

ONLY
£1.99

NEW 'BANK' SCAM
It's easy to fall for –
how to detect it **p16**

**DEMENTIA – PREVENT IT
BY USING YOUR PC** **p11**

**BLOCK THE
WINDOWS
10
UPGRADE**

STOP Microsoft
bullying you to
switch **page 60**

Computer **active**

ISSUE 471 | 16 – 29 MARCH 2016

Windows 3.1 – the future of computing?! **p58**

Your friendly guide to technology

Has Your PC **BEEN** **HACKED?** (Without You Even Knowing)

▶ Remove invisible malware **NOW** – before it's too late **p50**

**NEVER
IGNORE THESE
12 WARNING
SIGNS**
page 50



**BEST WORD TOOL
WE'VE EVER SEEN** **p38**

PLUS

WINDOWS 10
Protect Your Default Settings
▶ Don't let Microsoft hack them **p35**



Sky Q

Pause in one room
and carry on in another

This is Fluid Viewing™





Synology®

SYNOLOGY ROUTER

The perfect companion for your multimedia home



DS216play | DS716+

PERFECT 4K VIDEO TRANSCODING SOLUTION



4K VIDEO TRANSCODING

Transcode 4K videos to make them suitable for all screens and bandwidths whether they are local media players or remote mobile devices.

TURN YOUR NAS INTO A MEDIA CENTRE

Access and share all the multimedia files stored on your Synology NAS anytime, anywhere for home or work through our large range of apps.

ENJOY MEDIA CONTENT ON THE TV

Stream digital content with Roku, Apple TV, Chromecast, Samsung TV and all Bluetooth, Airplay and DLNA devices effortlessly.

* DS716+ can be scaled up to 7 drives with Synology DX513 for more storage

Where to buy

amazon.co.uk

broadbandbuyer.co.uk
EXPERTS IN NETWORKS

Available mobile Apps

iOS



Synology's
Media
Accolades



Welcome

EDITORIAL

Group Editor Daniel Booth
Technical Editor Sherwin Coelho
Production Editor Graham Brown
Art Editor Katie Peat
Sorry, no technical or buying advice.

ADVERTISING

Advertisement sales & media pack
020 7907 6799
Advertising Director Andrea Mason
Deputy Advertising Manager Alexa Dracos

MARKETING AND CIRCULATION

Subscriptions Manager Sarah Aldridge
Marketing Manager Rachel Evans
Marketing Production Manager Gemma Hills
For subscription enquiries ring 0844 815 0054

PRODUCTION

Group Production Manager
Stephen Catherall
Production Controller
Maisie Harvey

MANAGEMENT

Managing Director John Garewal
MD of Advertising Julian Lloyd-Evans
Commercial and Retail Director David Barker
Group Managing Director Ian Westwood
COO Brett Reynolds
Group Finance Director Ian Leggett
Chief Executive James Tye
Company Founder Felix Dennis

BRAND USAGE AND REPRINTS

Companies can obtain a licence to use approved quotations from articles, the Computeractive logo and Buy It! logo. Reprints of articles are also available.

Please contact Wrights Media for more information and rates:

UK: 877-652-5295 ext 164

International: 281-419-5725 ext 164

Email: Niademarco@wrightsmedia.com

Requests to use quotations from articles will need to be approved by the editor. Please send requests to: editor@computeractive.co.uk

OVERSEAS LICENSING

Computeractive is available for international licensing. Contact Nicole Adams at nicole.adams@dennis.co.uk or +44 (0)20 7907 6134

ONWARD RESALE

This publication may not be resold or otherwise distributed, whether at, below or above face value. Nor can this publication be advertised for sale, transfer or distribution.

PERMISSIONS

Material may not be reproduced in any form without the written consent of the publisher. Please address such requests to John Garewal, Dennis Publishing, 30 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JD

LIABILITY

While every care was taken preparing this magazine, the publishers cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information or any consequence arising from it. All judgments are based on equipment available to Computeractive at the time of review. Computeractive takes no responsibility for the content of external websites whose addresses are published in the magazine.



A DENNIS PUBLICATION

Computeractive is published fortnightly by Dennis Publishing Ltd, 30 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JD. Company registered in England. Material may not be reproduced in whole or part without the consent of the publishers. ISSN 1461-6211



Average sales, Jan-Dec 2015, 87,565 copies per issue.

© Copyright Dennis Publishing Limited

From the Editor

I've read some honking hogwash about PC security during my time as a journalist, from shameless scare stories designed to flog products you don't need, to so-called 'research' that tells you the bleedin' obvious.

One common observation that always irks me is when people who should know better say that getting hacked is like being burgled. It's not. Unlike burglars who ransack your home, most hackers don't want you to know they've infiltrated your PC. A hacker is more like a squatter who, living undetected in your loft, sneaks down every night to steal money from your jacket pocket. Crucially, they don't steal so much that you suspect something is wrong.



But although hackers are invisible, your PC will react to their unwanted presence. In our Cover Feature we reveal the hidden symptoms to look out for, and explain how to remove the malware that causes them. You may find that faults you've blamed on a slow PC are actually proof of infection.

Daniel Booth

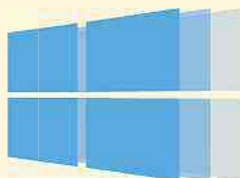
editor@computeractive.co.uk



THIS ISSUE IN NUMBERS

200

Number of Windows 10 settings you can tweak in one program - **p43**



£499

Price of Mesh's new five-star PC - **p20**

64bit

Processor size in the new Raspberry Pi 3 - **p10**

HOW TO USE SNIPCA URLs

We use snipcas to turn long URLs that are hard to type into ones that are short and simple. They aren't websites themselves, which means they won't be recognised if you type them into Google. Instead, you need to type them into your browser address bar, then press Enter. Doing this will take you to the correct website.

Contents

16 – 29 March 2016 • Issue 471

In this issue...

50 Has your PC been hacked?
Get the lowdown on spotting the tell-tale signs that you've been hacked and learn about hackers' favourite tactics

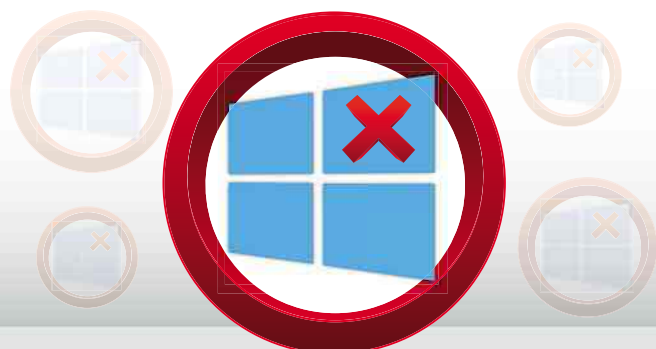
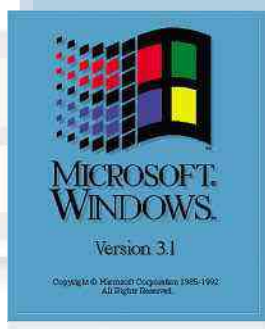
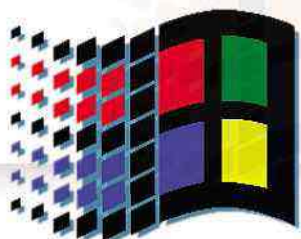
58 Run Windows 3.1 in your browser for free
Take a trip down memory lane and relive the joys of old-school, Nineties-style computing

60 How to block the Windows 10 upgrade
Fed up with endless messages urging you to update your operating system? Find out how to prevent the upgrade

Has Your PC BEEN HACKED? (Without You Even Knowing)

COVER
FEATURE
P50

Turn back the clock and run Windows 3.1 in your browser **p58**



How to block the Windows 10 upgrade **p60**

In every issue...

8 News

11 Question of the Fortnite
Does using a PC *really* fight dementia?

12 Letters

14 Consumeractive

16 Protect Your Tech

18 Best Free Software
Edge Blocker 1.0

30 Buy It!

33 Competition
MAGIX Movie Edit Pro 2016 Premium

49 What's All the Fuss About? Google's PlaNet

64 Problems Solved

70 Fast Fixes
Firefox

73 Jargon Buster

74 The Final Straw
The future's bright... unlike the futurologists

Foolish futurologists **p74**



**Subscribe
NOW!**

See page 62
for our special
subs offer



Computer
active
BUY IT!
★★★★★

Mesh Elite Essential Skylake CA p20

**Microsoft Surface
Book p21**



**Acer
Predator 8
p24**



Reviews

20 Mesh Elite Essential Skylake CA
A desktop PC with all the essentials

21 Microsoft Surface Book
Microsoft unveils its first-ever, ready-to-use laptop... and it's a hybrid

22 Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 260
The elegant, flexible convertible

23 Sony Xperia M5
An attractive phone for lovers of bling

24 Acer Predator 8
The gamers' tablet for people who don't necessarily like gaming

26 Huawei Honor 5X
The Frank Gehry-inspired phone

27 Epson Expression Premium XP-530
Good printer, shame about the screen

28 Tile
Never lose your keys, wallet or pets again with this tiny Bluetooth tracker

29 Philips PicoPix PPX4010
The portable projector with LED

Workshops & Tips

14 pages of brilliant workshops and expert tips

35 Set new defaults for Windows 10

38 Add Chrome-like tabs to Word docs

40 Make your own keyboard shortcuts



42 Set up a group Skype chat on your device

43 Readers' Tips
Tweak 200 Windows 10 settings

44 Phone and Tablet Tips
Free up storage space quickly

46 Make Windows Better
Download Windows 10 files faster

47 Make Office Better
Collaborate on Word documents

48 Secret Tips For...
Amazon Kindle

**2015
BACK ISSUE CD**

ON SALE NOW!



BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON
at www.snipca.com/19124

Now Microsoft puts adverts on your PC's Lock Screen

Microsoft has started to show adverts on the Lock Screen in Windows 10 using its controversial 'Spotlight' feature.

Normally the Lock Screen displays landscape photos, which change every time you lock and unlock your PC. But some users have reported that these have been replaced by adverts for the computer game *Rise of the Tomb Raider* (see screenshot right).

Clicking the advert takes you to the Windows Store, where you can buy the game.

It's the latest attempt by Microsoft to make money by placing adverts within Windows 10. There are likely to be many more adverts to follow, as Microsoft aims to recoup some of the revenue it lost by making the operating system a free download.

However, you can make sure no adverts appear – only photos – by changing Microsoft's default setting for the Lock Screen.

Click Start, Settings, Personalization, then select



'Lock Screen'. Next, under Background, change 'Windows spotlight' to Picture or Slideshow, depending on how you want the photos to appear.

Disable personal info on the Lock Screen

By default the Spotlight feature also shows status alerts on the Lock Screen for some Windows 10 apps – including Calendar, Mail and Messages. These may contain personal info you'd rather keep hidden. To disable this, switch off the setting 'Get fun facts, tips, tricks and more on your lock screen'.

Next, look at the icons displayed beneath 'Choose an app to show detailed status' and 'Choose apps to show quick status'.

Click the icons and select None to turn each app off, or select the apps you want instead from the list.

Adverts first appeared in Windows 10 last September as 'suggested' apps in the Start menu. As with the Lock Screen ads, Microsoft tailors these to your tastes by tracking what you do on your PC, unless you turn off a particular setting.

Do this by clicking Start, Settings, Personalization, then Start and switch off 'Occasionally show suggestions in Start'.

The Windows Store's 'Live' tile also shows adverts in the Start menu. To prevent this, open the Windows Store app, click your account, choose

COMMENT

Adverts in Windows 10 will take some getting used to. Their presence deep inside an operating system (OS) feels more intrusive than on websites, or in Google search results. However, while we're not thrilled about them, they've yet to become more than a mild annoyance. Perhaps we'll have to grudgingly accept them as the price of a free OS. Microsoft needs to make money somehow, and we'd rather put up with the occasional 'suggestion' for an app or game than be clobbered by hidden costs for extra features.

Settings, then switch off 'Show products on tile'.

Microsoft isn't the first company to show adverts on lock screens. The cheapest version of Amazon's Kindle Fire tablet also shows adverts. You have to pay more for a device without adverts.

WINDOWS 10 OVERTAKES 8 AND 8.1 COMBINED

Microsoft's strategy of automatically downloading Windows 10 on to PCs running 7 and 8/8.1 appears to be paying off – to some degree, at least.

New figures from industry analysts NetMarketShare show that in February

Windows 10's market share grew by just under one per cent to 12.82. It means that for the first time more people worldwide are using Windows 10 than Windows 8 and 8.1 combined.

However, Microsoft will be disappointed

that Windows 10 still lags so far behind Windows 7, which is used on 52.34 per cent of computers. These figures suggest that Microsoft is persuading more Windows 8 users to upgrade than 7.



You'll like this...

Facebook will finally pay an appropriate amount of UK tax (www.snipca.com/19895)



...but not this

Some UK villages suffer slower broadband than Mount Everest (www.snipca.com/19894)

Scan for malware in Windows 10 before logging in

Microsoft has launched an 'offline' version of Windows Defender that lets you scan for viruses in Windows 10 before logging in.

The 15-minute scan, which restarts your PC, is designed to prevent malware from running when you boot your PC.

It should improve the overall effectiveness of Windows Defender, which has performed poorly in security tests over the past few years - coming bottom in almost all of them.

Most security experts agree that you can't rely on Windows Defender alone, and recommend using a third-party program from companies such as Kaspersky and Symantec.

To use the new tool, called Windows Defender Offline (see screenshot), you need to be signed up to the 'Fast Ring' of the Windows 10 Insider



Program (<https://insider.windows.com>). This is a scheme that allows confident users of Windows 10 to test features that may be unstable or flawed.

Microsoft relies on the feedback of Windows 10 Insiders to improve tools before making them available to everyone.

Windows Defender Offline appeared in Build 14271 of Windows 10 at the end of February. It is expected to be added to the full version in the

'Redstone' update, scheduled for June.

It's not an entirely new feature, though. It first appeared in 2011 as a downloadable tool that you had to install on a CD, DVD or USB stick. Microsoft explains how to do this at www.snipca.com/19872.

Until now, it wasn't clear whether the program would appear in Windows 10.

Microsoft revealed other fixes and features in Build 14271 in its blog (www.snipca.com/19873). These include a fix for the taskbar appearing "unexpectedly on top of full screen windows", and some apps not appearing in the Start menu.

• We'll show you how to sign up to the Insider Program and use Windows Defender Offline in our next issue - out Wednesday 30 March.

IN BRIEF

ELECTRIC SHOCK RISK: AMAZON RECALLS ADAPTERS

Amazon has recalled power adapters for its Fire tablets because of a risk of electric shock when it is pulled from the wall socket. The company said that the flaw exists only in the adapter that came with Fire 7" and Fire Kids 7" tablets sold in the UK and Ireland from September 2015. Amazon included the adapter to make its charger compatible with British and Irish plug sockets. For photos and return details visit www.snipca.com/19863.

PASSWORDS HACKERS USE TO ACCESS ACCOUNTS

Most PC users know that '123456' is one of the most unsafe (and common) passwords. Now the security company Rapid7 has revealed the top 10 passwords that hackers try when attempting to infiltrate an account, with the single letter 'x' being number one. Also in the list are 'P@ssw0rd', 'administrator' and 'St@rt123'. See the full list on Rapid7's blog: www.snipca.com/19862.

Watch the BBC iPlayer? Now you'll have to pay the licence fee

A loophole that lets people watch catch-up TV on the BBC iPlayer without paying for the TV licence fee is to close soon, the Government said.

Culture secretary John Whittingdale said he wanted to stop viewers getting "a free ride".

Currently you have to pay the licence fee only if you watch live TV, whether or not that's on the iPlayer. It's thought that around 1.5million people in around 700,000 households and businesses take advantage of this loophole to watch programmes without a licence fee.

It's been estimated that this



costs the BBC around £150m a year in lost revenue.

Following discussions with the BBC, Whittingdale announced plans to extend the £145.50 licence fee so it also covers programmes watched 'on demand', after they've been broadcast.

Speaking to the Oxford Media Convention, Mr Whittingdale claimed that the current licence is out of date. He said: "When the licence fee was invented, video on demand did not exist".

He said that it was "wrong"

that people can watch BBC programmes for free "an hour, a day or a week after they are broadcast".

The change could come into force during this parliamentary session, which ends in July. The BBC said it was "happy to have reached an agreement" with the Government.

But it's not clear how the BBC would force iPlayer viewers to pay the licence fee. One option would be for the corporation to ask viewers to log in using personal details, which it can check against their database of addresses to verify that the fee has been paid.

Tomorrow's world

Before computers can express emotions, they'll need to learn to recognise ours. That's the leap taken by IBM Watson (www.ibm.com/watson), a computer that understands questions in normal speech. It can analyse a human voice to tell how the speaker feels. IBM said it will "reflect the different sensory dimensions of the human condition". Read more at www.snipca.com/19871.

IN BRIEF

FIRST RASPBERRY PI WITH WI-FI

The first Raspberry Pi with built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth has been released, meaning you no longer need to attach a USB stick to add these functions. Called the Raspberry Pi 3, it's priced \$35 (around £27), and has a **64bit** processor, making it 50 per cent more powerful than its predecessor. Read more on the official Raspberry Pi blog: www.snipca.com/19816.

PAY IN SHOPS WITH YOUR ANDROID PHONE

Google looks set to launch its Android Pay service in the UK by the end of March, letting people pay for items at shops using their phones. The contactless payment system will work on any Android phone that has near-field communication (NFC) built in – see a list at www.snipca.com/19820. It works in a similar way to Apple Pay, with payment being verified by fingerprint on the phone's sensor. For more information visit www.android.com/pay.

Beware the apps that play porn videos on your tablet

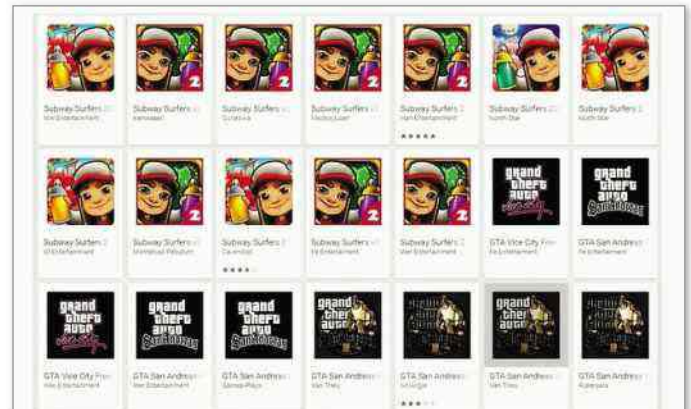
Security experts have discovered a disturbing new type of malware attack that plays porn videos on your Android phone or tablet without you knowing.

Hackers have plastered the Google Play store with fake versions of popular apps, each containing a **Trojan** that opens porn websites. These appear in the background, as you use your device for other purposes.

The criminals behind the attack make money by tricking the victim into clicking adverts for porn sites.

The fake apps were identified by researchers at antivirus company ESET, who named the attack 'Porn Clicker' and said that it is "one of the largest malware campaigns" ever seen on the Google Play store.

In total, ESET found 343 Porn Clicker apps in the store, most of which were fake versions of popular games, including Subway Surfers and Grand Theft Auto. Once installed the apps disappear



from your device, making them difficult to remove.

They can also detect whether you have an antivirus running on your device, and take action to dodge it.

The icons for these games on the store (see image above) look very similar to the genuine apps. ESET said this had fooled thousands of users, and led to "many" phones and tablets being infected.

ESET's malware researcher Lukáš Štefanko had a warning for Android users who think they're safe because they don't play games. He said that the

attack is "clearly part of a well-organised campaign" and he expects the criminals behind it to "find new ways to bypass Google's security tests and to trick consumers".

Štefanko urged Android users to always read the reviews of apps before installing them. He said that many of the fake apps had received bad reviews and "a lot of negative comments from users who had already been scammed".

Read ESET's blog for more information: www.snipca.com/19851.

Broadband not working? Get an automatic refund

Customers having problems with their broadband service will be automatically compensated under proposals outlined by Ofcom.

The regulator said that broadband, landline and mobile customers wouldn't need to do anything to receive the refund from their providers when there is "a loss or reduction of service".

Ofcom announced the plans in February as part of its Strategic Review of Digital Communications (www.snipca.com/19840), in which it also said that BT must open

up its Openreach network to rival ISPs.

This should lead to falling broadband prices, because other companies such as TalkTalk and Sky will be able to use the tunnels and telegraph poles that make up the Openreach infrastructure, leading to more competition.

Ofcom stopped short of splitting BT from Openreach – which rival ISPs had called for – but said that Openreach will be "subject to tougher, minimum requirements to repair faults and install new lines more quickly".



This move follows complaints from other ISPs that Openreach is too slow to act when fixing customers' broadband problems.

Ofcom will also help customers pick the best service available by publishing "performance tables" on a range of measures. These will first appear later this year.

The world's gone mad!

Apart from sleeping, and maybe downloading Windows updates, can you think of anything you spend four hours, 12 minutes doing every day? Apparently that's how much time on average Britons devote to 'socialising' online. The figures come from a BT study, which also contains etiquette on 'modern communications', including such gems as "never put kisses on an email to a work colleague". You'll find these alleged life skills on BT's blog: www.snipca.com/19838.

Question of the Fortnight

Does using a PC *really* fight dementia?

Promising new research suggests that you only need to log on once a week

One of the most controversial health claims of modern times is that age-related diseases can be prevented by regularly using computers. Companies that make 'brain-training' apps often conduct studies aiming to prove that playing online games helps to keep the brain active as we grow older.

But these are sometimes disputed by medical organisations and advertising authorities. Earlier this year one of the leading 'brain-training' companies, Lumos Labs, was fined \$2m in the US for saying that its Lumosity app could alleviate the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease (see News, Issue 467).

However, new research from US scientists suggests that logging on to a computer once a week is enough to fight dementia. In a four-year study of 2,000 people aged over 70, researchers at the Mayo Clinic, Arizona, found that using a PC helps people retain memory and thinking abilities in old age.

In fact, regular PC users were 42 per cent less likely to develop memory problems ("mild cognitive impairment") that can lead to dementia. Other activities were tested, such as knitting, completing crosswords and attending social events. They all helped to keep the brain alert, but none was as beneficial as computer use.

Scientists think that people build up a 'cognitive reserve' of new brain cells



“PC users are 42 per cent less likely to develop memory problems that lead to dementia”

when they take part in mentally challenging activities, such as computer use. This might be effective enough to offset age-related deterioration.

But how conclusive are the results? Dr Janina Krell-Roesch – who led the research – urged caution, saying that the study shows only an “association” between computer use and a better memory in old age, not “cause and effect”. It may be that another aspect of the computer users’ lifestyle was helping them to retain their memory.

Charities warned against looking for simple solutions. Dr Clare Walton, Research Communications Manager at the Alzheimer’s Society said that dementia “is a complex condition and we do not

know what effect these activities have on the risk of developing it”.

She added: “Currently, the best evidence for reducing your risk of dementia is to exercise regularly, avoid smoking, and eating a healthy, balanced diet”.

It’s tempting to look for magic bullets in the fight to prevent dementia. As people live longer, cases of the condition are bound to rise, putting a huge strain on the NHS and social services. The Alzheimer’s Society estimates that there are around 850,000 sufferers in the UK (www.snipca.com/19886).

