for most client-side interactions, such as adding validation to a contact form to stop users sending inaccurate or incomplete data. The way developers use JavaScript has been transformed by jQuery, which lets even novices write rich interactive apps and pages.

## <TOP TIPS>

### Finding licensed images

Using images from the web without permission can land you in trouble. It's safer to stick to images that have been actively licensed as free to use by the rights owner. Google's 'usage rights' filter helps you find these, but it's just moved from the advanced search options to the basic image search section. When searching, select 'More tools' and, under Usage Rights, choose 'labeled for reuse'.

### Get Google's Publisher Toolbar

If you're a Chrome user and host Google adverts on your site to earn a bit of money, install the Google Publisher Toolbar plug-in from [bit.ly/toolbar337](http://bit.ly/toolbar337). This will give you up-to-date info on how much money you're making, and adds overlays to your adverts so you can see where the adverts are taking your visitors.

## Deal of the fortnight

Get Heart Internet's unlimited Business Pro hosting package for 50 per cent off (down to £6.50 per month) at [www.heartinternet.co.uk/web-hosting](http://www.heartinternet.co.uk/web-hosting).

## MINI WORKSHOP | Check your website's search engine ranking

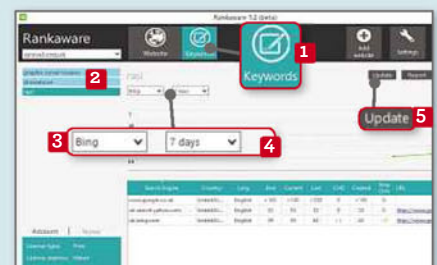
➔ Rankaware: [myrankaware.com](http://myrankaware.com) | ⌚ 5 mins | 🖥 XP/Vista/7/8+



**1** Install the software and click the 'Add website' button. **1** Type the URL, **2** then go through the links adding keywords **3** (the words that people type when they're searching for your site) and selecting the Search Engines **4** you want to track (from Google, Bing and Yahoo). Click Done. **5**



**2** Click the Website button **1** to see your report. The pie charts **2** show how many of your keywords rank in different positions, while the bar chart **3** shows changes in your site's position. The table **4** breaks down all the information about each keyword. Use the drop-down menu **5** to switch between sites.



**3** Click the Keywords button **1** and select the word you want to chart. **2** Choose a search engine **3** and time frame. **4** You'll need to open the software and click Update **5** every day if you want to record how your site's ranking changes on a daily basis.

# With APC Back-UPS, your digital life goes on...



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### Preserve what's most important to you

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Whether DVRing your favorite show, updating your Facebook status, or playing a live network game, you depend on your home electronics every day, all day. That's why APC™ by Schneider Electric™ has designed battery backup solutions that protect the constant availability and connectivity you expect... and depend on.

#### Peace-of-mind protection on two levels

When the power goes out, our popular Back-UPS™ units go to work. They instantly switch your home technologies to emergency power, allowing you to work through brief power outages or safely shut down your systems so you won't lose valuable files — such as digital photos and media libraries. They also feature surge outlets to guard your electronics and data from 'dirty' power and damaging power surges — even lightning. So you get two levels of protection in every APC Back-UPS unit!

#### Energy-saving insurance for what matters most

Our Back-UPS units protect your home office, digital living and home media applications, notebook computers, DVRs, and gaming application. And since we now offer energy-efficient models that reduce electricity costs through unique power-saving outlets, you can realize true energy savings regardless of the applications you're backing up. Throughout your home, the APC Back-UPS is the cost-saving insurance you need to stay up and running and reliably safeguarded from both unpredictable power and wasteful energy drains.



Keep your electronics up and your energy use down!

#### ES Series

The ever-popular ES models are priced affordably yet provide enough extended runtime to allow you to work through short and medium power outages. Some power-saving models have been designed to actively reduce energy costs.

#### The energy-efficient ES Series

The new ES boasts innovative power-saving outlets, which automatically shut off power to unused devices when your electronics are turned off or asleep, eliminating wasteful electricity drains.

#### BE 700G-UK

- 8 outlets
- 405 watts/700 VA
- Up to 80 minutes runtime
- Telephone/network protection



#### BE 550G-UK

- 8 outlets
- 330 watts/550 VA
- Up to 55 minutes runtime
- Telephone/network protection



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# PRODUCT TEST

We test the latest hardware and software

## Eye-Fi Mobi

Andy Shaw tests a new memory card for your camera that links to your phone and lets you send photos to the web

**W**hich device do you take with you when you're out and about snapping photos? Your digital camera, to get the best possible shots? Or your smartphone, so you can upload and share photos without having to transfer them to a PC first? The Eye-Fi Mobi combines the best of both devices by linking them wirelessly, so you can use your best camera to

take high-quality photos, then instantly send the results to the web via an app on your phone.

Like a standard SD memory card, the Eye-Fi Mobi saves your photos as normal. But because it has a built-in Wi-Fi network, thumbnails of your snaps instantly appear on your phone's Eye-Fi app (available for Android and iOS), so you can upload and email them right away. You simply browse thumbnails of your pictures on your phone, select the ones you want and the app will download them from the camera and post them to image-sharing services, including Facebook, Twitter and email.

The main drawback with the device is that you can't set up the connection between the phone and the

card through the app. Instead, you have to switch to the device's settings to select the card's Wi-Fi connection, then go back to the app to view the pictures on the card. It's a bit fiddly, because you have to go through the same procedure every time you use the app. It can become even more annoying when the connection disappears because you've switched settings, your camera's shut down while it's not in use or your phone has leaped onto a stronger Wi-Fi network.

Once the app is up and running, however, it's slick and easy to use. Thumbnails of your pictures are quick to appear on the phone, and selecting the ones to share is as easy as tapping to tick a box. We found this part of the process quick and efficient, especially because it skips the unnecessary extra step of

*It's an SD card with built-in Wi-Fi*

uploading photos to a PC, when all you want to do is share them online.

It isn't as slick as sharing photos you've taken and stored on your phone, but if your priority is sharing top-quality photos from a proper camera, it's a handy way to bridge the gap.

### PRODUCT INFO

#### EYE-FI MOBI

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

Price: £39.95 (8GB);

£49.98 (16GB);

£69.99 (32GB)

(from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk))

### SPECIFICATIONS

- Comes in 8GB, 16GB and 32GB capacities
- Requires SD-compatible camera (check full compatibility at [www.eyefi.com/products/mobi](http://www.eyefi.com/products/mobi))
- 802.11b/g/n
- Secure, encrypted connection between camera and device

### FOR

- Instantly share pictures from your best camera
- Cheaper than upgrading your phone to get a better camera

### AGAINST

- Can't configure networks from within the app



*The photos you take on your camera appear as thumbnails on your phone's Eye-Fi app*



### OUR VERDICT



If you own an expensive camera or your phone's snapper isn't much good, this relatively cheap replacement for a memory card could solve your photo-sharing problems.

It's essentially a wireless way to get your photos to your phone so you can share them without

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

transferring them to a PC first. The connection can be a bit fiddly to set up and maintain, but it cuts out a lot of unnecessary bother.



# AVG PC TuneUp 2014

**Andy Shaw** tests AVG's claims that its new PC TuneUp software can speed up a tired PC

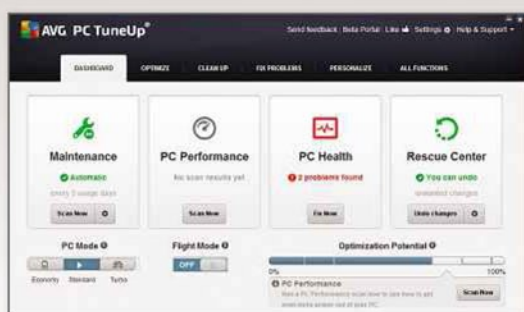
The biggest problem with tune-up software is that its manufacturers' claims can sound like snake-oil miracle cures. They tell us their products will increase the speed of our PCs, but do they really make a

difference? Can we actually measure the change made to a PC's performance and prove the software is worth having? That's the challenge we set AVG's PC TuneUp 2014.

We used an old Windows XP netbook that was never fast and has got progressively slower over its years of service as one of *Web User's* test PCs. We could reformat the hard drive and reinstall Windows, but it's an almighty hassle and the alternative of installing one-click fixing software is a faster, easier and more attractive option.

Before installing the software, we ran PassMark's performance benchmarking tool PerformanceTest ([www.passmark.com](http://www.passmark.com)). This runs a series of tests that puts different elements of a computer through its paces, so you can see how your PC compares against others that have run the same benchmark. In this instance, we wanted to measure whether the PC improved (or otherwise) after PC TuneUp was installed and run. So, we ran the benchmark, saved all the results, then installed AVG's software.

When you first run AVG PC



TuneUp 2014, the 1-Click Maintenance wizard performs a scan of your PC, flags up any problem areas and fixes any or all of them. You can change which options are scanned in your settings and scan again any time you like.

After running this, we went through the program's easy-to-use interface, fixing most of its other suggestions. Everything is explained and all changes are optional. The program carries out actions proven to have a positive effect, such as uninstalling software you never use and clearing the Registry of references to files that no longer exist.

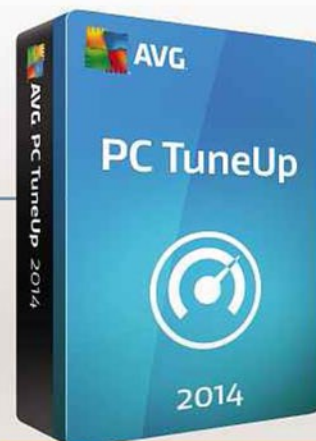
Running the benchmarking software again afterwards showed a measurable improvement to our PC. The overall benchmark score started at 213.9 and increased to 239.5 after the software



had run. In the individual tests, there was understandably no improvement in 3D performance, because the speed at which this runs is reliant on the graphics hardware in your PC. However,

the 2D and Windows performance improved dramatically. The processor had fewer tasks to worry about, so the benchmark measured improvements there, too.

Tune Up also has a Turbo mode, which shuts down non-essential Windows services such as search indexing. While this reduces Windows' efficiency with some tasks, it squeezes out more performance by withdrawing resources from Windows when you really need the speed. This didn't have such a dramatic impact on our benchmark, but we still saw an increase – a score of 242.9 overall.



## PRODUCT INFO

### AVG PC TUNEUP

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

Price: £25

## WHAT YOU NEED

- 300MHz processor
- 256MB of memory
- 1,024 x 600 pixels screen resolution or more
- 150MB of hard drive space
- Internet Explorer 6 or better

## FOR

- Our tests show it genuinely sped up our PC
- Lots of tools and options, accessible from one place

## AGAINST

- Most tools and fixes available through Windows or free software (if you know where to look)

## OUR VERDICT



PC TuneUp is a handy way of squeezing more performance out of your ailing PC. There's no magic here – it's just a convenient gateway to a variety of Windows options and tools that can be used to make your PC perform more efficiently. But if you don't have the time to hunt

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

around for the right tools yourself, having them gathered together in a single, simple-to-use package is well worth £25.

# GROUP TEST

We test and compare the latest products

## Multifunction printers



Andy Shaw tests four multifunction inkjet devices that can print, scan, copy and fax

It's handy to have the tools for printing, scanning and copying in your home when you need them, but having separate machines for each task will overcrowd your desk space, leaving little room for anything else.

Multifunction printers perform all these tasks in one unit, using your network to connect to any computer or mobile device. They take up more room than standalone printers, but the glass surface used to scan documents is the same as that used to copy them, so they aren't any bulkier than a printer with copying functions.

All the devices we've reviewed here will also send and receive faxes.

### HOW WE TESTED

We set up each printer and ran it through our standard set of printing tasks using a variety of documents and photos, measuring the time it took to print in pages per minute (ppm) and comparing the quality of output from each printer. We tested the scanners for speed and compared the quality of the scans. Since all the devices here can also be used without a PC, we also looked at how easy each one is to control.

We calculated how much each device would cost to run over a three-year period, taking into account the cost of the device and the printing lifespan of the ink cartridges.

### CANON PIXMA MX925 | £120

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

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



The Canon Pixma MX925 is twice the price of the two cheapest printers in this test, but we think it's worth every penny. It has Wi-Fi and Ethernet options, or you can connect it to a single PC via USB.

Our text-based test prints were incredibly sharp, while our illustrated documents looked great, with smooth, accurate colours and shading. The machine does a superb job of printing photos, with natural colours, good contrast and deep blacks. At top quality, a 6 x 4in photo took just over a minute to emerge. This is the fastest printer when producing colour but it fell behind the Brother MFC-J870DW when printing in black and white.

Print costs based on Canon's XXL ink cartridges are surprisingly cheap, at 1.9p for a mono page and 7.3p for colour. So while the initial outlay of £120 might seem steep, it's economical to run in the long term.



### VERDICT

★★★★★

Outstanding quality combined with good print speeds and a comprehensive specification make this an excellent multifunction inkjet device. It's at the top end of the price scale but uses a five-cartridge system that although efficient, still costs slightly more to run than the Canon Pixma MX525.

### CANON PIXMA MX525 | £69

[www.tesco.com/direct](http://www.tesco.com/direct)

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



The MX525 is a neat, low-cost printer that includes network printing through Wi-Fi and Ethernet. However, you have to manually feed the paper to print on both sides of a sheet.

It uses a combined three-colour ink cartridge, which can be wasteful because if one colour runs out, you have to replace the whole lot. However, cartridge prices are reasonable, making it the second cheapest printer to run if you favour colour (7.5p per page).

Sometimes printers with combined cartridges don't print as well as their more sophisticated rivals, but this one bucked that trend. Images are slightly over-saturated, but have rich dark areas and a warmth to even very pale skin tones.

Standard quality black text also prints very well and is as sharp as anything we've seen from a laser printer. It's the slowest in the group, though, at 8ppm for mono and colour printing just ahead of the Brother printer at 2.2ppm.



### VERDICT

★★★★★

This low-cost printer has most of the functions you need, bar automatic double-sided printing. It produces good-quality prints and will work with a single PC or on a network. Its cheap three-in-one colour cartridges and low price make it the cheapest to run in this Group Test.



# MULTIFUNCTION PRINTERS GROUP TEST

**WEB USER AWARDS**

**Webuser GOLD AWARD**

The best product/service in its category

**Webuser SILVER AWARD**

Good, but just misses out on top billing

**Webuser BRONZE AWARD**

Pretty good, but with some shortcomings

## EPSON WORKFORCE WF-2530WF

£65 | [www.box.co.uk](http://www.box.co.uk)

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

**Webuser BRONZE AWARD**



If you don't need sophisticated extras such as a touchscreen, this Epson model cuts the fluff to keep the price low. It has a simple two-line text-only display but plenty of physical buttons, so it can be easily controlled without turning on your PC. You can even email documents to it for printing.

Photos looked flat and dull compared to the vibrancy of Canon's output, and lost detail in our low-contrast test pictures, but it's adequate for such a cheap printer. Text printing was good, but on very close inspection showed tiny jagged edges inside round letters.

At 2.6p per page it is the second cheapest printer when producing black text, but the most expensive for colour, at 9.1p per page. It works out to be the most expensive printer to run in our three-year light use calculation.

### VERDICT

★★★★★

This low-cost multifunction device's print quality is adequate for the price but unremarkable. There's less waste than with the similarly-priced Canon Pixma MX525, because it uses separate colour ink cartridges, but it isn't as cheap to run.

## BROTHER MFC-J870DW | £125

[www.viking-direct.co.uk](http://www.viking-direct.co.uk)

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



At first glance, this printer appears to have it all, with wired and wireless printing and a touchscreen interface that lets you control it without having to turn on your PC. It also has some great extra features, including printing straight from Google Drive, SkyDrive and Facebook, and direct printing from mobiles with NFC (Near Field Communication).

Colour print speed is slow, managing only 1.9ppm in our tests, but it can churn out mono pages faster than its rivals, reaching 12.1ppm. However, the print quality was disappointing, with dull-looking images and faint lines appearing through large pictures. Close examination also showed lines in the text printing, though you won't notice them at regular reading distance. Still, we'd expect better print quality from a machine that costs this much.

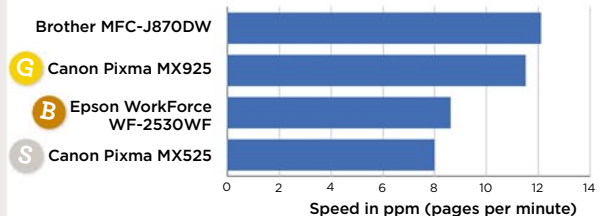
### VERDICT

★★★★★

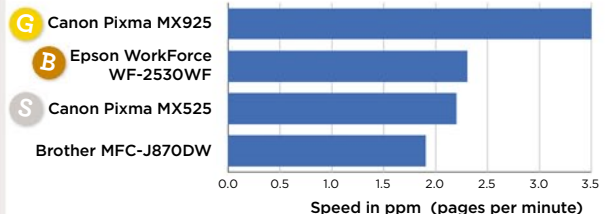
We love this printer's touchscreen interface and comprehensive features, but prints and scans were disappointing. The innovative extra features certainly justify the higher price, but we expected better quality results.

## TEST-RESULTS CHARTS

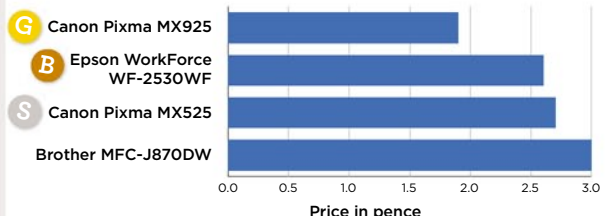
### Mono print speed



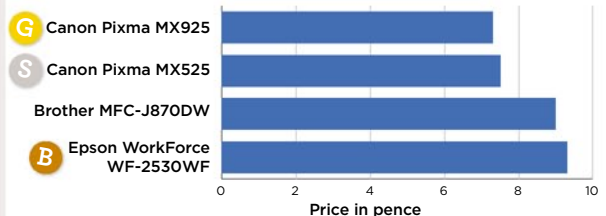
### Colour print speed



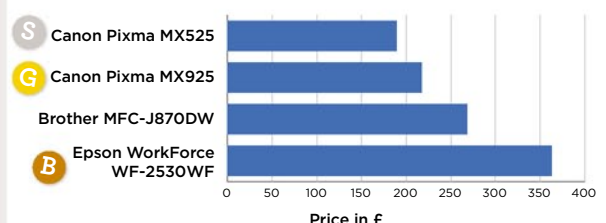
### Price per mono page



### Price per colour page



### 3-year cost of ownership (light-use)



# GROUP TEST MULTIFUNCTION PRINTERS

|                                             |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MAKE AND MODEL                              | Canon Pixma MX925                                                                 | Canon Pixma MX525                                                                 | Epson WorkForce WF-2530WF                                                          | Brother MFC-J870DW                                                                  |
| WEBSITE                                     | <a href="http://www.canon.co.uk">www.canon.co.uk</a>                              | <a href="http://www.canon.co.uk">www.canon.co.uk</a>                              | <a href="http://www.epson.co.uk">www.epson.co.uk</a>                               | <a href="http://www.brother.co.uk">www.brother.co.uk</a>                            |
| PRICE                                       | £120                                                                              | £69                                                                               | £65                                                                                | £125                                                                                |
| BUY FROM                                    | <a href="http://www.ebuyer.com">www.ebuyer.com</a>                                | <a href="http://www.tesco.com/direct">www.tesco.com/direct</a>                    | <a href="http://www.box.co.uk">www.box.co.uk</a>                                   | <a href="http://www.viking-direct.co.uk">www.viking-direct.co.uk</a>                |
| MAXIMUM PRINT RESOLUTION                    | 9,600 x 2,400 dpi                                                                 | 4,800 x 1,200 dpi                                                                 | 5,760 x 1,440 dpi                                                                  | 6,000 x 1,200 dpi                                                                   |
| MAXIMUM OPTICAL SCAN RESOLUTION (BIT DEPTH) | 2,400 x 4,800 dpi (24-bit)                                                        | 2,400 x 1,200 dpi (24-bit)                                                        | 1,200 x 2,400 dpi (24-bit)                                                         | 2,400 x 1,200 dpi (24-bit)                                                          |
| MAXIMUM PAPER WEIGHT                        | 300gsm                                                                            | 300gsm                                                                            | 255gsm                                                                             | 260gsm                                                                              |
| PAPER TRAYS (CAPACITY)                      | 1 (250)                                                                           | 1 (100)                                                                           | 1 (100)                                                                            | 1 (100)                                                                             |
| DUPLEX                                      | Yes                                                                               | No                                                                                | No                                                                                 | Yes                                                                                 |
| DOCUMENT-FEEDER CAPACITY                    | 35                                                                                | 30                                                                                | 30                                                                                 | 20                                                                                  |
| BORDERLESS PRINTING                         | Yes                                                                               | Yes                                                                               | No                                                                                 | Yes                                                                                 |
| DIRECT (PC-LESS) PRINTING                   | Yes                                                                               | Yes                                                                               | Yes                                                                                | Yes                                                                                 |
| MEMORY-CARD SUPPORT                         | No                                                                                | No                                                                                | No                                                                                 | Memory Stick Pro, MMC, SDXC                                                         |
| CD PRINTING                                 | Yes                                                                               | No                                                                                | No                                                                                 | Yes                                                                                 |
| SCREEN                                      | 7.5cm colour touchscreen                                                          | 6.2cm colour touchscreen                                                          | Two-line LCD screen                                                                | 6.8cm touchscreen                                                                   |
| INTERFACES                                  | USB, 10/100 Ethernet, 802.11n Wi-Fi                                               | USB, 802.11n Wi-Fi                                                                | USB, 802.11n Wi-Fi                                                                 | USB, 10/100 Ethernet, 802.11n Wi-Fi                                                 |
| DIMENSIONS                                  | 491 x 396 x 213mm                                                                 | 458 x 285 x 200mm                                                                 | 377 x 329 x 221mm                                                                  | 410 x 374 x 180mm                                                                   |
| WEIGHT                                      | 11.7kg                                                                            | 8.7kg                                                                             | 5.9kg                                                                              | 9.3kg                                                                               |

## OUR VERDICT

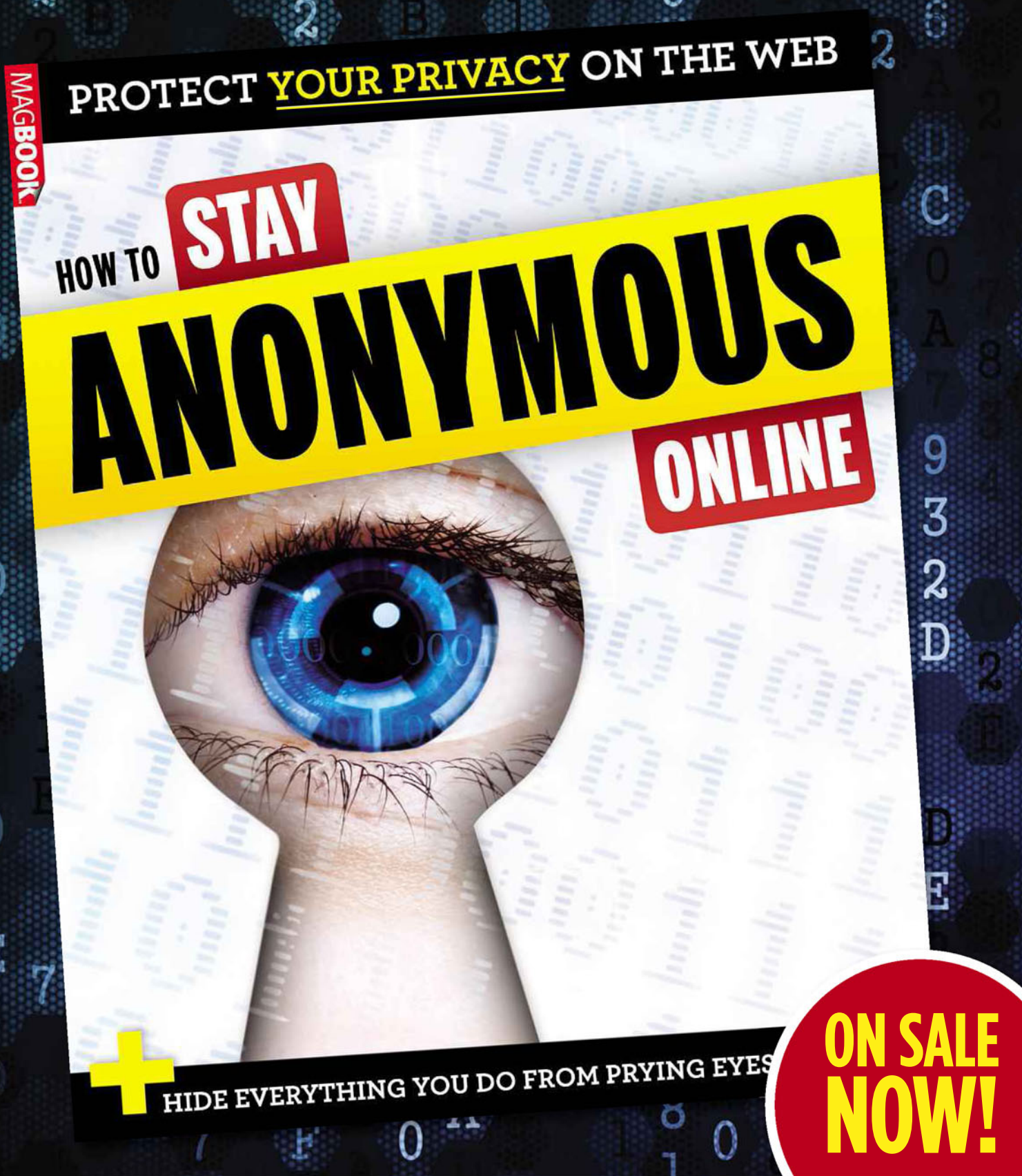
We gave our Gold Award to the Canon Pixma MX925 for its combination of high-quality prints, good speed and a fabulous selection of features. Using five separate cartridges, it doesn't waste ink when one runs out, and it's the second cheapest to run, despite the high initial price.

If you want to spend less up front, the low-cost Canon Pixma MX525 cuts back on much of the MX925's sophisticated features but still manages to produce good results, winning our Silver Award for its balance between price and quality. It's not the cheapest to run, but it combines all its coloured inks in a single cartridge, which can be wasteful.

To cut down on waste but keep up-front costs low, you could opt for our Bronze Award-winner, the Epson WorkForce WF-2530WF. However, the print quality isn't as good as either of the Canon models and it works out more expensive to run in the long term. ●



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## HARDWARE

### MULTI-FUNCTION PRINTER

#### Canon Pixma MX925

£120 from [www.ebuyer.com](http://www.ebuyer.com)

Date tested: January 2014



NEW!