But computer use is just one part of staying mentally fit. For every study that promotes computer use, there are others that urge the

THE FACTS

- A study showed that people who use a computer at least once a week are less likely to develop early signs of dementia
- It’s more beneficial than other activities, such as attending social events and knitting
- More than 850,000 people in Britain suffer from dementia

over-65s to play musical instruments, attend the theatre and tackle cryptic crosswords. These activities have one thing in common – mental stimulation.

What’s needed now are more sophisticated studies to show what *kind* of stimulation works, and *how* the brain benefits. There’s still a lot we don’t know. Dr Rosa Sancho, Head of Research at Alzheimer’s Research UK, said: “It’s important that researchers explore the link between staying mentally active and memory and thinking skills, so we can understand what role these sorts of activities could play in dementia prevention”.

With more and more lives being destroyed by dementia, it’s crucial that research continues. Sensationalist claims about miracle cures can be swiftly dismissed, but there is now overwhelming evidence that the more you exercise your brain, the longer you’ll stay mentally healthy.

Letters

Tell us what's on your mind

Email: letters@computeractive.co.uk




Facebook: www.facebook.com/computeractive



Twitter: @ComputerActive


www.twitter.com/computeractive

Using XP is like driving an unsafe car

 Following your big (and entertaining) 'Are XP users PC dinosaurs?' debate, I predict you're going to get a lot of emails from people still using it saying that they should be left alone to do what they want to do. I would agree with that, if using XP didn't also affect everyone else. I've read lots of car metaphors in *Computeractive* about XP, so I hope you won't mind me adding another one. Using XP in 2016 – when the company that makes it has said it's unsafe – is like zooming down the motorway at 100mph on a car that hasn't passed an MOT in five years. It's heading for a crash, and you can bet people in other cars will be injured too.

I do accept that it depends on *how* you use XP. If all you do on XP is fill in the odd spreadsheet, and never, ever go online (and I do really mean *never*), then you'll probably be safe. But how can we guarantee that all those XP users will fight the temptation to go online? It's simply too big a risk. I don't think XP users are like dinosaurs – they are more like the comet that destroyed them. Their actions could be equally catastrophic.


Adrian Heywood

 Writers of recent letters have implied that XP users are frightened to upgrade to a new system. The tone of these letters was more than a little insulting. I started with Windows 3.0, then Windows 95, on to 98 SE, then XP, which I really want to keep. However, I would like to inform people who think I shouldn't use XP that I also have Windows 7 and 10 on other machines.

Other people shouldn't be so judgemental. They shouldn't imply that a person is incapable of changing when all they want is to be allowed to keep using something they are happy with, and not be forced to have a new system.

Barrie Grant


Why does Tesco still use XP?

 While in my local Tesco today using a self checkout, there was a momentary power cut. All the tills went dead and the staff asked the customers to

wait while they came back on. I watched the screen and to my amazement it booted into XP. Why is a giant company like Tesco still using XP? Obviously the XP debate grinds on!

John Sillett

Stop mocking Windows 8 - it's better than 7 and 10


 I really didn't want to join the Windows 10 debate, but I do want to speak up against the continuous ridiculing of Windows 8. Having progressed through Windows 95, 98/98SE and XP, and having laboured through punch-card computers from the Seventies, I can speak from some experience.

With trepidation, two years ago, I bought a 15in Windows 8.1 laptop with a screen full of the operating system's 'charms'. With a few tweaks I ditched all the 'charms' except those I needed, added my most used programs to the taskbar, and gave myself a fantastic desktop. It took about half a day, and has been running faultlessly ever since. Booting in six seconds, it has a super-quick Start screen with access

to all I need, and is the best system I have ever used. I don't think it has ever been given a fair chance. Am I alone, or are there other Windows 8 enthusiasts out there?

Bill Munns

Apple should unblock terrorist's phone

 To me, it's obvious whose side I should be on in the Apple v FBI duel ('Question of the Fortnight', Issue 470). I support the FBI 100 per cent. Of course, it doesn't matter one jot what a cranky 67-year-old from Shropshire thinks, although I'd be happy to give Apple a piece of my mind any day. Does anyone know Tim Cook's phone number?


Apple is exaggerating the threat posed by the FBI. It's not asking to access the iPhone belonging to every person on the planet, just one phone that belonged to one person. And that person just happens to be a murderer who killed 14 people.

Frankly, I struggle to see what the problem is. The FBI is simply asking Apple to unlock a phone. Apple are behaving irresponsibly, and appear not to care about the feelings of the relatives of the dead.

Matthew Gidman



Government right to introduce age checks for porn sites

 I applaud the Government's plans to make porn sites check that its users are over 18 (News, Issue 470). It may not work every time – teenagers will always look for ways around it – but at least it makes it difficult for them.

Adult magazines are on the top shelf for a reason, after all: so they're out of reach of most teens. There's no physical equivalent for the internet, so we just have to come up with new solutions.

If you doubt the size of the problem, just look at the stats. In May 2015, 1.4 million people under 18 visited porn sites. In a perverse sense, that's down to the success of the internet. It's just so easy to use. Obviously you'd never get 1.4 million teenagers trying to buy porn mags from newsagents. And you're not anonymous when you reach for the top shelf, unlike when you browse online.

Lindsay Trentham



✉ If unlocking Syed Farook's phone will help the FBI to prevent the next terrorist atrocity, then what moral case has Apple got to refuse? I realise they won't know this until they do unlock the phone, but surely it is reasonable to expect that his phone will contain some useful information. I grew up in the 1960s, when lots of my liberal friends were suspicious of the FBI – it was the time of the Vietnam War. But now we're more suspicious of the tech companies that think they rule the world. They need a reality check.

Frank Miles

My old neighbours for broadband hype

✉ Ken Rigsby got it spot on when he mocked the 'Joneses' for always wanting faster broadband (The Final Straw, Issue 470). He made me think about my old neighbours, who were 'super' Joneses – ie, they had to have the latest of everything, even though most of the time they had no idea how to use these new devices. They were the first to have a DVD player, the first to have a digital camera, and made sure everyone knew about it.

Once, they invited me round to try their new BT 'Affinity' broadband (they couldn't even get the name right!). Did they download HD films with it, or stream videos to tablets? Nope – they just looked at photos of cats and babies on Facebook. Hardly worth £30 a month.

Sam Cotton

Will BT block calls from doctors?

✉ Regarding BT's plans for a call-blocking service (News, Issue 470) – which will block 'withheld' numbers – my doctor's surgery operates a service where they ring you back if you leave a request with the receptionist on the published telephone number. This return call will show up as 'withheld' on my screen because the doctor will be calling from his personal number that he does not wish to disclose for obvious reasons. Because I am expecting the doctor to call I have answered the phone, but on at least two occasions it has been a cold caller. How will BT get round this problem?

Jack Carter

STAR LETTER

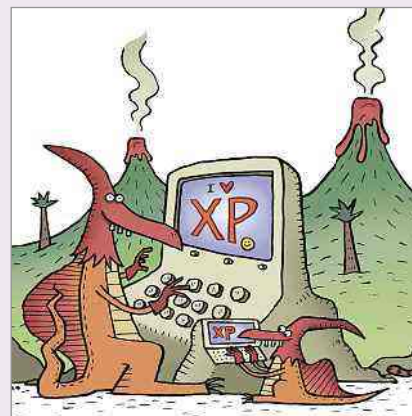
XP users are dinosaurs – but that's why I like them

✉ I thoroughly enjoyed your 'Are XP users PC dinosaurs?' debate in Issue 470. It reminded me of the good-humoured arguments at my local computer club, often accompanied by a pint or two down the pub. I've always sat on the fence a bit because I can see both points of view. I would like to suggest a 'third way' of looking at the issue.

For me, the key aspect of computing is security. If your PC is hacked beyond repair, then it doesn't matter what operating system you're using. That's why I upgraded one of my PCs from XP to Windows 7 a month before Microsoft ended support. The risk was too great.

But I kept XP installed on another PC, intending never to use it to go online, and to be very careful what I do on it. I've stuck to that safety-first policy since. I continue to use it precisely because I enjoy being a PC 'dinosaur'. I take great pride in running old programs and technology, not because I can't be bothered to upgrade, but because I am curious about how they work.

And that's why I sympathise with my fellow XP stegosauruses and brontosauruses. Their love for old operating systems shows that they are



just as interested in computing as people who joined the Windows 10 bandwagon on day one.

I would never recommend that anyone uses XP as their only system. I think that would be acting contrarily, almost like relying on candles when a flick of the switch gives us light. But nobody should be made to feel out of touch, or stupid, for wanting to stick with what they know, as long as they do so safely.

What's wrong with dinosaurs, anyway? OK, they didn't see that comet coming, but they did rule for 165 million years. Not bad for creatures that were stuck on XP!

Colin Pearce



The Star Letter writer wins a Computeractive mug!

A pint for £4? Not in London!

✉ Whoever reviewed the Raspberry Pi Zero in Issue 470 ('A PC for the price of a pint') hasn't been to London recently. I visited our 'wonderful' capital on a day trip a few weeks back, and couldn't find a pub serving my favourite beer (real ale, no fizzy rubbish) for less than a fiver. Couldn't wait

to head back to Yorkshire, where you can still get a pint for less than £3!

William Cardwell



I'll miss Stephen Fry on Twitter

✉ I agree with the point made in 'The World's Gone Mad' (News, Issue 470) that the media pays far too much attention to Twitter. Far fewer people use it than the media thinks. I do use it, but nobody else I know does. Most of the 'celebrities' who post tweets are duller than a wet Sunday. But that's why Stephen Fry should have stayed. He was one of the few people on Twitter capable of saying something interesting in 140 characters. Now that I haven't got his pearls of wisdom to read, I may leave as well.

Harry Chapman

Consumeractive

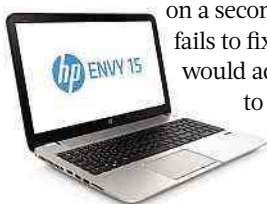
Why won't HP replace my laptop?

Q In August 2015 I bought an HP Envy 15 laptop (£826) from HP's website. The laptop never worked properly, so I sent it back to HP to be repaired after the company refused to give me a replacement, but I would rather have a new laptop. Is there anything I can do to insist on a new model?

Pat Talbot

A Sadly no, because Paul bought the laptop at a time when manufacturers were allowed to repair devices repeatedly, under the Sale of Goods Act (SOGA). That changed on 1 October 2015 with the introduction of the Consumer Rights Act, which limits manufacturers to one repair only. We've covered the misery of repeated repairs many times in Consumeractive, so we were pleased with the law change.

However, that's of no help to Pat. Legally HP is allowed to repair his laptop as many times as it likes. But that doesn't mean we can't put pressure on the company to offer him a new laptop. If the repair doesn't work, Pat will tell us, and we'll then contact HP on his behalf. If HP then insists on a second repair, and that fails to fix the problem, we would advise Pat to take it to court.



CASE ONGOING

Has Canon misled me about 'Google Cloud-compatible' printer?

Q In December I bought a Chromebook from Tesco. I also bought a Canon MG4250 printer (pictured), which I wanted to use with the Chromebook via Google Cloud. The printer's box states that the printer is compatible with Google Cloud, but I've not been able to get it to work using my Chromebook. The printer isn't listed as a compatible device on Google's Cloud Print site (www.snipca.com/19754). Have I been misled? Surely it's illegal to claim a device is compatible, when it's not?

David Ellender

A It's clear to us that the printer fails two crucial tests – it's not fit for purpose, and it's not as described. David is entitled to a full refund, so we've contacted Tesco.

David thinks he may have been misled. Proving this in a legal case is always very difficult, because you have to show that a company deliberately deceived you. It's more likely that the company simply made a mistake. You may still be entitled to a refund, but the company hasn't broken any laws.

Canon told us that changes Google made to its cloud printing is the reason the MG4250 no longer works with it. This is a fair explanation, however



frustrating for David. That said, Canon should have told retailers about this. Hopefully no more customers will be affected, because on the boxes containing the printers now being sold, Canon has blanked out the reference to Google Cloud.

David bought the printer after Google changed how its cloud-print service works, so Tesco has no choice but to refund him. This is because the printer's description still included compatibility with Google Cloud. But Tesco would be legally entitled to refuse a refund if Google had changed its service after David bought the printer. Canon can make its products to work with services only as they exist at the time of manufacture.

To help readers in David's position we've asked Google to confirm when the changes were made. This will serve as the cut-off date that validates any refund. We'll let you know what Google says.

CASE ONGOING

Why hasn't Acer released a user manual for its tablet?

Q I bought an Acer Iconia 10 (B3-A20) tablet from Currys/PC World in December 2015, but found I couldn't download the full manual from the Acer website. Acer said to try later while its engineers fix the problem. Can you have a word please, because Acer seems to be taking the mickey.

Roger Fussell

A Acer has now released this user manual, but we understand Roger's frustration because we

struggled to find it on the company's website. It's actually buried in the 'Drivers and Manuals' section (www.snipca.com/19761). Don't try searching for it – instead click 'Or select my product from a list' and pick your type of device, its series name, and the precise model. Then you have to click 'Documents' in the box that appears below. What a hassle. To avoid this, simply visit www.snipca.com/19762 to download the manual as a PDF (pictured right).



It's hard to know whether Roger would have had a legal case against Acer, had the manual never appeared. He could have argued that a lack of

instructions hindered his use of the tablet, and therefore he wasn't getting his money's worth. But it's unlikely Acer would have refunded any money, and it seems a relatively trivial case to take to court.

CASE CLOSED



✉ Contact us so we can investigate your case

Email: consumeractive@computeractive.co.uk

Write: Consumeractive, Computeractive, 30 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JD
Please include both your phone number and address.
Unfortunately, we can't reply to all your letters.

We stand up for your legal rights

Can Sony take money for services I won't use?

Q My son owned a PS4, so I subscribed to Sony's services for £39.99 a year. We sold the PS4, but recently I've been charged for an annual renewal of my subscription, which I don't want or need. Sony refuses to refund me. Is this legal?

Bob Baker

A Yes, we're afraid it is legal. Without realising, Bob signed up to a contract that was due to be automatically renewed after 12 months. He could have cancelled, but only within the first 14 days of agreeing the contract. This is typical of many subscription services, and is rarely illegal. The one major exception is broadband and phone companies, which are no longer allowed to tie customers to contracts that

automatically renew.

In Bob's case, Sony will be at fault only if it failed to clearly state that the contract would be renewed automatically, and didn't provide simple instructions on how to cancel. Before we look into this, we'll ask Sony to refund Bob as a goodwill gesture.

Companies rely on the forgetfulness of customers and the perceived hassle of ending a contract, so it's worth setting up calendar alerts to remind you when to cancel. You should also do this for free trials, so you don't get automatically transferred on to the paid-for subscription.

This has happened to a lot of Amazon customers tempted by a free 30-day trial of its Prime service, without realising they automatically pay £79 for an annual



subscription if they don't cancel. Amazon promotes Prime heavily during the purchase process, so be careful you don't sign up to something you don't want.

CASE ONGOING

CASE UPDATE



Wowcher! Refund for reader for broken tablet

Forgive us if we shout 'Wowcher' just like those cheesy TV adverts,



but we're happy to report that we've resolved Darla Wilson's case with the vouchers website. As we reported in Issue 469, Darla used a Wowcher offer to buy a Chuwi V90 Android tablet from Chimp Electronics (www.chimpelectronics.co.uk). She said the tablet wasn't working properly, and wanted to know whether to pursue a refund through Wowcher or Chimp.

In Darla's case, Chimp was responsible for refunding her – and did so. But we'd like to say thanks to Wowcher, which contacted Chimp to make sure it processed the refund. Wowcher's legal responsibility for the tablet had ended, so it could have washed its hands of the case. It told us that if you have problems with any orders bought from the site, send an email to webhelp@wowcher.co.uk, or call the company on 0203 699 5024 (Monday to Friday, 8am–5.30pm).

One way of remembering who's legally responsible for a refund when using 'group-buying' websites such as Wowcher is to follow the 'paper trail'. If you've paid for a voucher, but haven't yet redeemed it for the offer, then the legal responsibility lies with the group-buying site. If you've redeemed the voucher and have received the product or used the service, the legal liability shifts to the retailer or service provider.

THIS WILL COME IN USEFUL

Check Windows 10 compatibility

Acer

www.snipca.com/19743

AMD

www.snipca.com/19747

Avast

www.snipca.com/19739

Canon

www.snipca.com/19735

Dell

www.snipca.com/19744

Epson

www.snipca.com/19741

ESET

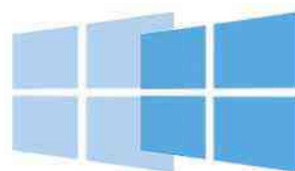
www.snipca.com/19751

HP computers

www.snipca.com/19745

HP printers

www.snipca.com/19740



Intel

www.snipca.com/19746

Kaspersky

www.snipca.com/19736

Lenovo

www.snipca.com/19742

Logitech

www.snipca.com/19749

Norton

www.snipca.com/19738

Nvidia

www.snipca.com/19748

Toshiba

www.snipca.com/19750



Protect Your Tech

Scams and threats to avoid, plus new security tools

WATCH OUT FOR...

'Smishing' banking scams on phones

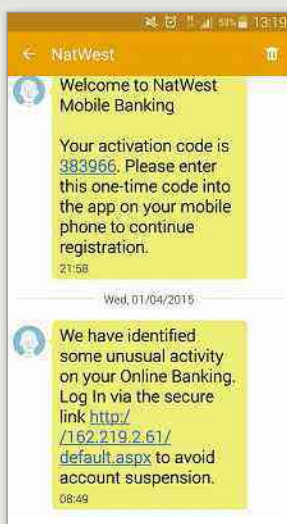
What happened?

Security experts warned people about a spate of banking scams in which hackers send texts to phones in an attempt to steal money. Known as 'smishing' – a combination of **phishing** and SMS – these scams try to trick users with messages that appear to be legitimate alerts from banks.

Worryingly, criminals are getting much better at making these messages look genuine. They send you messages in the same conversation 'thread'

that your bank uses, making it very hard to tell what's real.

A popular tactic of scammers is to send warnings about 'suspicious' or 'usual' activity in users' accounts (see the bottom message in the screenshot left). These messages emphasise how important it is that the victim takes action immediately, normally by transferring their money into a new account. Often this threat appears serious enough to persuade people to click links or ring numbers, where the criminals are waiting to steal their password and other personal information.



Unsurprisingly, the hackers are chiefly targeting older people, because they are likely to have a bigger pot of savings to steal.

What should you do?

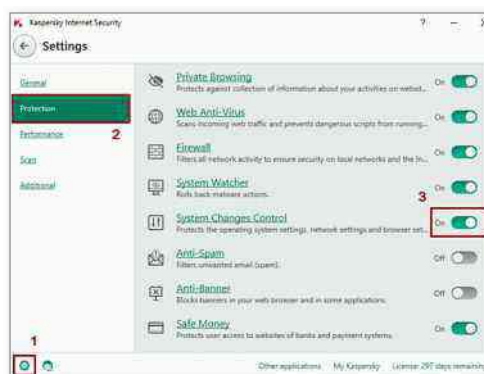
It's vital to be highly vigilant when banking via your phone, particularly because banks may not give you back any money that's stolen (read how Santander refused one victim's request: www.snipca.com/19753). You should be very suspicious about clicking any link in a text message from your bank. Banks say they will never ask for your password and other log-in details by phone or email, nor will they ask you to transfer money into a new account. If you're unsure, phone your bank. You can find their number quickly at www.pleasepress1.com.

New tools

Kaspersky's System Changes Control www.snipca.com/19755

PC junk comes in many varieties, none of them good. Those programs that squat on your PC, refusing to budge, are bad enough. But worse are the tools that change your default settings, forcing you to savour the dubious delights of new search engines and browsers.

Getting rid of them isn't easy, so it pays to know how to prevent them from downloading in the first place. One tool that helps is Kaspersky's System Changes Control, a new feature in the company's Internet Security 2016 (see page 68 for our exclusive reader offer). Built for Internet Explorer, Firefox and Chrome (not Edge), it blocks the rubbish that download sites try to smuggle on to your PC. Open Settings,



Protection, then move the 'System Changes Control' and 'System Watcher' sliders to On (see screenshot above). You'll see four boxes to tick. We recommend ticking all four, then seeing how that works for you. Consider unticking a box if you find that Kaspersky blocks too much.

ScamWatch

READERS WARN READERS

EE customers: beware credit-card scam

In February I received a genuine-looking email purporting to come from EE. The address was account.services@ee.co.uk and the subject line read 'Your EE broadband account – your credit card is about to expire'. It told me that because my credit card needed to be renewed, I should click the link provided. My details in the email were correct, but knowing my credit card was not due to expire I checked with EE and they told me it's a scam. There's more information from EE about email scams at www.snipca.com/19661.

David Havenhand



Warn your fellow readers about scams at letters@computeractive.co.uk

When I go exploring, my mum knows I'm safe



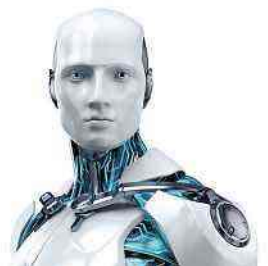
ESET Parental Control for Android helps you guide your kids through the digital world – in an open, child-centered way.

Keep your family safer online:

eset.co.uk/home/parental-control



ENJOY SAFER TECHNOLOGY™



Best Free Software

Brilliant new programs that won't cost you anything

SYSTEM TOOL

Edge Blocker 1.0

www.snipca.com/19724

What you need: Windows 10



Like its impertinent sister Cortana, Edge – Microsoft's successor to Internet Explorer (IE) – refuses to go away. It sets itself as your default browser and PDF reader in Windows 10, and there's no built-in way to uninstall or block it.

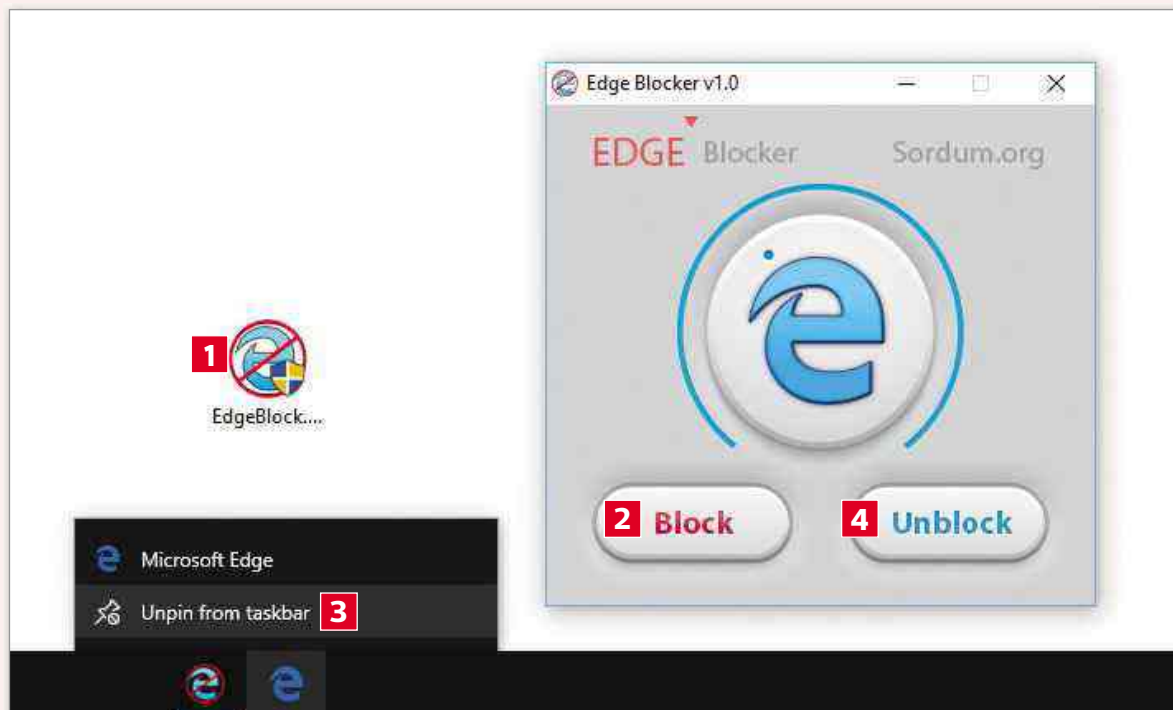
You can change your defaults (to the more familiar Chrome and Adobe Reader, for example) and you can remove the Edge icon from your taskbar. But in our experience, Windows 10 only gives you temporary control. We found that Edge is reset as the default following updates to Windows 10. Sadly, that kind of aggressive behaviour is what we're coming to expect from Windows 10 (even if you're still using Windows 7 or 8/8.1 – see our feature on page 60).

Edge Blocker is a new portable program that gives you back some control by preventing Edge from launching. It blocks the browser if a file, a program or someone

using your PC tries to open it. Neither you nor Windows will be able to launch Edge until you run Edge Blocker again and undo the block.

The tool is made by Sordum, a trusted specialist in lightweight system tools such as DNS Jumper (www.snipca.com/19725) and Easy Context Menu (www.snipca.com/19726). Sordum is a one-man band, much like NirSoft – all tools are the work of software maker 'Velociraptor'. He created Edge Blocker after receiving an email from a Windows 10 user who'd tried in vain to block the tenacious browser.

To get Edge Blocker, scroll down and click the grey Download button above 'Related Posts'. Save the ZIP and extract the portable program file ('EdgeBlock.exe'). You can copy the file to a USB for safekeeping, and for running on any Windows 10 PC.



1 Drag the Edge Blocker program file to your Desktop to create a shortcut. Right-click it then click 'Run as administrator' to control Edge for all users of your PC.

2 Click Block to block Edge and turn the big blue 'e' grey. If you try to launch Edge now, its window will open for a moment, but then automatically close.

3 Clicking Block doesn't uninstall Edge from your PC or remove its icon from your taskbar. To remove the icon, right-click it and click 'Unpin from taskbar'.

4 To unblock Edge, run Edge Blocker and this time click Unblock. The big 'e' will turn blue to show that Edge is available to use again.



OFFICE TOOLS

LibreOffice 5.1

www.snipca.com/19727

What you need: Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8/8.1 or 10

The leading **open-source** office suite continues to snap at the heels of its paid-for rival, Microsoft Office. Version 5.1 is not a major overhaul like version 5.0, which launched last September (see Best Free Software, Issue 457). This time the improvements are harder to see, but arguably more beneficial.

You can now open documents directly from Google Drive and Microsoft's own OneDrive, and the suite's constituent tools (Writer, Calc, Draw, Base and the irritatingly US-titled Math) load and save much faster, thanks to changes in the software's code.

If you'd rather keep this hefty program on a USB stick, download a portable version instead (www.snipca.com/19728).



NOTES

FromScratch

www.fromscratch.rocks

What you need: Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8/8.1 or 10

Keep notes without having to create documents using this new, open-source tool that automatically saves whatever you type. Ctrl+S (normally 'Save') is redundant - just type a memo or list, and then close the program. Next time you launch FromScratch your note will be there, just as you left it.

There are no menu headings, but the program supports a few formatting tricks. For example, type ➡ to create a neat arrow, and move lines of text around by pressing Ctrl+arrow keys. It's a portable program, so there's nothing to install. Download the ZIP and extract the folder, and then click 'FromScratch.exe' to launch the tool.

WHAT SHOULD I DOWNLOAD?

We tell you what software to use

What should I use to turn my photos into designs?



Q For years I used Canon ZoomBrowser to create photo designs in Windows XP. Is there a similar program for Windows 10? LibreOffice Writer and Adobe InDesign let me assemble photos, but don't have frames and backgrounds.

Barrie Colman

A You were right to look to Adobe, but you needn't shell out £17 a month for InDesign. Adobe Photoshop Elements 14 (PSE) costs a one-off £79.10 (www.snipca.com/19731) and offers hundreds of frames, textures, backgrounds and one-click effects. You can arrange photos on a page and create collages, panoramas, greetings cards and slideshows. PSE supports thousands of free **plug-ins**, too.

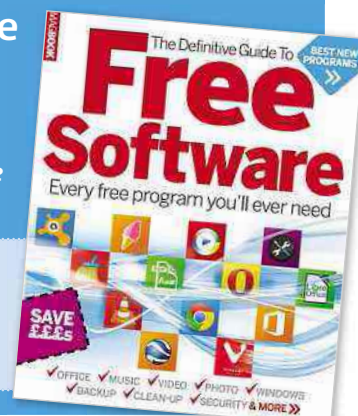
Open-source alternative Gimp (www.gimp.org) is free, and with a bit of patience you can create frames, backgrounds and compositions. Free web tool Canva (www.canva.com, see screenshot above) is quicker and easier, and lets you create professional-looking photo designs without you having to download a thing.

✉ Do you need our advice on what software to use? Just email us at letters@computeractive.co.uk

The Definitive Guide to Free Software

You'll find more superb free programs in our new 144-page book: *The Definitive Guide to Free Software*

BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON
at www.snipca.com/16785



Reviews

New products tested by our experts

DESKTOP PC | £499 from Mesh www.snipca.com/19822

Mesh Elite Essential Skylake CA

A desktop that spends your money in the right places

One of our regular topics of conversation in the *Computeractive* office is which desktop PCs to review. What about this one, someone asks? It looks reasonably priced for a good specification. (You can see why people make Oscar-winning films about the exciting world of journalism. Some days we even have biscuits.)

Now, in an ideal world there'd be little left to say except sure, let's get that PC in for testing. But no. Because we know what desktop PC manufacturers are like. So we have to start asking awkward questions.

“For a mid-range PC with all the essentials and none of the nonsense, this is an excellent choice”

Good specification, you say? Good how, exactly? They haven't by any chance spent all the money on a fancy **graphics card** that's largely useless to anyone who isn't buying a PC primarily to run the latest 3D fighting game in Full HD for 18 hours a day, have they?

All right, you got me. And before you ask, yes, the case is two-feet tall with a big sculpted grille on the front that's backlit in green **LED** like the Gates of Mordor. And yes, it has so many fans that when you start up Windows, the neighbours come round to say they're joining the campaign against Heathrow's third runway.



And this is your pick for next issue's lead review, is it?

At this point, things can get tetchy. But not with the Mesh Elite Essential Skylake CA. Not only is this PC reasonably priced, but it doesn't try too hard. Its pleasingly conventional compact tower case has a brushed finish on its front that isn't fooling anyone: it's just flat black plastic. Who cares? Slide it under your desk and it's invisible – just as a PC should be.

You'll need a screwdriver to get inside the case, and there's not much room for expansion in there anyway. The one **PCI-Express x16** slot is taken up by a modest Nvidia GeForce GT 740 **graphics card**, which means you can get away with some light gaming if you fancy it, with the graphics settings turned down.

One of the two remaining half-size PCI-E slots houses an **802.11ac** Wi-Fi card, ready to connect to your broadband router at top speeds through its external aerial, which you can position for the best reception. Or there's an **Ethernet** port if your router is nearby. Bluetooth 4.0 is also built in – ready for wireless keyboards, mice, speakers and so on. You'll need to buy your own keyboard and mouse, since the Essential Skylake CA comes as just the system box.

The standard 8GB of **RAM** should be fine for most purposes, but adding more later, at around £40 for 8GB, is no problem, because three slots have been left free. A huge 2TB hard drive provides space for all your files. It's slower than an **SSD**, of course, but a 2TB SSD would cost about the same as this PC by itself. A DVD writer drive is fitted in the top bay (not seen in our picture, which shows the case before installation).



Also inside, most importantly, is a **quad-core** 2.7GHz i5 processor from Intel's latest Skylake range, and in our tests its performance was top-notch, even handling **4K** video without stuttering. Serious 4K editing needs a pricier system, but it's reassuring to know that not much is beyond your PC's capabilities. For a mid-range model with all the essentials and none of the nonsense, this is an excellent choice.

SPECIFICATIONS

2.7GHz Intel quad-core i5-6400 • 8GB memory • 2TB hard drive • Nvidia GeForce GT 740 graphics card • 24x DVD writer • 802.11ac Wi-Fi • Bluetooth 4.0 • HDMI • DVI • VGA • Windows 10 • 175x409x373mm (WxDxH) • One-year warranty www.snipca.com/19822

VERDICT: You'd usually have to pay a bit more than £499 for an ideal everyday system, but by stripping back to basics, Mesh has cracked it



ALTERNATIVES: Chillblast Fusion Orion i3 £380 This equally plain PC is also excellent value if you don't need as much processing power, and don't mind the slower **802.11n** Wi-Fi



LAPTOP-TABLET HYBRID | £2,249 from John Lewis www.snipca.com/19759

Microsoft Surface Book

Microsoft's first ready-to-use laptop

When Microsoft announced the 'ultimate laptop', we weren't expecting cheap and cheerful. But we still gulped at the price of our review model. To be fair, this included a top-end i7 processor and an Nvidia graphics card. A version with an i5, integrated graphics, and half the memory and storage costs a less eye-watering £1,299.

But that's still a lot of money. Lift Microsoft's first ever laptop out of its box, and you'll see how they spent it. The slim magnesium case has a confident simplicity. At the rear of the backlit keyboard is a special hinge that doesn't just bend, but curls up like a frightened armadillo. Open the laptop and the screen sits firmly at your chosen angle, rolling back a little for a more stable setup. The one oddity is that with the screen and keyboard shut together, there's a wedge-shaped gap between, inviting fluff and paperclips.

“Resolution, contrast, brightness and colour accuracy are all exceptional”

Hold down a button and Windows 10 releases the screen with a satisfying clunk – in reality, a recording of a clunk played through the speaker – for use as a tablet, or, as Microsoft calls it, a 'Clipboard'. You can also reverse the display and prop up the Surface Book like a tent, or fold the keyboard underneath while still attached. That makes sense with the £2,249 model, because the



graphics card lives under the keyboard, and is disabled when it's removed.

There's also a battery in each half. We got nine hours and 38 minutes of video playback when connected to the keyboard, but only two hours 39 minutes in Clipboard mode. Expect about 30 per cent more in light use, but as a tablet, the Surface Book is very dependent on the mains.

The 13.5in display has a square-ish shape that's good for work. Resolution, contrast, brightness and colour accuracy are all exceptional. If you prefer not to sully it with fingerprints, the glass touchpad on the keyboard gives you incredibly smooth cursor control and gesture input. Microsoft also supplies a Surface Pen to draw and write on the screen.

Our i7 model didn't run quite as fast as we'd hoped, and fans whined when we tried advanced tasks. The fast flash storage helped Windows 10 to zip along, though. The unnamed graphics card – similar to a GeForce 940M – handled recent 3D games with quality settings low; it's really aimed more at speeding up tasks such as editing photos and videos. We'd guess most people would find the i5 quite adequate, though £1,299 is still pricey for a laptop, even if it can transform into a tablet.

SPECIFICATIONS

2.6GHz Intel i7-6600U dual-core processor • Nvidia GeForce graphics card • 16GB memory • 512GB flash storage • 13.5in 3000x2000-pixel touchscreen • 8-megapixel rear camera • 5-megapixel webcam • SD card slot • 2x USB 3.0 • 802.11ac Wi-Fi • Windows 10 Pro • 23x312x232mm (HxWxD) • 1.58kg • One-year warranty www.snipca.com/19760

HOW WE TEST

Computeractive is owned by Dennis Publishing, which owns a hi-tech facility for testing the latest technology. You'll often read references to our benchmark testing, which is a method of assessing products using the same criteria. For example, we test the speed of every PC and the battery life of every tablet in exactly the same way. This makes our reviews authoritative, rigorous and accurate.

Dennis Publishing also owns the magazines *PC Pro*, *Computer Shopper*, *Web User* and *Micro Mart* and the website Expert Reviews (www.expertreviews.co.uk). This means we can test thousands of products before choosing the most relevant for *Computeractive*.

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL

Our writers follow strict guidelines to ensure the reviews are fair and impartial. The manufacturer has no involvement in our tests.

OUR AWARDS



We award every product that gets five stars our Buy It! stamp of approval. It means we were extremely impressed by the product, and we think you will be too.



Every product that gets a four-star review is given the Great Pick award. We highly recommend these products, although they just fail to meet the high standard of our Buy It! winners.

PRICES

Our reviews contain a link to the best price we found online at the time of press.

VERDICT: Only specialist users will fork out for the top model, but the Surface Book shows how slick a Windows 10 hybrid can be



ALTERNATIVES: Dell XPS 13 £1,149

The Surface Book isn't ideal as a tablet, while the XPS 13 is a lighter and more powerful laptop for less money – without the style.



Reviews

LAPTOP-TABLET HYBRID | £1,119 from Lenovo www.snipca.com/19861

Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 260

Big ideas in a small hybrid

Lenovo has made such a name for itself recently with its innovative, laptop-tablet contraptions that it's easy to forget the company started out as part of that most conservative of computer companies, IBM. But it still sells systems under the ThinkPad brand, once the standard laptop used in every business. And this model does a surprisingly interesting job of updating the concept.

As with other Yogas, the keyboard can bend around to sit flat behind the touchscreen, letting you use it as a tablet. The ThinkPad Yoga 260 has a stylus for drawing and writing notes on screen. It stows in a slot, where its battery charges automatically. This is very convenient, and knowing the battery won't run out at a crucial moment is a relief.

“It looks and feels elegant, with that classic clunkiness”

That's not the only improvement on the convertible design. When you fold the keyboard back, the keys retract, like a cat's claws, leaving a flat surface that feels less odd to hold on to. At 18mm thick, this isn't the thinnest laptop, let alone tablet. But it looks and feels elegant, with that classic clunkiness, like an old-model BMW, that reassures you function has been put ahead of form. Although slightly heavier than some rivals, it's easy to hold in one hand, and certification to the US military's basic durability standard confirms it's reasonably tough.

The 12.5in screen is a practical size, neater than the common 13.3in format



without being as cramped as an 11in. It does mean the keys are slightly squished to fit, but their concave tops and long **travel** feel like a proper old-fashioned desktop keyboard – another traditional ThinkPad virtue that full-time users will appreciate. As in the IBM days, between the G, H and B keys is a little plastic prong known as the TrackPoint (or pointing stick), which you can push around to control the cursor. There's also a conventional touchpad below.

The display is matt, cutting reflections at the expense of making images look slightly grainy despite the sharp Full HD (1920x1080-pixel) resolution. Brightness and contrast are decent, but with only 62 per cent of the **sRGB** colour range covered, it can't do full justice to photos and videos. This attitude to 'business machines' should be the next thing Lenovo updates.

There are three versions of the ThinkPad Yoga 260, all customisable to your preferred specification. To get a top-end Intel i7 processor with 256GB of **SSD** storage, like the one we tested, you'd pick the middle option, which normally comes with an i5 and 4GB of memory at

£1,010, and add the i7 and 8GB for an extra £109. The range starts at £889 with an adequate i3 processor and a 192GB SSD; the screen has a coarser 1366x768 pixels, but given the limitations of the Full HD display you're not missing much. In the highest model, the i7 is paired with 8GB of memory and a 512GB SSD at £1,290. All have a built-in fingerprint reader.

As expected, the i7 ploughed through our Windows tasks without a pause, helped by the SSD. That said, the i5 model would be fine for most purposes. The integrated Intel HD graphics processor isn't up to much 3D gaming or video editing, but the ThinkPad Yoga 260 isn't aimed at those tasks.

This feels like the kind of laptop you'd persuade your boss to buy you. If you're spending your own money, there are better bargains, but it's a well-executed reminder of why, as they used to say, nobody ever got fired for buying IBM.

VERDICT: Good build quality, clever features and more connectivity than most small laptops justify the ThinkPad Yoga's high price



ALTERNATIVE: Dell XPS 13 £1,149
With an i7 processor, a faster 256GB SSD and a much sharper screen, the XPS is a better buy, unless you need a laptop-tablet hybrid



SPECIFICATIONS

2.5GHz Intel Core i7-6500U dual-core processor • 8GB memory • 256GB SSD • Intel HD Graphics 520 • 12.5in 1920x1080-pixel screen • OneLink Ethernet/dock adapter • 2x USB 3.0 • Mini DisplayPort • HDMI • microSD card slot • 802.11ac Wi-Fi • Windows 10 • 18x310x220mm (HxWxD) • 1.3kg • One-year warranty www.snipca.com/19861



SMARTPHONE | £300 from Carphone Warehouse www.snipca.com/19867

Sony Xperia M5

It looks upmarket, but is it?

You'd guess the Xperia M5 was the successor to the M4, and you wouldn't be wrong. But compared to last year's model, tagged 'Aqua' for its colourful waterproof case, the M5 is a much blingier affair. With a polished metal frame and 13-megapixel 'selfie' camera, it would be at home in one of those awful American TV shows about schoolgirls who drive open-topped cars and live in mansions. It comes as no surprise, then, that it's more expensive than the Aqua, but £300 is still a reasonable price for a smartphone. So is it worth it?

“The Xperia M5 will appeal if you want a sophisticated-looking phone”

Compared with plasticky rivals like the Samsung Galaxy S5 Neo and Google Nexus 5X, the Xperia M5's frosted glass back, which resembles the pricier Xperia Z3+, looks and feels impressively smart. Advanced features like a fingerprint reader are absent, though, and inside is a processor that lags behind those of the latest top models. Android 5.1.1 ran quite smoothly in our tests, but we noticed the wait when loading an app or popping up the onscreen keyboard, and complex web pages took a while to appear. If you like games with fancy graphics, you may find them choppy. In this respect it's beaten by the S5 Neo and trounced by the Nexus 5X.

The Full HD screen is much better than the Aqua's. It's bright and sharp with a pretty good 92 per cent of the sRGB colour range represented. You might want to turn it down to save battery life, though, because the M5 conked out five minutes short of nine hours in our video playback test. Fortunately, Sony's clever low-battery modes will help to keep basic functions going to the end of a busy day.

As for that selfie camera, it does take good pictures, but they look a bit



over-processed even if you skip the optional filters. And you really should, because they're horrid. The Red Lips option is notable for applying lipstick that looks like you put it on while driving. The main camera has an even higher resolution of 21 megapixels, but this is negated by excessive noise reduction, which removes grain by smooshing pixels together. The effect seems to be exacerbated by the lens not being very sharp, except in the centre. Our pictures had good colour and contrast, but no fine detail.

The Xperia M5 will appeal if you want a sophisticated-looking phone without spending a fortune, but it offers few real advances. At least it's still waterproof.

SPECIFICATIONS

5in 1920x1080-pixel screen • 21.5-megapixel rear camera • 13-megapixel front camera • 16GB flash storage • microSD card slot • 802.11n Wi-Fi • Bluetooth 4.1 • 3G/4G • Android 5.1 • 145x72x7.6mm (HxWxD) • 143g • One-year warranty
www.snipca.com/19868

VERDICT: It's an attractive phone for its price bracket with no catastrophic flaws, but the underpowered M5 didn't impress us

★★★★☆

ALTERNATIVE: Samsung Galaxy S5 Neo £265
It's nowhere near as shiny, but this new version of an older phone is also waterproof and the battery lasts ages



The best... Powerline network adapters

Netgear PLP1200

£80 from Currys

www.snipca.com/16866

Powerline networking uses mains wiring to transmit data. Plug one adapter into a socket near your router, which attaches to it with an Ethernet cable, then plug in the other and connect a PC to its Ethernet socket. It's like Wi-Fi, but works over any distance. The PLP1200 is a fast pair, with one Ethernet socket each.



D-Link PowerLine AV2 1000HD Gigabit Starter Kit

£45 from Kikatek

www.snipca.com/17836

Although not quite as fast as the PLP1200, these adapters work as quickly as most Wi-Fi networks in practice. Again there's only one Ethernet port, so you'd need to add an Ethernet switch (about £20) to connect multiple devices at the other end. It's excellent value, but there are no pass-through sockets on the front.



Devolo dLAN 1200+ Wireless Powerline Adapter Kit

£160 from Currys

www.snipca.com/19845

It's expensive, but this kit includes a Wi-Fi hotspot so you can connect wireless devices. A cheaper option is to add a Wi-Fi bridge such as TP-Link's Wireless N Nano Travel Router (£16 from www.snipca.com/19846) to a regular Ethernet Powerline adapter.



TP-Link AV500 Powerline Adapter with AC Pass-Through Starter Kit

£35 from John Lewis

www.snipca.com/19844

Like other older models, this pair of adapters is rated for a slow 500Mbps, and that overstates its real speed. But that's reflected in the low price, and it's quick enough for many purposes. There's only one Ethernet port, but TP-Link has versions with three ports or a Wi-Fi hotspot.



Reviews

TABLET | £150 from Currys www.snipca.com/19763

Acer Predator 8

A gaming tablet that's not just for gamers

Back in January (see Computeractive Issue 466), we tested Nvidia's Shield Tablet K1, which was designed for games, but turned out to be an excellent choice for anyone wanting an Android tablet. Now Acer has responded with the Predator 8. On sale for the same price, it's similarly built around a Full HD 8in screen.

Unlike the modest Shield Tablet K1, the Predator 8 wears its gaming theme on its sleeve. On the front, shiny red polygons at each corner create a love-it-or-hate-it effect (and we *don't* like it). There's a point to these protuberances, though: they house what Acer calls 'quadro speakers'. In reality, they're just stereo, but the sound rearranges itself according to which way round you're holding the device, so that the left and right channels point towards the relevant ears.

“The Predator 8 has 32GB of storage for apps and files, twice the K1's capacity”

The catch with this feature is that it assumes your head is aligned with the Earth's gravitational field. If you're lying on your side in bed, or you're one of those teenagers who somehow occupies a sofa upside down, results may vary. For us, though, the stereo output worked well, even if the advertised Dolby Virtual Surround didn't do much. Although there wasn't a lot of bass, dialogue was crisp and clear.

That didn't make up for the way the Predator 8's sharp corners tended to dig into our hands, nor the way the red grilles attracted dust. But we did appreciate the rubber bumpers on the back, which made holding the tablet sideways – as you would when watching a film – feel secure. And films looked great on the screen, which cheap tablets often skimp on, but this one



hasn't. It covers the full sRGB colour range and goes very bright, so wherever you're using it you get a wonderfully vibrant picture. Contrast isn't the best we've seen, and the 1920x1080-pixel resolution isn't quite as sharp as some devices, but there's really nothing to complain about.

Performance wasn't quite so convincing. You take it for granted that a gaming PC has a powerful processor and graphics card, and the Shield Tablet K1 provides the mobile equivalent in Nvidia's own Tegra K1 chip. The Predator 8's Intel Atom processor – not one of our favourites – fell some way behind the K1 in all our tests, notably in games, but also in web browsing. Even the game that Acer includes for free, Asphalt 8, occasionally stuttered. The Atom munched through a battery charge in just under 10 hours of light use, while the K1 managed more than 12-and-a-half.