Outstanding quality combined with good print speeds and impressive specifications make this an excellent inkjet device. It's not cheap but its five-cartridge system makes it economical to run.

#### KEY SPECS

9,600 x 2,400dpi print resolution ■ 2,400 x 4,800dpi scan resolution ■ 7.5cm colour screen ■ 250-sheet tray capacity ■ USB, 10/100 Ethernet and 802.11n Wi-Fi ■ 11.5 pages-per-minute mono print speed ■ 3.5 pages-per-minute colour print speed ■ 491 x 396 x 213mm ■ 11.7kg

### BUDGET LAPTOP

#### Toshiba Satellite C50-A-156

£349.99 from [www.argos.co.uk](http://www.argos.co.uk)

Date tested: December 2013



This no-nonsense laptop has a standard keyboard and a matt screen, but its lack of external frills is more than made up for by its fast processor and graphics, large 1TB hard drive, DVD rewriter and USB 3.0 port.

#### KEY SPECS

Windows 8 ■ 2.5GHz Intel Core i3-3120M processor ■ 4GB memory ■ 15.6in standard (non-touch) screen ■ 1,366 x 768 pixels resolution ■ 1TB hard drive ■ 10/100 Ethernet, 802.11n Wi-Fi ■ 380 x 240 x 32mm ■ 2.3kg

### E-READER

#### Amazon Kindle Paperwhite

£109 from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

Date tested: December 2013



Amazon's updated Kindle Paperwhite is still the best ebook reader available, with a superb, paper-like screen and a long battery life. Amazon also has the biggest selection of titles to download.

#### KEY SPECS

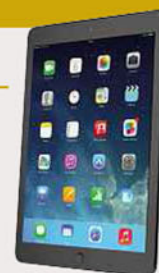
6in screen ■ 758 x 1,024 pixels resolution ■ Eight-week battery life ■ 802.11b/802.11g/802.11n Wi-Fi ■ Built-in light ■ 2GB internal memory for 1,100 books ■ 169mm x 117mm x 9.1mm ■ 206g ■ Supports AZW3, AZW, TXT, PDF, MOBI and PRC ebook formats.

### FULL-SIZE TABLET

#### Apple iPad Air

From £399 from [www.apple.com/uk](http://www.apple.com/uk)

Date tested: December 2013



The iPad Air is Apple's best tablet so far. It's slim, light and beautiful to look at and use, with a better battery life than previous models. It also has a super-fast processor and an amazing touchscreen.

#### KEY SPECS

9.7in screen ■ 2,048 x 1,536 pixels resolution ■ 16-128GB internal storage ■ A7 dual-core processor ■ 5-megapixel and 1.2-megapixel cameras ■ Dual-band 802.11 a/b/g/n Wi-Fi ■ Bluetooth ■ 240 x 169.5 x 7.5mm ■ 469g

### SMART TV

#### LG 42LA690V

£649 from

[www.coopeselectricalshop.co.uk](http://www.coopeselectricalshop.co.uk)

Date tested: November 2013



Although the LG 42LA690V doesn't have ITV catch-up, it offers a good selection of subscription-based alternatives. The TV is easy to set up and picture quality is excellent.

#### KEY SPECS

42in screen ■ 1,920 x 1,080 pixels resolution ■ 3D support ■ 2 x 12W speakers ■ 3 x HDMI ports ■ 1 x SCART (RGB) socket ■ 3 x USB ports ■ Ethernet ■ Freeview HD and DVB-S2 tuners ■ Eight-day EPG

### WI-FI EXTENDER

#### TP-Link TL-WA850RE

£27 from [www.currys.co.uk](http://www.currys.co.uk)

Date tested: October 2013



This Wi-Fi extender is easy to set up and use, with an informative display and a clean, sleek design. It managed to treble the speed of our wireless network, boosting a weak signal to every corner of our house. Best of all, it's very cheap, making it a superb choice all round.

#### KEY SPECS

Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS) ■ Fast Ethernet (10/100) ■ Single-band 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi ■ WEP, WPA/WPA2 security ■ 110 x 75 x 66mm

## 7in TABLET

## Google Nexus 7

£199 from [play.google.com](http://play.google.com)  
Date tested: September 2013

The latest Nexus has a sharp screen and runs the latest Android software smoothly. It's a perfect balance of price and performance, and is the king of Android tablets.

## KEY SPECS

1.5GHz quad-core processor ■ 16GB/32GB internal storage ■ 7in screen ■ 1,920 x 1,200 pixels resolution ■ 5-megapixel and 1.2-megapixel cameras ■ Dual-band 802.11a/b/g/n Wi-Fi ■ 200 x 114 x 8.5mm ■ 290g ■ Android 4.3 ■ GPS ■ NFC ■ Bluetooth



## LAPTOP

## Acer Aspire S3

£390 from [www.saveonlaptops.co.uk](http://www.saveonlaptops.co.uk)  
Date tested: September 2013

The super-stylish Acer Aspire S3 looks far more expensive than it is. Although its internal specification is slightly out of date, its performance and battery life are impressive. It also has a clear, bright screen and a compact case, which makes it much lighter than most other laptops.

## KEY SPECS

Windows 8 64-bit ■ 1.4GHz Intel Core i3-2377M processor ■ 4GB DDR3 memory ■ 13.3in screen ■ 1,366 x 768 pixels resolution ■ 500GB hard drive ■ 1.38kg ■ Dual-band 802.11n Wi-Fi ■ No touchscreen ■ 323 x 219 x 18mm



## SMARTPHONE

## HTC One

£480 SIM-free from [www.htc.com/uk](http://www.htc.com/uk)  
Date tested: July 2013

The HTC One is a top-of-the-range smartphone with an excellent design. It works smoothly, is capable of taking impressive photos and features all the latest technologies for connecting to Wi-Fi and mobile phone networks. It's also cheaper than the Samsung Galaxy S4.

## KEY SPECS

4.7in screen ■ 1,920 x 1,080 pixels resolution ■ 1.7GHz quad-core processor ■ 2GB memory ■ 32/64GB storage ■ 3G/4G/Wi-Fi ■ 4-megapixel camera ■ 137 x 68 x 9mm ■ 143g ■ Android 4.1.2



## MI-FI DEVICE

## EE Huawei E5776 Mobile Wifi

From £12.99 per month from [ee.co.uk](http://ee.co.uk)  
Date tested: June 2013

The EE Mi-Fi device has a built-in screen that usefully displays the strength of your connection; tells you whether you're using 3G or 4G; and shows how many devices are connected via Wi-Fi. It isn't as cheap as rival devices, but its impressive speed makes it well worth paying for.

## KEY SPECS

4G, 3G and 2G connectivity ■ 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi ■ WPA security ■ 1.45in display ■ 10 hours battery life (500 hours standby) ■ 106 x 66 x 16mm ■ 149g



## LASER PRINTER

## Oki B401d

£67 from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)  
Date tested: June 2013

The B401d is a fantastic all-round performer, delivering top-quality prints quickly, accurately and at a low cost per page. It has good-value replaceable parts that will save you money in the long term. It's a large printer, so make sure you've got enough space to store it.

## KEY SPECS

1,200 x 600 dpi resolution ■ 29 pages-per-minute print speed ■ 2.2p per A4 mono page ■ 250-sheet tray capacity ■ USB and parallel-port connections ■ 387 x 364 x 245mm



## NETWORK SECURITY CAMERA

## Y-cam HomeMonitor Indoor

£149.99 from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)  
Date tested: May 2013

The Y-cam HomeMonitor Indoor is easy to set up, and you don't have to install any software on your PC or run mobile apps to get it working. Its ability to keep footage for you, remotely and securely, is worth paying extra for.

## KEY SPECS

640 x 480 pixels resolution ■ 30 frames per second ■ Wi-Fi and Ethernet ■ Night vision ■ Microphone ■ 7-day online recording ■ Web-based camera management ■ Movement detection ■ Email alerts ■ 85 x 85 x 30mm



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#### Adobe Premiere Elements 12

**£62.34** from  
[www.ballicom.co.uk](http://www.ballicom.co.uk)  
**Date tested:** October 2013



Premiere Elements 12's superb interface means its many features are accessible, but neatly tucked away. It works equally well for beginners and experts, with instant access to two editing modes and lots of help and guidance. For the price, you won't find better video-editing software than this.

#### KEY FEATURES

Automatic editing ■ Image stabiliser ■ Export to multiple video formats ■ Upload to Facebook, YouTube and Vimeo ■ Surround-sound support ■ DVD and Blu-ray disc-burning ■ Unlimited timelines ■ Stop-motion capture

### WEB FILTER

#### Norton Family

**Free** from [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)  
**Date tested:** October 2013



This family-friendly software provides everything you need to keep the worst of the web from your PC. It has all the most important filtering features and does an excellent job of blocking potentially harmful sites. Best of all, it's free to download and use.

#### KEY FEATURES

10-PC licence ■ Compatible with Windows XP/Vista/7/8, Mac OS X 10.7+ ■ Category filters ■ Customisable profiles ■ Whitelist/blacklist ■ Remote management ■ IM and social network monitoring ■ Blocks chat, newsgroups and P2P ■ Email support

### ONLINE BACK-UP

#### SquirrelSave

**£61** a year from  
[www.squirrelsav.co.uk](http://www.squirrelsav.co.uk)  
**Date tested:** August 2013



With its unlimited storage, ability to handle back-ups from multiple PCs and external devices, and retention of old versions of your files, SquirrelSave is an excellent choice for backing up loads of data. It's very easy to use and great value for money.

#### KEY FEATURES

Automatic back-up ■ Unlimited storage ■ Recover deleted files for up to 32 days ■ 256-bit AES encryption ■ Back up any combination of files and folders ■ UK-based ■ Copies of files kept forever ■ Back-up logging

### WEB DESIGN

#### Serif WebPlus X6

**£81.69** from [www.serif.com](http://www.serif.com)  
**Date tested:** August 2013



Serif WebPlus X6 is a winning combination of functionality, ease of use and value for money. Its combination of tools, templates and flexibility, and the ease with which it lets you add extra features, make it an excellent choice for home users who want to create their own sites.

#### KEY FEATURES

30 templates ■ PayPal, Romancart, Mal's E-commerce payment systems ■ Social-media support ■ Allows hand-coded HTML ■ SEO tools ■ Widgets included ■ Graphics included ■ Overall site-structure view

### ANTI-VIRUS

#### Kaspersky Internet Security

**£24** (one year, three PCs) from  
[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)  
**Date tested:** July 2013



Kaspersky strikes the right balance between solid protection and a good understanding of what is safe and what is not. The software blocked 99 out of 100 threats and only reported one false positive. It's a powerful security tool to have watching over your PC.

#### KEY FEATURES

Firewall ■ Email scanning ■ Parental controls ■ Game mode ■ Personal data protection ■ Social-networking protection ■ Vulnerability scanner ■ 30-day free trial

### WEB HOSTING

#### Go Daddy Deluxe

**From £6.11 per month**  
from [uk.godaddy.com](http://uk.godaddy.com)  
**Date tested:** May 2013



Go Daddy's set-up and configuration tools use a straightforward step-by-step process. The service has a generous range of features across all three of its hosting packages, particularly when you account for the price.

#### KEY FEATURES

Unlimited storage ■ Unlimited websites ■ Unlimited bandwidth ■ 25 databases ■ 500 email addresses ■ 100 sub-domains ■ £33.95 Facebook ad credit ■ 24/7 phone support ■ Customisable mobile site

# BEST FREE SOFTWARE

This fortnight's top FREE software downloads

19 FREE  
DOWNLOADS

## ASTRONOMY SOFTWARE

### WorldWide Telescope 5

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

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

**File size:** 77.1MB

Microsoft's virtual telescope lets you explore the universe from the comfort of your PC. You can pan and zoom around the night sky using a mouse, keyboard or Xbox controller; search for objects; view images taken by powerful ground- and space-based telescopes; and go on recorded tours. Narrated by astronomers and experts, the tours cover a wide range of topics including nebulae, galaxies, planets, cosmology, black holes and supernovas. They run full screen and can be paused at any time. You can jump from one scene to another by summoning the timeline at the top.

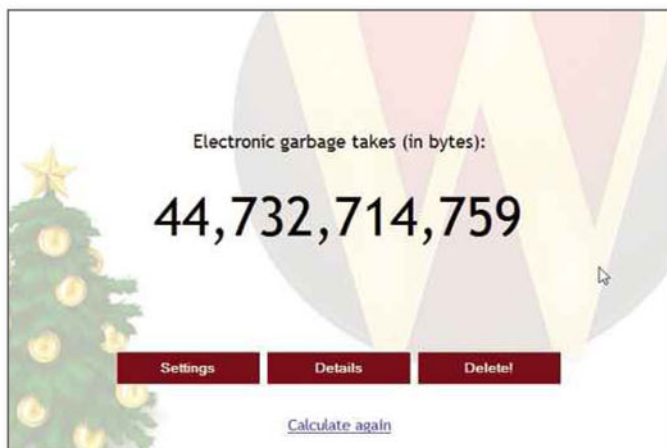
As well as gazing out into the universe, the program lets you visit Earth from space. WorldWide Telescope's virtual globe is a lot like Google Earth. You can zoom from outer space to ground level and change the view from Bing Maps Aerial to Hybrid, Streets or Earth Night 2012. There are several overlays available, such as cloud layer, sky and atmosphere, and a cutaway model that lets you look inside the Earth. The program also lets you view the Sun (without the need for dark glasses!) and visit all the



planets in our solar system, as well as major moons.

To celebrate the software's fifth anniversary, Microsoft Research has updated it and introduced several new features. You can now view detailed models of the International Space Station and Gemini Observatory, and

import your own 3D models. Additionally, Earth and the planets look more realistic thanks to atmospheric and lighting 'shaders', and you can tilt and rotate a planet to get a better view of its surface.



## SYSTEM CLEANER

### Wipe 2014

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

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

**File size:** 477KB (installer only)

When you launch this system cleaner, it checks your PC and shows you how much space, in bytes, it can free up. You can view the details, and deselect any items you don't want removed, or click Delete if you trust it not to get rid of anything important. The Settings screen lets you configure the software, toggle the secure-delete option on or off, adjust system performance and set Wipe to automatically close annoying programs.

## GAME

### Heroine's Quest: The Herald of Ragnarok

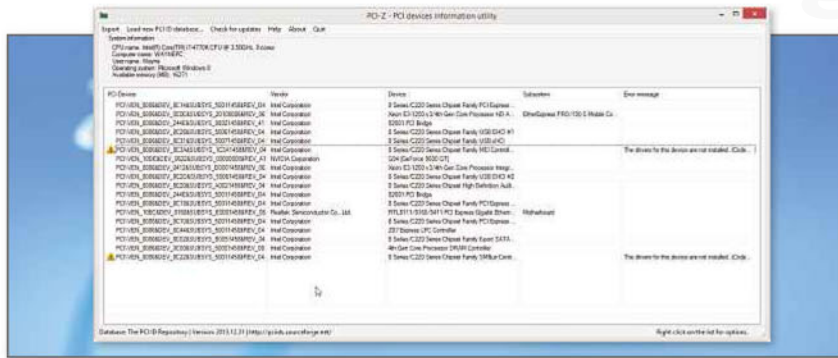
[www.crystalshard.net/hq.htm](http://www.crystalshard.net/hq.htm)

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

**File size:** 396MB

This game is a homage to old Sierra titles such as Hero's Quest (later renamed Quest for Glory). It's a point-and-click adventure game with RPG elements, in which the aim is to overcome the forces of frost that have brought perpetual winter to your land. There are three character classes available, each offering separate side quests.





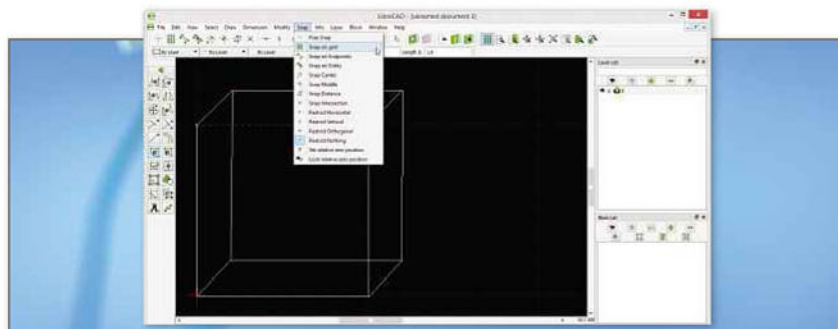
## SYSTEM TOOL

### PCI-Z

[www.pci-z.com](http://www.pci-z.com)

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8+ **File size:** 545KB

If you've ever had an unrecognised PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect) device appear in the Windows Device Manager and wondered what it is, this free tool can tell you. PCI-Z queries a public database of PCI hardware ID codes and displays actual readable names rather than cryptic numeric codes. It's a useful troubleshooting tool.



## DESIGN TOOL

### LibreCAD 2

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

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

**File size:** 26.9MB

Computer Aided Design (CAD) tools are difficult to master, and LibreCAD is no exception. But if you persevere, you'll find it isn't as difficult to understand as it first appears. The open-source program lets you create 2D designs, and offers a wealth of drawing tools and support for layers. The latest version has a tweaked interface and adds isometric grids and new ellipse features. Despite its name, the program is not related to LibreOffice.

## COMPETITION

### CyberLink PowerDVD 13 Ultra

Available to buy now priced £98.57, CyberLink PowerDVD 13 Ultra has brilliant new features that make it easy to play your movies, videos, photos and music at their best. These include a high DPI mode, enhanced DLNA compatibility, new playback controls and more. There's also a Movie Library that provides cover art, plot synopses and reviews from leading entertainment websites and CyberLink's online community MoovieLive.com.

To enter, email your address to [webusercomp@dennis.co.uk](mailto:webusercomp@dennis.co.uk) with 'powerdvd' in the subject line. For more information visit [www.cyberlink.com](http://www.cyberlink.com).

**WIN  
1 OF 3  
COPIES!**



## NEW WINDOWS 8 APPS

### Discovery News

[bit.ly/discovery337](http://bit.ly/discovery337)

**Min requirements:** Windows 8+

**File size:** 61.3MB

This app presents the latest news about our wonderful world, covering topics such as Earth, Space, Tech, History and Adventure. As well as photos and videos, the app provides a Discoverator, which delivers amazing facts.



### Hangman Pro

[bit.ly/hangman337](http://bit.ly/hangman337)

**Min requirements:** Windows 8+

**File size:** 6.14MB

You can play this free Hangman game on your own or against a friend. You can even pit yourself against other players through the global leaderboards.



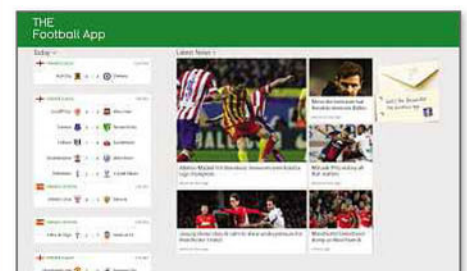
### The Football App

[bit.ly/football337](http://bit.ly/football337)

**Min requirements:** Windows 8+

**File size:** 2.62MB

This app is a must for fans of the beautiful game. It covers more than 100 international football leagues, with minute-by-minute reports on important matches and regularly updated news.



## PARTITION TOOL

### Aomei Partition Assistant Standard 5.5

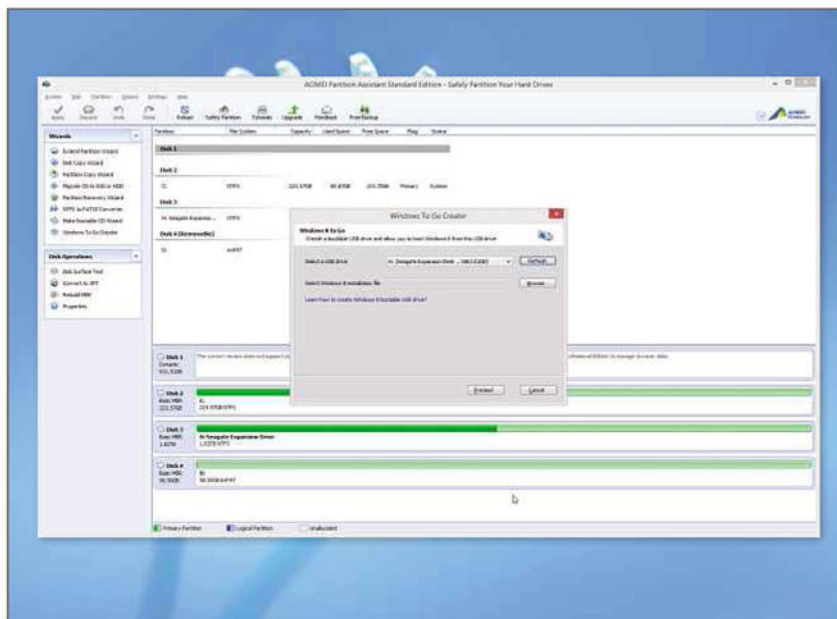
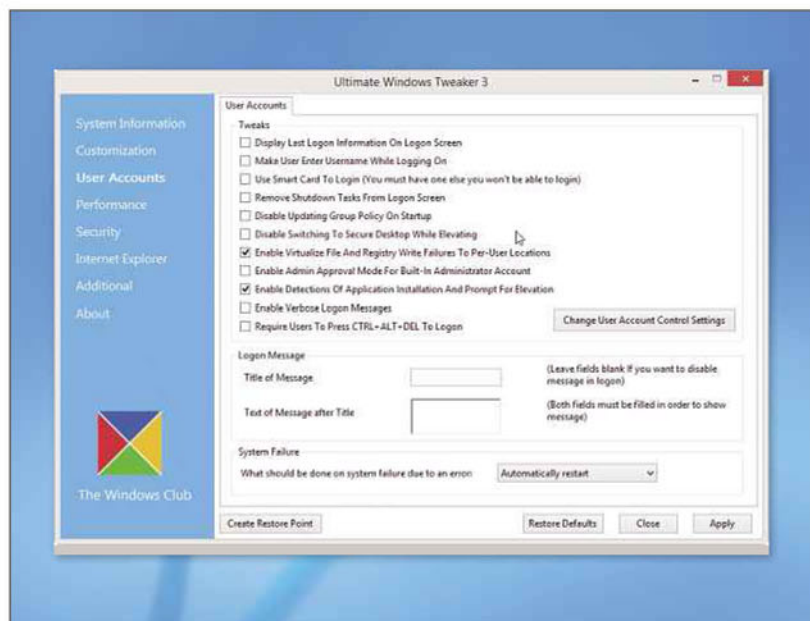
[www.aomeitech.com](http://www.aomeitech.com)

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

**File size:** 7.66MB

If you have a large hard drive, it can be useful to partition it into separate drives – one for the operating system, and another for all your personal data. Partition Assistant lets you create, copy and manage partitions, recover damaged ones, migrate your operating system from a hard drive to an SSD, and easily convert between file formats.

The updated version of Partition Assistant supports Windows 8.1 and lets you create a bootable version of it, or Windows 8, on a USB memory stick. This is the same as the Windows To Go feature in the Enterprise (business) edition of Microsoft's latest OS.



## CUSTOMISATION TOOL

### Ultimate Windows Tweaker 3.0 for Windows 8

[bit.ly/wintweak337](http://bit.ly/wintweak337)

**Min requirements:** Windows 8+

**File size:** 94.8KB

This install-free application offers around 170 tweaks for Windows 8 and 8.1. The tweaks are sorted into various categories including Customization, User Accounts, Performance, Security, Internet Explorer and Additional. To perform a tweak, just tick the box next to it. You can select and apply multiple tweaks at the same time, and create a restore point beforehand, in case something goes wrong.

If you're not sure what a particular option does, hover your mouse over it to bring up an explanatory tooltip. Version 3 adds tweaks for Windows 8.1 and removes some of the less useful options from the previous edition.

## MEDIA MANAGER

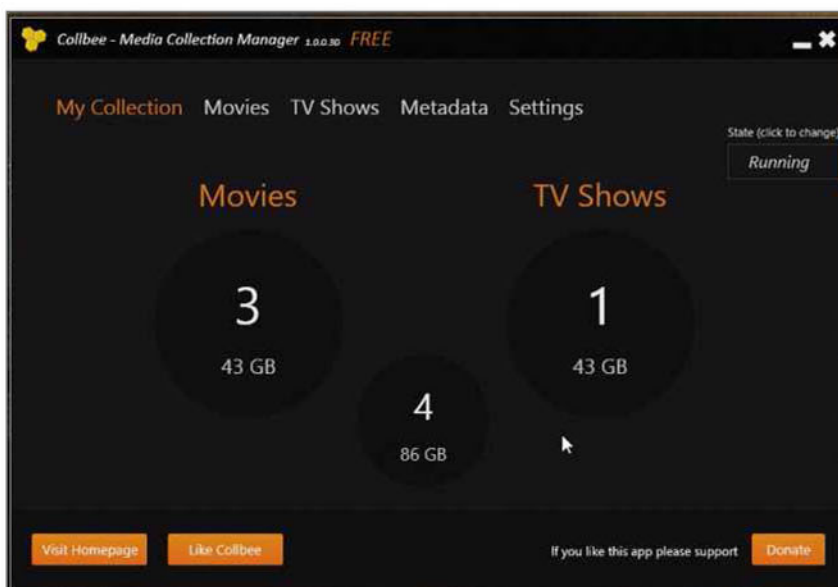
### Collbee

[www.collbee.com/en/](http://www.collbee.com/en/)

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

**File size:** 24.9MB

If you have a large and disorganised collection of films and TV shows on your PC, Collbee can bring order to your media library by scanning your collection and automatically renaming the files, then downloading information and artwork from public databases of films and TV shows. It requires no input from you and works silently in the background. Collbee can also create metadata for media-centre software including Windows Media Center and XBMC. It isn't always accurate when identifying and renaming files and folders, so go through them afterwards to check for mistakes.





## READER RECOMMENDS



Evernote ([www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com)) is a suite of software and services designed for note-taking and archiving. A 'note' can be a piece of formatted text, a full web page or web page excerpt, a photo, a voice memo or a handwritten 'ink' note. Your notes can be sorted into folders, then tagged, annotated, edited, commented on and more.

**Fratpark, Web User Forums**



## CALENDAR MAKER

### Pically

[bit.ly/pically337](http://bit.ly/pically337)

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8+, Mac OS X or Linux **File size:** 5.3MB

Pically lets you create and print wall calendars using your own photos. Just choose the images you want to include, enter events such as birthdays, anniversaries and holidays, and Pically will create a printable calendar in PDF format. You can also import events from another program into Pically as an iCal file.