The Predator 8 has 32GB of storage for your apps and files, twice the K1's capacity, so you might not need to expand it further. That's just as well, since the microSD slot lets the card stick out with no cover, which could prove annoying. We rather liked the 'haptic' vibration feature: it's pretty useless for games, since hardly any support it, but adds some useful feedback to typing and tapping. Acer's version of the Android operating system comes with several pointless

additions, but some – such as the ability to run two apps side by side – are handy. The cameras are dire, but nobody buys a tablet for the camera.

We enjoyed using the Predator 8, but the spiky design made us feel a bit self-conscious using it in public. Overall, the Nvidia Shield K1's smoother performance, longer battery life and less aggressive styling outweigh the lower colour accuracy of its screen.

SPECIFICATIONS

1.6GHz Intel Atom x7-Z8700 processor • 32GB flash storage • 8in 1920x1080-pixel touchscreen • 5-megapixel rear camera • 2-megapixel webcam • 802.11n Wi-Fi • Bluetooth 4.0 • Android 5.1 • 127x218x8.7mm (HxWxD) • 350g • One-year warranty www.snipca.com/19771

VERDICT: With an excellent screen, adequate performance and some unusual features, this is a good tablet for the money, but it won't suit all tastes

★★★★☆

ALTERNATIVE: Nvidia Shield Tablet K1
£150 This also has rubber grips and decent speakers, but it looks less trendy and has a faster processor. Budget for a USB charger, because none is included



UNLEASH THE GAMER WITHIN YOU...



14" ENIGMA VI

- Intel® Core™ M CPUs
- Intel Integrated Graphics
- Ultra thin: Just 15.6mm!
- Full HD IPS Screen
- Up to 7.5 Hours Battery
- Wireless as standard
- Windows 10

from **£409.99**



SPECTRELITE

- AMD FX-4300
- ASUS® M5A97 R2.0
- 8GB Hyper-X Fury RAM
- 2GB NVIDIA® GTX 950
- 1TB Hard Drive
- Corsair 350W PSU
- Windows 10

from **£499.99**



GLADIUS900

- Intel® Core™ i5-6600k
- ASUS® Maximus VIII Hero
- 8GB Hyper-X Fury RAM
- 2GB NVIDIA® GTX 960
- 1TB Hard Drive
- Corsair 450W PSU
- Windows 10

from **£899.99**



15.6" OCTANE II

- 6th Gen Intel® Core™ CPUs
- NVIDIA® GeForce™ Graphics
- NVIDIA® G-SYNC™ Option
- Full HD IPS Screen
- Thunderbolt™ 3
- Wireless as standard
- Windows 10

from **£1,119.99**



VITRUM

- OC Intel® Core™ i5-6600k
- ASUS® Z170-E
- 16GB Hyper-X Fury RAM
- 4GB NVIDIA® GTX 970
- 400GB Intel® 750 PCIe SSD
- 1TB Hard Drive
- Windows 10

from **£1,199.99**



GLACIER

- OC Intel® Core™ i7-6700k
- ASUS® Maximus VIII Hero
- 16GB Corsair Vengeance RAM
- 6GB NVIDIA® GTX 980Ti
- 400GB Intel® 750 PCIe SSD
- 2TB Hard Drive
- Windows 10

from **£1799.99**

Reviews

SMARTPHONE | £190 from vMall www.snipca.com/19790

Huawei Honor 5X

A bigger phone at a smaller price

Once upon a time, there was a prejudice that 'Made in China' meant cheap and rough. The smartphone industry has certainly turned those tables. Today, China is the world centre for the incredibly precise engineering that packs the latest technology into the slimmest slabs. And Huawei – based just north of Hong Kong – is among the companies that's making its own products as well as hardware for Western brands.

“ Apps, photos and videos look good on the 5.5in HD screen ”

As if to reinforce its global aspirations, Huawei credits Frank Gehry's Guggenheim museum in Bilbao as the inspiration for the Honor 5X's one-piece aluminium case. We can't quite see the resemblance – the Guggenheim is all glittering curves, while the 5X is plain and flat – but we admire Huawei's intentions. Like the Guggenheim, the 5X comes in silver, or you can opt for dark grey or gold.

The finish isn't quite perfect: stippled plastic sections at the top and bottom – where the wireless signals get in and

out – don't quite fit flush, and the screen will bend slightly if you press it. But for under £200, it looks very classy. On the back is a fingerprint scanner that quickly unlocks the phone. It's also meant to show your recent apps and notifications on the touchscreen when you swipe up or down on it, but this didn't work so well for us.

Huawei's customisation of Google's Android is one of our least favourite versions of the operating system, but apps, photos and videos looked good on the 5.5in Full HD screen. This covers a reasonable 89 per cent of the sRGB colour range, with high brightness and contrast. Photos from the rear camera were mostly clear, but it struggled indoors. The mid-range Snapdragon processor is fast for a budget phone, but we found web browsing and advanced games choppy. The battery lasted just over 10-and-a-half hours of video watching – a good result.

You won't see many phones with a fingerprint reader for under £200, so the Honor 5X is worth considering. But the waterproof Sony Xperia M4 Aqua is more practical, while Motorola's Moto G (3rd Gen) is better built at a lower price.



SPECIFICATIONS

5.5in 1920x1080-pixel screen • 13-megapixel rear camera • 5-megapixel front camera • 16GB flash storage • microSD card slot • 802.11n Wi-Fi • Bluetooth 4.1 • 3G/4G • 151x76x8.2mm (HxWxD) • 158g • One-year warranty www.snipca.com/19791

VERDICT: It looks good in adverts, but the Honor 5X isn't Huawei's most convincing smartphone, even if the price is attractive

★★★★☆

ALTERNATIVE: Sony Xperia M4 Aqua £159 Despite a smaller screen and just 8GB of storage (a £10 microSD card will fix that), the sturdy M4 Aqua is easier to use



WHAT SHOULD I BUY? We solve your buying dilemmas

Which tablet should I buy for offline reading?

Q Now that *The Independent* is to stop print production, I will need to switch to an online subscription. Could you recommend a tablet on which to read it? I have no need for a phone, camera, etc, just a good screen, Wi-Fi, and enough storage for offline reading.

Eddie Kelly

A *The Independent's* digital Daily Edition is for iPad and iPhone



only. It contains no more content than you can read free on the website, but adds interactive versions of the puzzles and is laid out more attractively. At £13 a month, it's a better choice than the £10 Kindle or Nook e-reader version, which is poorly designed. Android users only get an app for the smaller *i* newspaper, which has been bought by Johnston Press.

So your best bet is an iPad. By the time you read this, we expect Apple to have announced a new version of

the medium-sized iPad Air, while discounting older models: check www.snipca.com/19793 for info. The cheapest option, around £320, would work fine, although the new model will support software updates longer into the future. Or you could buy an Android tablet and rely on *The Independent's* website, but full-size models with good screens are no cheaper.

✉ Do you need advice on what you should buy? Email us at letters@computeractive.co.uk

PRINTER | £90 from Currys www.snipca.com/19825

Epson Expression Premium XP-530

Does this printer have the world's smallest screen?

Flat screens were amazing when they first appeared. Before then, displaying an electronic image meant accelerating a stream of electrons like some sort of fantasy, video-game weapon. This meant that however wide your monitor was, it had to be proportionally deep, making room for the picture gunners to take aim. Even the smallest screens offered far more volume than surface area, and the limit of miniaturisation was the shoebox-sized 7in black-and-white telly in your caravan.

“Our colour graphics document printed at 6.4 pages per minute, faster than we would have expected”

Then along came **LCDs**, allowing children of the Eighties to play Donkey Kong on a gadget that would slip into their pocket when the teacher turned around. Soon a screen was something you could easily stick anywhere at any size. Today, it's common to see clear colour images on advertising hoardings three-storeys high.

Epson has gone to the other extreme. The Expression Premium XP-530 – to be fair – isn't a monitor. It's an inkjet printer. But it has a screen to show you settings. It is not a big screen. In fact, it's barely even a small screen. Perhaps a more apt term



would be 'interactive postage stamp'. It's so tiny that when you use the buttons to delve into the menus, it can only fit one option at a time. Is it unreasonable of us to think this misses the point of options?

If you enjoy scrolling, the XP-530 will be your favourite printer to set up. Entering the Wi-Fi password is a particular pleasure, although you can forgo it if your router supports WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup). The dinky display has one other purpose: it can preview photos to print from a camera's memory card, inserted in the SD slot at the far left. That's handy, but good luck trying to tell apart similar shots.

The paper tray – although normal size – also presents a challenge: sliding a stack of A4 into it often knocks the output tray above out of place. Those drawbacks aside, however, this is a rather good printer. The supplied software provides lots of controls that are easy to use. Postcard-sized photos rolled out in just a minute each, and our colour graphics document at 6.4 pages per minute (ppm), faster than we'd expect from this class of machine, although slower than Epson's estimate. Black text wasn't exceptionally quick at 9ppm. You can print on both sides of the paper – called duplex printing.

There's a scanning glass under the lid, so you can make photocopies or digitise pages to files on your PC. A black-and-white A4 photocopy took 16

SPECIFICATIONS

5670x1440dpi maximum print resolution • 9.5ppm quoted speed (mono) • USB • 802.11n Wi-Fi • 138x390x341mm (HxWxD) • 6.2kg • One-year warranty www.snipca.com/19829



seconds and a colour copy 24. The scanner captured an A4 page at a rough quality of 150 dots per inch (dpi) in just 10 seconds, and managed a 6x4in photo at a high-quality 600dpi in 25. Bumping up to 1200dpi for enlargement slowed this to over two minutes.

Print quality was very good, distinguishing a full range of shades in accurate colour. You could certainly get better, but not in this price bracket. As with Canon's comparable Pixma MG5750, only four of the five inks are used for colour output, and adding up the cost of these gives a total of 8.7p per colour page. That's more than 2p higher than for the MG5750. Real-life running costs can be unpredictable, but the difference is worth noting.

Despite its minuscule monitor, the Expression Premium XP-530 is a strong rival to the Canon Pixma MG5750, our favourite printer. Of the two, only the XP-530 has an **SD card** slot. But the MG5750's screen is a proper size, and it's a bit cheaper both to buy and to run, so Epson is the runner-up this time.

VERDICT: It's a good, fast multi-function printer for the money, compromised only by a tiny screen and high ink costs



ALTERNATIVE: Canon Pixma MG5750 £79 Canon's five-ink Wi-Fi printer also has an awkward menu system, and lacks an SD slot, but it costs less to buy and run



Reviews

TRACKER | £50 (pack of four) from Amazon www.snipca.com/19842

Tile, Inc Tile 2

Never lose anything again – maybe

When you lose a file on your PC, you type its name into the Search box and find it again. Sadly, you can't find objects in real life the same way. But with the Tile, you sort of can. It's a little waterproof plastic tag – about twice the size of an **SD memory card** – that lets you track whatever it's attached to, keyring, wallet or dog.

In reality this is slightly less futuristic than you might hope. A built-in GPS would require too large a battery, so instead it just has a **Bluetooth LE** (low energy) chip. This works across a range of up to 100 feet (30 metres), although, allowing for walls, it's often less than half that. It's enough to find your Tile when you're roughly in the right place.

“If the Tile is out of range, you're not quite out of luck. With the app, your device checks on the Tile every minute or so”

You do this from an app on your smartphone or tablet. Select one of your Tiles and its signal strength is displayed. The nearer it is, the stronger the signal will get, so you can play 'Warmer!' 'Colder!' until you find it. Better still, the



Tile has a tiny speaker built in that squeaks a jaunty ringtone at 90 decibels, loud enough to hear from down the back of the sofa or in the shed.

If it's out of range, you're not quite out of luck. With the app installed, your device constantly checks on the Tile every minute or so. Whenever it can see the Tile, it records its own location using its built-in geographic tracking. Later, the app will tell you that at that time the Tile was within 100 feet of that location. You can then head back to that spot and play warmer/colder again.

If your Tile has moved, you can mark it as lost. Then the Community Find feature comes into play: other people's Tile apps can find your tile, and the Tile server will email you to say where it is. For privacy, you won't know who found your Tile and they won't know they did, so they can't 'offer' to grab it and post it back to you. The further away you left it, the more frustrating that might be. What you can do, at least, is 'share' a Tile with another user, so a family member can find your Tiles at home when you're not there.

The Tile also works in reverse: if you lose your phone or tablet, pressing a button on the Tile makes the device play a sound. Most devices already have an app to do that remotely, such as Find My iPhone, but the Tile is quicker.

Tile works with Apple and Android devices that have Bluetooth 4.0.

That means any iPhone from the 4s onwards, for example, and any iPad more recent than the iPad 2. For a full list of compatible devices visit

www.snipca.com/19858. Laptops and MacBooks also have Bluetooth, but there's no app for them. Any device with Android 4.4 or higher should work, but there's a Bluetooth bug in Android 6; check if your device can get an update to 6.0.1.

We tested a Tile and it worked just as it's supposed to, although the success of Community Find will depend on how many people with Tiles go to the same places as you.

At £20, buying a single Tile is quite expensive, especially given that it only lasts a year. Soon after that, its sealed battery will run out and you'll need to buy a new Tile. The manufacturer offers replacements at a discount (see www.snipca.com/19843), but with postage from the US it's barely cheaper. Tiles are more affordable if you buy several. Buying four works out at £12.50 each.

SPECIFICATIONS

Bluetooth LE tag • Up to 100-foot range • IP5 water resistant • 37x37x5.3mm (WxDxH) • 37g
www.snipca.com/19841

VERDICT: If you often lose things, a Tile or four could be very useful, but the limited range makes it less of a must-have at the price



ALTERNATIVE: Other Bluetooth tracking tags exist, but they're not widely sold in the UK and users report problems with them. If you've tried one, let us know



PROJECTOR | £250 from Maplin www.snipca.com/19794

Philips PicoPix PPX4010

A very portable PC projector

There used to be a standing joke about how little you'd need to spend to pay for a trip to the cinema and a packet of fags. Now you can get a cinema in a box the size of a fag packet, and for less than you might expect. The PicoPix uses an **LED** instead of an incandescent bulb, cutting out most of the bulk, heat and cost of a traditional projector. And, unlike the deadly weed, it doesn't come with a Government health warning.

“The LED isn't replaceable – when it wears out, you throw the whole thing away”

The target audience is business travellers with presentations to make, but it's also a useful way to watch videos at home or away. Cheaper and far smaller than a 40-inch TV set, it'll create a usable image at that size on a wall a metre or so away. Turn the lights out and you can stretch the picture to 60 inches, but beyond that it gets too faint.

The main cost of owning a projector used to be in replacing the bulbs. The LED isn't replaceable – when it wears out, you throw the whole thing away. It's rated for 30,000 hours, or eight hours a day for 10 years. Unlike machines of yore, the PicoPix doesn't get burning hot and its internal fan makes only a quiet whine.



What's the catch? Resolution. A Full HD TV displays 1920x1080 pixels. We're already moving towards **4K**, four times more. The PicoPix PPX4010 is limited to 854x480, similar to a DVD player. That's poor for detailed PowerPoint slides, but for films and TV, it's not so bad: projection blurs the pixels, so unless you're picky about sharpness, you may not see a problem.

There's no Wi-Fi, so you'll need to take an **HDMI** cable directly from your PC or Mac to the PicoPix, or use a suitable adapter with a mobile device. You can also add an Apple TV (from £59) or a Google Chromecast (£30) to get a signal wirelessly.

The rival Pico Genie M100 projector supports **Miracast** and **DLNA wireless** transmission, but that can be fiddly and doesn't work with iPhones and iPads. More importantly, the Pico Genie has a speaker and a headphone jack. The PicoPix PPX4010 doesn't handle sound at all, leaving you to listen to your computer's internal audio or attach a speaker directly to it.

SPECIFICATIONS

100-lumen LED • 854x480-pixel resolution • 500–5,000mm projection distance • Mini HDMI input • 68x66x22mm (WxDxH) • 83g
www.snipca.com/19795

VERDICT: The PPX4010 works acceptably for such a handy device, but the low resolution, limited brightness and lack of audio make it less than ideal



ALTERNATIVE: Pico Genie M100
£300 This has more inputs, including a **microSD card** and wireless, and audio, but its dimmer 20,000-hour LED is disappointing



COMING SOON

SPRING 2016

Expected in April, LG's G5 is a new kind of flagship smartphone with a modular design. This means you'll be able to add upgrades such as cameras, replaceable batteries and memory cards. Yet it has a slim metal body that looks like a premium phone. Will it catch on?



SPRING 2016

Announced at February's Mobile World Congress, the Lenovo Ideapad Miix 310 is a tablet that runs Windows 10, and has a keyboard that attaches magnetically and a 1366x768-pixel, 10.1in touchscreen with great colour and contrast. It will only cost around £200.



SUMMER 2016

Zotac reckons it invented the 'mini PC'. Among the new range it plans to launch in the summer is an upgrade for the C series that squeezes Intel's latest 'Skylake' Core i5 processor into a box the size of a large sandwich.



SUMMER 2016

Independent manufacturer OnePlus has shown it can do better than the big brands with its low-cost, high-spec phones, and soon we'll see another, possibly called the OnePlus 3. Expect a top-end Snapdragon processor and another affordable price tag.



NEXT ISSUE

ON SALE
30 Mar

PC Specialist Editing PC

An affordable desktop PC ready for high-res video



HP Envy 13
High-end Windows 10 laptop at a mid-range price



These and much more...

Subscribe to Computeractive at
www.getcomputeractive.co.uk

Buy It

Find out what other products we liked.
Buy our new 2015 **Back Issue CD**:
£15 from www.snipca.com/19124



Our pick of products that have won the Buy It award

LAPTOP

Asus UX305

£580 from www.snipca.com/19439

Tested: Issue 447



13.3in is a practical size for a laptop, and this light but sturdy 'ultrabook' has a smart and slim design that does justice to its capable performance. Upgradeable to Windows 10, it's limited mainly by its 128GB SSD, which makes it work fast but might leave you needing more space.

ALTERNATIVE Toshiba Satellite C40-C

This 14in Windows 10 laptop looks like it cost a lot more. It's not the most amazing PC, but it's fantastic for the price. £200 from www.snipca.com/19436

DESKTOP PC

NEW ENTRY

Mesh Elite Essential Skylake CA

£499 from www.snipca.com/19822

Tested: Issue 471



This compact tower system spends your money wisely on an excellent Intel i5 Skylake processor for all-round performance. The 2TB hard drive gives you plenty of space for all your files, and fast 802.11ac Wi-Fi is built in.

ALTERNATIVE: Palicomp AMD

Shockwave If you want more gaming capability, this system based on AMD processors is also great value. £500 from www.snipca.com/18748

TABLET

Apple iPad Mini 4

£319 from www.snipca.com/18100

Tested: Issue 460



The 2015 update to Apple's 7.9in tablet greatly improves the screen and camera, boosts performance, and makes it worth the £100 extra over the iPad mini 2 (still a good budget buy). Go for the £399 64GB version if you can, though.

ALTERNATIVE: Apple iPad Air 2

The 9.7in option is still slim and light, also has Touch ID and Apple Pay, and the range of apps beats Android. £399 from www.snipca.com/18139

PHONE

Apple iPhone 6s

£539 from www.snipca.com/18240

Tested: Issue 461



It may look like the 2014 model, but this update is stronger and faster, with a higher-resolution camera, time-saving 3D Touch features and an excellent screen. The bigger 6s Plus has better battery life.

ALTERNATIVE: Moto X Play

Motorola's fun phone may be plasticky, but it runs Android 5 smoothly. The screen, camera and battery life are all big pluses. £260 from www.snipca.com/17934

DIGITAL CAMERA

Panasonic Lumix FZ330

£449 from www.snipca.com/19441

Tested: Issue 462



A wide-angle lens to capture scenes, a longer fast lens for flattering portraits and a telephoto for distant subjects – the 12-megapixel FZ330 gives you them all in one unit, with a fixed high-quality zoom lens.

ALTERNATIVE: Sony A5000

This neat compact system camera (CSC) lets you choose different lenses from Sony's range for more creative possibilities. £249 from www.snipca.com/15854

E-READER

Amazon Kindle Paperwhite

£90 from www.snipca.com/17776

Tested: Issue 458



With a new high-resolution screen, the affordable Kindle lacks only automatic brightness adjustment and page-turn buttons (you have to swipe the screen). It's great value as long as you're happy to buy your books from Amazon.

ALTERNATIVE: Kobo Glo HD

As good as the Paperwhite, but with more storage, and slightly more compact, this is the independent e-reader to pick. £90 from www.snipca.com/19158

TP-LINK®

YOUR UNIVERSE

COMPUTERS



SMART TV's



TABLETS



SMART PHONES



SMART LIGHTING



GAMES CONSOLES



STREAMING DEVICES



WIRELESS SPEAKERS



POWERED BY *Archer*



Archer C2600 - Wireless Dual Band Gigabit Router

- ⊗ Omni-directional wireless coverage with beamforming technology
- ⊗ Dual band Wi-Fi 2.4GHz (800Mbps) and 5GHz (1733Mbps)
- ⊗ A powerful 1.4GHz dual-core processor
- ⊗ TP-LINK Tether iOS and Android App
- ⊗ 4x 10/100/1000Mbps LAN Ports
1x 10/100/1000Mbps WAN Port
2x USB 3.0 Ports
- ⊗ Run Multiple Devices Simultaneously with MU-MIMO technology

amazon.com



Currys PCWorld dabs.com



ebuyer.com

OVERCLOCKERS UK

SCAN

very



Proud Sponsors of
team-dignitas



/TPLINKUK



/TPLINKUK



/TPLINKTECH

uk.tp-link.com

SECURITY SOFTWARE

Kaspersky Internet Security 2016

£19.99 from www.snipca.com/17874

Tested: Issue 437



Kaspersky Internet Security 2016 has won our past seven antivirus tests. Compatible with Windows 10, the 2016 edition is available at an exclusive reader discount on our Software Store. Go to the link above for a one-device licence, or buy a three-device licence for just £39.99 at www.snipca.com/17903.

ALTERNATIVE: Avast Free Antivirus

Almost as good as Kaspersky, but sometimes blocked legitimate software. Free from www.snipca.com/16493

PHOTO EDITING

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 6

£104 from www.snipca.com/16952

Tested: Issue 453



Lightroom is the professional's choice for managing and tweaking photos, including raw files from DSLR cameras. If you need Photoshop for more advanced editing, get both on the Adobe CC Photography Plan for £8.57 a month (www.snipca.com/19283).

ALTERNATIVE: Xara Photo & Graphic Designer 11

For all-round design and drawing plus photo filters, this affordable app has a lot to offer. £50 from www.snipca.com/19280

SMART TV

Samsung UE40H5500

£398 from www.snipca.com/19160

Tested: Issue 446



A 40in smart TV with great picture quality and apps for all the terrestrial TV catch-up services. It has plenty of extras too, such as recording to USB storage, playing media files stored on a NAS or USB stick and plenty of HDMI ports.

ALTERNATIVE: Sony KDL-43W755C

Excellent image quality, stylish looks and a 43in screen. £429 from www.snipca.com/18153

PC MONITOR

AOC Q2778VQE

£214 from www.snipca.com/19416

Tested: Issue 468



It comes with no extras, such as built-in speakers or a USB hub, but this 2560x1440 panel gives you a full 27in screen with excellent contrast and colour accuracy at a very reasonable price. It's a little laggy for gamers, but there's no ghosting on motion.