## GAME

### The Art of Dying

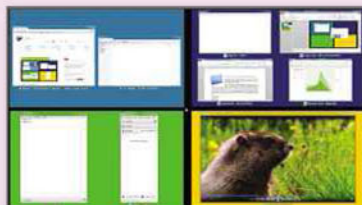
[bit.ly/artdying337](http://bit.ly/artdying337)

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8+ **File size:** 93.2MB

If you enjoy a challenge, you'll relish the chance to play The Art of Dying. This platform game has two difficulty levels and even the easier one is very hard. There are six levels to beat, and you can make and share your own additional ones using the built-in level editor.



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



## VIRTUAL DESKTOP

### Dexpot 1.6.11 Build 2394

[dexpot.de](http://dexpot.de)

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8+ **File size:** 3.6MB

This excellent tool for expanding your Desktop space has been updated to fix a few bugs in the most recent version. These include the Start button being hidden in Windows 8.1, certain programs crashing in XP and the Desktop background not showing when you closed Dexpot.

## BROWSER TOOL

### Auslogics Browser Care 1.4.2.0

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

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8+ **File size:** 6.3MB

Following our Workshop about this browser clean-up tool in Issue 333 ([bit.ly/webuser333](http://bit.ly/webuser333)), it's been updated with an improved toolbar and add-on list that make it easier to use. The program now cleans browser data more quickly and includes a handy portable version.

## ONLINE-STORAGE TOOL

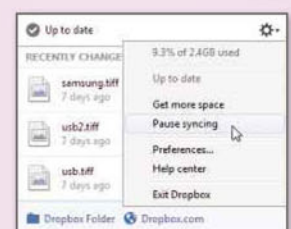
### Dropbox 2.6.2

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

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8+, Mac OS X or Linux **File size:** 35.9MB

The latest version of Dropbox has a redesigned set-up

wizard to make it quicker and easier to get started with the service. There are new installers for Windows and Mac OS X, and you can now pause syncing directly from the System Tray rather than the right-click menu.



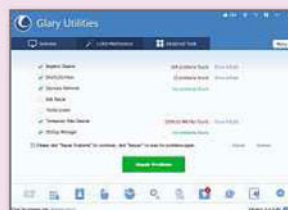
## BROWSER

### Maxthon Cloud Browser 4.2.1.1000

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

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8+ or Mac OS X **File size:** 1.8MB (installer)

This update to Maxthon fixes several problems reported by users. These include the occasional appearance of an "unable to connect to website" message; the edit box of some emails displaying incorrectly and certain download links causing two download prompts to appear.



## SYSTEM TOOL

### Glary Utilities 4.4.0.86

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

**Min requirements:** Windows XP/Vista/7/8+ **File size:** 11.4MB

The brilliant free system-tool suite has added a new option that lets you skip the User Account Control warning when performing certain tasks. Glary's uninstaller tool is now faster, its Registry Cleaner has been improved and it's better at finding empty folders.

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

# BEST FREE APPS

This fortnight's top FREE smartphone and tablet apps

## PHOTO NOTES

### YouSnap

[bit.ly/snap337](http://bit.ly/snap337)

**Min requirements:** Android 2.3

**Size:** 8.2MB



Convert street signs, food packets and other sources of information into easy-to-read photo notes with this brilliant Android scanner.

Unlike most other document-digitising apps, YouSnap has a smart perspective-correction tool that isolates the text in your image and aligns it to create an

easy-to-read rectangular note. It also enhances the quality and contrast of your image to make it as legible as possible.

YouSnap works in all sorts of lighting conditions, so you can capture information from shiny brochures, whiteboards, TV screens and even through shop windows. You can apply your own edits and export the results as JPEGs and PDFs for saving or sharing (PDF requires an in-app purchase).



## QR codes

YouSnap



Colourblind Tube Map



Jelly



Casio Scientific Calculator



Fancy



## TRAVEL

### Colourblind Tube Map

[bit.ly/colour337](http://bit.ly/colour337)

**Min requirements:** Android 2.2, iOS 5.1

**Size:** 25MB

Negotiating your way around the capital is stressful enough without sight problems preventing you from reading the Tube map. This app, which recently won an award from Transport for London ([bit.ly/tfl337](http://bit.ly/tfl337)), caters for people with impaired vision, replacing the iconic map's coloured lines with distinct patterns and sharp, zoomable text.

## SOCIAL

### Jelly

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

**Min requirements:**

Android 4, iOS 6.1

**Size:** 5.1MB

Twitter co-founder Biz Stone has come up with another intriguing idea in which Yahoo Answers meets Instagram. Take a photo, attach a question and wait for someone in your "network" (Facebook and Twitter) to answer it. You can also answer other people's questions. Irritatingly, you can't delete a question or answer once you've uploaded it.



## CALCULATOR

### Casio Scientific Calculator

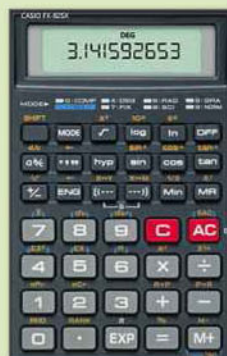
[bit.ly/calc337](http://bit.ly/calc337)

**Min requirements:**

Android 1.6, Windows Phone 7.5

**Size:** 8MB

The classic Casio FX-82 scientific calculator is brought back to life with this powerful, faithful emulator. It meets all your mathematical needs, as well as your nostalgic ones, with various tools covering trigonometry and statistics, as well as general maths functions such as fractions and equations.



## SHOPPING

### Fancy

[bit.ly/fancy337](http://bit.ly/fancy337)

**Min requirements:** Android 2.3.3, iOS 6.1

**Size:** 6.1MB

Find retail inspiration with this new Pinterest-style shopping app. Browse photos of items and add them to your own customised wish lists, and follow Fanciers whose tastes you like. US users can buy items via their Fancy lists, but without this function the app needs more users before it can match the pull of Pinterest ([bit.ly/pin337](http://bit.ly/pin337)).





## LEARNING

**Curious for iPhone**[bit.ly/curious337](http://bit.ly/curious337)**Min requirements:** iOS 7**Size:** 20.4MB

You can learn a lot from YouTube videos, but it takes some searching to sort the hits from

the misses. Curious solves this by meticulously curating a library of thousands of tutorial videos from experts all over the world. Choose your topic or learn something new every day with the Lesson of the Day and Daily Curio fast fact.

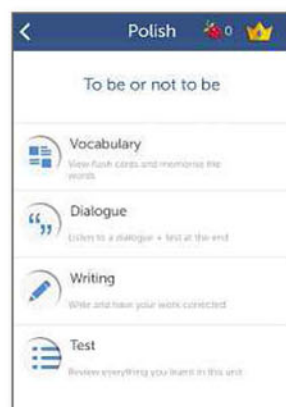
## LANGUAGES

**Busuu**[bit.ly/bu337](http://bit.ly/bu337)**Min requirements:**

Android (varies with device), iOS 6

**Size:** Varies with device

More tutorials, this time covering 11 foreign languages. Choose your language and level (beginner, intermediate or advanced) and give your reason for learning, such as Travel or Family. You then work through your specially tailored lessons, with audio clips, flashcards, tests and community feedback to help polish your accent.



## QR codes

**Curious for iPhone****Busuu**

## GAME

**SkySpy**[skyspyapp.com](http://skyspyapp.com)**Min requirements:**

iOS 6

**Size:** 13.5MB

This app lets you test your geographical knowledge by identifying UK landmarks from aerial photographs. It's great fun and genuinely challenging, but you only get the London Landmarks pack for free. All the others, such as Birds' Eye Britain and Football Stadiums, as well Clue Credits packs, cost 69p each via in-app purchase.



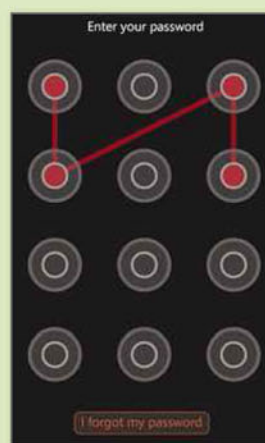
## PRIVACY

**Photo Locker**[bit.ly/locker337](http://bit.ly/locker337)**Min requirements:**

Windows Phone 7.5

**Size:** 1MB

Android and iOS users have plenty of private-photo apps to choose from, so it's good to see apps like this launching exclusively for Windows Phone. Photo Locker is a small, simple and effective tool that lets you create private photo and video albums, and encrypt them with a custom pattern lock.

**SkySpy****Photo Locker**

## 5 NEW APPS WORTH PAYING FOR

## MUSIC

**Xbox Music**[bit.ly/xmusic337](http://bit.ly/xmusic337)**Min requirements:** iOS 6**Size:** 9.2MB **Price:** £8.99/month

This new iOS version of Microsoft's music-streaming service, which requires an Xbox Music Pass ([bit.ly/xpass337](http://bit.ly/xpass337)), lets you save playlists for playing offline. The offline feature is "coming soon" to Xbox Music for Android ([bit.ly/xdroid337](http://bit.ly/xdroid337)).

## FILE SHARING

**The Pirate Bay Premium**[bit.ly/pirate337](http://bit.ly/pirate337)**Min requirements:** Windows Phone 7.5**Size:** 1.5MB **Price:** £1.49

Torrenting lets you share other people's bandwidth, so it's a great way

to transfer big files quickly. This new app selects proxy servers automatically and offers torrent image galleries and search subscriptions.

## GAME

**Fiz: Brewery Management**[bit.ly/fizgame337](http://bit.ly/fizgame337)**Min requirements:** Android 2.2, iOS 3.1.3**Size:** 9.1MB **Price:** £1.28

Grow your own brewery from humble beginnings into a world-renowned symbol of booze excellence. The app includes more than 60 beer recipes, making it a must for home-brew fans.

## GEOGRAPHY

**Barefoot World Atlas**[bit.ly/barefoot337](http://bit.ly/barefoot337)**Min requirements:** iOS 7**Size:** 1.38GB **Price:** £2.99

Geographer and BBC presenter Nick Crane guides you around a beautiful globe created by artist David Dean. The app is designed for children but any adult with an interest in the world and its wonders will love it, too.

## TV

**LG Remote**[bit.ly/remote337](http://bit.ly/remote337)**Min requirements:** Windows Phone 7.5**Size:** 1MB **Price:** £1.99

If you have an LG Smart TV, this app turns your Windows Phone into a full-featured remote control using your home Wi-Fi network. As well as controlling volume and channel selection, the app lets you take screenshots and input text.

# BEST NEW ADD-ONS

This fortnight's 10 most useful tools for your browser

## CHROME



### Fullscreen Anything

[bit.ly/fullscreen337](http://bit.ly/fullscreen337)

Fullscreen Anything increases the size of photos, videos and games so they fill your whole browser. Just click the

toolbar button or press Ctrl+Space to make what you're currently viewing full-screen. If there's more than one object, you can select the one you want to enlarge.

### Facebook Chat Pro

[bit.ly/facebook337](http://bit.ly/facebook337)

This extension adds several useful features to Facebook Chat. You can get Desktop notifications, even when your browser is minimised; prevent friends seeing when you've read a message or are typing one; and apply a stylish black-and-white typewriter theme to Facebook.



### Sun365

[bit.ly/sun337](http://bit.ly/sun337)

This wonderful weather add-on automatically detects your location to display details of current conditions, including temperature, wind speed and chance

of rain, against stunning background photos. You can view 18-hour and 10-day forecasts, and customise the design to suit your taste.

### Searchlet

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

Searchlet is a bookmarklet (rather than a traditional add-on) that lets you search Google, Wikipedia, news websites and an online dictionary. To look up a word or phrase, just highlight it and click the bookmarklet to open the Searchlet panel on the left side of your browser.



## FIREFOX



### Supertab

[bit.ly/super337](http://bit.ly/super337)

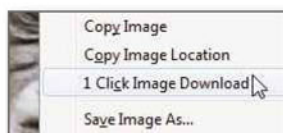
Pressing Ctrl+Tab usually cycles through your open tabs, but this add-on lists your tabs in most recently used order. This means you can instantly switch to the one you want. You can also use Alt+Tab instead.



### Bigger Address Bar Font

[bit.ly/bigger337](http://bit.ly/bigger337)

Sometimes the simplest add-ons are the most useful, and they don't come any simpler than this one. As its name suggests, it enlarges the default font of your address bar to make URLs much easier to read. You can't choose the size, but it should be big enough for most people!



### 1-Click Image Download

[bit.ly/1click337](http://bit.ly/1click337)

This add-on makes downloading images from web pages quicker and easier. Rather than right-clicking a picture, choosing Save Image

As and selecting a folder, you simply right-click and choose 1-Click Image Download. It's very handy for grabbing several images in one go.

### Best Proxy Server

[bit.ly/proxy337](http://bit.ly/proxy337)

This updated add-on lets you easily switch between proxy servers around the world to disguise your real location. The free version has a few limitations, including a CAPTCHA, but once you've downloaded the proxy list, it's very easy to use and works perfectly.

## OPERA



### Microsoft Apps

[bit.ly/microsoft337](http://bit.ly/microsoft337)

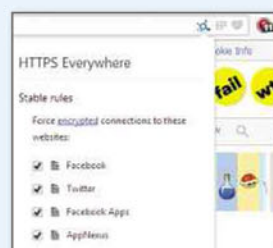
Similar to Google's app launcher, this add-on gives you

one-click access to a range of Microsoft websites. It includes everything from Outlook.com, Bing and SkyDrive to Skype, Xbox and Windows Phone; just click the toolbar button and choose the site you want to visit.

### HTTPS Everywhere

[bit.ly/https337](http://bit.ly/https337)

This unofficial Opera version of the Chrome and Firefox add-on keeps you safe while browsing the web. It automatically switches



thousands of sites from insecure 'http' to secure 'https' to protect you against many forms of surveillance and account hijacking.



# INBOX

Share your views!



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**£25  
winner**

### Why the web must change in 2014

I was interested to read your '10 most important questions for 2014' in Issue 335 ([bit.ly/webuser335](http://bit.ly/webuser335)), some of which I found more important than others. I really couldn't care less about smartwatches or Amazon's flying machines, but here are my answers to the questions I did care about.

First, 'Will UK and US governments stop spying on us?'. No, of course they won't and they probably never will. In fact, now that they've been exposed by Whistly McWhistler, Edward Snowden, their methods are likely to become even more devious. I don't want to be forced to encrypt everything I do online (as you suggest elsewhere in the issue) because it's a major hassle, but if that's what it takes to stop the government reading my emails then



that's what I'll damn well do! And Google and Facebook can keep their beaks out of my messages, too.

Secondly, 'Will companies tell us when they've been hacked?'. Now, this is a real bugbear of mine. If a big firm such as Yahoo or Adobe is aware that the security of millions of user accounts has

been compromised, then it's their duty to let us know *immediately*, not months after the event. If hackers get hold of my login details, I want to change them as soon as possible, especially if I use the same passwords on other sites. Not that I do, but I know many people who aren't so savvy about online security.

Lastly, 'Will Google finally get in trouble with the regulators?'. Probably not, but I was happy to read that it's finally going to start paying tax in the UK, even if the quoted figure of £24million is a mere drop in the ocean to the multi-billion-dollar company.

Overall though, I'd like to think that if 2013 was the year that dodgy companies and agencies were exposed, then 2014 will be the year that these problems are addressed.

*Brian Collins, via email*

### Outraged by eBay's new postage fee

I was pleased to see Paul Brown's email in Issue 335 about eBay's new fee. I have been a seller on eBay since January 1999, when it was barely five years old, and have done very well from it. But the site has moved the goalposts so many times

over the years, with new rules and increased fees, that this new rule change [which charges commission on postage] is just another nail in eBay's coffin.

Since I retired, I no longer use eBay professionally, just occasionally for personal goods. I only sell items I feel will have international interest. I have to admit I was unaware of the new rule of charging for postage. Frankly, I am outraged.

The new rules are verging on the ridiculous. I was already annoyed that eBay made it impossible for a seller to leave negative feedback for a buyer who lets them down.

However, there are alternatives. I now use free advertising sites, and there are plenty to choose from, including Free-ads.co.uk ([www.free-ads.co.uk](http://www.free-ads.co.uk)), Vivastreet ([www.vivastreet.co.uk](http://www.vivastreet.co.uk)),



Preloved ([www.preloved.co.uk](http://www.preloved.co.uk)) and Gumtree ([www.gumtree.com](http://www.gumtree.com)), which, ironically, is owned by eBay.

I have sold a bed, a car, a laptop, a mobile phone and many other items I no longer needed - even a cross-channel ferry ticket. It's far easier to use these sites than eBay, and they're free.

*Dale Butler, Sheffield*

### Even smart TVs are spying on us

Your Best Buys section in Issue 335, which featured the LG Smart TV, reminded me of a recent problem I had with my set. I bought an LG 32in HD TV in early 2013 and everything was perfect as far as the 'smart' features were concerned. Connecting to the internet was a breeze and the remote mouse made it easy to navigate and use the apps. The picture, of course, was and still is incredible.

However, a few weeks ago when I tried to access the User Guide, 22 pages of an Agreement Statement appeared on the screen pointing out that in order to use these apps, which of course include the User Guide, it is a condition that I accept the terms outlined. This means that I



have to accept and agree to LG using my personal data as it feels fit. I did not accept the conditions and have subsequently reset everything to factory settings, effectively disconnecting from the internet.

Many companies these days claim to take their customers' privacy and data very seriously. However, what they seem to mean by this is that they collect as much of our private data as they can. I take my privacy very seriously, and urge all your readers to take note of your recent articles relating to this subject.

*Barry Smith, via email*

### Confused by NFC on the Nexus 7

In both your Group Test in Issue 328 ([bit.ly/webuser328](http://bit.ly/webuser328)) and in the Best Buys



section in Issue 334 ([bit.ly/webuser334](http://bit.ly/webuser334)), you state that the Nexus 7 has GPS and NFC. I'm unsure what NFC is and have not been able to find the answer anywhere. I have also visited several sites that sell the Nexus 7, including that of the manufacturer, Asus ([www.asus.com](http://www.asus.com)), and none of them mention the GPS feature. Why is this, and does the Nexus 7 actually have GPS?

I even went to the Google Play website ([play.google.com](http://play.google.com)), which you recommended, but found no mention of GPS in the specifications. Please can you help, because I would like to buy this tablet.

*Mitchell Smith, via email*

**Andy Shaw, Technical & Reviews Editor, replies:** The latest Nexus 7 definitely has GPS. If you go to its product page ([bit.ly/nexus337](http://bit.ly/nexus337)) and scroll down to the Technical Specifications, you'll see three columns and an arrow to the right. Click the arrow and you'll see confirmation of the GPS.

NFC (Near Field Communication) is the technology that allows you to use your device to pay for things on compatible electronic touchpads. Some shops and restaurants, including 50,000 branches of certain retailers including

Pret a Manger, Eat, Little Chef, Subway, Wilkinson and McDonalds, let you use an account set up on your device to pay for purchases up to £15. You place your device on a scanner instead of getting out your credit card, but admittedly this makes more sense with a phone than a tablet, because the latter isn't as convenient to carry around.

## Has Ryanair responded to criticism?

I saw in Issue 334 that *Web User* gave the 'thumbs up' to the newly revamped

Ryanair website. I have to ask if the anti-Ryanair websites have played a part in the airline's recent 'epiphany'? I have regularly visited I Hate Ryanair ([www.ihateryanair.org](http://www.ihateryanair.org)) to read about the company's latest (dubious) methods. I wonder if that website (with which I have no connection whatsoever) had any influence on Ryanair's new approach to customer service? I think that *Web User* should consider mentioning 'anti' web sites, especially when they are of interest to consumers.

*Bob Cooper, Edinburgh*

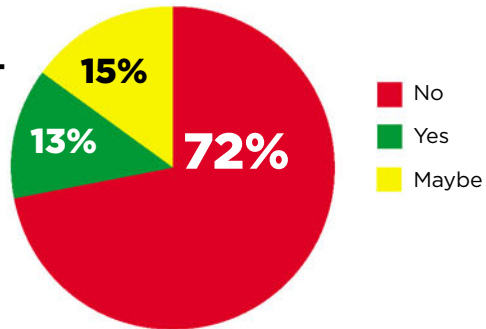


## Your Vote Counts

ON WEBUSER.CO.UK THIS FORTNIGHT WE ASKED...

**Do you think tablets will eventually replace laptops?**

**NEXT FORTNIGHT...**  
Which social network do you use the most?  
Vote online at [www.webuser.co.uk](http://www.webuser.co.uk)



## THIS FORTNIGHT'S CROSSWORD

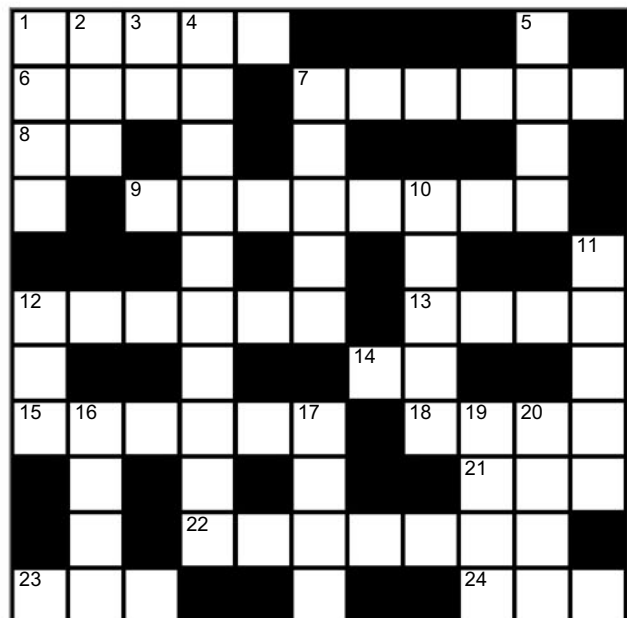
Clues marked with an asterisk are cryptic and refer to sites and software featured in this issue of *Web User*. All other clues are literal. Answers online at [www.webuser.co.uk/crossword](http://www.webuser.co.uk/crossword)

### ACROSS

1. Liddell, Cooper or Walker (5)
6. Death's Head, Gypsy or Elephant Hawk (4)
7. See 11 down
8. Former partner (2)
9. \*Harnesses king replaced by single-portion service that collates content from devices and cloud storage (8)
12. \*Verb replaces noun in isolated Google Maps tool for landlords and tenants (6)
13. \*Heartless miscreant produces a free online banking service (4)
14. See 12 down
15. Flog, defeat (6)
18. \*South-western silver jewellery website (4)
21. Anger (3)
22. \*(With 10 down) Smart editing transformed site for part-time jobs (7,5)
23. Burgess, Pearce or Ritchie (3)
24. Smallest state in India (3)

### DOWN

1. Last word of prayer (4)
2. Cured salmon (3)
3. See 12 down
4. \*Unpredictable match score results in streaming video content from a device to your TV (10)
5. \*Initially, website hosts your domain to provide music-streaming service (4)
7. \*Ventilator by hollow cavity creates Pinterest-style shopping app (5)
10. See 22 across
11. (With 7 across) Nervousness caused by appearing



before an audience (5,5)

12. (With 3 down and 14 across) 1970 Beatles album (3,2,2)

16. \*Short Hawaiian dance adds a streaming service for US TV shows (4)

17. 1995 Film starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro (4)

19. Limb used for flight (4)      20. Jason's ship (4)

Crossword created using Crossword Compiler software, from WordWeb Software ([www.wordwebsoftware.com](http://www.wordwebsoftware.com)).



## What you say...



### A SALES OF DIGITAL MUSIC FELL IN 2013. ARE YOU BUYING LESS MUSIC ONLINE?

No, I'm buying more. What if the music-streaming companies go bust? You could have spent that subscription money on digital downloads! I don't like the thought of renting music.

*Lynn Sharpe*

I haven't bought an LP in about 18 months, which is exactly as long as I've been subscribing to Spotify.

*John Moore*

My last purchases were three LPs and three cassettes from eBay for the price of about two album downloads! I like albums that are not available as downloads, so as well as saving money, I get the richer sound that is lost with digital music.

*Chris Armstrong*

I've definitely bought less music since signing up to Google Music All Access ([play.google.com/music](http://play.google.com/music)).

*Derek Murray*

Streaming music is the future. Music downloads will go the same way as CDs, tapes and records.

*Adam Law*

### SHOULD GOOGLE REVERSE ITS DECISION TO LET YOUR GOOGLE+ CONTACTS EMAIL YOU WITHOUT KNOWING YOUR GMAIL ADDRESS ([bit.ly/gmail337](http://bit.ly/gmail337))?

It's disrespecting people's privacy, but then it's Google, so what's new?

*Emmy UpTo-NoGood*

Why do I want strangers to be able to email me? I'm going to opt out. Google should have made it opt in!

*Paul Chapman*

Absolutely. I've already switched it off in Gmail's settings. Google should be trying to protect our privacy, not expose it.

*Simon Coyle*

Absolutely. Google never asks for any input from its users about changes because it's afraid the answer would be "no".

*David Pawley-Smith*

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE RUMOURS ABOUT WINDOWS 9 ([bit.ly/windows337](http://bit.ly/windows337))?

I can't be bothered with all this speculation. Having to juggle between the current operating systems is enough of a challenge for me without wondering what Windows 9 will bring.

*Spiraleye*

Windows 7 suits me fine, so I don't even want to think or hear about Windows 9 yet!

*Madeline*

I'm ecstatic if it's an improvement on Windows 8 and gives me my Start menu back – I won't need to use Start8 ([bit.ly/start337](http://bit.ly/start337)) to bring it back anymore.

*Jussie*

Well, based on the 'good one, bad one' syndrome of Windows, it should be worth waiting for, but I'm not going to hold my breath.

*Steve Ellis*

### WHERE ELSE DO YOU WATCH VIDEOS ONLINE APART FROM YOUTUBE?

I've started to watch more live streams on Twitch TV ([www.twitch.tv](http://www.twitch.tv)). Many YouTubers are moving their live streams there.

*Sam Higgins*

I've been watching more things on Vine ([vine.co](http://vine.co)). I like the fact that each video is short and sweet. I've made some of my own, starring my cat Archie ([bit.ly/vine337](http://bit.ly/vine337)).

*Simon Mellor*

Dailymotion ([www.dailymotion.com](http://www.dailymotion.com)), because they delete stuff way slower than YouTube, which is a copyright dictator.

*Heather Hear*

On my iPad, I only use Video Tube ([bit.ly/tube337](http://bit.ly/tube337)), the paid-for, ad-free version that costs £1.49. It's similar to how YouTube used to be.