ALTERNATIVE: Dell UltraSharp U2414H

This 1920x1080, 24in screen has a stand that can switch to portrait mode. Colour accuracy is excellent. £188 from www.snipca.com/18207

ROUTER

Trendnet TEW-812DRU

£126 from www.snipca.com/19437

Tested: Issue 427



An incredibly fast 802.11ac router that's also one of the cheapest we've seen. It's superb and it's the router to buy if you're ready to make the jump to 802.11ac.

ALTERNATIVE: Linksys WRT1900AC

More expensive, but even faster and with loads of features too. £180 from www.snipca.com/14950

NAS

Synology DiskStation DS215j

£132 from www.snipca.com/16187

Tested: Issue 449



This two-drive NAS enclosure has it all – fast performance, easy configuration and plenty of extra features. Its only flaw is that installation is a little fiddly – but if you want quality network storage, then this is the obvious choice.

ALTERNATIVE: Synology DS414j

A four-drive NAS that's generally fast, easy to set up and use. £242 from www.snipca.com/16707

HOMEPLUGS

Devolo dLAN 1200 Triple+ Starter Kit

£119 from www.snipca.com/15369

Tested: Issue 444



Devolo's latest HomePlug adapters are the fastest we've ever seen. They're well designed too, with a passthrough socket so you can still power another device and the design should avoid skirting boards and other obstacles.

ALTERNATIVE: D-Link PowerLine AV2 1000HD Gigabit Starter Kit Fast (speeds of up to 1000Mbps), much cheaper and very easy to set up, but the lack of a passthrough socket is frustrating. £45 from www.snipca.com/17836

WEB-DESIGN

Xara Web Designer Premium 11

£70 from www.snipca.com/16955

Tested: Issue 453



This visual web-design program makes creating sites more like laying out a document than writing HTML code, and sites can be responsive, meaning they look right on both big and small screens without extra work. A basic version is also available for half the price.

ALTERNATIVE: Incomedia WebSite X5 v12 Evolution It may feel a little basic, but this straightforward program outputs efficient HTML code and responsive pages. £38 from www.snipca.com/19440

COMPETITION

Win 1 of 4 MAGIX Movie Edit Pro 2016 Premium

The perfect program for high-quality video projects, Movie Edit Pro 2016 Premium combines all the new features of the Plus version with a unique selection of stunning effects. It supports 360-degree editing for videos made with panoramic cameras, and has improved 'object tracking', letting you focus with more precision on moving objects. You can even pin text to objects, place black rectangles on faces and blur car licence plates. To enter, email your address to cacomp@dennis.co.uk with 'premium' in the subject line by midnight 29 March.



MAGIX Movie Edit Pro 2016 Premium is available to buy priced £89.99 from www.snipca.com/19859. For updates on MAGIX software 'like' their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MAGIX)

MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER

Canon Pixma MG5750

£70 from www.snipca.com/19616

Tested: Issue 470



You don't get many frills, but this compact all-in-one printer/scanner includes all the essentials, like Wi-Fi and printing both sides of the paper (duplex), at a reasonable price. It's fairly quick, running costs are better than average, and the five-ink system ensures photos and black text both come out looking great.

ALTERNATIVE: Brother MFC-J5320DW For more business-type tasks, this all-in-one has automatic paper feed for the scanner and the ability to print occasional A3 pages. £80 from www.snipca.com/19674

SOLID-STATE DRIVE

Crucial BX100 1TB

£267 from www.snipca.com/19572

Tested: Issue 445



A blindingly fast, high-capacity SSD at a lower price than ever before. If you've been put off buying a SSD because of the cost, then now is finally the time to take the plunge.

ALTERNATIVE: Samsung 850 Pro 256GB An even faster SSD, but it's much more expensive per gigabyte. £135 from www.snipca.com/16498

SECURITY CAMERA

Y-cam HomeMonitor HD

£135 from www.snipca.com/11646

Tested: Issue 420

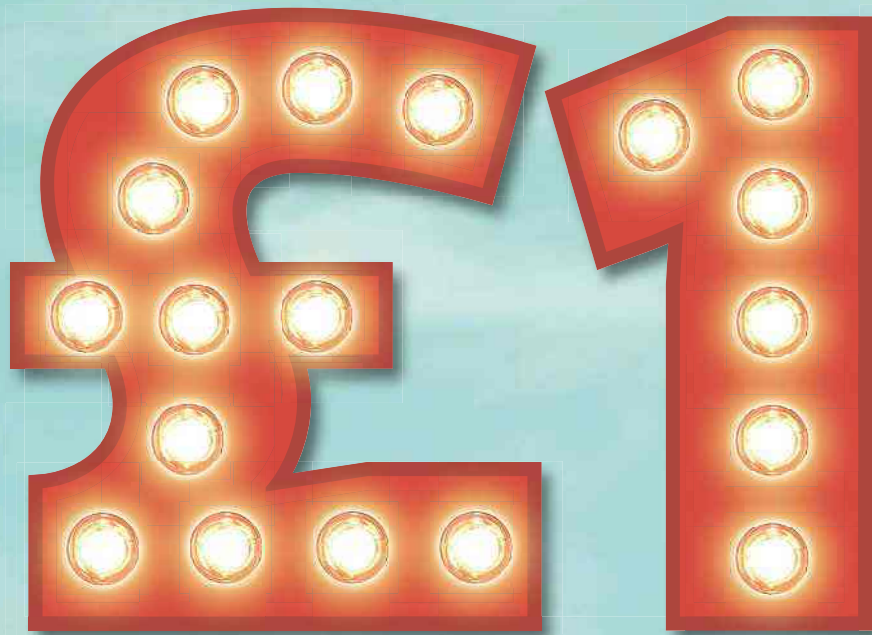


A home-security camera that's well priced and easy to set up. Plus, it has great picture quality, useful apps and there's no need to subscribe to any extra services. It's a worthy successor to the original HomeMonitor, our previous favourite security camera.

ALTERNATIVE: D-Link Wireless N Day & Night Camera A good-value security camera with excellent night vision. £88 from www.snipca.com/15275

The eggstra-special

EASTER SALE



AN ISSUE

Pick from a host of **cracking** magazines,
all for **JUST £1** an issue!

View our complete Easter Sale at
magazinedeals.co.uk/eastersale

Using offer code **P1606PES**



Workshops & Tips

Edited by Sherwin Coelho

PULL OUT
& KEEP
Issue 471

14 pages of easy-to-follow workshops and expert tips

35 Set new defaults for Windows 10
38 Add Chrome-like tabs to Word docs

40 Make your own keyboard shortcuts
42 Set up a group Skype chat on your phone

PLUS

43 Readers' Tips
44 Phone & Tablet Tips
46 Make Windows Better

47 Make Office Better
48 Secret Tips For... Windows 10 gestures

Set new defaults for Windows 10

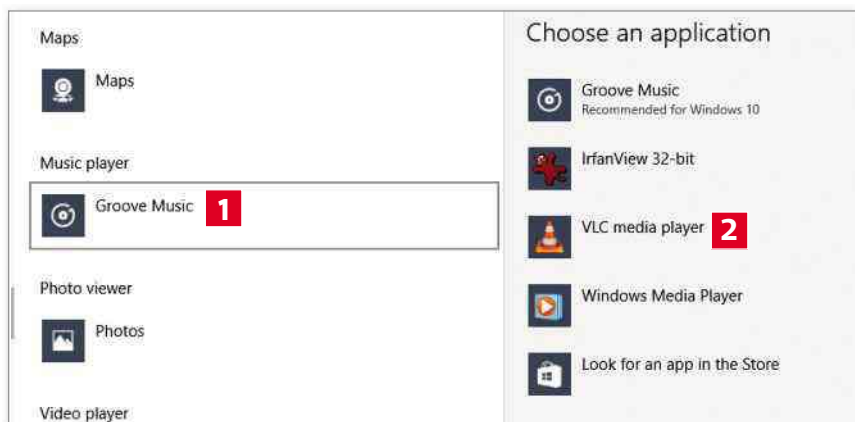
What you need: Windows 10 **Time required:** 30 minutes

If you've upgraded to Windows 10, or bought a PC running the new operating system, you'll notice that Microsoft's apps are the defaults for all your PC's functions (Groove Music for playing music, Photos for viewing photos, and so on). We'll show

you how to set new defaults in just a few clicks. We'll also show you a secret way to use Gmail in Chrome as your default email service, how to set your default printer and scanner, and how to change your default search engine within Microsoft Edge.

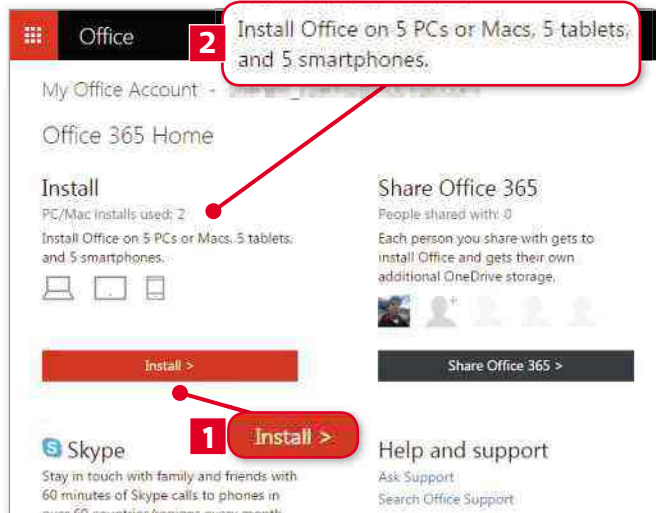


STEP 1 First, ensure that you've installed any third-party program or app that you want to set as your default. Now open the Start menu, click Settings, System, then click 'Default apps' **1**. Some programs may have automatically set themselves as defaults after you installed them. If you're happy with that, then leave it as the default. If not, click the Reset button **2** at the bottom to reset all your apps to Microsoft's defaults. You'll now see Microsoft Edge as your default web browser **3**, Films & TV as your default video player **4**, and so on. You can now systematically change each one.

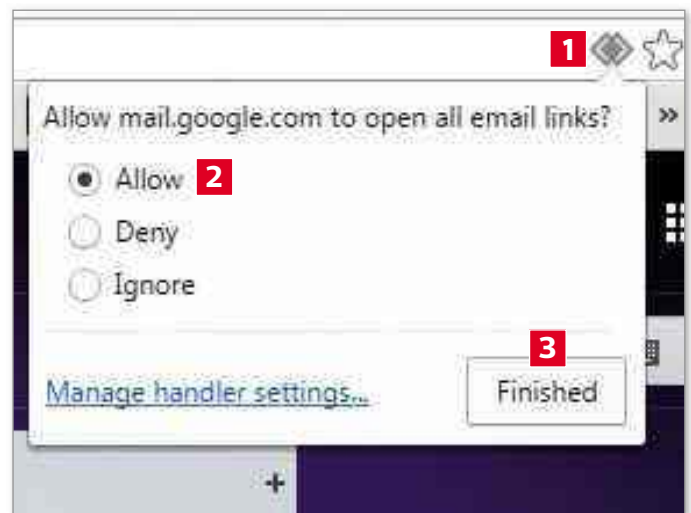


STEP 2 To change your default app for any of the functions (such as 'Music player'), click the current default (Groove Music) **1**. You'll now see a list of installed programs/apps that you can use as your default for that function. Click to select the one you want (such as 'VLC media player') **2**. If a program or app you want to use doesn't appear within the list, then use the method outlined in Step 6 to set it as your default.

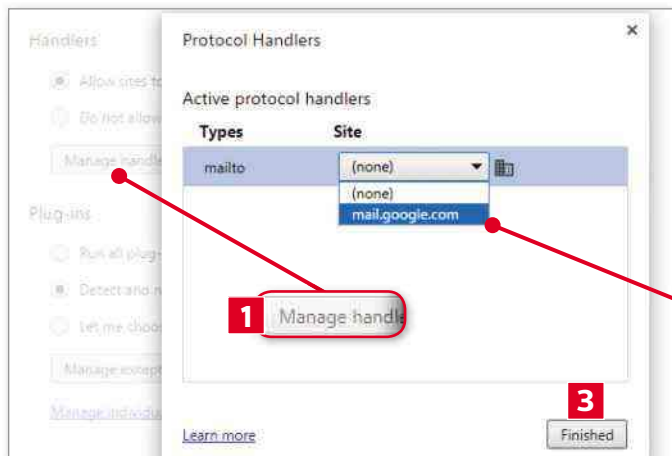
Workshops



STEP 3 Your default Email app is set to Mail. If you want to change this to Outlook, then ensure you've installed Office on your PC. To install the latest version, go to www.office.com/myaccount and log in with your Microsoft account. Next, click the Install button **1**, run the downloaded setup file and wait for it to finish. This installs Office 365, which you can use for free for one month on up to five devices **2** (it costs £7.99 per month or £79.99 per year, thereafter). After installing, open Outlook and log into your account. Now return to the 'Default apps' settings and set your default Mail app to Outlook.

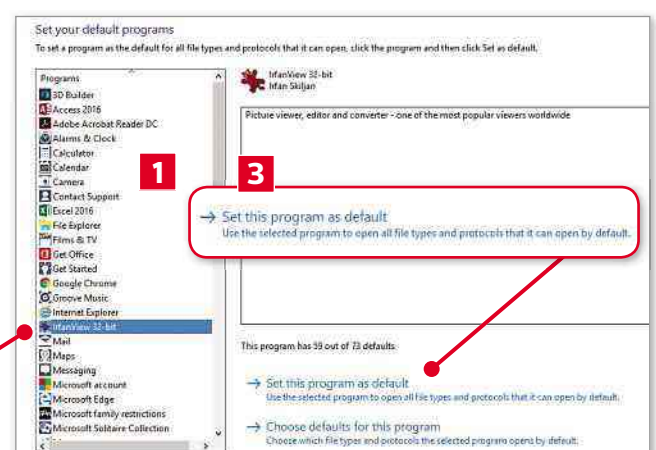


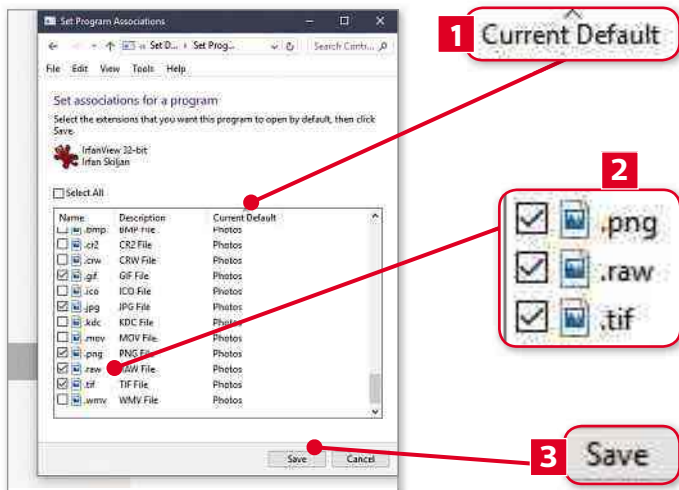
STEP 4 You can set Gmail as your default email. To do this, open Chrome (www.snipca.com/19773), go to www.gmail.com and log into your account. Next, click the Protocol Handler icon **1** (at the right of your browser bar). If you don't see this icon, skip to the next step. Now select Allow **2**, then click Finished **3**. Click OK if you see a pop-up message on your screen. Now return to the 'Default apps' section, click your default email app (Mail) and select Google Chrome.



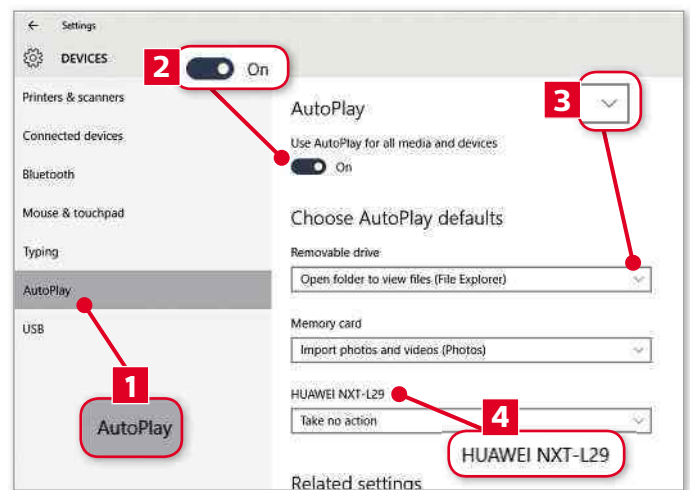
STEP 5 After doing that, open Chrome again, click the three lines at the top right, Settings, then scroll to the bottom and click '+Show advanced settings'. In the Privacy section, click the 'Content settings' button. Now scroll to the Handlers section and click the 'Manage handlers' button **1**. Click the 'mailto' dropdown menu, select 'mail.google.com' **2**, then click Finished twice **3**. From now on, whenever you click an email address link, it'll open within Gmail in Chrome, ready for you to write your email.

STEP 6 Photos is your default 'Photo viewer' app. If you click to change it (see Step 2), you'll see a list of alternative programs. You'll notice that some third-party programs (such as the popular IrfanView www.snipca.com/19774) won't appear, even if they're installed on your PC. Using IrfanView as an example, we'll show you how to add it to the list. First, scroll to the bottom of the 'Default apps' section and click 'Set defaults by app'. You'll now see an alphabetical list of all the programs and apps on your PC **1**. Select IrfanView **2**, then click 'Set this program as default' **3**. This will set IrfanView as the default program for all the file types associated with it (photos, images and screenshots).

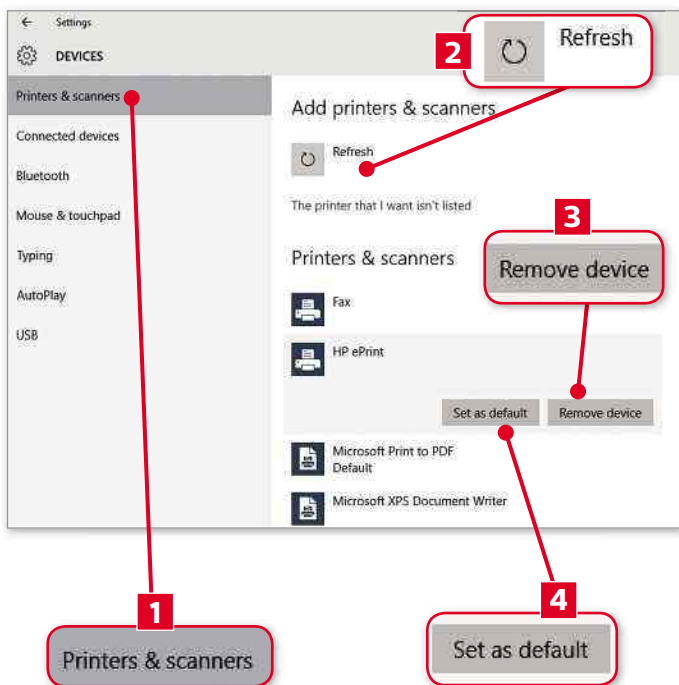




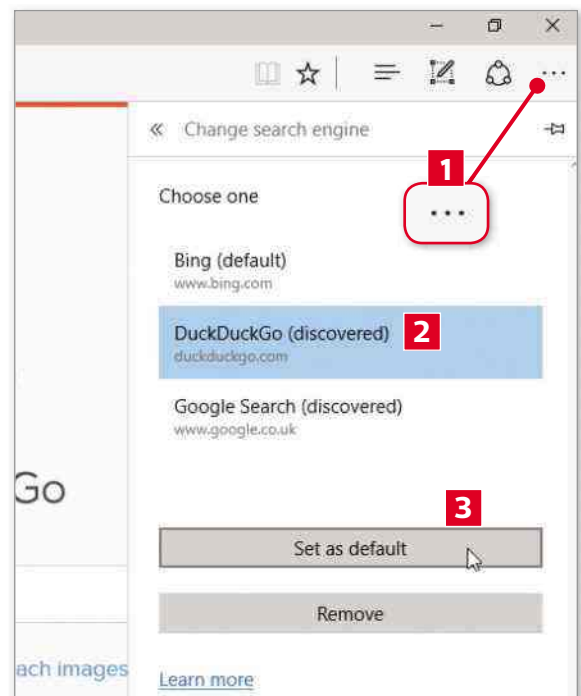
STEP 7 Alternatively, you can choose which file type you want to set IrfanView as your default for. To do this, select the program in the alphabetical list on the left, then click 'Choose defaults for this program' below. Now click the Current Default heading **1** and scroll down the list. You'll see that the Photos app is set as your default for most photo file formats. Tick the file formats you want to set IrfanView as your default for (.jpg, gif, .png, .raw and .tif are the most common image formats) **2**, then click Save **3**. Repeat Steps 6 and 7 to change your defaults for all the programs and apps that don't appear within your list in the 'Default apps' section.



STEP 8 We'll now show you how to set default actions when you connect any device (such as a mobile phone, external hard drive, SSD, CD or DVD) to your PC. Open Settings, Devices, then click AutoPlay **1**. Ensure the AutoPlay slider is turned on **2**. Next, click the 'Removable device' dropdown menu and choose what you want. We recommend 'Open folder to view files (File Explorer)' **3**. Next, click the 'Memory card' dropdown menu and select an action. Connect your phone or tablet to your PC to see its option appear within this list **4**. Now select what you want to do when you connect it to your PC.



STEP 9 We'll now show you how to set your default printer and scanner. Ensure both devices are connected to your PC. Now open Settings, click Devices, then click 'Printers & scanners' **1**. If your device isn't listed, click the Refresh button **2** and wait for the list to update. If there's a device you no longer use, select it and click 'Remove device' **3**. Now select your printer and click 'Set as default' **4**. Repeat this to set your default scanner.



STEP 10 Bing is the default search engine in Microsoft Edge. If you prefer using another search engine (such as Google or DuckDuckGo), you can set it as the default. Launch Edge, then open the website you want to set as your search engine. Now click the three dots at the top right **1**, Settings at the bottom, then scroll to the bottom again and click the 'View advanced settings' button. Click the Change button below Bing. You'll see the website you're on in a list. Click to select it **2**, then click 'Set as default' **3**.

Add Chrome-like tabs to Word documents

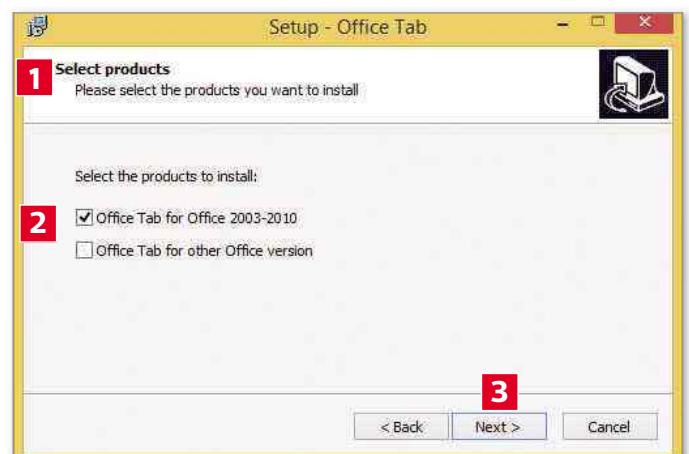
What you need: Office Tabs; Any version of Office **Time required:** 20 minutes

Web browsers, such as Chrome and Firefox, let you access different websites from the same window using tabs. Similarly, Office Tabs is a free **add-in** that adds tabs to Word, Excel and PowerPoint, letting you access multiple files

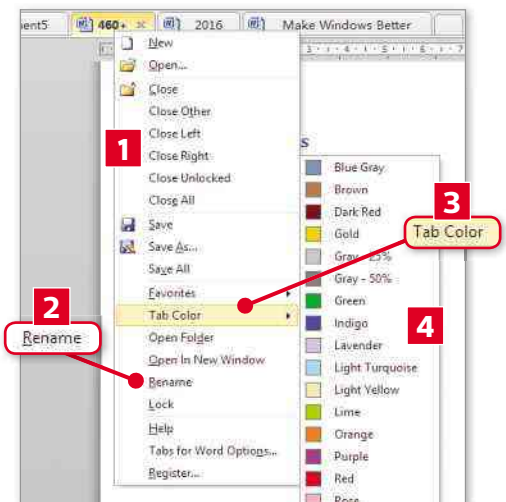
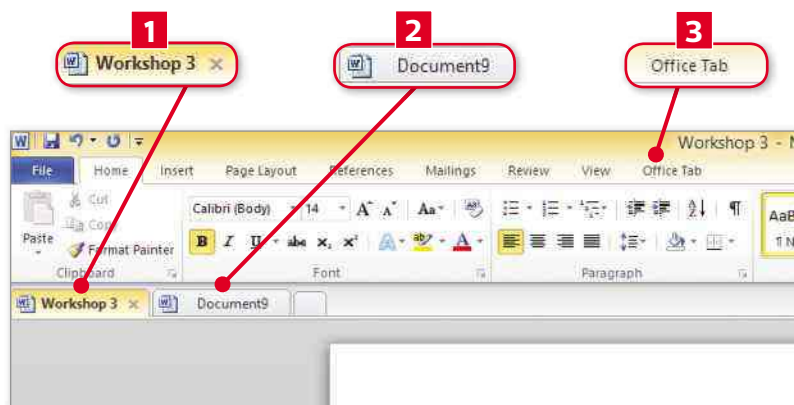
from the same window. You can also create groups of 'favourites' for files you regularly access. We'll show you how to customise the default tab appearance and create your own keyboard shortcuts to navigate between open files.



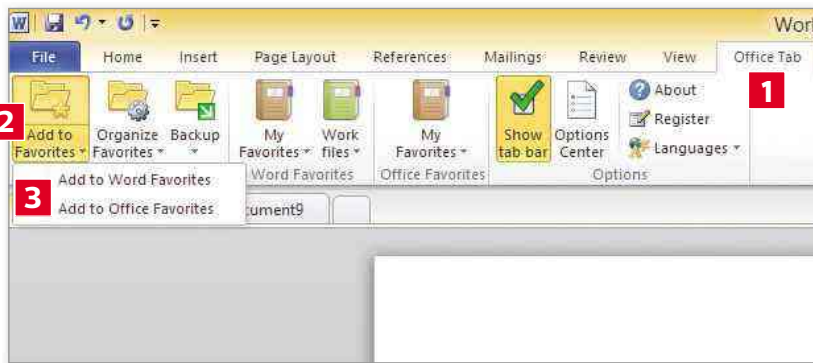
STEP 1 Before installing Office Tabs, you'll need to check what version of Office you're using. Open Word, click File at the top left, Account (Help in Office 2010), then check the version of Office at the top right. Now close Word, go to the Office Tabs Free Download page www.snipca.com/19752 and click the orange Download button. Run the downloaded setup file until you get to the 'Select products' screen **1**. Now tick your version of Office **2** (select the second option if you use Office 2013 or 2016), then keep clicking Next **3** until you need to click Install, then click Finish.



STEP 2 Close the Office Tabs Center window and open Word. You'll see a new tab with your document name at the top left. **1** Click the small tab to the right to open a new document **2**. You'll also see the new Office Tab on your Ribbon **3**. These same options will appear within Excel and PowerPoint. From now on, whenever you open a new document, it'll appear as a new tab rather than in a new window. To open multiple files as separate tabs, navigate to the folder where they're stored, press Shift, click to select the documents you want to open, right-click the selection, then click Open.

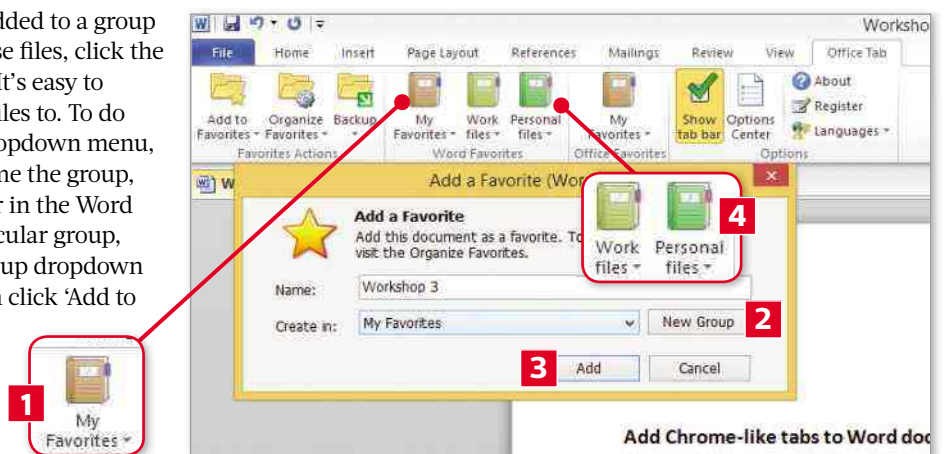


STEP 3 Right-click any document tab in Word to see a pop-up menu containing many options. Apart from the usual options (New, Close, Save As), you'll see options to close the other tabs or the ones on the left or right **1**. You can also open the document's folder or rename the file **2**. If you have many Word documents open, add colours to their tabs to help differentiate between them. To do that, move your cursor to Tab Color **3** and select the one you want **4**.



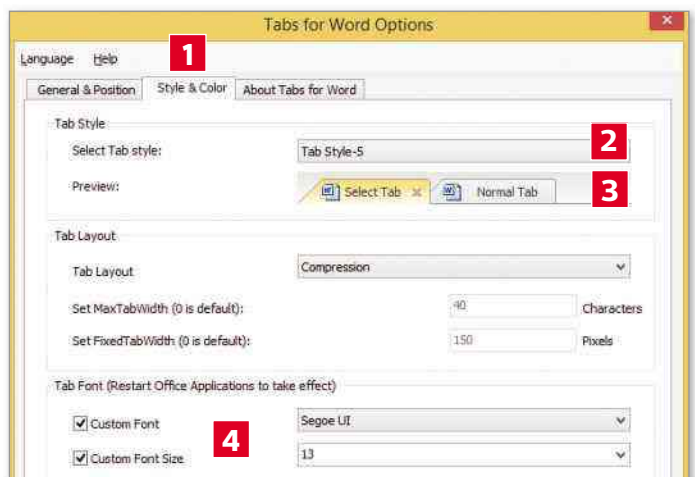
STEP 4 Just as Chrome lets you bookmark your favourite websites for easy access, Office Tabs has the same feature for documents. To do this, first press Ctrl+S to save that file. Now click the Office Tab on your Ribbon **1**, then the 'Add to Favorites' dropdown menu **2**. You'll see two options - 'Add to Word Favorites' and 'Add to Office Favorites' **3**. The latter makes your favourites accessible across all Office programs. The former restricts it to Word, so click 'Add to Word Favorites', then click Add. Repeat this step to add other documents to your favourites list.

STEP 5 By default, your documents are added to a group called My Favorites. To access these files, click the My Favorites dropdown menu **1**. It's easy to create another group where you can save files to. To do that, click the top-left 'Add to Favorites' dropdown menu, 'Add to Word Favorites', New Group **2**, name the group, click OK, then Add **3**. These groups appear in the Word Favorites section **4**. To save a file to a particular group, open that document, click the relevant group dropdown menu (in the Word Favorites section), then click 'Add to this Group'.



STEP 6 Similar to Chrome, you can navigate between any open tabs within Word using keyboard shortcuts. Pressing Ctrl+Tab moves you to the tab on the right and pressing Ctrl+Shift+Tab moves you to the tab on the left. To change these, click the Office Tab on your Ribbon, then click Options Center on the right. Now click the Forward or Back fields **1** which refer to the right and left tabs respectively. Press the keys on your keyboard to confirm the shortcut you want to use. You'll see a pop-up message if you can't use those keys.

STEP 7 Your Office tabs appear as rounded rectangles, but you can change their appearance from within the Option Center. Click the Style & Color section **1**, then click the 'Select Tab style' dropdown menu **2** and select one of the six styles. You'll immediately see a preview of how it'll look **3**. You can also change the font and font size of the file name that appears on your tab **4**. To do that, tick Custom Font and select one from the dropdown menu. Now tick 'Custom Font size' and change it from the dropdown menu. Click OK at the bottom to apply all the changes made to the Options menu. ●



Make your own keyboard shortcuts

What you need: AlomWare Actions; Any version of Windows (XP to 10)
Time required: 25 minutes

AlomWare Actions is a new free program that lets you create your own 'actions' to quickly execute a variety of PC tasks. For example, you can use it to open a file, folder or program, launch a website in your

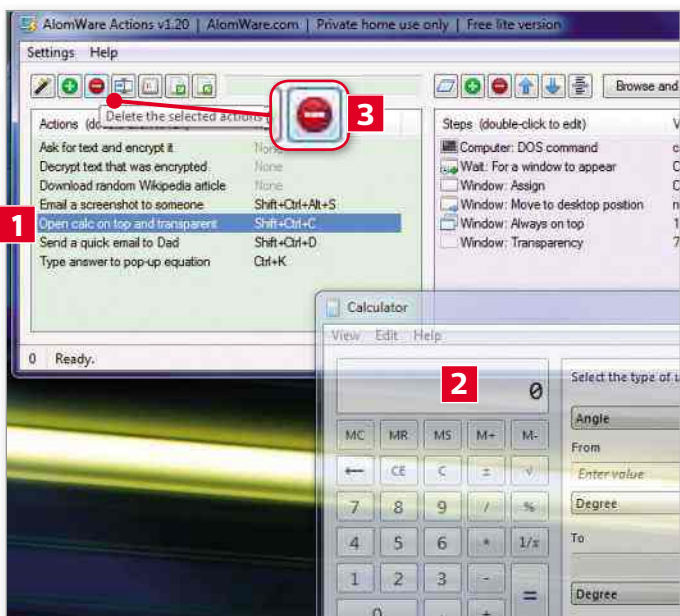
default browser, and even add text you type often. After doing this, you can create your own keyboard shortcut to execute that action. The free version of the program limits you to 10 actions at a time, but this should be enough.



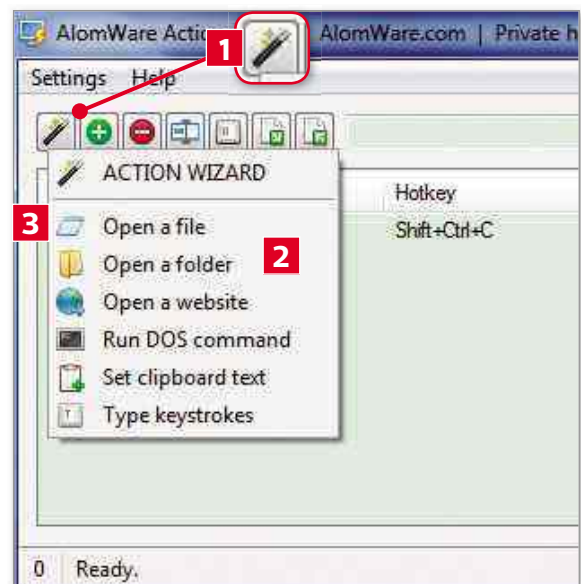
STEP 1 To download AlomWare Actions, go to www.snipca.com/19781 and click the green Download Free Lite Version text at the top left. Navigate to the downloaded file (in your Downloads folder), right-click it, then click 'Run as administrator'. Now follow the prompts to install and launch the program. You'll see two sections. On the left you'll see some default actions with assigned keyboard shortcuts **1**. The section on the right denotes the code involved to execute that action **2**.

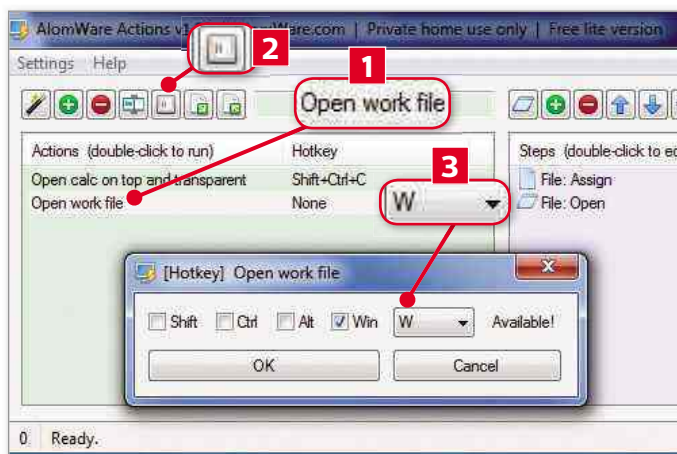


STEP 2 To test how AlomWare Actions works, simply double-click a default action (for example, 'Open calc on top and transparent' **1**) or press the keyboard shortcut assigned to it. Doing either opens a transparent calculator on your PC **2**. While the default actions are good examples, they're not very useful because you can only use 10 actions for free. You should delete the defaults you don't want. To do that, press the Shift key and select the unwanted actions. Now, click the 'Delete action' icon **3**, then click OK to remove them from your list.



STEP 3 We'll first show you how to create an action to open any program or file on your PC. Click the Action Wizard icon **1** to see a pop-up window containing many useful options **2**. Now click 'Open a file' **3** and navigate to the file you want. This can either be a program file (such as the CCleaner or Chrome icon on your desktop) or an actual file (such as a Word document or Excel sheet). Select your program/file, then click Open. Now type a description for that action (for example, 'Open word file' or 'Open Chrome'), then click OK. The action will be added to your list.

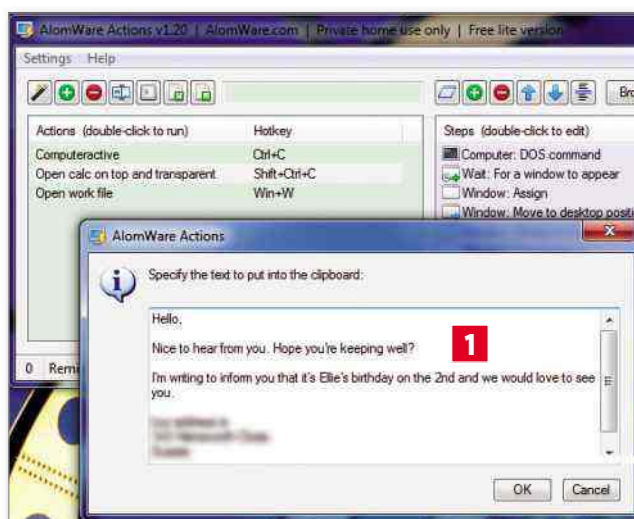




STEP 4 To assign a keyboard shortcut to that action, click to select it **1**, then click the Hotkey icon **2**. Now tick the Modifier key(s) you want to use (such as Shift or Alt). Next, click the dropdown menu **3** and select a letter, number or function key you want to use in combination with your selected Modifier(s). Finally, click OK **4**. Now simply press the keyboard shortcut you created whenever you want to launch that program/file. Using the same method, you can create an action to launch a folder on your PC and create a keyboard shortcut for it. To do this, click the Action Wizard, click 'Open a folder' and follow the same process described in the previous two steps.

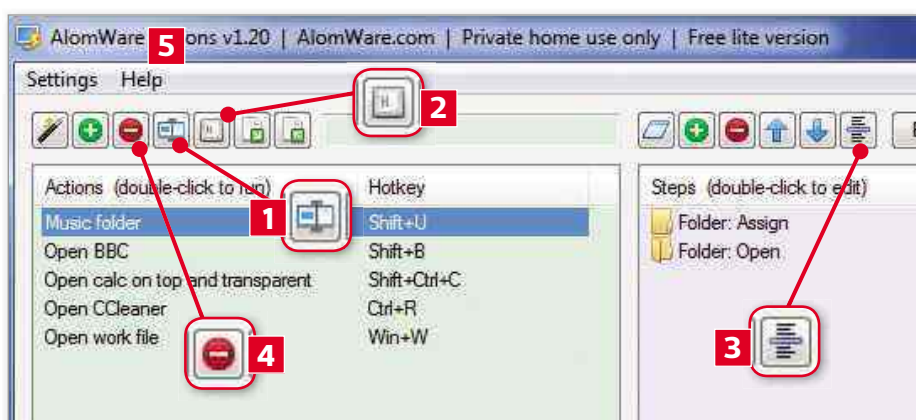


STEP 5 We'll now show you how to launch a website in your default browser using a keyboard shortcut. First, open that website in your browser. Now click the program's Action Wizard, then click 'Open a website'. Copy and paste the website URL from your browser's address bar **1**, then click OK **2**. Next, type a description for your action, then click OK. Finally, select the added action, click the Hotkey icon, create a keyboard shortcut you want to use (see Step 4), then click OK. Now, whenever you want to launch that website, simply press the keyboard shortcut you created.



STEP 6 If you type specific text on a regular basis (such as an email message), then you can use a similar process to create an action and assign a keyboard shortcut. Click the Actions Wizard, then click 'Type keystrokes'. Now type the text you want to enter into the box **1** and click OK. Enter a description for this text and click OK again to add it to your actions list. Select the action, then click the Hotkey icon, assign a keyboard shortcut to it and click OK. Now whenever you want to add this text (within Word or your email for example), simply click your cursor where you want to add it, then press the keyboard shortcut you created.

STEP 7 It's easy to rename your actions or change their hotkeys. To rename, simply select the action, click the Rename icon **1** and rename it. Similarly, to change its hotkey, click the Hotkey icon after selecting **2**, then create a new one. You can edit your actions **3**, but the process is a bit complicated. It's better to delete an action you don't want **4** then create a new one. The full version of AlomWare Actions (\$19.99) lets you add unlimited actions. To buy it, click Help **5**, 'Purchase premium' and follow the steps. ●



Set up a group Skype chat on your device

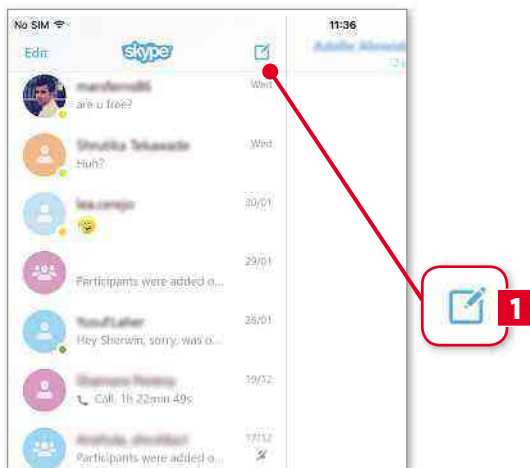
What you need: Skype app; Android or iOS device **Time required:** 15 minutes

Microsoft has updated the Skype Android and iOS apps with brilliant new features. In Issue 463, we showed you how to add up to 25 people – including those who don't have a Skype ID – to a group conversation on your PC. You can now do this from your

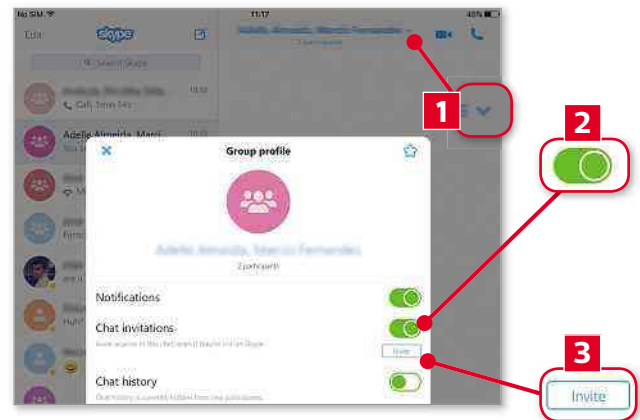
phone and tablet. Even better, you can have a group video call with all these people. First, install Skype on your Android device (www.snipca.com/19864), iPhone (www.snipca.com/19865) or iPad (www.snipca.com/19866).



STEP 1 To create a Skype group on iOS, tap the 'New chat' icon **1**. On Android, tap the blue '+' icon at the bottom right, then tap the speech bubble icon at the bottom. We'll first show you how to add your Skype contacts to this group (see Step 2 to add people whose Skype IDs you don't know or those who don't have one). Type the name of a contact you want to add in the search field at the top, then tap the correct autosuggest option. Repeat this to add more contacts. When you're done, tap the tick icon at the bottom right (top right on Android) to see your group.



STEP 2 Once you've created this, it's easy to add people whose Skype IDs you don't know or those who don't have one. To do that on iOS, tap the dropdown menu at the top of the group conversation window **1**, the 'Chat invitations' slider **2**, then tap the Invite button **3**. On Android, tap the three dots at the top right, then tap 'Share chat'. You'll now see the option to share a group invitation link using email and messaging apps. Select the app you want and send the link to whoever you need to. Once the recipients open it, they'll see the option to log into Skype or create a new account. Alternatively, they can add a 'guest name' and join the conversation without an account.



STEP 3 To start a group video call with these members, simply tap the video call icon at the top. To add more people to the call on iOS, tap the '+' icon **1**. On Android, tap the three dots at

the bottom, then tap 'Add people'. Now search for the person you want and tap the correct autosuggest option when it appears. Repeat this to add more people. Tap the grid icon **2** to switch between

different screen layouts (these options vary depending on the number of people in your group call). You can also use your main camera **3**. Tap the 'End call' icon **4** to leave the video call.

NEXT ISSUE

- Scan for Windows 10 malware
- Remove junk using Kaspersky's new tool
- Quickly open hidden PC folders
- Block all adverts on your tablet

ON SALE
30 Mar

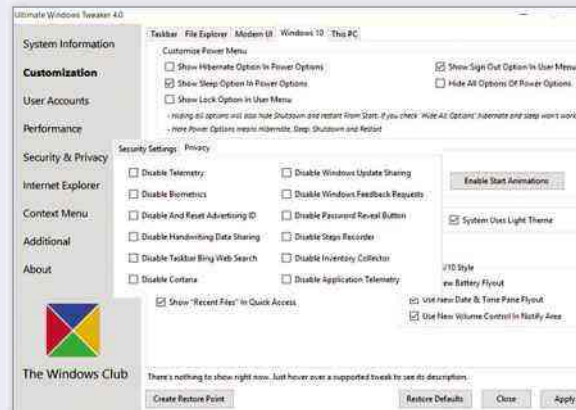
Subscribe to Computeractive at getcomputeractive.co.uk

TIP OF THE FORTNIGHT

Tweak 200 Windows 10 settings using one program

I reluctantly succumbed to Microsoft's nagging upgrade prompts and upgraded my PC to Windows 10. The process was actually much simpler than I thought it would be. I've been using the new OS for about a month now and apart from a few things that I had to acquaint myself with, I can confidently say that I love Windows 10.

Your cover feature in Issue 470 was really helpful with regards to customising Windows 10. You mentioned the brilliant Classic Shell, but I think I found a better, free program that lets you tweak over 200 Windows 10 settings. Also, it's one of the easiest programs I've ever used! It's called Ultimate Windows



Tweaker 4 and is a free portable program. Go to www.snipca.com/19673, scroll down and click the Download Ultimate Windows Tweaker button. Extract the downloaded zip file and run the program. It doesn't install any

unwanted toolbars or software on your PC and it automatically creates a **system restore point** in case you want to undo any changes later.