*Caroline Sharman*

## YOUR ONLINE RIGHTS



Jane Hoskyn answers all your consumer questions

### How to beat the rising cost of bills

After the expense of Christmas and the illusory savings of the January sales, your bank balance now has to cope with the annual rise in bills.

Here's a rundown of January's damage. BT line rental, which cost just £11.50 a month five years ago, went up to £15.99. Train fares rose an average of 6 per cent. Energy bills soared, with British Gas up 9.2 per cent and Npower up 10.4 per cent. Online shopping got more expensive when Amazon dropped Super Saver delivery for orders under £10 ([bit.ly/ss337](http://bit.ly/ss337)). And from 1 February, Virgin Media customers face a 6.7-per-cent price hike. At least Mars bars stayed the same price, although they're now 10 per cent smaller.

With wages barely moving, these price hikes are hurting everyone's household budget, but there are ways you can ease the pain. If you're with BT or one of the many broadband or mobile providers who raised their "fixed contract" prices last year, you can now ditch your contract mid-term without penalty. The new ruling follows the year-long Fixed Means Fixed campaign by Which.co.uk ([bit.ly/fixed337](http://bit.ly/fixed337)), whose website lets you compare mobile tariffs ([bit.ly/mobile337](http://bit.ly/mobile337)) and broadband deals ([bit.ly/broadband337](http://bit.ly/broadband337)). For the best tariffs in your area, enter your postcode at SimplySwitch.com ([bit.ly/switch337](http://bit.ly/switch337)) and use the broadband calculator to estimate your usage ([bit.ly/bcalc337](http://bit.ly/bcalc337)).

To switch energy supplier, use SimplySwitch.com and uSwitch.com to find your best local rate. Online tariffs ([bit.ly/online337](http://bit.ly/online337)) are cheaper but aren't fixed, so you need to check your bills regularly for any unexpected increases. You can help keep your energy bills down by switching to online bills, paying by Direct Debit and submitting meter readings by text or online.

SEND YOUR EMAILS TO [WEBUSER@DENNIS.CO.UK](mailto:WEBUSER@DENNIS.CO.UK)



# 2014's best new devices

The world's biggest technology show took place in Las Vegas in early January. **David Crookes** selects the best devices on display

### LG CHROMEBASE DESKTOP COMPUTER

[bit.ly/chromebase337](http://bit.ly/chromebase337)

#### Why is it interesting?

Although Chromebooks have been available for a while ([www.google.co.uk/chromebook](http://www.google.co.uk/chromebook)), LG's Chromebase is the first all-in-one PC to use the Linux-based OS. It's not particularly generous with features, but the computer has the tidy style of an Apple iMac and a 21.5in, 1,920 x 1,080-pixel screen, Intel Celeron processor, 2GB of RAM and 16GB of storage, which is more than enough for using Google's web-based tools.

#### When is it out?

LG hasn't confirmed the UK release date but it should be soon.



#### How much will it cost?

The price had yet to be announced at the time of writing, but we expect it to be around £400, which is much cheaper than many other all-in-one PCs.

#### Why would I want one?

It's a great option if you're after a web-focused home PC with a bit of style.

### EDISON

[bit.ly/edison337](http://bit.ly/edison337)

#### Why is it interesting?

Intel has effectively compressed a mini computer onto an SD card (or something of similar size) to fit into a variety of different devices, from chairs to coffeemakers. There's currently lots of buzz about the Internet of Things (in which everything is connected), and a small device like this could lead the way. Edison doesn't compromise on tech specs, either. It offers Wi-Fi connectivity, a dual-core processor and 500MB of RAM, and runs Linux.

#### When's it out?

Intel says Edison will be available to tech companies from mid-2014, so expect to see products a few months later.

#### How much will it cost?

Costs have not been revealed but mass-market production should make it affordable.

#### Why would I want one?

It's not a question of wanting the Edison itself so much as the products into which it is inserted. Your entire kitchen could soon be online.



### CHEFJET PRINTER

[3dsystems.com](http://3dsystems.com)

#### Why is it interesting?

Because it's no normal printer. Not only is it 3D, it actually prints food! At CES, the manufacturer dished out some geometric-designed, multi-coloured sweets, formed by spraying water onto sugar in layers so that the crystals harden.

#### When is it out?

In the second half of 2014.



#### How much will it cost?

Lots. The standard version is around £3,000 but there is a Pro version for twice that amount. Mind you, it's aimed at people who work in professional kitchens.

#### Why would I want one?

For novelty value, if you can afford it. Otherwise, you're probably best off buying your sweets from a shop.



**PLAYSTATION NOW**[us.playstation.com/playstationnow](http://us.playstation.com/playstationnow)**Why is it interesting?**

Though Sony is riding high with the PS4 – the fastest-selling console in UK history – it is already preparing for a future of non-console gaming. Having bought the game-streaming service Gaikai in 2012, it is now gearing up to offer console-quality games over the internet direct to TVs, phones and tablets. The service will be restricted to Sony's own devices at first (including the PS3 and PS4), but that will eventually widen. Gamers will be able to play titles from PlayStation's back catalogue via a Sony Entertainment Network account.

**When is it out?**

Playstation Now will be available this summer in the United States but there are no firm launch dates for Europe. Slower internet connections on this side of the pond are believed to be holding things up.

**How much will it cost?**

Sony hasn't revealed the cost yet. It says the service will operate with subscriptions and a rent-by-title system running side by side.

**Why would I want it?**

PlayStation Now will be a brilliant way to play games on a wide-range of devices without the need for discs, downloads or high-end technology. Let's hope it comes to the UK soon.

**ALIENWARE STEAM MACHINE**[www.alienware.com/steammachine](http://www.alienware.com/steammachine)**Why is it interesting?**

This alternative to PS4 and Xbox One combines Alienware's excellent design (both inside and out) with the new Steam OS. It essentially brings PC gaming to the living room and is the first Steam Machine to be unveiled.

**When is it out?**

Alienware says it will arrive in the second half of 2014.

**How much will it cost?**

It will be "competitive", the company says. Given the high-end specs of the machine (including an Intel CPU and Nvidia GPU), it's likely to cost more than a Sony or Microsoft console.

**Why would I want one?**

If you love PC games, this console will let you play them from the comfort of your sofa.

**SAMSUNG BENDABLE TV**[bit.ly/samsung337](http://bit.ly/samsung337)**Why is it interesting?**

Now that the 3D bubble has burst, curved televisions are the latest trend to watch. This TV not only bends, but can also be adjusted using a remote control, allowing you to alter screens of up to 85in to suit whatever you are watching and accommodate all viewers in the room.

**When is it out?**

Who knows? Samsung wouldn't say. There's every chance that the prototypes on show will never be made.

**How much will it cost?**

Again, Samsung didn't reveal this but given that it's new technology, with some TVs displaying Ultra HD at huge sizes, it won't be cheap.

**Why would I want one?**

Curved screens are said to be "more immersive", but unless you've got money to burn you're probably best off sticking with your current set.

**OCULUS RIFT CRYSTAL COVE**[www.oculusvr.com](http://www.oculusvr.com)**Why is it interesting?**

Because it's amazing! Forget all your preconceptions about virtual-reality headsets from days gone by. This new headset puts you at the heart of a task or game, and gaming experts in particular are going crazy over this piece of kit. The latest Rift prototype is called Crystal Cove and it was named the Best of CES at this year's event. Its sensors and camera track your head and body position and it doesn't suffer from motion blurring.

**How much will it cost?**

Not sure yet, though developer kits cost \$300 (around £180) so maybe not as much as you might think.

**When is it out?**

Oculus says that 2014 will be a big year for virtual reality so we can perhaps expect to see it over the coming months.

**Why would I want one?**

If you love playing games, Crystal Cove will take the experience to a spectacular new level. Thousands of development kits are out there, so programmers are beaver away to create killer content. It'll be worth waiting to see what apps and games they come up with.

COVER  
FEATURE

# TOP SECRET!

There's more to your favourite websites than you realise. **Wayne Williams** uncovers 55 of the most useful and entertaining hidden gems to surprise and delight you



It's very easy to miss some of the most useful things on the web, either because they're tucked away, have only recently appeared or you're not really supposed to know they're there. Even the biggest sites often keep some of their newest features hidden until they're ready for a proper launch, while interesting content is often quietly added with a surprising lack of fanfare.

In this cover feature, we reveal the web's best-kept secrets and where to find them. We'll tell you about

Spotify's fantastic Winamp tribute, show you how to bring Wikipedia articles to life with YouTube videos, make phone calls in Gmail, uncover bargains on Amazon, navigate Twitter with just your keyboard, and activate the classic arcade game Atari Breakout in Google Images. We'll also tell you our favourite Google Search and Street View secrets, and uncover some quirky website surprises.

We're sure you'll enjoy all this covert knowledge, but remember, it's just between you and us, right?

## SECRET WEB TOOLS

### Spotify's tribute to Winamp

AOL recently sold Winamp – its ageing but still popular media player – to the internet radio company Radionomy ([www.radionomy.com/en](http://www.radionomy.com/en)). Before the sale was announced, it looked as if Winamp was going to be killed off forever on 20 December 2013, so Spotify released a tribute download called Spotiamp ([spotiamp.com](http://spotiamp.com)). This fully functional music player looks exactly like Winamp and even supports Winamp skins and visualisation plug-ins. You can search for tracks to play, tune into thousands of web radio stations and stream music to any device that supports Shoutcast. The only catch is that you need a Spotify Premium account to use Spotiamp, which costs £9.99 per month.



### Watch YouTube videos in Wikipedia

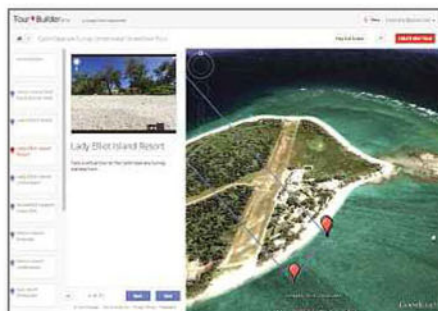
WikiTube ([bit.ly/wikutube337](http://bit.ly/wikutube337)) is an excellent Chrome extension that places relevant YouTube videos alongside content on Wikipedia. The add-on handles everything automatically. Simply go to a page on Wikipedia and if WikiTube finds matching videos, its icon will appear in Chrome's address bar and three related videos will be displayed under the article title. Just click one to



start watching. It'll save you the trouble of having to visit YouTube and search for a clip yourself. Click the plus sign to view a different selection of videos, but if you only see black boxes, try restarting your browser or disabling other add-ons.

### Create your own Google Earth tours

Tour Builder ([tourbuilder.withgoogle.com](http://tourbuilder.withgoogle.com)) lets you create tours in Google Earth that you can share with the world. You choose the locations and can add photos, text and videos. You can also view tours that other users have shared on the site. To use Tour Builder, you'll first need to install the free Google Earth plug-in ([bit.ly/earth337](http://bit.ly/earth337)), which is available for Windows and Mac OS X (but not Linux, oddly).



### Block annoying things on YouTube and Facebook

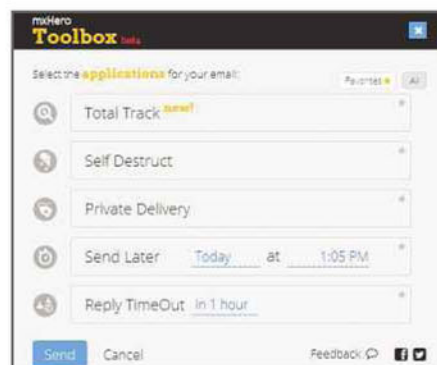
YouTube and Facebook are two of the most visited websites in the world, with many of us stopping by several times a day to search for videos and find out what our friends are up to. Yet both sites have annoying features, often in the form of adverts and 'suggestions', which can spoil your enjoyment of their content. Happily, Adblock Plus ([adblockplus.org](http://adblockplus.org)), the incredibly popular ad-blocking add-on, now makes it easy to remove the worst irritations from those sites, and lets you choose exactly what to filter out. Go to [youtube.adblockplus.me](http://youtube.adblockplus.me) to choose what to remove from YouTube, including

comments, suggested videos and in-video annotations, or you can just choose to 'Block all YouTube annoyances'. For Facebook, visit [facebook.adblockplus.me](http://facebook.adblockplus.me) to strip the social network of all its "page you may like", "people you may know" and "rate this page" rubbish.



### Find out when someone reads the email you've sent them

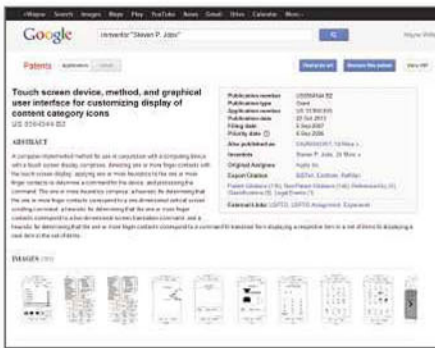
If you've ever wondered whether a person you've emailed is deliberately ignoring your message or if they've just been too busy to read it, a Chrome add-on called mxHero Toolbox ([bit.ly/mxhero337](http://bit.ly/mxhero337)) will tell you. It adds a host of useful features to Gmail, including Total Track, which notifies you as soon as your email is opened by its recipient, as well as any attachments and links within the message. Just click the yellow button when you compose an email and choose Total Track. Note that the read-receipt feature only works if the recipient displays images.



## CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

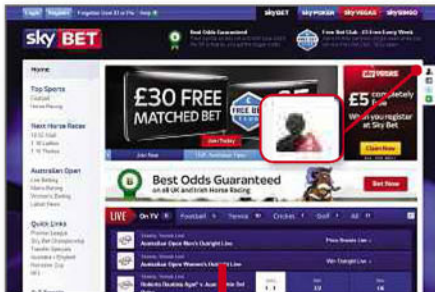
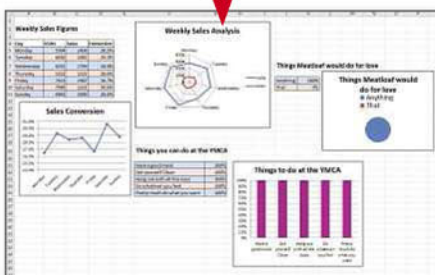
### Check whether an idea has been patented

If you've had a great idea that you think could change the world or just make you filthy rich, one of the first things you should do is check to see if anyone else has patented the idea before you. You can do this by searching Google Patents ([www.google.co.uk/patents](http://www.google.co.uk/patents)). Even if you don't have a great idea, it's a fascinating resource to browse through. It contains every patent made through the United States and European patent offices, and the Prior Art Finder lets you view documents related to a particular patent application or grant.



### Hide your gambling from the boss

If you're having an online flutter when you should be working, Skybet ([www.skybet.com](http://www.skybet.com)) has a useful feature that instantly hides your activities from prying eyes. Just click the 'Boss? Look busy!' silhouette button on the right-hand side of the page (above the Facebook icon) to switch the current view to a spreadsheet. The data on this is slightly silly ('Things Meatloaf Would Do For Love', and 'Things to do at the



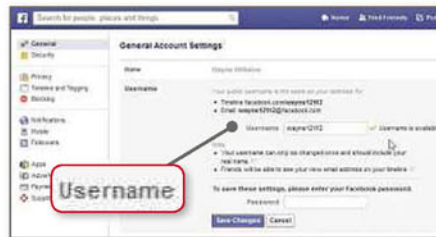
YMCA'), but it looks less incriminating than a gambling site.

### Sign into Facebook with your username

For security reasons, it's wise not to have Facebook remember your login details on a shared computer or mobile device. However, this means you need to enter your email address every time you want to use the site. You can save some typing time by entering your Facebook username instead. To find out what this is, go to Facebook and click your name in the top-left corner of your homepage. Your username will appear in the address bar, after the 'www.facebook.com/' portion of the URL.

If you haven't got a username, or you want to change the one you have, go to Settings, General, click the Edit link next to Username and choose the name to use. Note that you can only change your username once.

You can also use a nickname rather than your real one on your Facebook timeline. Just click the Edit link next to Name in General Account Settings, type in an alternate name and your password, and click Save Changes.



### Export your Facebook friends' birthdays

Facebook ensures you that you'll never forget a friend's birthday, but if you want to send them something more personal than just a wall message, you could consider adding birthday notifications to another service, such as Google Calendar. To export the list of birthdays, click Events in the left-hand toolbar and click the gear icon in the top-right corner. Choose whether you want to export birthdays or upcoming events. The saved file can then be imported into a service such as Apple



iCal, Microsoft Outlook or Google Calendar.

### Find the biggest discounts on Amazon

MoneySavingExpert.com's Amazon Discount Finder ([bit.ly/amazondiscount337](http://bit.ly/amazondiscount337)) is a great way to find the cheapest deals on Amazon without having to browse endlessly through its virtual shelves. Choose a department and sub-category, enter some optional keywords and choose the discount range you're looking for. By default, this is 50 to 100 per cent, but you can widen or narrow it, as required. You can also set a minimum and maximum price for the item and choose to only show items that qualify for free delivery. Click the Build Discount Page button to open Amazon in a new tab and view the available deals.



### Test new features on Wikipedia

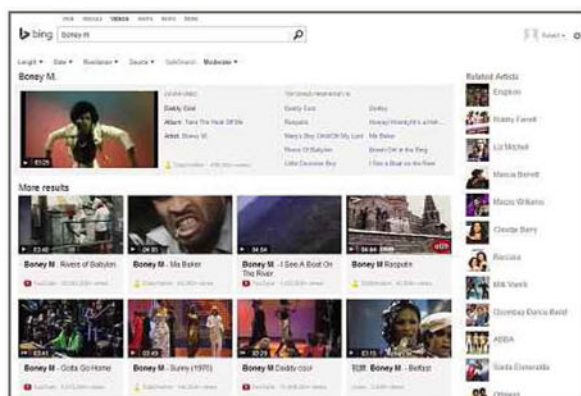
The secret Beta Features lab ([bit.ly/wikibeta337](http://bit.ly/wikibeta337)) lets you try experimental new features on Wikipedia and other Wikimedia sites, such as Wikivoyage ([en.wikivoyage.org](http://en.wikivoyage.org)). It isn't updated all that regularly and you'll need to be logged into the site to test the new tools. Examples on offer include Media Viewer, which increases the size of images on pages that only use thumbnails; VisualEditor, which lets you edit Wiki pages without having to learn code; and Typography Refresh, which makes text on pages more readable and consistent.



## COVERT ENTERTAINMENT

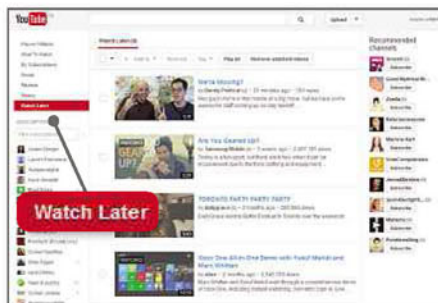
### Find music videos using Bing

One little-known advantage that Bing search has over Google is that you can use it to explore and discover music videos. Go to [www.bing.com/videos](http://www.bing.com/videos) and search for an artist and/or song, or hover your mouse over the Videos link at the top of the Bing homepage and choose 'Watch music videos'. The official video for the track you search for should appear in the top left, with other songs by that artist listed on the right, and more results below. Hover your mouse over a video thumbnail to play a preview.



### Watch videos later on YouTube

If you don't have time to watch a video on YouTube right now, you can add it to a Watch Later playlist and return to it at your convenience. Just click the small clock icon under a video and it will turn into a green tick. Click the Watch Later button in the sidebar to view all your saved videos.



### Get email notifications for YouTube videos

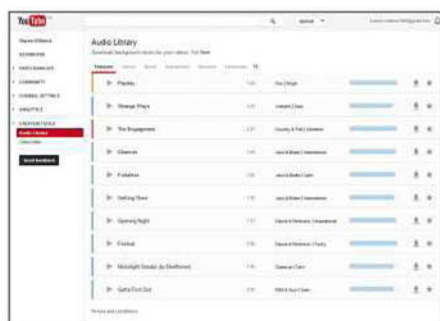
When you subscribe to a channel in YouTube, you'll be able to view new videos as soon as they arrive by going to My Subscriptions. You can also browse by channel using the Subscriptions bar. However, if you'd rather have YouTube tell you when new content is available so you don't need to keep checking the site, open a channel, then click the gear icon next to the Subscribed button. Select the 'Email with new uploads' option and you'll



receive an email as soon as a new video is added to the channel.

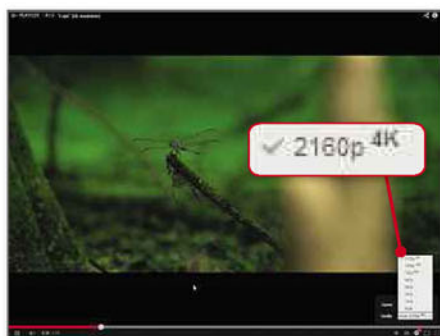
### Add background music to YouTube videos

If you use commercial songs in the videos you upload to YouTube, there's a danger that the copyright holder might ask Google to remove your clip or that your soundtrack might get muted. You can download more than 150 free, legal tracks to use in your videos from the Audio Library ([www.youtube.com/audiolibrary](http://www.youtube.com/audiolibrary)). These span genres including classical, pop and ambient, and you can browse them by duration, mood and even instrument.



### Watch 4K videos on YouTube

As we explained in our Instant Expert in Issue 333 ([bit.ly/webuser333](http://bit.ly/webuser333)), ultra-high-definition 4K is the future of television – and there's already 4K content you can watch on YouTube. Go to YouTube Spotlight's 4K playlist at [bit.ly/youtube4k337](http://bit.ly/youtube4k337) or the Panasonic 4K



## GOOGLE SEARCH SECRETS

Google's search engine has lots of fun Easter Eggs tucked away. Here are 10 of our favourite tricks for different search terms

### Google in 1998

Shows you what the search site looked like when it first launched.

### Do a Barrel Roll

Google duly obliges. You'll need to be using Chrome or Firefox.

### Askew (or Tilt)

Displays the results on a slant.

### Google Sphere

Type this then click the I'm Feeling Lucky button (again, you'll need to turn off Google Instant Predictions) to display Google in a sphere.

### Google Gravity

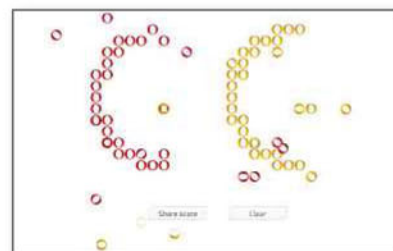
Type this then click the I'm Feeling Lucky button (again, you'll need to turn off Google Instant Predictions). Gravity pulls the screen downwards.

### Anagram

Google asks "Did you mean: nag a ram"?

### Zerg Rush

An online gaming term (it comes from StarCraft) used to describe an overwhelming attack. Google transforms the results screen into a strategy game.



### Conway's Game of Life

Shows the cellular automaton devised by mathematician John Horton Conway.

### Search Google in Klingon

Just go to [www.google.com/?hl=xx-klingon](http://www.google.com/?hl=xx-klingon).

### The Loneliest number

Displays a calculator with a '1' on its screen. Aww.



## STREET VIEW SECRETS

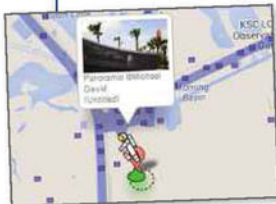
There's lots of fun to be had on Google's panoramic mapping service, especially with the recently restored Pegman

### Go to Legoland California



When you switch to Street View, the yellow Pegman character turns into a Lego figure.

### Go to Kennedy Space Center



Similarly, when you go to the famous Florida space centre, the Pegman turns into an astronaut.



### Go through the Secret Door

Go to [bit.ly/secretdoor337](http://bit.ly/secretdoor337), click the door and you'll be transported to somewhere - anywhere -

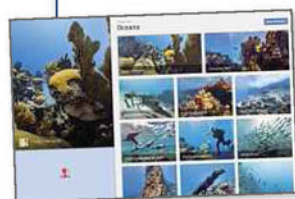
in the world. Click Take Me Somewhere Else to go to a new location. It's very addictive.

### See Google staff larking around



When you take the Street View tour of Google's North Carolina Data Center ([bit.ly/staff337](http://bit.ly/staff337)), you'll spot staff

dressed up as the Pegman, the Android logo and a Stormtrooper.



### Go under the sea

If you're bored of looking at streets, take a dive under

the oceans instead. Go to [maps.google.com/ocean](http://maps.google.com/ocean) for stunning underwater exploration.

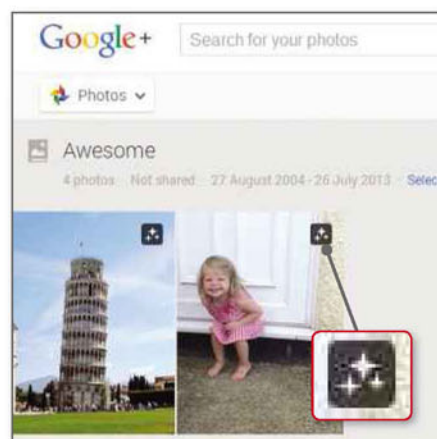
Channel at [bit.ly/panasonic4k337](http://bit.ly/panasonic4k337) (or just search for 4K content) and start watching. You'll need to adjust the video quality to 4K by choosing that option from the Settings menu, and be viewing on a 4K-compatible TV or monitor to really see the difference.

At the recent Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas (see our Instant Expert report on page 40), Google demoed 4K videos rendered using a new VP9 codec, which uses much less data (and requires less computing power). Expect more 4K content to appear on the site in the future.

### Apply Auto Awesome effects to your photos

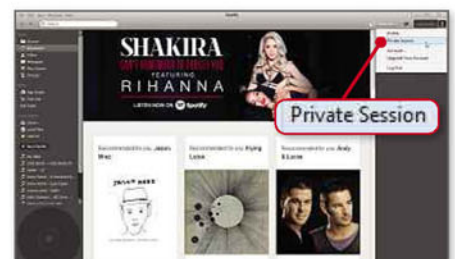
Even if you rarely check your Google+ account ([plus.google.com](http://plus.google.com)), it's worth using it to store your photos and videos because it offers lots of great editing features. One of our favourites, which many users aren't aware of, is the Auto Awesome tool, which applies amazing effects to your photos without any input from you. It stitches panoramas together, removes people and other moving objects from a series of pictures, merges multiple moving photos into a single action shot, and more. All you have to do is upload the photos and, if they match certain criteria, Auto Awesome will do the rest.

You'll know when an Auto Awesome photo has been created because a special icon, which looks like three stars, will appear in the top-right corner.