The program lets you change many different aspects of Windows 10. You can alter the size of the taskbar's previews, for example, add items to your right-click menu, disable the lock screen and more. All its different customisation options are listed on this handy page: www.snipca.com/19826. Simply select a category on the left and click Apply beside the tweak you want to make. Some tweaks may require a restart to take effect.

Peter Storey



The winner of every Tip of the Fortnight wins this exclusive Computeractive mug!

WEB BROWSING

Make Wikipedia entries simpler to read

Wikipedia is the first website I turn to whenever I want to read about something new and interesting. The problem is I'm not a native English speaker, so I sometimes have trouble understanding long, complex copy. A friend recently told me about Simple English Wikipedia – a Wikipedia website which has shorter, snappier articles written with non-native English speakers in mind. To access it, go to simple.wikipedia.org and search for what you want. To compare this with the original article, simply replace the 'simple' in the URL field with 'en' (see screenshot). So, for example, your page URL should now change from simple.wikipedia.org/xxx to en.wikipedia.org/xxx.

Jean Blanc



AMAZON KINDLE

Download hundreds of free Kindle titles

My son bought me a Kindle for Christmas. Knowing I'm a voracious reader, he told me two ways to download hundreds of free ebooks. First, go to www.kindlefree.co.uk. This brilliant website is arranged in neat sections, listing all the free Kindle titles. You can check which ebooks are free, then search for and download them on your device.

Another useful website is Project Gutenberg, which contains a repository of copyright-free ebooks. Go to its Categories section (www.snipca.com/19828) then navigate through the sub-categories and select the title you want. You'll see options to download it in a variety of file formats. Select the 'Kindle (with images)' format (see screenshot above). Now simply connect your Kindle to your PC and search for the folder where your Kindle's ebooks are stored. Copy the downloaded file to this folder. If you don't see the title on your Kindle, then restart your device and it'll now appear within your list.

Margaret Wilson



E-MAIL

Check attachments before downloading them

I once received an attachment from a relative and downloaded it. It turned out that their account had been hacked and the file did extensive damage to my PC. I now always check attachments before downloading them. I have two emails accounts – Gmail and Yahoo. While the former always lets you click to preview your attachments, the latter has a useful, new feature where you can preview attachments and emails side by side. Simply click an attachment you receive to preview it. Click the Expand icon at the top right to view it fullscreen. The control at the bottom of the preview pane lets you zoom in and move between different files.

John Callaghan

Phone and Tablet Tips

Brilliant things to do on your device

ANDROID

Free up storage space quickly



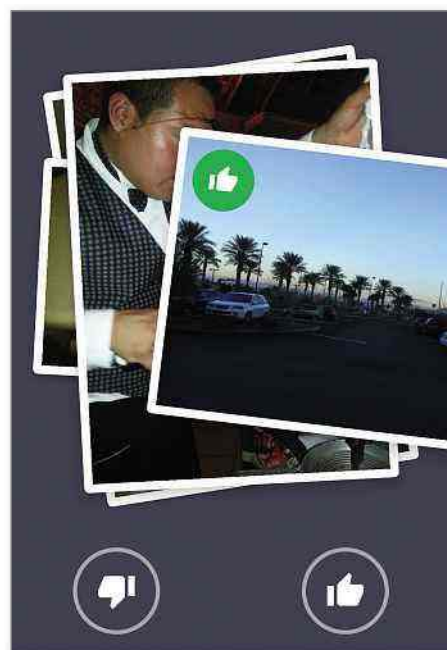
Unless you have the option to use a **microSD card**, you'll find your phone running out of storage space very quickly. After videos, photos are the biggest space hogs. The new Photos option in AVG's free Cleaner app finds unwanted, bad and duplicate photos, so you can delete them in an instant. Open the app (www.snipca.com/19802) and tap the New Photos option at the bottom. The app will start analysing all the photos on your device, after which you'll see three category tiles – 'Photos for Review', 'Bad

photos' and 'Similar photos'.

The first category contains photos you may not want to keep for long, such as screenshots you've taken and photos other people have sent you. Tap it to see these arranged in a stack (see screenshot below left). Swipe right across the photos you want to keep and left across the ones you want to delete.

'Bad photos' contains dark or blurry photos that you've taken. By default all the photos will be ticked. Tap to untick the ones you want to keep (if any). Now tap the blue Delete button at the bottom, then tap Delete to remove the photos that remain ticked.

Most people take multiple photos to have a choice when selecting the best one. The others take up unwanted space. Tap the third category ('Similar photos') to see these photos in groups. By default, the app selects the best photo from the group (it will be unticked). To delete the others, tap the Delete icon at the bottom, then tap Delete again to confirm.



ANDROID/iOS

Copy (and paste) multiple Dropbox files in one go



Dropbox – one of the most popular cloud-storage services – has now made it easier to delete, copy or move multiple files at one go. Open Dropbox, then open the folder whose files you want to action (delete, copy or move). On Android



(www.snipca.com/19803), tap and hold the first file until you see tick boxes beside all the others. Now tick all the files you want to action, then tap the icon with three dots at the top right to see the new menu (see screenshot above). On iOS (www.snipca.com/19804), navigate to the folder you want, tap the icon with three dots at the top right, then tap Select. Now tap the boxes beside the files you want to action. You'll see the Delete, Copy and Move options below.

To delete all the files from your Dropbox account, tap Delete, then Delete again to confirm. Tap Move if that's what you want to do. You'll now see a blue Move button at the bottom. Navigate to the folder you want to move these files to, then tap the button to do that. Similarly, tapping Copy adds a Paste button at the bottom, which you can use to execute that action after selecting the destination folder.

Best New Apps

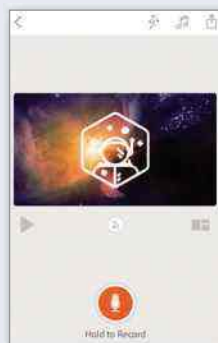
What you should install this fortnight

Adobe Voice

Free

iOS: www.snipca.com/19805

Back in Issue 425, we showed you how to use Adobe Voice's brilliant video-editing tools on your iPad (see 'Make amazing



movies on your iPad' Workshop). The app is now available for iPhones. It lets you add your video clips and record a voiceover. The app then automatically adds transition effects and a soundtrack.

Everalbum

Free

Android: www.snipca.com/19806

iOS: www.snipca.com/19807

New to iOS, Everalbum frees up valuable storage space on your device by deleting your photos and saving them to its website: www.everalbum.com. You can also upload your Instagram and Facebook photos, create shared albums and rediscover old photos taken on the same day in the past.



BBC Music

Free

Android: www.snipca.com/19808

iOS: www.snipca.com/19809

Select your musical genre preferences to see related BBC content, including music, video clips, live performances and interviews. You can also find music based on your favourite shows and presenters. The app lets you export tracks to your Spotify, Deezer and YouTube playlists.



iOS

Fix your corrupted Photos app



If you suddenly notice that your default Photos app doesn't display the photos you took on your device, don't worry. This is a common iOS bug that's been affecting users for a while. The problem happens without warning, especially after you've updated or restarted your device. There's an unusual fix, which will restore your photos to the app.

First, restart your device. Now open the Camera app and take a photo. Next, tap the thumbnail icon at the bottom to view the photo you just took. Tap the photo, tap the Share button, select iMessage and send the photo to one of your contacts. Now restart your device and you should see the photos you previously took in your Photos app.

iOS

Delete individual digits within the Calculator app



The default Calculator app on your iPhone doesn't have a button to delete individual digits that you type. If you've typed a long number and want to delete only the last digit, for example, there's no dedicated button to do this (tapping C deletes the entire number). Thankfully, there's a lesser-known gesture that lets you do this. Simply swipe across the number at the top (to the left or to the right) to delete the last digit that you typed.



The Calculator app is very basic, with just numbers and simple arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). If you want to do more complex mathematical calculations, then simply rotate your phone from portrait to landscape mode. You'll now see brackets, squares, square root, sin, cos, tan and more (see screenshot above).

WINDOWS PHONE

Customise your 'glance screen' info



By default, whenever you turn off your phone (by pressing the power button), you'll see a screen telling you the time and displaying any

app notifications you may have. This is known as the 'glance screen'. It's easy to customise the information that appears on this screen and how long it's displayed for.

Open your Settings, scroll to the bottom and tap 'glance screen' (in the 'extras' section). The 'Glance screen' dropdown menu has four options (see screenshot right). Peek will display the info on your screen for 30 seconds after you turn off your phone. Select 'interval' if you want to extend this to 15 minutes. Tap the 'Quick status notifications' slider to set whether you want to see your app notifications on the glance screen. Similarly, tap the 'Always show glance screen when charging' slider to turn that on or off.



Games With Kids

What to play together on your phone and tablet

AGES 0-5

Pango Sheep

£1.99 www.snipca.com/19810 (Android)

£2.29 www.snipca.com/19811 (iOS)

Your toddler plays as a shepherd in this fun, activity-based game. They need to tap sheep to gather them, and tap the ones with the same pattern to form herds. There's also a colouring and counting game. After completing each level, they're introduced to different animals, such as squirrels and rabbits.



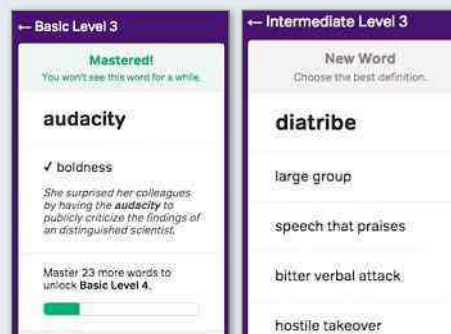
AGES 6-10

Vocabulary Builder

Free www.snipca.com/19812 (Android)

Free www.snipca.com/19813 (iOS)

Vocabulary Builder will teach your kids word definitions via an engrossing, timed game. They need to select the correct meaning from a list of options. It consists of three difficulty levels. You can challenge your kids or random players online.



AGES 11-16

Waking Mars

79p www.snipca.com/19814 (Android)

£3.99 www.snipca.com/19815 (iOS)

It's the year 2097 and life has been discovered on the Red Planet. Your child plays as Dr Liang, an astrobiologist who gets lost in a complex Martian cave network. Their aim is to survive the harmful elements and expand Martian biodiversity by collecting seeds and planting them on fertile ground.



Make Windows Better

Clever tips for every version

WINDOWS 10

Make Windows 10 download files faster



If you notice that files in Windows take longer than usual to download, there's an easy way to speed up the process. Basically, Microsoft has categorised Windows 10's Downloads folder as a Pictures folder. This means it's optimised to download photos quickly, but other file formats (such as setup files or eBooks) will take longer to download.



There's a simple way to change this folder's properties, so it'll download any file type with the same speed. To do this, open File Explorer, right-click the Downloads folder, then click Properties. Now click the Customise tab, click the 'Optimise this folder for' dropdown menu, set it to 'General items' (see screenshot above), click Apply, then OK.

WINDOWS 7, 8, 10

Type words containing special characters



When you type a foreign-language word you sometimes need to include special characters (known as diacritical marks). Common examples include the acute (é); circumflex (â), and tilde (õ). If you ever need to use these letters, your best option is to use the

ALL VERSIONS (XP TO 10)

Bypass installing updates when you shut down



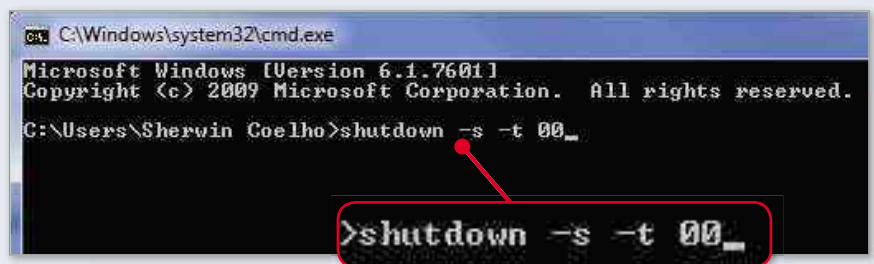
Often when you go to shut down your PC, you see a yellow exclamation mark icon on the 'Shut down' button. This basically means that Microsoft has downloaded Windows updates in the background and will apply them to your PC as soon as you click the 'Shut down' button.

Depending on your Windows version and the size of the downloaded files, the time required for your PC to update and shut down can vary from a few seconds to several minutes.

There's a simple way to bypass installing these updates and shut down your PC immediately. This method can be a life-saver if your laptop battery is

low or if you're in a hurry to shut down. The updates will then get deferred to the next time you switch on your PC.

First, save any files you're working on and close all the programs on your PC. Now press the Windows key+R to open your Run dialogue box, type **cmd** into it, then press Enter to open your Command Prompt. Type the following into it: **shutdown -s -f -t 00** (see screenshot below). Here, '-s' means shutdown, '-f' is the command to force-close any open programs (including ones in the background) and '00' refers to the time-delay after which the command should be executed (instantly). Press Enter and your PC will shut down.



hidden Windows tool, Character Map. Search for 'charmap' on your PC, then press Enter to open it.

You'll see a grid of numbers and upper- and lower-case letters in different alphabets. Click the dropdown menu at the top and change the default font from Arial to whatever you want. If you're

typing a word that has a diacritical mark – pinã colada, for example – then type **pin** into the field below and select the 'a' with a tilde from the grid (see screenshot below left). Now click Select, then Copy. Finally, click your cursor where you want to paste this text (for example, in your email or Word) and press Ctrl+V to do that.



WINDOWS 7, 8

Check your calculations



The default Calculator on your PC is a simple but effective tool. You can use it to make basic calculations, and even more elaborate ones (including square root, sin, cos, tan, etc.). For the latter, simply click View at the top left, then click Scientific to see the additional functions. If you've typed an equation and got its answer, but want to check what you typed, click View, then select History (or use the keyboard shortcut Ctrl+H). The field at the top will expand upwards and you'll see what you typed to reach your answer.

WORD

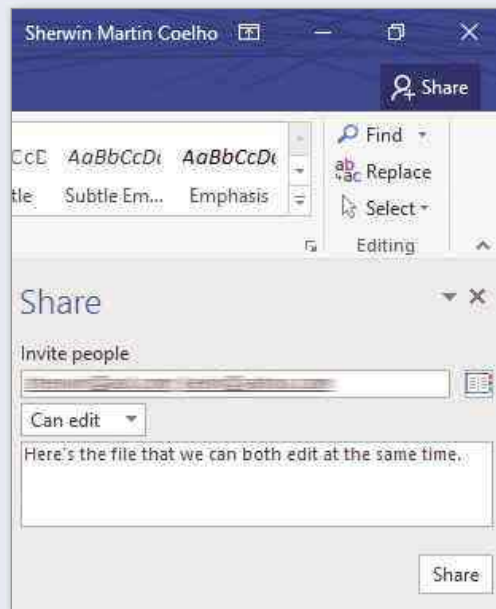
Collaborate on Word documents in real-time

W The best new feature of Word 2016 is the option to share a file with other people, give them permission to edit it, then work collaboratively on it at the same time. You can even see each other's changes in real-time. First, install the OneDrive Desktop program/app (if you don't already have it). The people you're sending the file to will also need Word 2016 and OneDrive.

Open the file you want to share, click Share at the top right, 'Save to cloud', OneDrive, Sign In and log into your OneDrive account. Next, select the OneDrive folder you want to save the file to, name the file, then click Save. A Share panel will now slide in from the right (see

screenshot right). In the 'Invite people' field, type the email addresses of the people you want to share the file and collaborate with. Ensure the dropdown menu below this field is set to 'Can edit', then add a message in the box below (optional). Finally, click Share.

The recipients will see the option to save the file to OneDrive on their PC, after which they'll be able to access it and make their own edits. Click Yes if you see a 'Do you want to automatically share changes as they happen?' message below the Share button. You'll now see coloured icons with the person's name as they're making changes to your file. They'll see the same for any changes that you make.



SWAY

Insert images into your presentation quickly

S One of the new additions to Microsoft's online presentation tool Sway is the ability to drag and drop photos into it. Go to www.sway.com and log in using your Microsoft account. Click Create New and give your presentation a title. To add photos, click the small '+' icon at the bottom left of the Title section and select Picture. Now drag a photo from your PC into the 'Drag a picture here' field. Caption your image and repeat the process to add more.

You can also use this method to add multiple photos. To add an effect, click Cards at the top left, then select an effect option from the Group section at the bottom (such as Stack or Slideshow). The effect will appear as a section within your presentation.

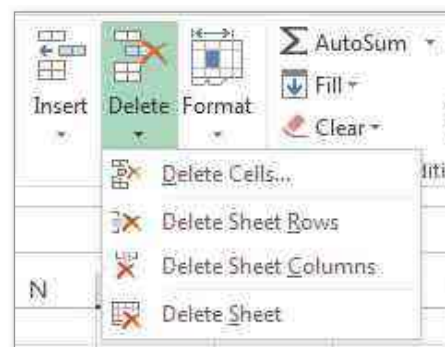
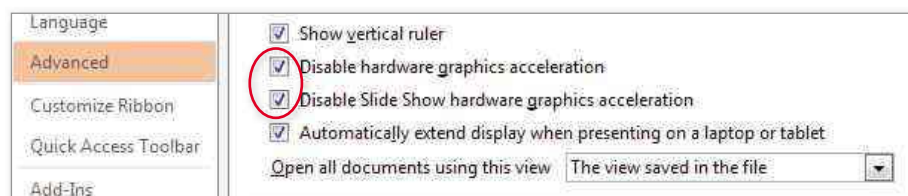
Now navigate to the folder on your PC you want to insert photos from. Keeping the Ctrl key pressed, select the photos you want to add. Click any one of the

files, then drag and drop the selection into the 'Add a picture' field within your presentation. All your photos will appear there. Preview or play your presentation using the options at the top right.

POWERPOINT

Speed up presentations on an old PC

P If you're viewing a presentation containing many slides, high-res pictures and effects (such as animations and transitions) on an old PC, you may encounter problems, such as screen flickering or PowerPoint crashing. There's an easy way to optimise viewing these files. To do that, click File at the top left, Options, then Advanced on the left and scroll down to the Display section. Here, tick 'Disable hardware graphics acceleration' and 'Disable SlideShow hardware graphics acceleration' (see screenshot below), then click OK. From now, the presentation won't put as much load on your system's graphics and you'll be able to view it without any problems.



EXCEL

Delete blank rows or columns

X If a section of your Excel (2013 or 2016) spreadsheet contains many blank rows or columns, there's an easy way to delete these and compress your data. First, highlight the entire section – containing your data and the blank cells. Now click the 'Find & Select' dropdown menu (at the top right of the Home tab) and click Go To Special. In the window that appears, select Blanks, then click OK. You'll notice that all the blank cells within your selection will get highlighted.

You can now easily delete the unwanted blank rows or columns. To do that, click Delete dropdown menu (in the Cells group of the Home tab). You'll see options to Delete Sheet Rows and Columns (see screenshot above). Click to select the one you want.



Amazon Kindle

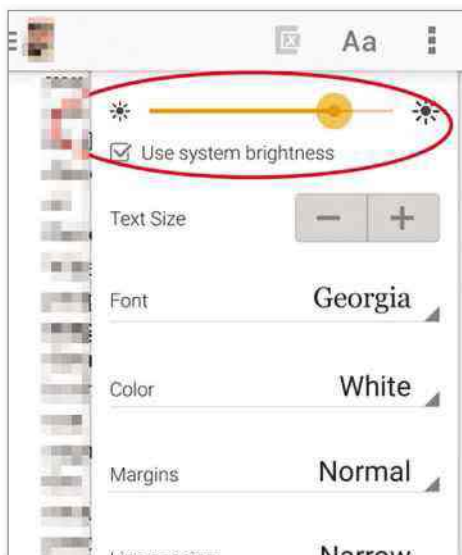
Reset the furthest page read, share free book chapters and get updates before anyone else

Share free book previews

The latest version of the Kindle software, which arrived in February (www.snipca.com/19574) adds new ways to share, letting you send a free preview of a book's opening passages or chapters to friends (and they don't need a Kindle or Kindle app to read them). First, tap, hold and drag to select a section of text. Next, tap Share, followed by the method of sharing. To share via email, for example, tap E-mail, then tap Add (beside To), type the email address, tap Save, then tap to change Subject or Personal Message (optional). Finally, tap Send.

Adjust brightness with a swipe

In the reading view of the Kindle Android app, you can adjust brightness simply by swiping up and down on the screen with two fingers. You can also choose to have the brightness adjust automatically with your device's main brightness level, meaning the illumination will change to compensate for light levels in the room you're reading. To enable this, tap the middle of the reading pane, tap the font icon ('Aa') then tap to tick 'Use system brightness' (see screenshot above right).



Tick 'Use system brightness' so your screen grows lighter and darker automatically

Reset the furthest page read

It takes just one wayward swipe or fumble to accidentally jump forward a whole section of a book on your Kindle – and this error is then synced to all other Kindle devices and apps. That can be really annoying, but you can reset the furthest page read by visiting Amazon's



Reset how far you've read in a book by clicking 'Clear furthest page read'

'Manage Your Content and Devices' page, at www.amazon.co.uk/mycd. Log in, click the Your Content tab, scroll through or search to find the relevant title, then click the Actions button (three dots), followed by 'Clear furthest page read'.

Capture screenshots

On Kindle e-readers with touchscreens you can take a screenshot by tapping simultaneously in any two opposing corners (say, top left and bottom right, or top right and bottom left). This is useful if you want to share page layouts or illustrations via email, or to show a friend a particular option (perhaps from the tips on this page). Shots are saved as PNG files in the top folder of your Kindle's storage drive, so connect it to your computer via USB to drag and drop between the two. To capture screenshots on the Kindle Android app, press the power button and down-volume button at the same time. On iPhones and iPads, press the power and home buttons together – the screenshots will be stored in the respective photo rolls.

Read on the web

Did you know that you can read your Kindle books wherever you have access to a web browser? It's achieved using Kindle Cloud Reader and setup is done by simply visiting <https://read.amazon.co.uk> and logging in with your existing Amazon details. The experience is much the same as with a Kindle or the Kindle apps for tablets and phones, so you should feel at home right away.

Don't wait for updates

Getting Kindle updates is normally simply a matter of waiting: Amazon sends the latest software versions 'over the air' (OTA) automatically to all compatible devices. These OTA updates are rolled out over several weeks, so you could have a long wait to get the new stuff – but you can jump the queue by downloading and installing manually.

First, determine your Kindle model by visiting www.snipca.com/19593. Next, visit www.snipca.com/19594, select your

Kindle model, click the 'Download Software Update [Version Number]' link, and wait for the file to download.

Now connect your Kindle to your computer via USB, then drag and drop the downloaded file on to your Kindle.



When that's done, remove the USB connection then, on your Kindle home screen, tap the menu icon (three dots, top right), followed by Settings and then Update Your Kindle. Tap OK and wait for your Kindle to restart.

Google's PlaNet

Look at the photo below - is that road in Australia, the US or the UK?
Google's new computer can guess better than you

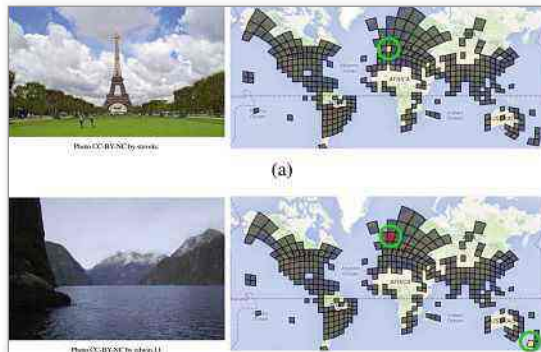
Has Google discovered a new planet?