### Listen to music privately in Spotify

Spotify ([www.spotify.com/uk](http://www.spotify.com/uk)) likes to be social and tell people what you're listening to, which is great if you want to show off your impeccable taste in music but can feel like an intrusion on your privacy if you don't want your friends eavesdropping. If you occasionally have the urge to immerse yourself in a slice of Eighties cheese, or check out a One Direction song (we're not judging you), you can switch to a Private Session. While this is active, nothing you listen to will be shared. In the Desktop version of Spotify, click your name in the top-right corner and select Private Session. In the Spotify web interface, click Settings and activate the feature from there.



### Share a specific point in a Spotify song

Not sure what an artist is singing about? You can ask for a second opinion by sharing that line or verse with another listener. Right-click the track and copy the Spotify URI (Uniform Resource Identifier). Paste it into a message, then add # and the time at the end of the URI. So, for example, if the lyric in question occurs at 0:45, you'd append #0:45 to the end of the URI. You should end up with something like this: [spotify:track:0wJoRiX5K5BxIqZToIB2LD#0:45](https://open.spotify.com/track/0wJoRiX5K5BxIqZToIB2LD#0:45). See our feature on page 50 for more handy hacks.



## FURTIVE FUN

### Explore The Faces of Facebook

The Faces of Facebook ([app.thefacesoffacebook.com](http://app.thefacesoffacebook.com)) is a highly ambitious web app collating more than 1.2 billion Facebook profile pictures on a single page. Click anywhere on the massive mosaic to zoom in and then hover your mouse over one of the faces

to see who that person is. Click a thumbnail to go to their Facebook page. If you connect the site to your Facebook account by clicking the map marker in the top-right corner and choosing Connect, you can locate yourself and your friends in the sea of faces.

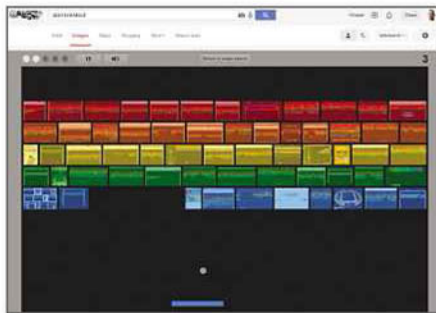
If you'd prefer not to appear, however,



choose 'Remove me from this gallery' instead.

### Play Atari Breakout in Google Images

Breakout – in which you demolish a wall by bouncing a ball off it – is a classic arcade game, which Google has resurrected as a hidden feature in Google Images ([images.google.co.uk](http://images.google.co.uk)). To access the secret game, type Atari breakout into the search box and the thumbnail images will transform into a wall. Control the paddle at the bottom of the screen using your mouse. You can pause the game at any time and disable the sound, too.



### Play classic console games on The Internet Archive

The Internet Archive has a new section called The Console Living Room ([bit.ly/consoles337](http://bit.ly/consoles337)) which showcases some of the best games consoles of the late 1970s and early 1980s, including the Atari 2600, Atari 7800, ColecoVision, and Magnavox Odyssey (or Philips



Videopac G700 as it was called in Europe). As well as providing information on the hardware, the site also lets you play all the major games for those consoles in your browser. At the moment, sound isn't supported, but that's being worked on and should be added soon.

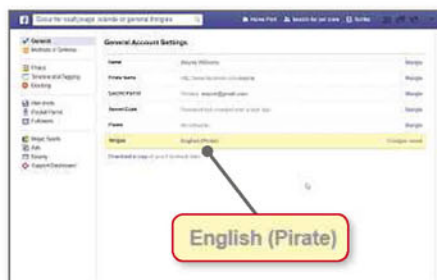
### Play Missile Command in YouTube

Start any video playing on YouTube and then type 1980 on your keyboard (you don't have to click anywhere first). The video will drop down, and a version of the classic arcade game Missile Command will begin. Can you save the video from destruction? Just use your mouse to point and shoot.



### Change your Facebook language to something unusual

Go to Settings in Facebook, and click Edit next to Language. Change the default English UK option to one of the more entertaining choices, such as English (Pirate), English (Upside Down) or the very geeky Leet Speak, and click Save Changes. The new language choice will only affect the menus and Facebook text, not your friends' postings. We're big fans of the Pirate option, which invites you to 'Update your Plunderin' (status), 'Search fer yer crew' (find friends) and 'Scrawl' (comment) on other people's posts.



### Turn any website into a game of Asteroids

Blast the web to bits using Kick Ass ([kickassapp.com](http://kickassapp.com)), which lets you turn any site into an Asteroids-style game. Just drag the Kick Ass button to your browser's bookmarks bar, then click it when viewing a website to launch the game. Use your arrow keys to move your triangular spaceship around the page and press the Spacebar to destroy individual elements and win points for your wanton destruction. Your score, which you can share on Facebook, appears in a box at the bottom of the page, from where you can also drop a bomb on the site for maximum damage.

Cleverly, you can also use Kick Ass to strip away parts of a page prior to printing, so it has a practical purpose as well as a time-wasting one.



### Unlock the secret Android game

Although it's not strictly a web secret, we have to mention the Easter Egg tucked away inside each version of Android. Go to Settings, 'About phone' (or 'About tablet') and tap 'Android version' several times. If you have Android KitKat installed on your device, a big 'K' will appear. Press down on this to see the word Android in a KitKat chocolate-bar style logo, then press down on this to launch a game that fills your screen with colourful tiles representing previous version of Android (Donut, Eclair, and so on). If you're using Jelly Bean, a big red jelly bean will appear; long-press this to launch the secret jelly bean game.

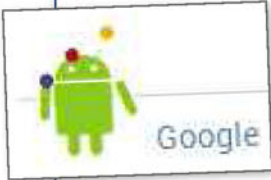
Older versions of Android also have Easter eggs that you can access by following the same steps. For example, on Ice Cream Sandwich devices, you'll get an animation of flying Android logos wearing ice cream sandwiches.



## QUIRKY WEBSITE SECRETS

Here are some of our favourite surprises tucked away on popular websites

### Make the Android logo move



Scroll down to the bottom of the official Android website ([www.android.com](http://www.android.com))

and you'll see the famous green robot logo in the left-hand corner. Move your cursor over it and the Android logo will come to life: waving, juggling, moonwalking and more.

### Trim Kickstarter's homepage

Click the pair of scissors at the bottom of the Kickstarter homepage ([www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com)), to move them across the dotted line. Once they reach the other side, the bottom of the page will fall away. "Eureka! You've found our little secret," says the message.



### Ask Wolfram Alpha silly questions

The 'computational knowledge engine' Wolfram Alpha ([www.wolframalpha.com](http://www.wolframalpha.com)) has surprising answers to some questions, including "Where did I put my keys?", "Are we there yet?" and "Are you alive?"

### Play Tetris with LinkedIn contacts

DropIn ([dropin.linkedin.com](http://dropin.linkedin.com)) is a fun tool from LinkedIn ([uk.linkedin.com](http://uk.linkedin.com)) that turns your contacts from the social network into a game of Tetris. Just sign into your account, and your colleagues' profile photos will appear as falling blocks.

### Go one louder

On the Internet Movie Database ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)), the rating for *This is Spinal Tap* is out of 11 rather than 10, just like the amps that "go one louder" in the classic film.

## BURIED TREASURE

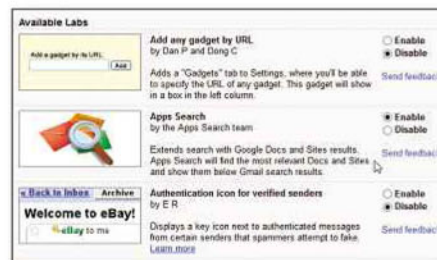
### Make phone calls directly from Gmail

You can now call people directly through Google's email service. Just install the voice and video chat add-on ([www.google.com/chat/voice](http://www.google.com/chat/voice)) and use your computer's microphone to make calls over the internet. You can also make video calls. The rates charged for calling internationally are reasonable and can be viewed at [bit.ly/callrates337](http://bit.ly/callrates337).



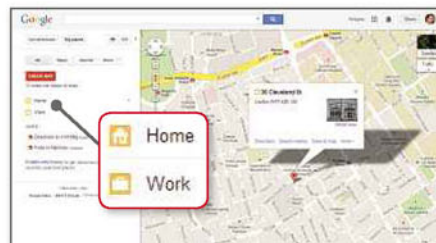
### Search Gmail and Google Drive simultaneously

If you're looking for something read or written by you, and you can't remember if it's in an email or a document, you can now search Google Drive and Gmail at the same time. In Gmail, click the gear icon and open Settings. Click the Labs tab and enable the Apps Search option. The next time you run a search in Gmail, any matching Google Drive documents will be shown below the Gmail results.



### Store home and work addresses in Google Maps

Make sure you're using the new Google Maps and sign in with your Google Account credentials. Type home into the search box and see what comes up. If it's not your home address, click Edit and enter the correct address. Next, type work and repeat the process. Now, if you need to get directions to or from home or work, you can just type the



relevant word rather than the full address. You can view and edit the information by clicking My Places in the sidebar.

### Use Twitter's secret keyboard shortcuts

The social-networking site supports a wide range of keyboard shortcuts that, once mastered, can help you get around the site much faster.



Try the following:

#### Navigation

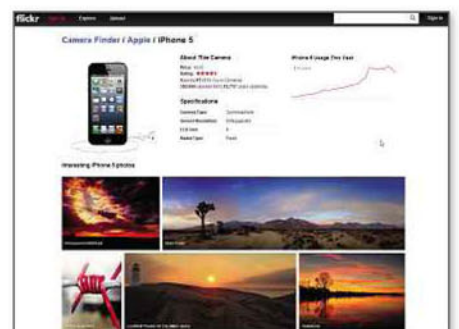
- g h** - Press this combination to go to the homepage from anywhere.
- g p** - This will take you to your profile.
- g m** - This combination will open your inbox.
- g c** - Opens your list of interactions.
- g r** - Displays tweets you're mentioned in.
- g u** - Lets you view a user's profile.
- j** - Moves you to the next tweet.
- k** - Moves you to the previous tweet.
- .** - Load more tweets.
- Space** - Page down.
- ?** - Displays the full list of keyboard shortcuts.

#### Actions

- n** - Compose a new tweet.
- m** - Send a direct message to someone.
- f** - Favourite a tweet. It needs to be open in a full page.
- t** - Retweet an update. It needs to be open in a full page.
- r** - Reply to a tweet. It needs to be open in a full page.
- b** - Block user.
- u** - Unblock user.

### See the most popular cameras used on Flickr

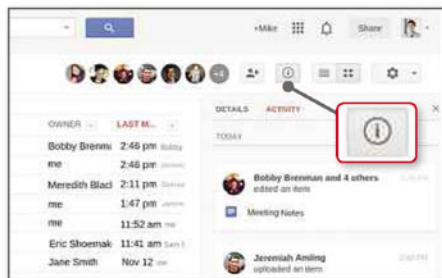
Flickr's Camera Finder ([www.flickr.com/cameras](http://www.flickr.com/cameras)) lists the most popular makes and models of cameras used on the photo-sharing site. It shows their popularity over time, and displays graphs for Most Popular Cameras, Most Popular Point & Shoot Cameras and



Popular Cameraphones. Click a camera to view some interesting Flickr shots taken with it. When we checked, the iPhone 5 was both the most popular camera and cameraphone, although Canon topped the list of brands.

### View Google Drive's new activity stream

Google has added a new activity stream feature to Drive that lets you see at a glance what's changed on your shared files. Click the 'i' button in the top-right corner and the activity stream will appear, showing you who has made what changes to files and folders in My Drive. Listed information includes edits and comments, file renaming and sharing, and the creation of new documents and spreadsheets.



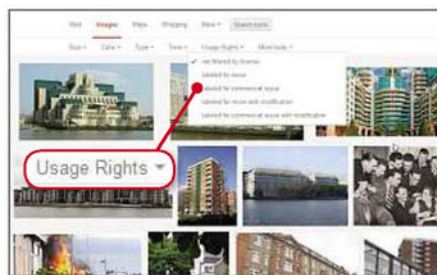
### Catch up on the news through Wikipedia

Wikipedia isn't the obvious first choice for a news site, but if you want to find out what's been happening in the world recently, it can prove quite handy. Search for a month and year ('January 2014' for example) and you're presented with a summary of major events that occurred each day of that month.



### Find Google images you can use legally

A recent addition to Google Images lets you filter pictures by licence type, so you can make sure you're legally allowed to use them in your own projects or on your website or blog. Click the 'Search tools' option and choose an option from the drop-down Usage Rights menu to specify the type of licence you require. These options are: 'Labelled for reuse', 'Labelled for reuse for commercial reuse', 'Labelled for reuse with modification' and 'Labelled for commercial reuse with modification'.



### Personalise the news you read

Google News aggregates stories from all the major news sources across the web. You can adjust the content Google displays by clicking the gear icon and using the sliders to change the focus. For example, you can view more entertainment and technology and less sport and business stories. You can also adjust how much content to pull from each of the sources and add news topics that interest you.



## What you say...



We asked *Web User* readers what they think are the web's best-kept secrets. Here's what you told us

Digitally Imported ([www.di.fm](http://www.di.fm)). It's a website and app that streams electronic music 24/7, with loads of genres to choose from.

*Si Mellor*

Vidd.me ([vidd.me](http://vidd.me)). It's an easy way to share videos and animated GIFs without the need for an account.

*Andrew Clennell*

It has to be the Badgers song on Weebl's Stuff ([weebls-stuff.com/songs/badgers](http://weebls-stuff.com/songs/badgers)).

*Paul Chapman*

That we're all bots under the orders of NSA. No wait, that's the worst-kept secret!

*Chris Cole*

That the web runs on unicorn tears and Google is the Wizard of Oz.

*Mike Hudson*

You mean you don't know? I won't be the one to spoil the surprise.

*Greg Talt*

I discovered it on your Save Money Online page in Issue 336. The singing eggs video ([www.webuser.co.uk/eggs](http://www.webuser.co.uk/eggs)) - funniest thing ever!

*John Corbett*

I would say the Google Doodles site ([www.google.com/doodles](http://www.google.com/doodles)).

*Jackie Barry*

NEXT ISSUE

ON SALE WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2014

## FIND PEOPLE ONLINE

Free and easy ways to track down anyone, from long-lost friends to prospective employers



## PLUS...

- **ANDROID BROWSERS**  
Best Chrome alternatives for your phone or tablet
- **HAVE YOU BEEN HACKED?**  
Spot the telltale signs of a security breach
- **PREPARE FOR DISASTER**  
Create your own free Windows recovery disc

SUBSCRIBE TO WEB USER AT  
[SUBSCRIBE.WEBUSER.CO.UK](http://SUBSCRIBE.WEBUSER.CO.UK)

# HACK the web using

You don't always need a browser add-on to change the way a website behaves. **Jane Hoskyn** rounds up 10 simple URL tweaks that put you in control

## Switch between Gmail accounts

Google has finally introduced a multiple-account sign-in feature for Gmail, so you can simultaneously use different accounts on the same computer. The official way to do it is to sign into your first account, click your profile picture, click 'Add account' and sign into an additional account. Full instructions can be found at [bit.ly/multi337](http://bit.ly/multi337).

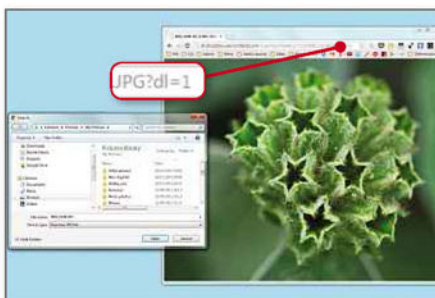
A much quicker way is to change the number in the middle of the URL and press Enter. The default number is usually 0, for your primary account, and changing it to 1 will switch to your second account. This bypasses all those 'Add account' clicks, although you'll still need to sign in.



## Set Dropbox files to download in one click

By default, Dropbox file links open in your browser when you click them. To set a link to prompt a download instead, so you can save the file to your hard drive, change its 'www' to 'dl' and type ?dl=1 at the end of the file's URL. The complete URL will look like:

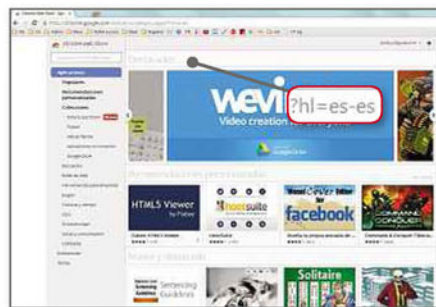
[dl.dropboxusercontent.com/s/X/Y](http://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/s/X/Y)



[.jpg?dl=1](http://www.google.com/...?hl=es-es), where X is the user reference and Y is the filename. Now, when you share this link, your recipient will see a window prompting them to choose a download location.

## Visit global versions of the Chrome Web Store

The apps and extensions you see in the Chrome Web Store are different in each country. To see and download add-ons that aren't available in the UK store, type ?hl= at the end of the URL, followed by a language and country code. For example, to see the US store in English, type ?hl=en-us so that the address reads [chrome.google.com/webstore/category/apps?hl=en-us](http://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/apps?hl=en-us). To see the US store in Spanish, type ?hl=es-us, and to see the Spanish store in Spanish, type ?hl=es-es. Germany is ?hl=de-de, France is ?hl=fr-fr and the English Canadian site is ?hl=en-ca. Any guesses for French Canadian?



## Use Google UK when you're abroad

Google's search page defaults to the local site wherever you are in the world, so if you're in Spain and you go to [www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk), you'll get [www.google.es](http://www.google.es). To force the browser to load the UK site, or any international site you choose, type /ncr ('no country return') at the end of the URL. The whole thing will read [www.google.co.uk/ncr](http://www.google.co.uk/ncr). Bookmark the amended URL to save you typing in the extra text each time.

## Bring back Google's bar

The black navigation bar on the Google homepage was replaced last year by the apps launcher icon, which contains similar links but requires more clicks to reach your destination. You can get the bar back by adding ?noj=1 to the end of a Google search URL. Sadly, this trick doesn't work on other Google sites such as Gmail and Google Drive.



## Create a shortened URL

Shortened links, like the Bitly addresses we use in *Web User*, are usually created via websites or browser extensions. To save a visit to [bitly.com](http://bitly.com), type [bit.ly/](http://bit.ly/) before the 'http' in a web address and press Enter. This automatically copies a shortened version of the link to your clipboard, ready for pasting and sharing. Note that it doesn't work on web addresses that hide the 'http'.

To preview the full version of any Bitly URL before you click it, type + at the end of the address and press Enter. Find out more on the Bitly support site ([bit.ly/bitsup337](http://bit.ly/bitsup337)).



To preview Tinyurl addresses, type [preview](http://tinyurl.com/preview) before the 'tinyurl' in the address, and for Snipurl addresses, type

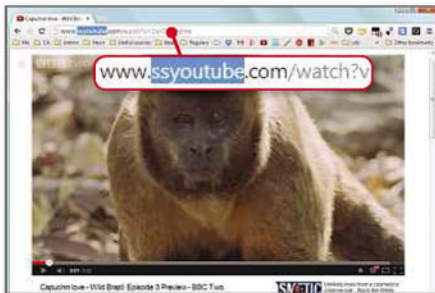
# URL tweaks



peek. before 'snipurl'. This preview trick is a quick and secure way to check that the shortened URL links to where it claims it does, and not to a dodgy site.

## Download any YouTube video

Name any YouTube browser add-on, and there's likely to be a URL hack that does the same thing without requiring you to install anything. With some functions, such as downloading videos, you have several URL tweaks to choose from. Type **ss**, **pwn**, **kick** or **kiss** before 'youtube' in the video's URL and press Enter to download the video from an external site. For example, [www.ssyoutube.com/watch?v=2qrO\\_\\_OqInw](http://www.ssyoutube.com/watch?v=2qrO__OqInw)

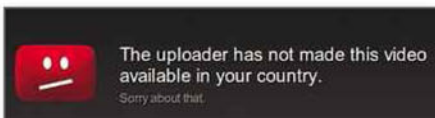


takes you to Savefrom.net, where you can download the BBC clip of capuchin monkeys in MP4, FLV and other formats.



## Watch videos that are blocked in the UK

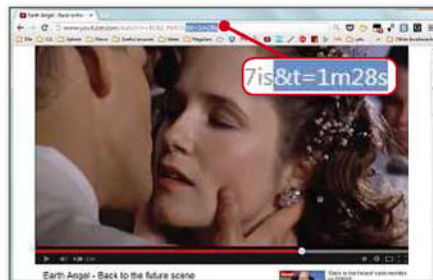
You can get around YouTube's "This video is not available in your country" message by removing 'watch?' from the URL and replacing '=' with a forward slash. In other words, the middle section will change from '/watch?v=' to '/v/'. This stops YouTube seeing your IP address, which is what it uses to track



your location and deny you access to restricted clips.

## Skip to the best bit of a video

To post your favourite part of a YouTube video on Facebook or send it to a friend, type **&t=XmYYs** at the end of the URL, where 'X' is the minute and 'YY' the second where you want the video to start playing. For example, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Obt\\_Pe87is&t=1m28s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Obt_Pe87is&t=1m28s) skips you to George and Lorraine's kiss in the Eighties movie *Back to the Future*.



If you're not sure where the best bit of a clip begins, try using the Wadsworth Constant. YouTube users joked that the average video starts getting interesting 30 per cent of the way in, and Google liked the idea enough to use it as a URL Easter egg. Type **&wadsworth=1** after the video number to skip to the interesting stuff.

## Watch YouTube videos in HD

To make YouTube videos play in the highest definition available, type

**&hd=1** after the video number. To make it play in stereo audio, add **&fmt=18** (480 x 270) or **&fmt=22** (1280 x 720) instead.

In another playback hack, type **&loop=1** after the video number to make it play over and over until you make it stop. To open the looping video in an external site, add the word 'repeater' after 'youtube' or replace 'tube' with 'repeat'.



Sadly, YouTube seems to have dropped one of our favourite playback hacks, a VHS-style overlay of fuzz and crackle if you added **&vhs=1** to the URL.

## ARE YOU BEING HACKED?

A URL hack isn't always well-intentioned. If you see strange code at the end of a web address, it may be a clue that there's malware on your computer.

For example **'?module=pastebin.com/'**, followed by the name of a script, indicates that someone is attempting a remote-code execution hack via a Trojan on your computer.

If you see **'?username=admin&password=admin'** or

**'?username=admin&password=\*** at the end of a URL, someone wants to log into your computer without knowing your admin password.

You can see more malicious URL hacks at [bit.ly/malicious337](http://bit.ly/malicious337). If you spot one on your computer, run your anti-virus program and Malwarebytes Anti-Malware ([www.malwarebytes.org](http://www.malwarebytes.org)). We'll have more advice on spotting whether you've been hacked in our next issue.

# Get the best Windows tools on Android

Turn your phone or tablet into a pocket-sized PC by adding your favourite Windows features to the mobile OS. **Robert Irvine** explains how

## Get a Windows 8-style home screen

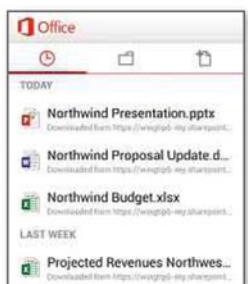
Aside from the latest HTC handsets, such as the HTC One ([bit.ly/htcone337](http://bit.ly/htcone337)), Android devices can look a bit samey, whereas Windows-powered Nokia Lurias are among the most attractive phones you can buy. If you like Android, but want to give your phone or tablet a Microsoft makeover, install the amazing app Launcher 8 Free ([bit.ly/launcher337](http://bit.ly/launcher337)). This lets you customise



your home screen with colourful, Windows 8-style tiles that provide one-tap access to your messages, contacts, settings and other essential tools. You can add more widgets and frequently used apps to the screen, and long-press a tile to change its size and colour, and move or remove it. Launcher 8 Free looks fantastic and it's easy to switch back to the standard Android home screen when you want.

## View and edit Microsoft Office files

If you're prepared to pay, you can bring Microsoft Office tools such as Word and Excel to your phone by purchasing an Office 365 Home Premium subscription ([office.microsoft.com](http://office.microsoft.com)). This costs



£79.99 per year, or £7.99 per month, and lets you open, edit and share Office files on up to five devices, with a dedicated free app for Android ([bit.ly/](http://bit.ly/)

[office337](http://office337)). However, Office Mobile for Office 365 won't work on Android tablets, so bear in mind that you can't use it on a Nexus 7 or Tesco Hudl.

For a free and more flexible alternative, we recommend Kingsoft Office + PDF ([bit.ly/kings337](http://bit.ly/kings337)), which works on any device running Android 2.1 or later. This full-featured suite lets you create, view and edit files in Microsoft Office formats, including DOC, DOCX, XLS and PPT, and integrates with your email app to make sending and opening attachments a breeze. You can also upload and download files to and from Dropbox and Google Drive; save documents as PDFs; insert pictures and charts; and even connect a Bluetooth or USB keyboard to make typing easier.

Quickoffice ([bit.ly/quickoffice337](http://bit.ly/quickoffice337)), which works seamlessly with Google Drive and offers 15GB of free online storage, is also worth a look, but it can't compete with Kingsoft's range of tools.

## Play audio and video files on the move

There's certainly no shortage of media players for Android devices, although Web User favourite VLC is still in beta ([bit.ly/vlc337](http://bit.ly/vlc337)) and Windows Media Player Mobile is only available on Windows Phone. Still, there are several good options available if you want a free app that can play both music and video, is easy to use and doesn't keep crashing. MX Player ([bit.ly/mxplayer337](http://bit.ly/mxplayer337)) is one of the simplest and fastest, automatically detecting video files on your device so you can watch them instantly. You can even display subtitles from an external file, if they're not embedded in the



movie. To play music in the app, go into MX Player's Settings, tap Audio and select 'Use as an audio player'.



We also like Ultimate Media Player ([bit.ly/ultimate337](http://bit.ly/ultimate337)), which supports a huge number of audio and video formats, helpfully organises tracks by artist and lets you fiddle around with playback speed and sound quality (using the equalizer).



## Browse and manage files and folders

Android doesn't have a Windows Explorer-type tool for easily navigating and organising files and folders on your device (nor does iOS). Fortunately, there are some excellent free apps that bring this feature to your phone or tablet. We particularly like ES File



Explorer File Manager ([bit.ly/esfile337](http://bit.ly/esfile337)), which not only gives you easy access to photos, music, videos, documents and other files on your Android device, but also lets you move them to Dropbox, SkyDrive, Google Drive and other online storage accounts. It can create and extract files from ZIP and RAR archives to save you space; handily displays thumbnails of images in folders; and lets you easily delete, rename and move files. Once you've installed ES File Explorer, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.



## Clean and speed up your device

Piriform announced CCleaner for Android early last year ([bit.ly/ccleaner337](http://bit.ly/ccleaner337)), but at the time of going to press we hadn't heard any more about it. Until the app is released (soon,



hopefully), there are other options you can try. One of the most popular and highly rated (4.7 out of 5 on Google Play) is KS Mobile's Clean Master ([bit.ly/clean337](http://bit.ly/clean337)), which reclaims

space and memory on your phone or tablet, as well as protecting your privacy. It does this by deleting junk files, closing background apps and clearing personal data such as your browsing and search history. As with CCleaner, you can review what you're about to remove before performing the clean-up, and see how much space and memory you'll regain.

Alternatively, you could try AVG Cleaner ([bit.ly/avgcleaner337](http://bit.ly/avgcleaner337)), which works in a similar way but with the bonus of an Auto Clean feature. This lets you schedule clean-ups to run daily or weekly, depending on how much you use your device and the amount of space available.

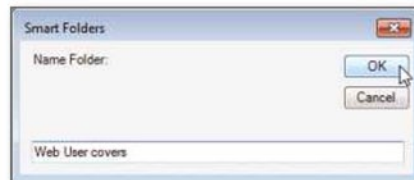


## Get Android tools in Windows

You can also add tools from your phone or tablet to your PC. Here are four ways to go mobile on your Desktop

### Create folders using drag and drop

Android lets you create a folder by long-pressing an app and dragging it on top of another one. You can do this in Windows using a free tool called Smart Folders ([bit.ly/smartfolders337](http://bit.ly/smartfolders337)). Once installed, it lets you drag and drop one file or more onto another to instantly create a folder and move all the items into it. Give the folder a name and click OK.



### Play Android games on your PC

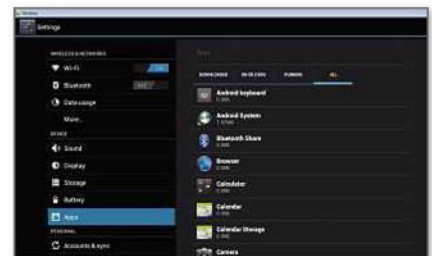
If you want to play Android games such as Candy Crush Saga, Temple Run and The Simpsons: Tapped Out on a larger screen, install the fantastic Android emulator BlueStacks App Player ([www.bluestacks.com/app-player.html](http://www.bluestacks.com/app-player.html)). This free program lets you run mobile games and other apps in Android's APK format on your Windows (or Mac OS X) computer. Once installed, you can search Google Play for games to download, browse the charts of popular titles and open them on your Desktop (you'll need to sign into your Google account). There's also an option to sync apps with your phone. BlueStacks is very easy to use and has a full-screen mode for maximum gaming pleasure.



### Get the Android interface in Windows

BlueStacks App Player lets you run Android apps on your PC, but it

doesn't replicate the design of the mobile operating system. If you want to bring all the wonders of Android to Windows, without using a virtual machine, your best bet is Windroy ([www.socketeq.com](http://www.socketeq.com)). This looks and works exactly like the Ice Cream Sandwich version of Android (a Jellybean update is due soon) with Home and Back buttons, a slide-to-unlock option, a Settings panel, widgets and wallpapers. There's even an Android-style on-screen keyboard and a camera app. You need to register the program, but this is free.



### Check your calls and text messages

If you've left your Android phone charging in another room, you can use the marvellous Chrome extension Spots ([bit.ly/spots337](http://bit.ly/spots337)) to ensure you don't miss any calls or messages. It lets you read and reply to texts via your browser's New Tab page, get call and SMS notifications on your Desktop and search your contacts without touching your device. You'll need to install the free Spots - Magical Launcher app ([bit.ly/spotsapp337](http://bit.ly/spotsapp337)) on your handset to connect it to your PC, but once it's set up, Spots couldn't be simpler to use. The add-on also has a gorgeous, if not very Android-like design.



# THINGS WE WANT in the UK now!

Many big tech innovations still aren't available over here. **Rob Beattie** casts a jealous eye over eight tools and services that the US gets but we don't, and reveals when to expect them

## OK Google

[bit.ly/okgoogle337](http://bit.ly/okgoogle337)

### What is it?

OK Google, or Google Voice Search Hotword to give it the official name, is a Chrome extension that adds support for voice commands.

### Why do we want it?

Because it will let you act out the scene in *Star Trek IV* when Scottie is told that computers are operated using a mouse, so the hilarious old fool picks it up and speaks into it. Unlike standard Google voice search, OK Google understands naturally spoken language queries such as 'what is five dollars in British pounds?' and reminders such as 'set an alarm for 45 minutes time please'. All you have to do is preface the command with 'OK Google' and you're away.



### When might we get it?

Although there's no official word on a UK version of the Chrome add-on yet, Android users can download the OK Google Now app ([bit.ly/okgoogleapp337](http://bit.ly/okgoogleapp337)), then change their device's language to 'English (US)', after which it should work fine.

## Hulu

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

### What is it?

Hulu is a very popular, ad-supported online TV service that streams shows from major US networks including



NBC, Fox and ABC, for free. There's also a subscription version that removes the adverts.

### Why do we want it?

We've coveted Hulu for ages, partly because we've been mercilessly tantalised by minute-long clips on YouTube carrying the service's 'Watch your favorites [sic]. Anytime. Free' tagline. But mainly we want it because it's got a really good selection of shows including *Community*, *Modern Family* and *Bones* as well as lots of classic British series, such as *Blackadder*, *Life on Mars* and *Yes Minister*, which people actually want to watch. We also like the way Hulu delivers content through your browser, mobile device and games console without fuss.

### When might we get it?

Given the sticky state of US licensing laws and content providers' vice-like grip on their intellectual property, we probably won't see Hulu this side of the Atlantic anytime soon. However, there are tools that let you bypass



geographical restrictions to access the service, such as Hola Unblocker ([hola.org](http://hola.org)).

## iTunes Radio

[www.apple.com/itunes/itunes-radio](http://www.apple.com/itunes/itunes-radio)

### What is it?

Apple's free, ad-supported streaming radio service is like a more attractive version of Spotify. Subscribers to Apple's iTunes Match service (which costs £21.99 a year) get ad-free radio to enjoy on their computer, iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch.



### Why do we want it?

Although iTunes is still the media software most likely to have people tearing their hair out (mainly because of the way it's so easy to 'lose' your music library during upgrades or when transferring it to a new computer), it remains the service of choice for everyone with an iOS device. A streaming option will save you the hassle of buying and downloading music to listen to when you're out and about.

### When might we get it?

Reports indicate that we can expect iTunes Radio sometime this spring. With Spotify currently leading the pack of streaming services in the UK, the launch of iTunes Radio should shake things up a bit.



## Chromecast

[bit.ly/chrome337](http://bit.ly/chrome337)

### What is it?

Chromecast is a clever little device that plugs into the HDMI port of any HD TV, connects to your home Wi-Fi and then lets you stream video content from your phone, tablet and PC to your telly.

### Why do we want it?

Because it's simple to use; updates itself automatically to take advantage of new video services as they appear; and lets you stream personal content (such as home movies) to your TV. Also, it costs just \$35 (about £21).

### When might we get it?

Given the noises coming out of Google – especially from the company's product management VP, Mario Queiroz – we'd be amazed if you weren't enjoying Chromecast on your TV sooner rather than later this year.

## Mint

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

### What is it?

Mint is a free online banking service that lets you track and control your savings, current accounts, investments, mortgages and other loans.

### Why do we want it?

Whereas UK-based online banks seem to favour dreary corporate colours and



convoluted logins, Mint's 128-bit SSL encryption provides a site that's attractive, easy to use and secure. It works on PC, Mac, iOS, Android and Windows 8 devices, and is lauded by both the tech and mainstream media, and more than 10 million users. It's also run by Intuit, the company behind Quicken, which is the much-missed program that virtually invented home-finance software.

### When might we get it?

Don't hold your breath for Mint to arrive in the UK. The company's had the same bland notice on its site for years now: "Currently, Mint supports banks in the United States and Canada. We hope to support more countries in the future". It's a real shame, because we think it would prove very popular over here. The nearest equivalent we have is Money Dashboard ([www.moneydashboard.com](http://www.moneydashboard.com)).

## Kindle MatchBook

[bit.ly/kindle337](http://bit.ly/kindle337)

### What is it?

Kindle MatchBook offers you the ebook versions of paperbacks and hardbacks you buy from Amazon for significantly discounted prices – \$2.99, \$1.99 or \$0.99 – or even for free. Commendably, it applies to past, present and future purchases.

### Why do we want it?

If you've bought lots of physical books from Amazon over the years, having to buy ebook editions for your Kindle can be expensive, so MatchBook is a brilliant idea for bookworms. Only certain titles qualify



for budget-priced digital versions (around 70,000 when MatchBook launched last October), but these include plenty of best sellers, such as *Life of Pi* and *The Hobbit*.

### When might we get it?

Amazon's similar service AutoRip, which provides MP3s of your CD purchases, launched over here six months after the US, so on that evidence we can expect MatchBook around April.

## Razer Blade

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

### What is it?

The Razer Blade is an ultra-thin Windows laptop, that's specifically designed to play games.

### Why do we want it?

It's extremely thin. Thinner than the MacBook Pro or MacBook Air; in fact, at just 0.66in thick, it's almost ridiculously slim. Inside, it packs a Quad Core Intel i7, 8GB of RAM and an Nvidia GeForce GTX 765M graphics processor, and features a 14in 1,600 x 900-pixels HD display.

### When might we get it?

Although there was a bit of 'buzz' about the Razer Blade last summer, British gaming enthusiasts are still importing their machines directly from the US. Frustratingly, the company remains tight-lipped about an official UK launch.



## Lovely

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

### What is it?

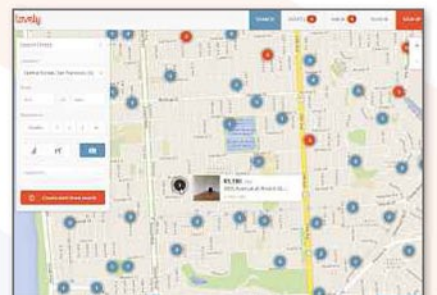
Lovely is a Google Maps overlay that provides an innovative way for landlords and tenants to find each other.

### Why do we want it?

Trawling sites for a place to rent can be laborious, but Lovely makes the process quick, easy and rather fun, whether you're looking for somewhere to live or you're a landlord who wants to rent their property. There's also an iPhone app that sends you alerts when a new property that fits your search criteria comes on the market.

### When might we get it?

Since it's a web-based service that relies on users uploading their information, there's nothing to stop the service coming to the UK. Lovely says it hopes to expand outside the US but has no immediate plans to do so.



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## Create your own Windows 8 app

🔗 Project Siena: [bit.ly/siena337](http://bit.ly/siena337) | 🕒 30 mins | 🖥️ 8+

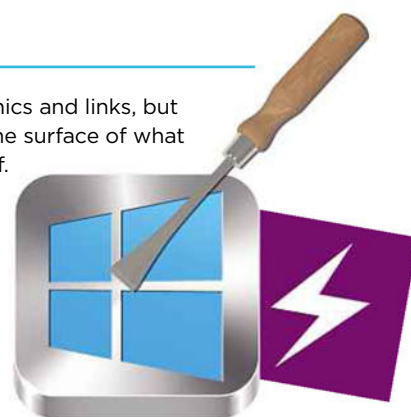
Until recently, there was no easy way to create your own Windows 8 apps, but now Microsoft has launched Project Siena, a new free tool that makes developing apps much simpler.

This powerful editor lets you create apps in the same way that web-building software gives you the tools to create a website, using a visual, drag-and-drop interface. You can drop in pictures, write text and create links between pages. You can then run your app on your own PC, send it to friends to run on theirs and even publish it on the Windows Store.

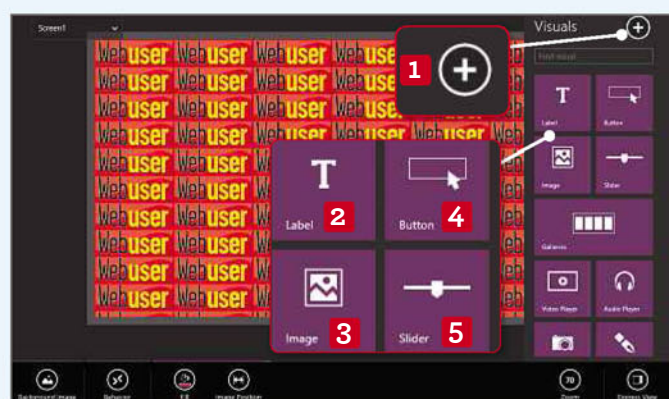
In this Workshop, we show you how to make a website-like

app containing text, graphics and links, but we're merely scratching the surface of what Project Siena is capable of.

More advanced users who have programming skills and a talent for data manipulation will be able to use Siena to further enhance their apps. See our Expert Tip for more information.



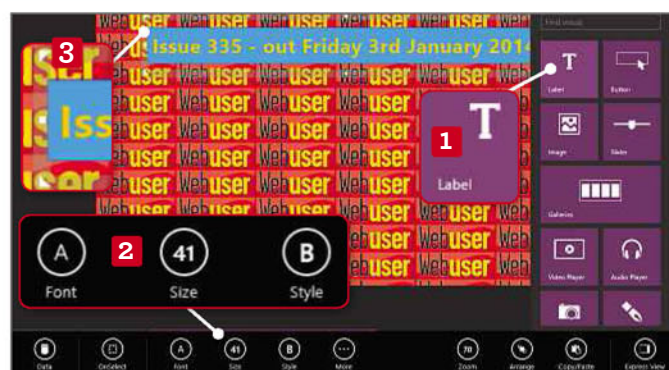
**1** You start with a blank canvas and a single page. To add a picture to the background, click Background Image **1** then Add Image. Select a file and it will stretch to fit the screen. Change this by clicking Image Position **2** and choosing a different option. Click Fill **3** to change the background colour.



**2** Click the + button **1** to open the Visuals menu. This lets you add things to the page. Most simply, you can choose from text, **2** images **3** and shapes, along with a range of common devices found on web pages, such as buttons, **4** sliders, **5** switches and drop-down menus.



**3** Right-click anywhere on the screen to see the top menu. From here, you can Open and Save your work from the File menu; **1** Undo or Redo things if you've made a mistake; **2** add another screen (page) to your app; **3** and switch between your existing pages. **4**



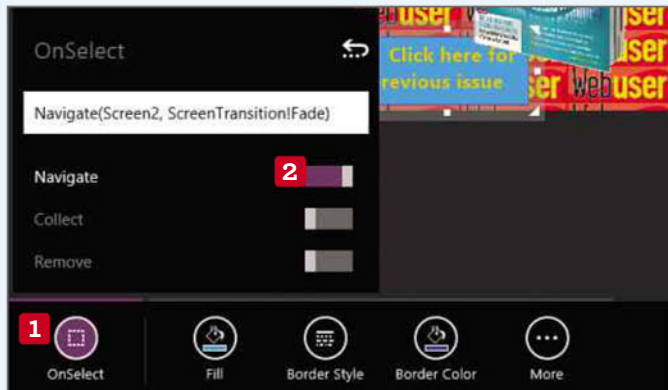
**4** Click Label **1** in the Visuals menu to add a text box. You can type as much as you want directly into the box. Click the Design button to change the way the text looks **2** or use the box's handles to resize it. **3** Images and shapes can be added, positioned and resized in the same way.



## EXPERT TIP

### ANDY SHAW says

Much of Project Siena's hidden power comes from being able to pull data from external sources, particularly tables of information from Excel spreadsheets. We don't have space to go into that here, but Christine Matheney, a Technical Evangelist at Microsoft, hosts a brilliant tutorial you can work through at [bit.ly/data337](http://bit.ly/data337). It also explains how to publish your finished app to the Windows Store.



**5** Create text links or buttons to let people navigate around your app. Choose something from the Visuals menu, select it and click the OnSelect button. **1** Click the Navigate switch **2** to create a link. In the next window, select a screen to link to and a transition type.



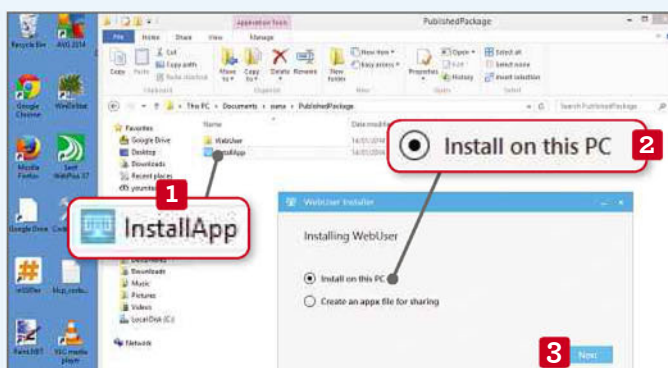
**6** Right-click anywhere on the screen and choose the Preview button to take a look at your creation. This will open the app full screen **1** so you can check that everything works. Right-click and choose Design **2** to go back to Siena.



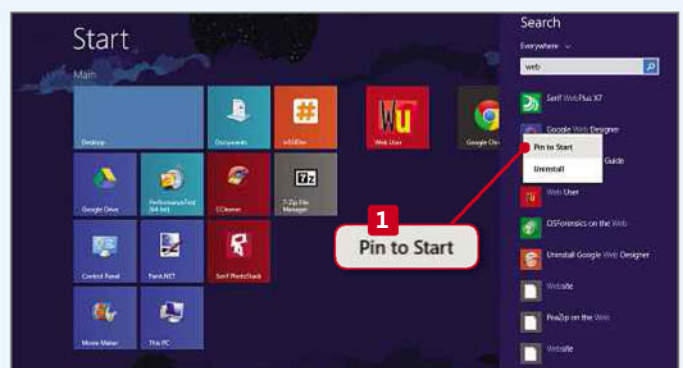
**7** Open an image editor such as Paint.net ([www.getpaint.net](http://www.getpaint.net)), click File **1** then New and make a 245 x 245 pixel image. Create your icon design, select the background with the Magic Wand **2** and use the Eraser tool **3** to rub it out, making it transparent.



**8** To create the app, right-click, select File and choose Publish from the drop-down menu. Give the app a name **1** and click the pencil to choose a colour. **2** Select your logo, **3** tick the 'Publish resources locally' box **4** and click Publish. **5**



**9** Go to the folder where you published the app and open the PublishedPackage folder. Double-click InstallApp, **1** select 'Install on this PC' **2** and click Next. **3** The first time you do this you'll need to agree to a Developer License, which you can append to an existing Microsoft account.



**10** The app will now install. Go to your Start Screen and start typing the app's name until it appears in the Search bar. Right-click it and select 'Pin to Start'. **1** You can move the app around the Start screen by clicking, holding and dragging it to your desired position.

# Always open selected sites in incognito mode

Chrome's incognito mode hides your tracks as you surf the web, but you have to switch to it to use it. The new Chrome extension Incognito Filter lets you set up a list

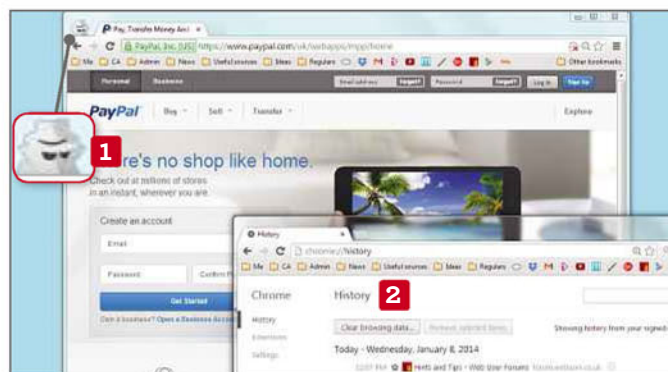
of websites to automatically open in incognito. You can also create filters, so you switch to incognito mode as soon as you type 'https' and other sensitive addresses.



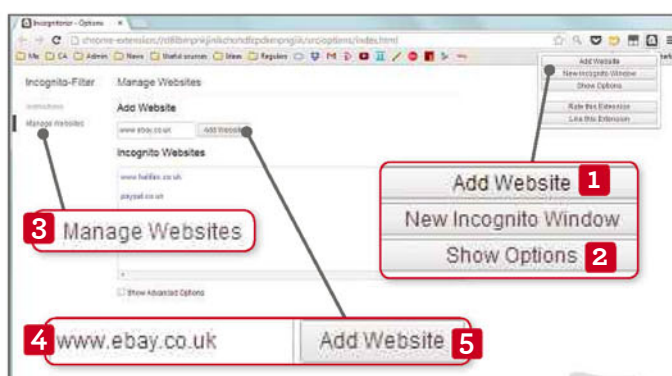
**Incognito Filter:** [bit.ly/incog337](http://bit.ly/incog337) | 10 mins | Chrome



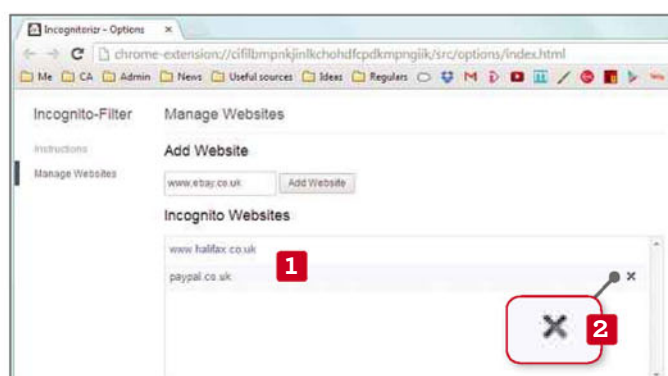
**1** Add Incognito Filter (IF) to Chrome. The Instructions page **1** opens automatically in a new tab. To look at this page later, click the IF button, **2** Show Options **3** and Instructions. **4** You can also reach the page via the Chrome menu by clicking Settings, Extensions and Options under IF.



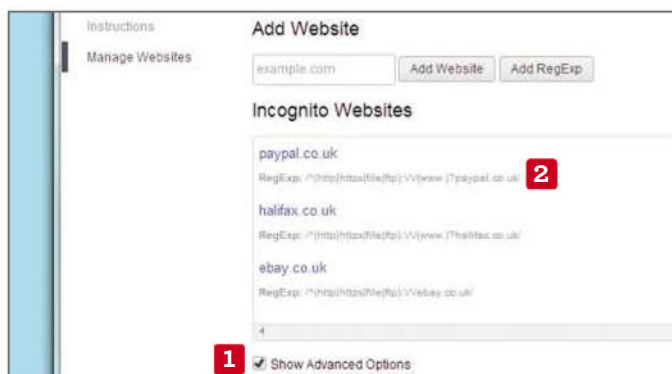
**2** To open an incognito window, click the IF button, then New Incognito Window. The new window has a grey incognito icon **1** and no extension button. Pages you view here won't appear in your history **2** or leave cookies on your computer, and all extensions are disabled.



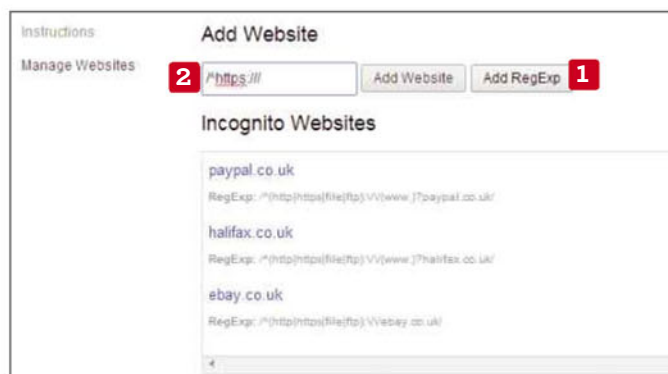
**3** To set a website to open in incognito mode every time, launch it in a non-incognito window, click the IF button and click Add Website. **1** Alternatively, click Show Options, **2** Manage Websites, **3** then type the URL into the Add Website text box **4** and click Add Website. **5**



**4** Websites added to IF are listed in the Incognito Websites box. **1** The URLs appear in blue but aren't clickable. To remove one, hover over it and click the cross. **2** If you remove a website from IF, you can still use New Incognito Window (see Step 2) to manually visit it in incognito mode.



**5** Tick the Show Advanced Options box **1** to see regular expressions (RegExp) associated with each website. **2** In this context, regular expressions are strings of URL text, for example 'www' and 'https'. You can also use them as wildcard search filters for IF to look out for.



**6** To add a wildcard search, type `^<[wildcard text]/` and click Add RegExp. **1** For example, `^https:///` **2** would add a search filter that opens all websites with URLs beginning 'https:/' in a new incognito window. For more on regular expressions, visit [www.regular-expressions.info](http://www.regular-expressions.info).

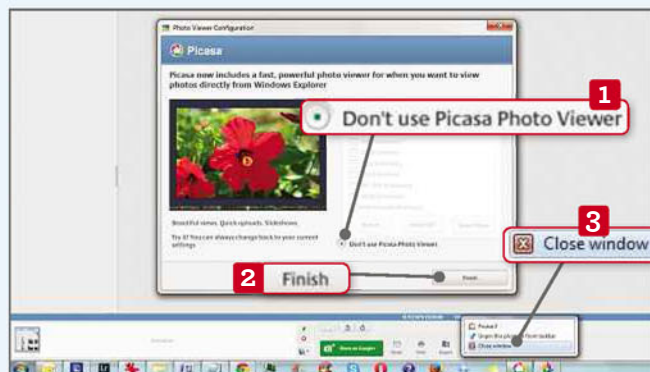


## Back up unlimited photos for free

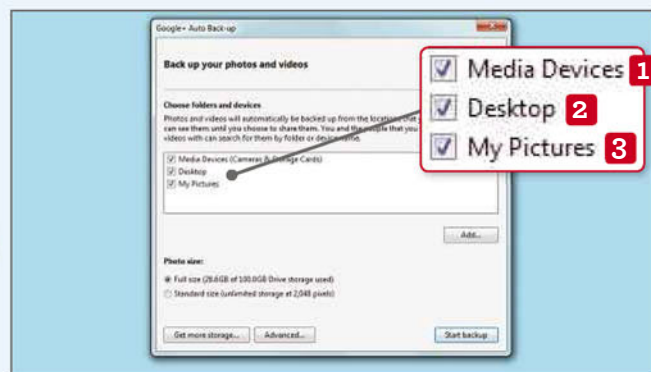
The latest version of Google's photo organiser, Picasa, comes with an extra tool that automatically backs up your photos and videos. Although it installs with

Picasa, Google+ Auto Backup is a separate program and doesn't require Picasa to run. As long as your pictures are below a certain size, you can back up as many as you want.

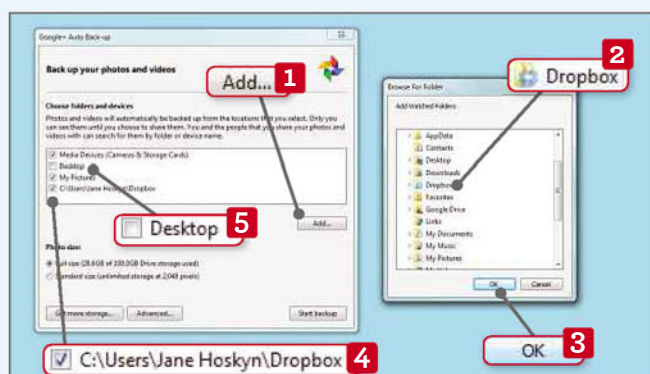
Google+ Auto Backup: [picasa.google.co.uk](http://picasa.google.co.uk) | 30 mins | Windows XP/Vista/7/8+



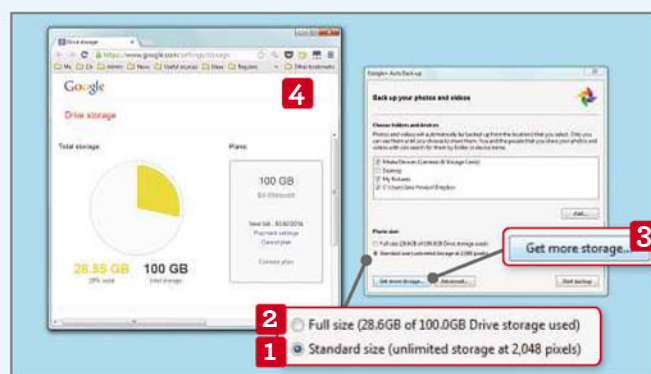
1 Install Picasa 3.9 from [picasa.google.co.uk](http://picasa.google.co.uk), making sure to untick unwanted extras in the Setup box. Click Continue to let it find photos on your computer. Click 'Don't use Picasa Photo Viewer' 1 to avoid changing file associations, then click Finish. 2 You can now close Picasa. 3



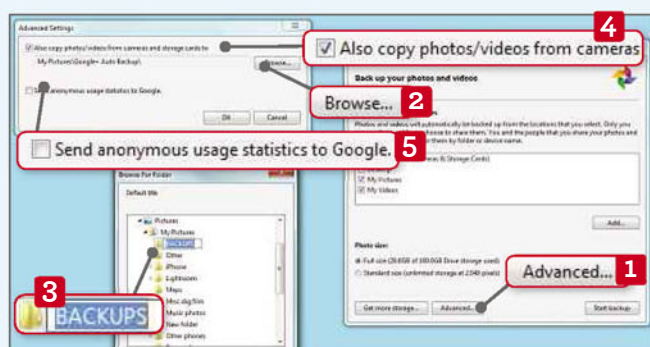
2 Click 'Set up Auto-Backup' and sign into Google. Google automatically backs up image and video files to Google+ from three sources: connected devices, 1 Desktop 2 and My Pictures. 3 By default, only you can view your uploaded photos, but you can change this in Google+.



3 To add a new folder or device to back up, click Add, 1 navigate to the source 2 and click OK. 3 Subfolders are included automatically. Any folders you add are listed below the default folders. 4 Untick a folder to exclude it from syncing, 5 and tick to re-enable.



4 Click 'Standard size' to back up photos up to 2,048 x 2,048 pixels in size. 1 You can store an unlimited number up to this size. You can back up full-size photos and videos if you have space in Google Drive. 2 Click 'Get more storage' 3 to manage storage settings. 4



5 By default, Google copies files to My Pictures when you plug in a camera or storage card, as well as backing them up online. Click Advanced 1 and Browse 2 to choose or create a Save folder. 3 Untick the box 4 to disable this option. Untick the tracking box 5 and click OK.



6 When your settings are done, click 'Start backup'. An info page opens in your browser 1 and a progress bubble appears briefly. 2 Auto Backup runs in the background and resumes automatically when you start your PC. Click the notification icon 3 for options and progress.

# Your top tips

Our pick of the best advice from our readers. To get help or offer it to others, visit [forum.webuser.co.uk](http://forum.webuser.co.uk)



**£25  
winner**

## GENERAL PC

### Create more user accounts

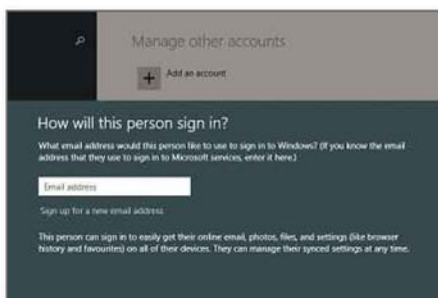
People often choose convenience over security when using their PCs by creating a single user account without a password. It's convenient because Windows boots straight to the Desktop with no interruptions, but it's a security risk because anyone can switch on your PC and access your files. They might also be able to log into websites if your usernames and passwords are saved.

Another disadvantage is that if something goes wrong with your account, you could be locked out and unable to access your files.

It's best to go to User Accounts in the Control Panel, click 'Make changes to my account' or Manage User Accounts and add a password. It's slightly less convenient having to type your password before you get to Windows, but it is more secure.

The second thing you should do is to create another administrator account, with a password. If there is a fault that prevents you logging into your account, you can log into the other one to fix it.

**Evan Maloney, via email**



*Add an extra password-protected user account in Windows as a back-up*

## ADD-ONS

### Stop websites blocking AdBlock

Here's another solution to the problem of websites that refuse to work if you're using an ad-blocker (Issue 334, [bit.ly/webuser334](http://bit.ly/webuser334)). Anti-AdBlock Killer ([bit.ly/anti337](http://bit.ly/anti337)) is a script that stops websites detecting your ad-blocking software and making you remove it, so that they can force their ads on you. Its Userscripts.org listing has a disclaimer saying that it's not a universal solution for all anti-ad-blockers, but it worked well for me.

## TOP TIP

### WINDOWS 8

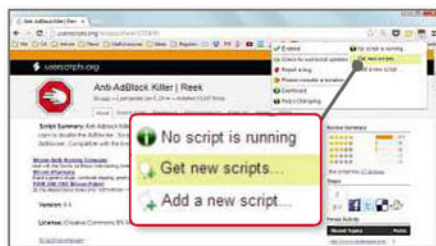
## Tweak Windows to suit you

The Ultimate Windows Tweaker tool (UWT) has been updated for Windows 8 and 8.1. It's a tiny free download that lets you do a lot of very useful things. Go to [bit.ly/tweak337](http://bit.ly/tweak337) and scroll down for the download button.

I used the previous version of UWT to change my user-account settings and restrict access to some Control Panel applets in Windows 7, and I found it very effective and easy to use.

I haven't tried the new version (I don't have Windows 8) but it's been very well reviewed, and apparently gives you more than 170 ways to take control of your Windows 8 computer. Some of these tweaks are quite serious, so be careful. It's a good idea to create a System Restore point, in case things go wrong. Read all the guidelines at [bit.ly/tweak337](http://bit.ly/tweak337) before you get stuck in.

**David Cumming, via email**



*Install Anti-AdBlock Killer to stop websites detecting your ad-blocker*

It acts like an add-on but is independent of any browser, so you can use it in Chrome, Firefox, Safari or Opera. To install it, you first need to add a script manager to your browser, such as Tampermonkey for Chrome ([bit.ly/monkey337](http://bit.ly/monkey337)) or Greasemonkey for Firefox ([bit.ly/grease337](http://bit.ly/grease337)). Then go to [bit.ly/anti337](http://bit.ly/anti337) and click Install.

**Jack Gold, Web User Forums**

## WINDOWS 8

### Add Start screen tiles

When you install software in Windows 7 and older versions, an item is added to the Start menu so you can find and run the software. Windows 8 has a Start screen instead of a menu, but it doesn't always automatically add a Start screen tile when new software is installed. However, it's easy to add one manually.

Click the arrow at the bottom-left of the Windows 8.1 Start screen to display all your apps and software. Find the software you just installed and right-click it – you can do this to several items if you want to add more than one tile. In the

bottom-left corner, click 'Pin to Start'. Tiles for the selected software will now be added to the Start screen.

**Dave Bass, via email**



*Right-click to pin apps that are missing from the Start screen*

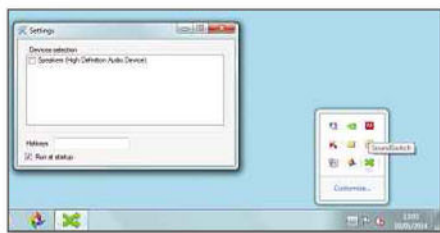
## HARDWARE

### Use a shortcut to switch sound devices

If you have more than one audio device installed, such as headphones and speakers, it usually takes several clicks to switch from one to the other. You have to right-click your taskbar volume icon, click 'Playback devices' and choose a sound card to switch to. And it doesn't always work.

SoundSwitch ([soundswitch.codeplex.com](http://soundswitch.codeplex.com)) is a free open-source program that makes it easier to switch playback devices by letting you toggle between them with a keyboard shortcut. Right-click the SoundSwitch icon in your notification area to configure it the first time you use it. Quick Sound Switch





Set up an audio-switching shortcut with open-source program SoundSwitch

([www.quicksoundswitch.toflo.de](http://www.quicksoundswitch.toflo.de)) is similar but doesn't seem to have a keyboard shortcut.

**MicroKid, Web User Forums**

## SOFTWARE

### Do maths in Word

If you are creating a table of values in a Word document and you want to perform a calculation, you could copy and paste the data into Excel, which is perfect for number crunching. However, you can also perform some spreadsheet-like calculations in Word.

If you have a table with a column of numbers, click the cell where you want to enter a formula and select Layout on the Table Tools tab in the ribbon. Click Formula in the Data section or click the arrow under Data if you can't see it. There is a small list of functions that include sum, average, count, max, min and more. Select one and the result will be displayed in the cell. It's a lot easier than fiddling around with Excel.

**S Collins, via email**

## SEARCH

### Google's hidden blog archive

Google+ is a good place to find information and opinions on particular topics, but Google Blog Search is even better. I found it via the Apps icon on Google's homepage by clicking More and 'Even more from Google', which opens a page full of less well-known Google tools. Blog Search appears about half way down the page, under Specialised Search. Alternatively, go to [www.google.co.uk/blogsearch](http://www.google.co.uk/blogsearch). Use the search box to find articles, reviews, Wikipedia entries and other editorial-type results on topics that interest you. There is an extra option



Blog Search finds articles that standard Google searches miss

under 'Search tools', above the results: click Posts and choose between Posts and Homepages.

It's a great tool and it has helped me find masses of blog posts that don't appear in the main Google search.

**Bedstor, Web User Forums**

## ANTI-VIRUS

### Switch off Microsoft Security Essentials

I wanted to uninstall Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) before installing a new anti-virus program, but I couldn't find it listed under 'Uninstall a program' in the Control Panel. I found a Microsoft Fix It tool ([bit.ly/fix337](http://bit.ly/fix337) or [bit.ly/fixmse337](http://bit.ly/fixmse337), depending on your version) that lets you switch it off without removing it, which could be a good option if you want to road-test a new anti-virus program without completely removing MSE.

I was worried that having two anti-virus programs would cause a conflict, even with one switched off, so I've now removed MSE completely with the same Fix It. The link also has details on manually removing different versions of MSE in Windows XP, Vista and 7.

**FratPark and Madeline, Web User Forums**



This Fix It helps you remove Microsoft Security Essentials from your computer

## WEBSITES

### See TV listings though the decades

If you thought 2013's Christmas TV was dire, wait until you see how bad it was a few years ago! The TV Room's listings archive ([bit.ly/tvroom337](http://bit.ly/tvroom337)) lets you browse TV listings from way back. Most of the listings are from the mid-Sixties onwards, but some date back to the Thirties. Use the drop-down box at the top to choose a channel, then click a year and click a yellow square on the calendar that pops up. You could see what was on telly the day you were born!

The BBC has a programmes archive where you can find out more about the BBC programmes listed on The TV Room. Go to [bit.ly/bbcarc337](http://bit.ly/bbcarc337) and scroll down the alphabetical menu of shows, which goes all the way from *A Broadcast by the Prime Minister* with Clement Attlee to *Zoo Quest for a Dragon* with

David Attenborough. Click a programme title for info and video clips.

**Ellen, Web User Forums**



Explore TV and radio listings since the 1930s at The TV Room

## WEBSITES

### Report or hide YouTube comments

If you're bothered by dodgy comments on YouTube videos, here's how to turn yourself into a casual moderator. Hover your mouse over the author of a spammy or abusive comment to see a small arrow icon to the right of the post. Click it to open two options: Mute, which is a new option that hides the comment and disables notifications for it, and 'Report spam or abuse', which lets you report the author to Google and have the comment removed. If it's a comment on one of your own videos, there's a Remove option instead of Mute.

If you don't want to see comments at all, try YouTube Feather beta ([bit.ly/feather337](http://bit.ly/feather337)). This is a new project from Google that lets you view YouTube pages with no extra features. It's designed to help videos play on slow connections, but one of its many advantages is that it removes all comments.

**Bedstor and Evilmonkeyzz, Web User Forums**



YouTube's new Mute option lets you silence unpleasant comment posters

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.

# Readers' helpdesk

Our pick of the best solutions posted on our reader forums. Visit [forum.webuser.co.uk](http://forum.webuser.co.uk) – it's friendly and free!



## VIDEO

### Why can't I copy someone else's video?

**Q** I've found a video that I want to embed on my website. I'd include the original copyright details, but I can't seem to right-click and copy it, and there's no 'embed' button. Does anyone know how to lift it from the page?

**Jedi, Web User Forums**

**A** If it hasn't got an embed button, it's because the person who owns the video doesn't want it put on another website. By including the video on your site or distributing it in any way, you would be infringing the owner's copyright.

Online content is by default copyrighted. On YouTube, for example, if a video is marked Standard YouTube Licence, it's not yours to share or re-publish. In some cases, a Creative Commons licence is used which allows you to share it under certain conditions. Write to the owner and ask if you can include it on your website. They may say yes, but it's their right to say no.

**Greysts, Web User Forums**



Online content is copyrighted by default, and shouldn't be shared without permission

## ANTI-VIRUS

### What's this mystery EXE file?

**Q** I was sitting by my computer, which had no browser windows open, when a Norton security box suddenly popped up saying that 'rcpsetup'.

## BROADBAND

### Should I keep my router on?

**Q** My internet connection was running slowly, so I called EE support. They told me there was a cap on my phone line, which they've now changed. They also said to leave my router on for 10 days to create stability. I normally switch my router off at night when I turn off the PC. Was this making my connection unstable?

**Gazmix, Web User Forums**

**A** It sounds like EE has reset your DLM (Dynamic Line Management), which helps to keep your line stable (see [bit.ly/line337](http://bit.ly/line337) for more information). Your router needs to stay switched on during the 10-day DLM assessment period, but it's generally good practice to leave it on all the time, because that's what it's designed for. It will get warm, but that's normal. Just be careful where you position it so that it doesn't get too hot. Don't keep it inside a cupboard, for example.

If, after the assessment period, you prefer to switch your router off overnight, make sure you switch it on



**Your router should not be crowded by clutter. Keep it cool and well-ventilated**

during off-peak hours. I've heard that if you only switch it on at peak time, when lots of other users are online, you can end up with a lower speed.

What you definitely shouldn't do is switch it on and off throughout the day as you start and end each session. The DLM will interpret this as an unstable connection and may reduce your speed. You'd then need to leave the router switched on for another 10 days. I'd recommend leaving it on all the time, in a well-ventilated position, away from heat-sensitive surfaces.

For specific advice related to your router, see EE's broadband set-up and troubleshooting guides at [bit.ly/eebb337](http://bit.ly/eebb337).

**Cantrel, Web User Forums**

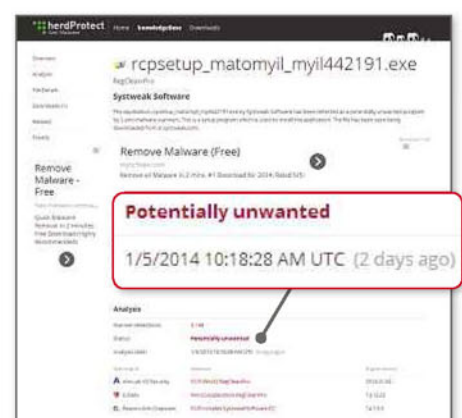
.matomyil myil442191[1].exe' was downloading. According to the box, it had been downloaded by seven other computers and was trusted, but I have no idea what it is and I didn't authorise the download. Now I can't find it on my computer, so I can't remove it.

I Googled it, and it seems to be linked to something called Access Remote PLC. Has someone gained access to my computer?

**3rdAgeStudent, Web User Forums**

**A** According to Herd Protect Anti-Malware ([bit.ly/herd337](http://bit.ly/herd337)), the program contained in this installation file is called RegClean Pro and is made by Systweak Inc. It's been detected as a potentially unwanted program (PUP) by three anti-malware scanners, so you're right to want to get rid of it.

The '[1]' indicates that it's a



**An EXE file that mysteriously appears on your PC should be investigated and scanned**

duplicate, so there will be two of these files somewhere on your computer. Since you can't find them, Norton may have removed or quarantined them. Run CCleaner ([www.piriform.com/ccleaner](http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner))



and AdwCleaner ([bit.ly/adw337](http://bit.ly/adw337)) to make sure that your PC is clean. They're both free programs that are easy to use and are good at clearing out useless items and malware from your computer. After running AdwCleaner, check the report to find out what has been found and removed.

If you're still in any doubt about the safety of your computer, begin a thread on the Hijack This forum ([bit.ly/hijack337](http://bit.ly/hijack337)). The posting guidelines are in the sticky threads at the top.

## Sneakybeaky and Difarn, Web User Forums

## HARDWARE

## Which anti-virus is right for me?

My Norton Internet Security subscription runs out soon, so I've been looking for an alternative. I don't mind paying, if it's good enough. Microsoft Security Essentials, AVG, Avast and Kaspersky all get mentioned a lot, but user reviews never seem to agree. One person says that his anti-virus froze his PC, another had to do a System Restore, another said his anti-virus broke his browser.

Which reviews can I trust? I want to try something other than Norton.

## Petrosky, Web User Forums

**A** Everyone has their favourite anti-virus software, and preferences often come down to individual tastes, but the one that's right for you depends on your usage and needs. Avast Free Antivirus ([www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)) or AVG Free ([free.avg.com](http://free.avg.com)) will be enough for most people. Avast was the highest-scoring free program in *Web User's* most recent anti-virus round-up (Issue 323, [bit.ly/webuser323](http://bit.ly/webuser323)), and Kaspersky ([www.kaspersky.co.uk](http://www.kaspersky.co.uk)) was the best paid-for program. Gizmo's Freeware also rates Avast highest in its free anti-virus table ([bit.ly/freeav337](http://bit.ly/freeav337)).

Problems like the ones those reviewers mention are often caused by conflicts



*To avoid conflicts, remove an old anti-virus product before installing a new one*

between different anti-virus programs installed on the same computer, rather than by the programs themselves. So whichever anti-virus you choose, uninstall Norton first by using the Norton Removal Tool ([bit.ly/remove337](https://bit.ly/remove337)), then reboot your computer before installing your new software.

### FratPark, Teddyboy and Madeline, Web User Forums

**Web User says:** None of the top three products in our detailed round-up were free, but we found them all to be well worth the money. Kaspersky, Bitdefender ([www.bitdefender.co.uk](http://www.bitdefender.co.uk)) and Norton ([uk.norton.com](http://uk.norton.com)) all charge just under £50 to protect three PCs for a year. Their 2014 versions are out now. We also rated Avast Free Antivirus extremely highly. However, Microsoft Security Essentials came bottom of our leaderboard.

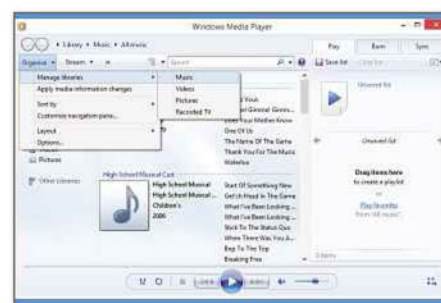
## MUSIC

## Why won't Windows Media Player accept my files?

**Q** I've been transferring all my music files from my old PC to my new Windows 8.1 laptop. The files have transferred but when I try opening them in Windows Media Player, I get an error message. The Web Help link tells me that I have the wrong codec on my PC. But I also have VLC on my laptop, and that has no problem reading the files.

## Lolalola, Web User Forums

**A** VLC ([www.videolan.org](http://www.videolan.org)) comes with more codecs pre-installed than Windows Media Player (WMP), which



*You may need to authorise folders in WMP to play the songs contained in them*

may explain why VLC can read your files but WMP can't. You could make VLC your default media player, but it doesn't have the ripping, burning and syncing tools that WMP has.

If you have versions N or KN of Windows 8.1, you may need to download the Media Feature Pack from Microsoft's website ([bit.ly/win8n337](http://bit.ly/win8n337)). This will add underlying technologies that are missing from WMP in these versions of Windows, so it may solve your problem.

Have you authorised WMP to add songs in your Music folder to its library? Open WMP, select 'Manage libraries' from the Organize menu and click Music to open the 'Library locations' dialogue box. Click Add, navigate to the folder containing your transferred files and click 'Include folder'. Windows will then monitor that folder for files to add to WMP.

If none of these suggestions work, my advice would be to uninstall WMP and reinstall it. All the versions are listed on Microsoft's website at [bit.ly/media337](http://bit.ly/media337).

### Difarn, Web User Forums

## HARDWARE

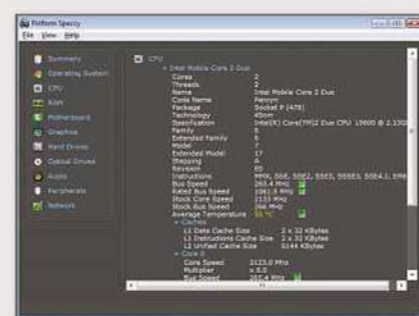
## Will my graphics card support an upgrade?

**Q** I'm running Vista and want to upgrade. Apparently, if I want to get Windows 8, my graphics card needs to be a Microsoft DirectX 9 graphics device with a WDDM driver. Is this true, and how do I tell what kind of graphics card is installed in my PC?

### Thebigfella, Web User forums

**A** You'll probably be fine, because Vista was actually more resource-hungry than either Windows 7 or 8.

It's easy to find out what kind of card you have. Speccy ([www.piriform.com/speccy](http://www.piriform.com/speccy)) is a free download that reveals full specifications of all components in your PC or laptop. It's made by



*Discover details of all your computer's components with free program Speccy*

Piriform, the company behind the excellent CCleaner. Then use the Windows Compatibility Center ([bit.ly/compat337](http://bit.ly/compat337)) to find out if your graphics card is advanced enough. Enter the name of your graphics card in the search box or click 'Scan your computer'.

## Papi11on and Joe\_London, Web User Forums

# Ask the Experts

Web User answers all your technical questions.

Email us for help at [webuser@dennis.co.uk](mailto:webuser@dennis.co.uk)



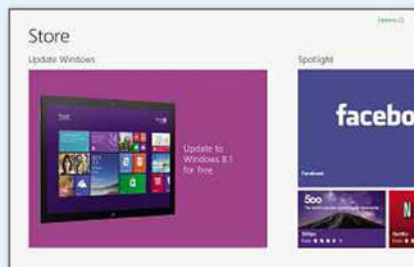
## WINDOWS 8

### Get Windows 8.1 for free

**Q** I bought Windows 8 when it came out because Microsoft was selling it for less than £30. However, at the time, I never upgraded Windows 7 on my Acer. Will Microsoft now swap it for Windows 8.1 or do I have to buy it again?

**Peter Kaldor, via email**

**A** When you visit the Windows Store using the Start screen app on a computer running Windows 8, you'll see Windows 8.1 prominently displayed. It's the first app in the store and it's free. Just click the button to install it.



**Anyone that has Windows 8 can get 8.1 free from the Windows Store**

In order to upgrade Windows 7 to 8.1 you must first install Windows 8 on your computer and then use Windows Update to grab all the updates. Once it is up to date, open the Store app on the Start screen and grab a free copy of Windows 8.1. It's much better than Windows 8 and has lots of useful improvements.

up for a free email account or sign in with a Microsoft ID, if you have one. On the iPhone/iPad, go to Settings, 'Mail, Contacts, Calendars' and tap Add Account, then Outlook.com. Enter your email address and password and the device will sync email, contacts and calendars. The Mail app on the iPhone and iPad can then be used to send and receive Outlook mail. Open the Contacts app on the iPhone or iPad and tap Groups. Hide iCloud and any contacts you add on the iPad or iPhone will automatically be added to Outlook contacts, which you can then access from your PC.

On your Windows PCs, go to Outlook.com using a browser to access your email. Click Outlook at the top and select

People to access your contacts. All your PCs and Apple devices will be kept in sync.

There isn't an easy way to sync with Access but if you're simply

using it as a contacts manager, use the People app on Outlook.com instead. Contacts can be selected in People and then exported on the Manage menu, which will allow you to import them into Access. Outlook (the program, not the email service) or Windows Live Mail can be used on your PC if you prefer to use email software rather than an online service.



**Add Outlook.com to your Apple device and sync mail and contacts with your PC**

## SECURITY

### Check your router's security

**Q** After years of using a Netgear router and switching it off when closing down, TalkTalk has sent me a new router and have said I should leave it on all the time. I am uneasy that this will leave me vulnerable to passing hackers. What should I do?

**Yours Emma Munro, via email**

## WINDOWS 8

### Windows 8.1 apps locked

**Q** I carried out a refresh on my Windows 8.1 computer. I then loaded all Windows updates and reinstalled Windows 8.1. Everything is working except I can't open any of my apps or the app store. My Start screen is now useless because I can't update apps, create new ones or use any except Internet Explorer. Can you help?

**Ian Jones, via email**

**A** A few people have experienced this problem when upgrading from Windows 8 to 8.1. Somehow the Registry and permissions are set incorrectly after the update and need to be corrected. We found a couple of solutions to the problem and you can read a rather long and complicated one at [bit.ly/apps337](http://bit.ly/apps337). However, we've also found a slightly shorter solution. On the Start screen, type **command**, right-click Command Prompt in the search pane and select 'Run as administrator'. In the command prompt window, type:

```
powershell -ExecutionPolicy Unrestricted Add-AppxPackage -DisableDevelopmentMode -Register $Env:SystemRoot\WindowsStore\AppxManifest.xml
```

That's one command, all on one line.

Press Enter, then type:

**start "" "ms-windows-store:"**

There's no space between the first two quotes. Close the Command Prompt window and you should find that you can access the Windows Store, and your apps are updated and working.

## MOBILE

### Sync iOS contacts with Windows

**Q** I have an Apple iPhone and an iPad, two desktop PCs and a laptop. All the PCs run Windows 7. I have used Outlook, Access and Word for years, but I find the Apple email impossible to use. I cannot get addresses out of the contacts on either Apple device and into Access. Is there some way of syncing these contacts?

If not, should I ditch the Apple devices and buy a Nokia Windows phone instead? Or can it be done with Office 365? I don't mind spending the money on new devices, I just need somebody to advise me of the best way to go.

**Graham Ogle, via email**

**A** It is not a good idea to use Apple's iCloud email service if you use Windows PCs. You're better off switching to Outlook. Go to Outlook.com using a browser on a PC, and sign



**A** Routers have built-in security to prevent unauthorised access. If the security is enabled, you are fully protected and the router can be on all the time. Some routers have it enabled by default and the password is on a sticker on the back or base. The password must be entered the first time you turn on the router and connect to it from your computer.

If the security is not enabled by default, go into the router settings and turn it on. This usually means entering the router's IP address, such as 192.168.1.1, into a browser. Not all routers use the same IP address, so check the documentation provided.

You might find that your internet connection improves by having your router turned on all the time. See Cantrel's answer to Gazmix's query in Readers' Helpdesk on page 64.

## SECURITY

### Remove stubborn malware infections

**Q** I am trying to help my sister, whose PC has been infected by Snap.do and Aartemis. I have deleted both from the Control Panel and removed all traces I can find from IE and Chrome, but both have managed to re-establish themselves. The other day, I was resolving another problem in the Registry and noticed a number of references to both applications. If I were to delete them, would this cause problems to other applications installed?

She has RegCure Pro ([bit.ly/reg337](http://bit.ly/reg337)) installed, but it failed to pick up these applications. When searching the internet, I was advised to download SpyHunter ([bit.ly/spy337](http://bit.ly/spy337)). However a later article on the problem had some consumer feedback that stated "don't use Spyhunter." Please can you advise a good all round care package?

**Bob McGechan, via email**

**A** Many people find Aartemis and Snap.do both annoying and undesirable, but that doesn't technically make them viruses or malware. For this reason they are rarely blocked or removed by anti-virus software and so we can't recommend any security software to protect you. They are often accidentally installed with other software, so watch out for them.

To remove them, go to 'Programs and Features' in the Control Panel and uninstall them. Then, in Internet Explorer, go to the gear menu and select Internet Options. Replace the current homepage on the General tab



**Remove unwanted search engines from Chrome to prevent unwelcome results**

with whatever you want, such as Google or Bing. Go to the gear menu again and click 'Manage add-ons'. Go to 'Toolbars and Extensions', select any Aartemis or Snap.do entries and disable or delete them. Select Search Providers, then pick Bing or Google and click 'Set as default'. Select and delete any other search providers.

Other browsers must be cleaned in the same way, so start Chrome, click the menu button and select Tools, Extensions. Delete any Aartemis or Snap.do items. Open the menu again and click Settings. Click 'Set pages' next to 'Open a specific page or set of pages' and set the homepage to Google or whatever you want, deleting any others. In Settings, click 'Manage search engines' and delete any you don't need by clicking the cross that appears when the mouse hovers over them.

## GENERAL PC

### Transferring scrambled file back-ups

**Q** I had a computer with Windows XP, but then got another with Windows 7 Home Premium. I downloaded all the information from the XP computer to a portable hard drive, but when the emails and documents were copied to my new computer, everything came out as gobbledegook. I still have all the information on the portable hard drive. Is there any way I can retrieve the information in a legible form?

**Fred Roberts, via email**

**A** If the files are scrambled on the portable hard disk then there isn't anything you can do to unscramble them. If you have access to the original Windows XP computer, you should copy the files to the portable drive again or upload them to an online storage service such as SkyDrive ([skydrive.live.com](http://skydrive.live.com)).

It may be that the software needed to open the files isn't on your new computer. Outlook Express, used for email in XP, doesn't exist in Windows

## BROWSERS

### Fix IE SysFader error

**Q** My PC sometimes stops working and then fixes itself, saying: "The exception unknown software exception(0xe06d7363) occurred in the application at location 0x75ad812f". It says 'SysFader: iexplore.exe Error' at the top. Can you suggest what the problem is and whether I can fix it myself?

**Barry Harland, via email**

**A** There are several possible causes of this problem. An add-on may have been installed on Internet Explorer that is triggering the error. Go to the Start, All Programs menu and find 'Internet Explorer (no add-ons)' to run IE with no extras. If it works OK, which it probably will, you'll know you can blame an add-on. Click the gear menu and select 'Manage add-ons'. Use the menu button on the left to select all add-ons and go through the list looking for any items you don't need, such as toolbars. After deleting the non-essential items, IE should be fine when you relaunch it.

You could also avoid the problem by installing Firefox ([www.mozilla.org](http://www.mozilla.org)) or Chrome ([google.com/chrome](http://google.com/chrome)).



**LibreOffice is handy for loading Word, Excel and other types of documents**

7, which means you can't open your emails. An alternative is Thunderbird ([bit.ly/thunder337](http://bit.ly/thunder337)), although transferring emails is fiddly. Use DbxConv ([bit.ly/conv337](http://bit.ly/conv337)) to convert the DBX files used by Outlook Express to EML, then download ImportExportTools ([bit.ly/impexp337](http://bit.ly/impexp337)), start Thunderbird, select Tools, 'Addons or Extensions' and click Install. Select the ImportExportTools file you downloaded to add it to the Tools menu. Use it to import the EML files and your emails will be added to Thunderbird.

Your documents may also have been written using software not installed on the new PC. Download and install LibreOffice ([www.libreoffice.org](http://www.libreoffice.org)). It's a free office suite that can load many word processor, spreadsheet and other file formats.

# Web User's top tips

Our experts present a collection of advanced tips for the newly upgraded **Google Sheets**



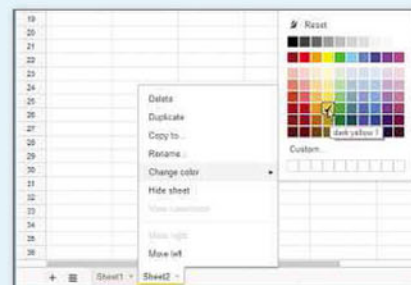
## TOP TIPS FOR GOOGLE SHEETS

### Upgrade to the new Sheets

**O**pen a browser (Chrome works best), go to Google Drive ([drive.google.com](http://drive.google.com)) and click Create, Spreadsheet. Find the filter button in the toolbar, (it looks like a funnel). If it doesn't have an arrow by it, you're running the old version of Sheets. Close Sheets and return to Google Drive. Click

the gear icon and select Settings. Select the Editing tab and tick the box 'Try the new Google Sheets'.

The only snag with the new Sheets is that it can only be used with new spreadsheets – all your existing ones will still use the old version. To use the new features, you have to create a new spreadsheet.

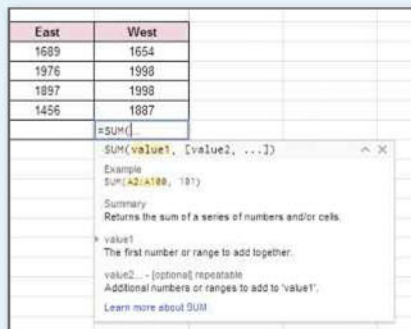


them, you can pick a different colour for each tab by clicking the arrow and selecting 'Change colour'.

### Get help with functions

The new Sheets offers more help with functions. If you type an equals symbol (=) in a cell and start to type a function's name, a list of suggestions appears in a panel. Click the function you want and the panel changes to display information and examples of usage, along with a link that opens a new tab containing more information. When the Help panel appears, press F1 to shrink or restore it. Press Shift+F1 to hide or show it.

Functions require values, such as a cell or a range of cells. As you type a function, a small square bracket will appear in the formula when a cell or range is expected. When this is displayed, you can use the cursor keys or mouse to select a cell, and use Shift+Cursor keys to select a range of cells. Hit Enter to confirm the selection.

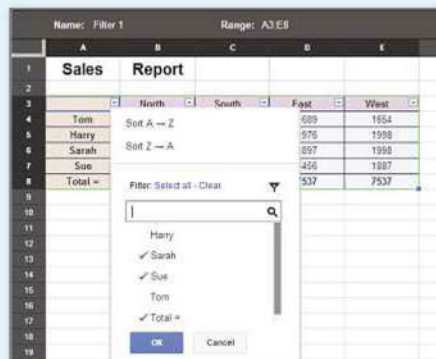


### Create your own filters

Sheets now lets you create and save different filters, which is useful when you want to focus on certain

information in a spreadsheet, such as specific rows or columns, by keeping everything else hidden. Create a new spreadsheet and select a range of cells. Go to the Data menu and select 'Filter views', 'Create new filter view'. Small buttons appear at the top of the selected columns and clicking them displays a list of items in the rows below. Tick the items you want to see and clear the rest. Only the rows with the selected information will be displayed. Click the name at the top of the spreadsheet and give the filter a name.

You can create lots of filters and add them to the Data, 'Filter views' menu to select any time you want to see the view. There is an option to clear the filter to return to normal view.

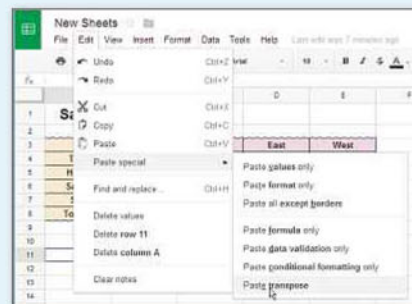


### Colour sheet tabs

One page is usually enough for a spreadsheet, but some complex tasks require several. These are shown as tabs at the bottom of the Sheets window. If you've got a lot of tabs and want to make it easier to distinguish between

### Transpose cells

One common frustration with spreadsheets occurs when you enter your data and realise halfway through that the rows and columns should be the other way round. Instead of starting all over again, you can select the data and swap the rows with the columns. Click and drag over the cells and press Ctrl+C to copy them. Click an empty part of the spreadsheet, go to the Edit menu and select 'Paste special', then 'Paste transpose'.



### Use Sheets offline

The new Sheets and its apps can be used offline, so you don't need an internet connection to use it. Go to [drive.google.com](http://drive.google.com) and click the More link. Click Offline, then click 'Get the app'. You're taken to the Chrome web store. Install the app and return to [drive.google.com](http://drive.google.com). Click More, Offline and click Enable Offline.

You'll find that going to [docs.google.com](http://docs.google.com) now works whether you are online or offline. Only spreadsheets produced with the new Sheets can be created and edited offline; any old spreadsheets you've created can only be viewed.

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| 1  |    | TalkTalk: Broadband              | <b>£2.50</b><br>per month                   | <b>12</b><br>months | <b>16Mbps</b><br>max speed  | $\infty$<br>unlimited       | <b>£30.00</b>                    |
| 2  |    | Plusnet: Broadband & Calls       | <b>£9.99</b><br>(£2.50 for 12 months)       | <b>12</b><br>months | <b>16Mbps</b><br>max speed  | $\infty$<br>unlimited       | <b>£30.00</b>                    |
| 3  |    | Primus: Broadband & Calls        | <b>£4.00</b><br>(HALF PRICE for 6 months)   | <b>12</b><br>months | <b>15Mbps</b><br>max speed  | $\infty$<br>unlimited<br>** | <b>£36.00</b>                    |
| 4  |   | EE: Broadband & Calls            | <b>£10.00</b><br>(HALF PRICE for 12 months) | <b>12</b><br>months | <b>16Mbps</b><br>max speed  | $\infty$<br>unlimited<br>** | <b>£60.00</b><br>***             |
| 5  |  | Sky: Broadband & Calls           | <b>£10.00</b><br>(HALF PRICE for 12 months) | <b>12</b><br>months | <b>16Mbps</b><br>max speed  | $\infty$<br>unlimited       | <b>£60.00</b>                    |
| 6  |  | TalkTalk: TV, Broadband & Calls  | <b>£7.50</b><br>per month                   | <b>18</b><br>months | <b>16Mbps</b><br>max speed  | $\infty$<br>unlimited       | <b>£90.00</b>                    |
| 7  |  | Virgin: Broadband & Calls        | <b>£15.50</b><br>(£7.50 for 6 months)       | <b>18</b><br>months | <b>30Mbps</b><br>max speed  | $\infty$<br>unlimited<br>** | <b>£138.00</b>                   |
| 8  |  | Sky: Fibre Broadband & Calls     | <b>£20.00</b><br>(HALF PRICE for 6 months)  | <b>12</b><br>months | <b>38Mbps</b><br>max speed  | $\infty$<br>unlimited       | <b>£180.00</b>                   |
| 9  |  | Plusnet: Fibre Broadband & Calls | <b>£19.99</b><br>per month                  | <b>18</b><br>months | <b>76Mbps</b><br>max speed  | $\infty$<br>unlimited       | <b>£239.88</b>                   |
| 10 |  | Virgin: Broadband & Calls        | <b>£28.00</b><br>(£20 for 6 months)         | <b>18</b><br>months | <b>120Mbps</b><br>max speed | $\infty$<br>unlimited<br>** | <b>FASTEST</b><br><b>£288.00</b> |

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\*First-year cost does not include line rental. Cost is calculated at monthly price x12 with all introductory offers subtracted. Additional charges incurred outside of free inclusive calls not included in first-year cost.

\*\* Fair-usage or restriction policy applies.

\*\*\* EE - £2.50 for 6 months (£5 thereafter) only for existing EE/Orange/T-Mobile customers.

Data supplied by [www.broadbandgenie.co.uk](http://www.broadbandgenie.co.uk). Correct as of 14 January 2014.

**Ofcom**

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

Find broadband help at [forum.webuser.co.uk](http://forum.webuser.co.uk)

WorldMags.net

29 January 2014 **69**



# Weekend project

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

How to...



## Update old hardware with new software and drivers

Don't throw away your old peripherals – Wayne Williams explains how to give aging hardware a new lease of life



**H**ardware manufacturers would love us to regularly replace our devices and peripherals, chucking them aside to spend more money on the newest models. But while it's great to have the fastest possible hardware with impressive new features, it's rarely worth the expense, and most of us are happy to keep using the

same products until they no longer work at all.

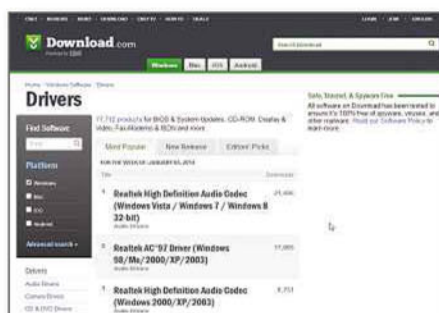
The good news is that there's rarely an unassailable reason to replace ageing hardware. Provided your stuff still works, you may be able to breathe new life into it simply by updating your drivers or installing some alternative software.



### Get the latest drivers

The best way to find new drivers for your old hardware is to look for a support section on the manufacturer's website. You'll need to know the exact make and model of the device you want to update, because drivers for similar (older or newer) hardware may work, but there's the danger they'll cause problems and lead to crashes, so proceed with care.

You can also try searching for drivers on Download.com ([bit.ly/cnetdrivers337](http://bit.ly/cnetdrivers337)). The dedicated Drivers section currently



*Download drivers from the manufacturer or from reputable software sites*

offers drivers for over 77,700 products, but a lot of these are for newer hardware.

Lots of other websites promise free drivers but be careful – some are dodgy and may contain malware, while others require you to register before you can download anything, or prompt you to visit sponsored pages. Some even have fake download buttons (often adverts that have been disguised to look like the legitimate download button of the site you're on), so make sure you click the right one. Only install drivers if you know





**IObit's Driver Booster Free scans for out-of-date drivers and fixes any problems**

(or are fairly certain) that they are real and safe.

Even if you have drivers installed that work fine, it's still worth updating them, because this can fix problems, improve performance and bring a range of benefits. You can do this manually or use a program such as IObit's Driver Booster Free ([bit.ly/driverboost337](http://bit.ly/driverboost337)), which scans your PC looking for old, outdated drivers and provides direct links to the newest versions. Choose the Custom Install option, and decline any unwanted changes and bundled software.

## Check compatibility with Windows

Thinking of upgrading to Windows 8.1? Your older hardware should work, but there's no guarantee it will, and you can't be certain that compatible drivers exist. Microsoft provides a handy 'See what works' page to check which devices work with the latest version of its operating system. You can search by product name and get it to scan your computer by visiting [bit.ly/8compatible337](http://bit.ly/8compatible337).

If you use XP and are considering upgrading to Windows 7, you can check that your hardware is compatible at [bit.ly/7compatible337](http://bit.ly/7compatible337).

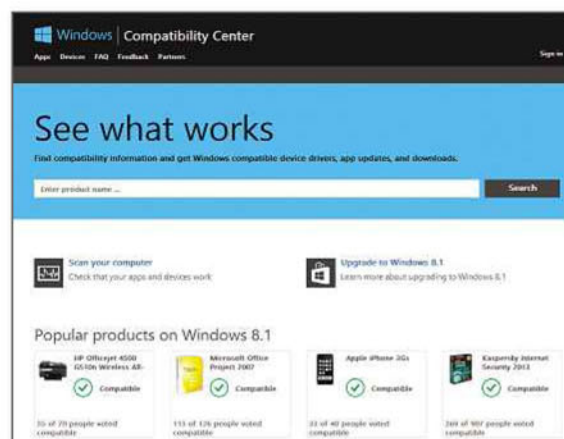
## Get your old scanner working

Scanners haven't changed much over the past decade so there's no point in spending money buying a replacement unless yours is absolutely ancient. That said, there are two reasons why you might want to upgrade: your old scanner requires a printer port, which newer PCs don't have; or your latest version of Windows no longer recognises the device when it's connected, and the manufacturer isn't offering new drivers.

Both these problems are easily solved. You can buy a USB Printer Converter Cable for around £3 from Amazon, which lets you plug the scanner (or an old



**Old hardware often uses out-of-date ports, but converters are cheap and easy to find**



**Microsoft's 'See what works' page checks whether your old hardware will work with newer versions of Windows**

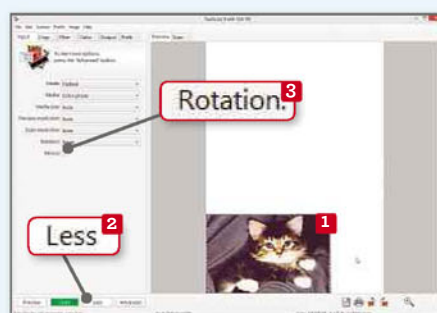
printer, for that matter) into your PC's USB port. And if you can't find any working scanner drivers, there's always VueScan Scanner Software ([www.hamrick.com](http://www.hamrick.com)). Once installed, this program should be able to make your old scanner work with any operating system. It recognises more than 2,300 scanners, and you can browse the list of supported devices at [bit.ly/vuescanlist337](http://bit.ly/vuescanlist337), or simply install the software and try it out for yourself. The program costs \$39.95 (around £24) a year, but there is a trial version so you can make sure it works with your scanner before you spend any money. The free trial puts a watermark over the scanned image, so you'll need to upgrade before you can use it properly. The asking price might seem steep, but it's cheaper than buying a new scanner.

For tips on using VueScan, see our Mini Workshop, below.

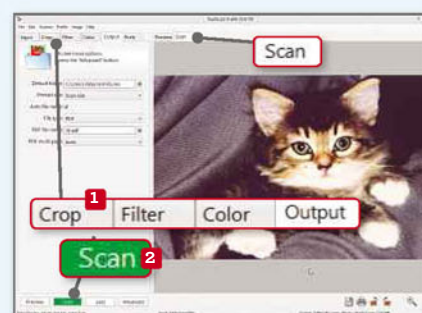
## MINI WORKSHOP | Get an old scanner working again with VueScan



**1** During installation, you'll be prompted to install the VueScan driver. This is safe and won't cause problems or clash with any existing drivers. To start scanning, make sure your device is attached and click Preview. **1** VueScan should automatically detect your scanner.



**2** The item you're scanning will be displayed in the main window. **1** Click the More/Less button **2** to access the options. You can change the mode, scan type, media size and resolution, and also rotate the image (if it's in the scanner the wrong way round, for example). **3**



**3** The tabs along the top **1** let you crop the scan, apply filters (restore faded colour and sharpen the picture), change the output folder, and more. Click the Scan tab **2** to see how the image looks. If you don't yet want to pay for the full version of VueScan and are happy with a low-resolution image, Print Screen the preview image (which doesn't have the watermark).



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## Get an iOS 7 clone on older Apple devices

Sadly, iOS 7 doesn't run on older iPhones and iPod touches, and there's nothing you can do to change that. However, there is a free custom firmware called Whited00r

([www.whited00r.com](http://www.whited00r.com)) that replicates the latest version of Apple's operating system. It works on older iPhones (2G and 3G) and iPod touches (1G and 2G), to make them look and behave just like iOS 7. It even has an identical looking Control Center.



Can you spot the difference between Whited00r and iOS 7?



Whited00r gives iOS 6 devices an iOS 7-like Control Center

Installation is both easy and safe, and if you don't like the results, you can revert back to the original Apple firmware. For instructions on installing Whited00r, see our Mini Workshop, below.

Whited00r offers access to three app stores – the official one, Cydia, and AppTimeMachine. This last one contains older versions of apps that should run without problems on your aging device.

## Update your router

You might not think there's any point in hanging on to an old router – after all you can't upgrade it to offer the latest Wi-Fi standards (802.11n or 802.11ac). However, you can use it as a range extender using a custom firmware such as DD-WRT ([dd-wrt.com](http://dd-wrt.com)). Go to the site and click Router Database to find out if your router is compatible, then go to the Wiki at [bit.ly/ddwrt337](http://bit.ly/ddwrt337) to find out how to install and use it.



Your old router could get new features if you install the DD-WRT software on it

## Boost an old laptop

If you have an old PC that's running too slowly to be any use, even after a thorough spring clean, you could try swapping the hard drive for an SSD. A cheaper alternative is to install a lightweight operating system such as Puppy Linux ([puppylinux.org](http://puppylinux.org)). If you've

never used Linux before and don't know if you'll like it, run it as a Live CD, so you can try it out without having to install it or disrupt your existing OS.

## Upgrade your graphics

Out of all the drivers you should consider updating, the ones for your graphics card are the most important. It doesn't matter if you have on-board graphics (built into a laptop motherboard, for example) or a dedicated graphics card, you'll still see some performance benefits from running the latest drivers. Make sure you know the exact model of your graphics hardware (which you can view in the Device Manager), then go to the relevant support website:

- Nvidia graphics drivers ([bit.ly/nvidia337](http://bit.ly/nvidia337))
- AMD graphics drivers ([bit.ly/amd337](http://bit.ly/amd337))
- Intel graphics drivers ([bit.ly/intel337](http://bit.ly/intel337))



Make sure you choose the correct model when downloading a driver update

## MINI WORKSHOP | Upgrade your old iOS device to Whited00r



**1** Before you update your iPhone or iPod Touch, back it up with iTunes, then go to Settings, General, About and note the model number. Go to [bit.ly/white337](http://bit.ly/white337) and select the instructions for your device. Click the Download button, **1** then the version of Whited00r you require.



**2** The install process may vary slightly depending on your device. In this example, we're updating a 2G iPod Touch. Unzip the download and open iReb. Follow the instructions to get into DFU (Device Firmware Update) mode. iTunes should open but, if it doesn't, launch it yourself. Hold down Shift and click the Restore button. **1**



finished, and follow the post-installation steps at [www.whited00r.com/post-installation](http://www.whited00r.com/post-installation). Open the App Market **1** to access the different app stores, and swipe up from the bottom to open the Control Center. **2**

**3** Browse to the downloaded Whited00r Software Update (.ipsw). iTunes will install it, though this may take a while. Reboot your device when

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Incomedia is offering every *Web User* reader 30 per cent off its WebSite X5 Evolution 10 web-design software

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- 30GB web space
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- Unlimited emails
- PHP5 and MySQL server support
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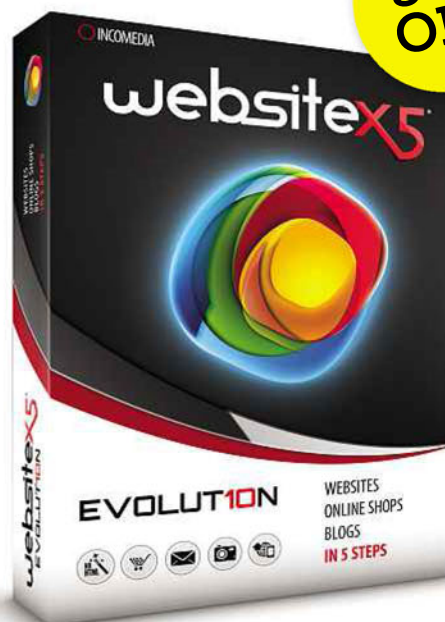
**USUAL PRICE: £59.99**

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# websiteX5

### HOW TO GET THIS OFFER

To claim your 30-per-cent discount on WebSite X5 Evolution 10, simply go to [bit.ly/websiteX5](http://bit.ly/websiteX5), enter your details and choose a payment option. The offer runs until 24 February 2014.



30%  
OFF

### TOP TIP

**Buy a Kobo Touch e-reader for £30**

[bit.ly/kobo337](http://bit.ly/kobo337)

If you don't mind owning an e-reader that first went on sale two years ago, you can now buy a Kobo Touch through the WHSmith site for a mere £29.99 (saving you £60 on the previous price). The Kobo Mini costs the same, but is currently out of stock online.

### TOP TIP

**Upgrade to 4G internet for free**

[www.three.co.uk/4G](http://www.three.co.uk/4G)

If you're a Three customer with a 4G-ready phone or tablet, you should soon be offered an upgrade to high-speed 4G internet at no extra cost. The rollout has already begun for a limited number of customers in London, Birmingham and Manchester.

## COMPETITION

### WIN 1 OF 6 Roxio Creator NXT 2

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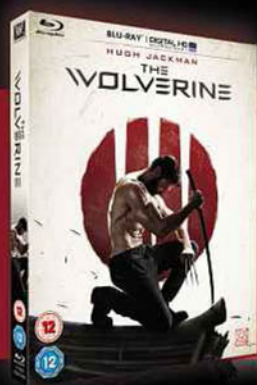
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