No. Its search results are good - but not *that* good. PlaNet is in fact the company's new photo-recognition technology. Incredibly, it can identify the location of a photo taken almost anywhere in the world just by looking at it. What makes PlaNet clever is that it doesn't rely on landmarks, as humans would. It can tell that a street is in Paris even if the Eiffel Tower isn't in the background, or that a forest is in Finland by analysing the vegetation.

How can it do that?

Because it has a very good memory. Google's software developers trained PlaNet to recognise locations by showing it millions of photos taken around the world. First they divided Earth into a grid of 26,000 squares (see image below), then used **metadata** to find 126 million photos from these locations. Next they taught PlaNet how to identify the location of 91 million of these photos *without* referring to the metadata. PlaNet does this by breaking down the photo to its individual pixels, then comparing them to its huge database to find a match.

Tobias Weyand, a computer vision specialist at Google, said that PlaNet has a "superhuman" ability to identify locations in images.



To help PlaNet identify locations Google divided Earth into a 26,000-square grid



So does it guess right every time?

Actually, no. Weyand is right to be proud of his creation, but PlaNet can guess the continent in which a photo was taken only 48 per cent of the time, and the country 28 per cent. Very impressive certainly, but not quite superhuman.

Better than humans, though?

Oh, absolutely. Weyand tested PlaNet against 10 well-travelled humans by showing them images from the game GeoGuessr (www.geoguessr.com). PlaNet won 28 of the 50 rounds, placing locations to within an average of 1,131 kilometres, much better than the humans' error range of 2,320kms. It can even identify locations of photos taken indoors, by comparing them to similar images.

Weyand said that PlaNet has an advantage over homo sapiens "because it has seen many more places than any human can ever visit". Such 'deep learning' means PlaNet has "learned subtle cues of different scenes that are even hard for a well-travelled human to distinguish". In the photo above, for example, PlaNet might identify the shape of the telegraph poles as

belonging to a particular country.

What will it be used for?

To help developers build better apps and software. There's big money to be made in programs that can recognise images flawlessly. Microsoft is also conducting similar research as part of Project Oxford (www.projectoxford.ai).

Can I test my own location-guessing skills?

You certainly can. Just go to GeoGuessr, then click 'Single Mode' to play by yourself, or 'Challenge Mode' to play against a friend. Look at each image in turn, all taken from Google's Street View, then hover over the bottom-right map and click where in the world you think it is. You'll then see how far you are from the correct location, and be awarded points accordingly. If the world's too big for you, you can narrow the photos to countries and cities at www.snipca.com/19792.

So where on earth is that road?

We're not telling. Oh, OK - we're not that mean. Turn this page upside down and you'll find the answer. How close were you?

Pennington County, South Dakota, USA

Has Your PC **BEEN** HACKED?

(Without You Even Knowing)

You probably don't think your PC has been hacked, but **Jane Hoskyn** begs to differ. Here she reveals how to discover hidden malware and remove it for ever

Malware and human disease thrive on silence and invisibility. If the tiniest cancer cell gave you a polka-dot face, you'd seek treatment immediately, and you'd probably be OK, because the evil invader would never have a chance to spread.

Similarly, malware infections are best caught early, before they can spread and do terrible damage. If malware signposted its arrival by slapping "You've been malward!" across your monitor, you'd download a tool to blitz it, and then get on with your life. But hackers don't want

you to know you've been hacked.

They create silent imposters that can lurk in your system for years, stealing your bank details, passwords and other sensitive data while you're blissfully unaware. Even ransomware can fester silently in your PC before it splashes a ransom demand on your screen.

We'll start this feature by revealing the latest silent killers that may be hiding in your PC - or your phone, tablet and router. Then we'll show you how to find these and other hidden nasties. Be prepared - there may be more than you'd expected. The good news is we'll then offer ways to kick out and keep out the silent killers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Discover hackers' favourite stealth tactics
- Learn to recognise clues that you've been hacked
- Find and investigate any mysterious file or processes
- Scan your PC deeper than ever for malicious activity
- Remove hidden malware using new, free tools
- Discover if your router has been hacked



Has your PC been hacked?

HACKERS' LATEST MALWARE TACTICS

The worst malware is now even worse

In our Cover Feature in Issue 460 (The Worst Malware Ever), we warned that malware was more dangerous than ever – and that it would get more and more dangerous as the months go by.

Security and software firms, including Microsoft, are trapped in a constant game of ‘anything you can do, I can do better’ with hackers. If Microsoft fixes a security hole, hackers soon find a new vulnerability to exploit. When your antivirus (AV) identifies a new threat and updates its definitions to blacklist the offender, the offender looks for (or forces) a new way in.

Malware never surrenders. It returns to the drawing board and bounces back stronger, harder to remove and – the best survival strategy of all – harder to detect.

Before we show how to find and kill the malware that’s hiding in your PC, we’ll offer some examples to put the dangers in context. Here are seven deadly threats that may be wreaking havoc inside your computer right now, hidden not just from you but also from your operating system (OS), browser and even your AV.

AV-hijacking Trojans

Trojans are malicious files masquerading as legitimate files, programs or updates. The term, as you’d guess, comes from the ancient story of the Greeks who hid inside a wooden horse to sneak into the city of Troy. Three thousand years later, ‘Trojan’ means much the same thing, but without the carpentry. It now describes any strategy for invading a protected place – such as your PC’s operating system (OS) – by pretending to be something it’s not.

The best-known Trojan in recent years is Zeus (also called Zbot), which went undetected in many PCs and plundered victims’ banking details. It has terrifying new competition in the form of Carberp, whose name might make a child giggle but whose code could destroy all your PC’s defences.

As we reported back in Issue 460, Carberp’s **source code** has been released for free online – a terrifying prospect for computer security. It allows



The Carberp Trojan is now so powerful it can even remove your antivirus

hackers all over the world to create new versions of this monster. They all share the key aim of remaining undetected in your PC, according to Kaspersky (www.snipca.com/19799). Once there, it silently steals your personal data including passwords and bank details. The most frightening incarnation of Carberp (so far, at least) can disable and even remove your installed AV. This makes it harder to detect and remove than even the latest ransomware.

PC-wiping rootkits

If Trojans are malware in disguise, rootkits are smugglers embedded with malware. Once a rootkit has broken into your PC, perhaps by fooling you into clicking a **phishing** link, it hacks your OS to ensure its malicious cargo remains hidden.

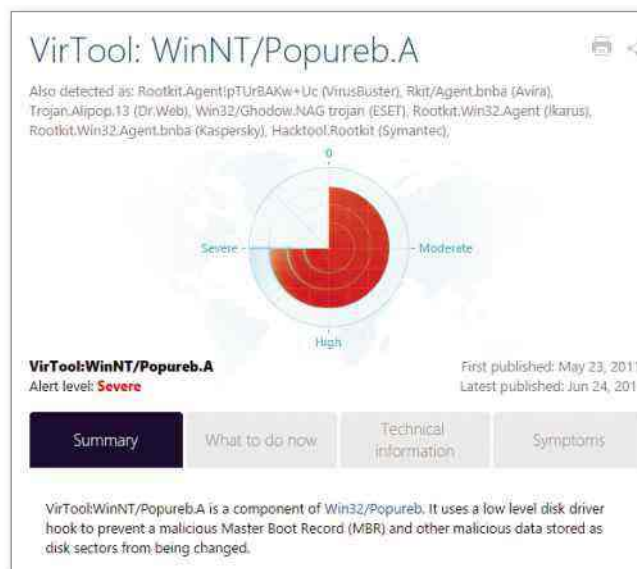
Currently the most frightening example is Popureb, “a small rootkit with a big reputation” according to security firm Sophos (www.snipca.com/19798). Not only does it wrap an invisibility cloak around its dangerous contents, but it embeds itself so deeply into victims’ OS that they’ve been forced to wipe their systems to remove it. Microsoft’s advice is that all rootkit infections should be dealt with by doing a **clean install** of Windows.

Backdoor intruders

A backdoor isn’t a type of malware, but a deliberately installed flaw in your OS that lets hackers into your PC completely undetected. Backdoors can be installed by Trojans, worms and other malware. Once the flaw is created, hackers can use it to control your PC remotely. It remains hidden, allowing it to create even more backdoors for future use.

Evasion malware

Hackers are now designing malware whose main purpose is to evade detection. Various techniques are used. Some malware, for example, hoodwinks AV programs by changing its server so it no longer matches the AV’s blacklist. Another evasion technique involves setting the malware to run at certain times or following certain actions taken by the user. For example a hacker can set malware to run during vulnerable periods like booting up, then to remain dormant for the rest of the time.



Rootkits like Popureb are extremely hard to detect and may only disappear after a fresh install of Windows

Word-hijacking ransomware

As if it's not bad enough to find that an apparently safe file is actually a Trojan, security experts have now found ransomware hidden in Word files (www.snipca.com/19856). Office macros – small, configurable files that trigger an automatic series of actions – seem even more susceptible to ransomware infection, probably because users are prompted to download them. In February, researchers identified 'Locky', ransomware that arrives courtesy of a malicious macro in a Word document (www.snipca.com/19857).

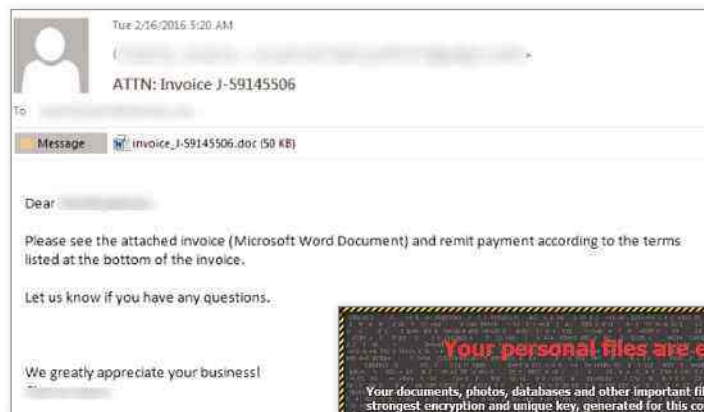
Router botnets

A botnet is a series of internet-connected computers or other devices that hackers use to spread spam or malware to other PCs.

If your router, laptop or even your 'smart' thermostat is part of a botnet, you'll almost certainly have no idea about it. And if you don't know about it, how can you fix it?

Onion ransomware

Tor (aka The Onion Router, www.torproject.org) is free software that lets



The Locky ransomware is being sent in emails like this – never open invoices you're not expecting

you browse and communicate anonymously. You can't be tracked by your ISP, Microsoft or anyone else. It's used by journalists to protect their sources, and by whistleblowers reporting war atrocities.

Sadly, it's also very popular with hackers, who use Tor to discuss and distribute malware without being tracked. Poor old Tor has even had its nickname defiled by criminals who've created encryption ransomware called 'Onion' (www.snipca.com/19832).



Like other encryption ransomware, Onion locks your files and demands a ransom for their return

Another secretive ransomware variant is CryptoWall 4.0, a new version of the notorious ransomware that's been updated to evade detection on victims' PCs.

HIDDEN SIGNS THAT YOU'VE BEEN HACKED

Expect the worst

There's a pretty good chance there's malware in your PC. The latest annual Kaspersky Security Bulletin (www.snipca.com/19833) says 34.2 per cent of computers were hit by "at least one" malware attack last year – but we suspect that the real figure is somewhat higher.

The survey only covered users running Kaspersky AV. Along with Norton Security, Kaspersky repeatedly tops the

AV tests run by our security team at Dennis Technology Labs (DTL, www.dennistechnologylabs.com). So the incidence of malware on those users' computers is likely to be lower than on computers running less powerful software or no AV at all.

More to the point, the report only includes malware that was spotted. Undetected malware couldn't, by definition, be included. To make sure we weren't being paranoid, we asked DTL if

they thought there was malware in our PCs. We expected a complicated reply that meant "maybe", but the answer was an unequivocal "definitely".

Watch for early signs

If you'll forgive us, we'll use the disease analogy again. By the time you're too ill to get out of bed, something may be very wrong, and hard to treat. Earlier signs of infection are much more subtle. They may not be hard to see, but they are hard to recognise for what they really are.

Similarly, by the time a ransomware demand is plastered across your screen or your software refuses to run, malware has taken obvious hold of your system and will be hard to root out. It may be even impossible, unless you do the dreaded clean install. So it pays to learn the less obvious signs (see box left).

Don't blame your slow browser on the internet

If your browser has suddenly become achingly slow and crash-prone, your first instinct may be to pick up the phone to your ISP and give them a piece of your mind. Spare them your fury, at least until

HAVE YOU BEEN HACKED?

SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR...

- 1 You can't get administrator access on your own PC
- 2 Your internet searches keep being redirected
- 3 A file is unexpectedly corrupted or fails to open
- 4 Your passwords have changed
- 5 People in your address list get spam emails from you
- 6 Programs open momentarily and then close, so you can't use them
- 7 A file has unexpectedly disappeared
- 8 You find programs in All Apps (in Windows), or Autoruns that you didn't install
- 9 Your PC keeps connecting to the internet – even when you're not using it
- 10 Your printer prints pages that you didn't ask it to
- 11 Your browser's homepage changes and extra toolbars appear
- 12 Your AV and malware-scanners won't open or run



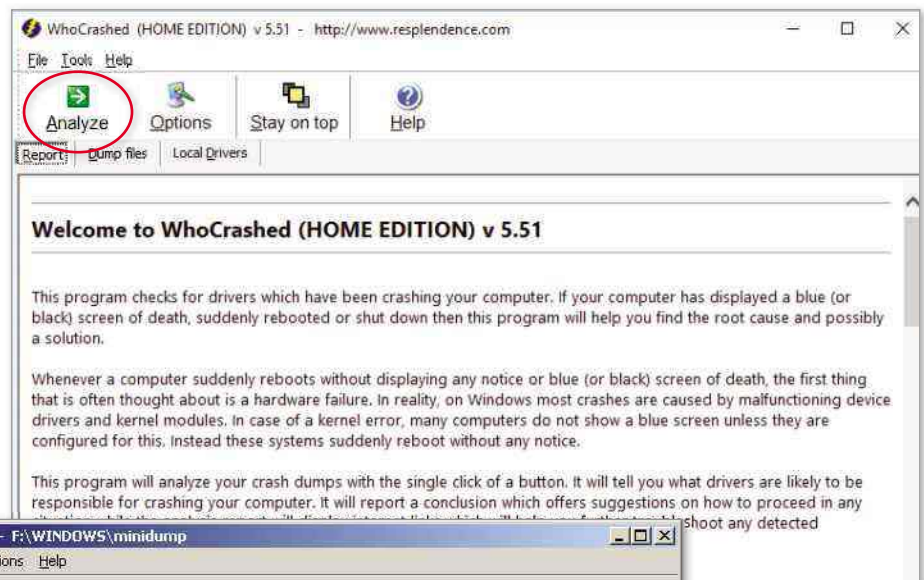
you've checked that the go-slow isn't caused by something more sinister.

The most likely culprits are third-party toolbars and other PUPs ('potentially unwanted programs' - far too polite a phrase) that hitched a lift on to your PC when you installed free software. They pretend to be something they're not (such as a useful search engine) or don't fully disclose some of the things they're going to do (such as track your browsing activity). They also leech processor power, prevent other programs working properly and can be extremely intimidating.

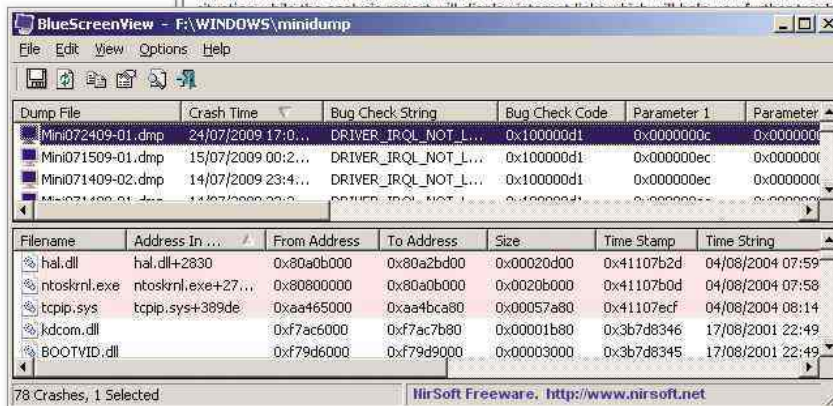
Kaspersky and some other AV companies don't classify PUPs as malware, but that's starting to change - quite rightly. AVG, for example, enables PUP and spyware defence by default. We hope to see similar policies taken up by all AV companies.

One significant problem with these hidden browser-hogs is that if you remove them they often regenerate. This is because many of us use syncing tools to keep the same bookmarks and extensions on our computers, laptops and other devices. Once a PUP file hides in Chrome Sync, for example, it can be impossible to remove unless you stop using Chrome Sync. Believe us, we've tried everything else.

To weed out troublesome browser



Click the Analyze button in WhoCrashed to diagnose PC crashes



NirSoft's portable program BlueScreenView gives you detailed information on crashes

extensions, run the free tool Auslogics Browser Care (www.snipca.com/19847). It identifies and removes dodgy extensions automatically. During setup, untick 'Launch program at Windows startup' (see screenshot below). This program does not need to run constantly in the background, and if it runs at startup Windows will take longer to launch.

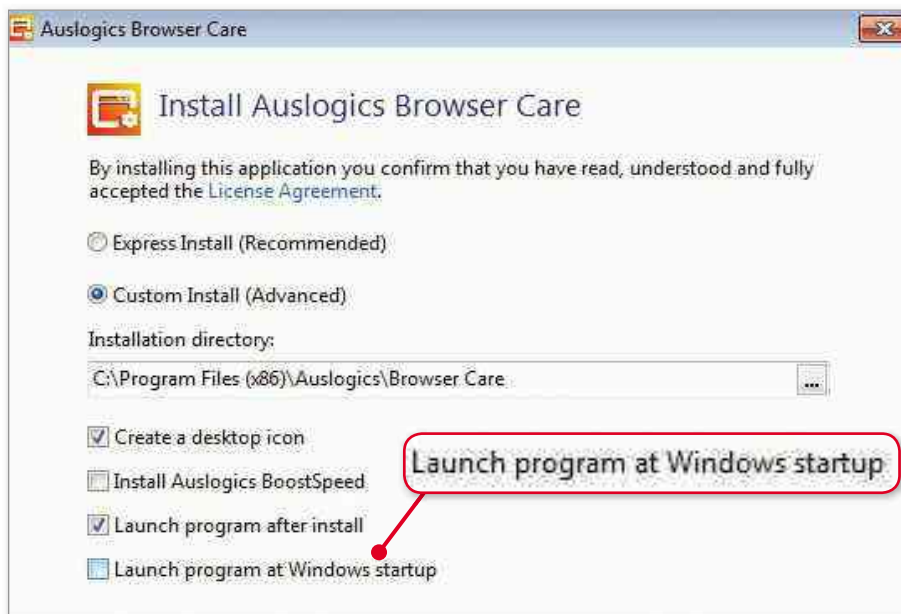
Rule out other causes of crashes

Regular, unexplained crashes are among the obvious signs of malware infection, but they could also be caused by faulty drivers and other hardware failures.

To rule out hardware culprits, start with the free tool WhoCrashed (www.snipca.com/19849), which has just been updated to support Windows 10.

Click Download at the top of the page, scroll down to 'WhoCrashed 5.51' under Crash Analysis Tools, and then click 'Download free home edition'. Save and run the installer; there's no rubbish to opt out of. Click Analyze to diagnose crashes. As well as generating a list of suspects, the program also gives you a plain-English report that is much more informative than Windows' own complicated crash logs.

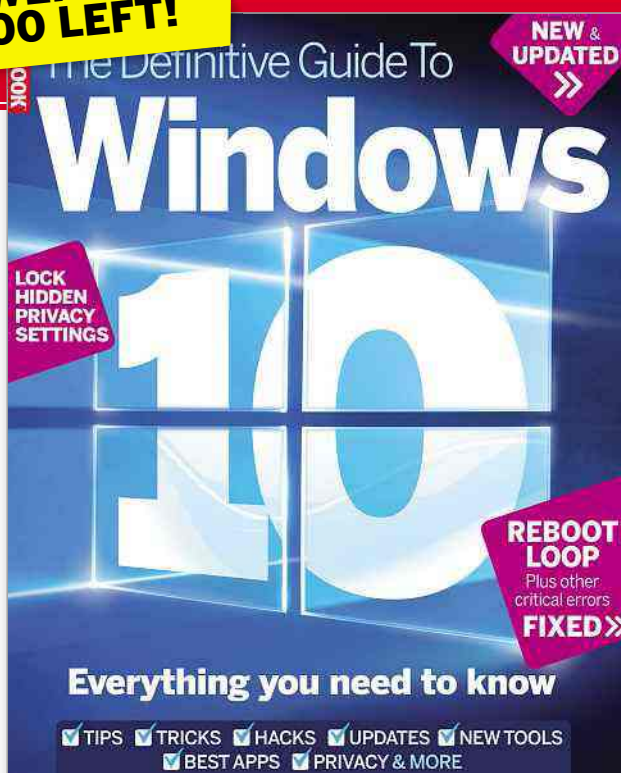
If you'd rather not install software, use the portable version of NirSoft's free tool BlueScreenView (www.snipca.com/13102). It gives you a whole load of information about what happened during crashes and lets you run an instant Google search for bugs associated with them. If drivers and other hardware faults don't seem to be causing your crashes, malware is a likely culprit. In the next section, we'll explain how to find out.



Untick 'Launch program at Windows startup' when installing Auslogics Browser Care

Computeractive Bookstore

**FEWER THAN
100 LEFT!**



THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO WINDOWS 10

This 148-page book is the only guide you need on Microsoft's new operating system. You'll learn how to master all the new tools, lock Microsoft's weak privacy settings and prevent future updates from wrecking your PC. It includes fixes for all the problems and bugs that have appeared in Windows 10 since it launched. Plus, you'll discover how to make Cortana understand you, remove the apps you hate, fix the dreaded Reboot Loop problem, master the new Edge browser, and stop Microsoft sharing your personal info.

**BUY IT NOW FROM
AMAZON**

at www.snipca.com/17716

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO ANDROID

If you use an Android tablet or phone, our new book will tell you how to get the most out of your device. It explains everything you need to know about the latest versions of Android, so you'll feel confident you won't get left behind. We'll also reveal the best apps for everything you'll ever want to do.



BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON

at www.snipca.com/18829

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO FREE SOFTWARE

In our new 148-page book, we recommend only the very best free programs that deliver high-quality features and no nasty surprises (no junk - guaranteed!). It's packed with step-by-step tutorials and how-to guides for safe downloads - plus you'll learn which free antivirus you should use.



BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON

at www.snipca.com/16785

COMPUTERACTIVE 2015 BACK ISSUE CD

This easy-to-use CD-ROM contains all 26 issues of 2015, giving you one-click access to thousands of tips, workshops, reviews, free programs, superb apps and problems solved. It has a searchable index, which makes it easy for you to find what you want to read.



BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON

at www.snipca.com/19124



Has your PC been hacked?

ROOT OUT HIDDEN MALWARE

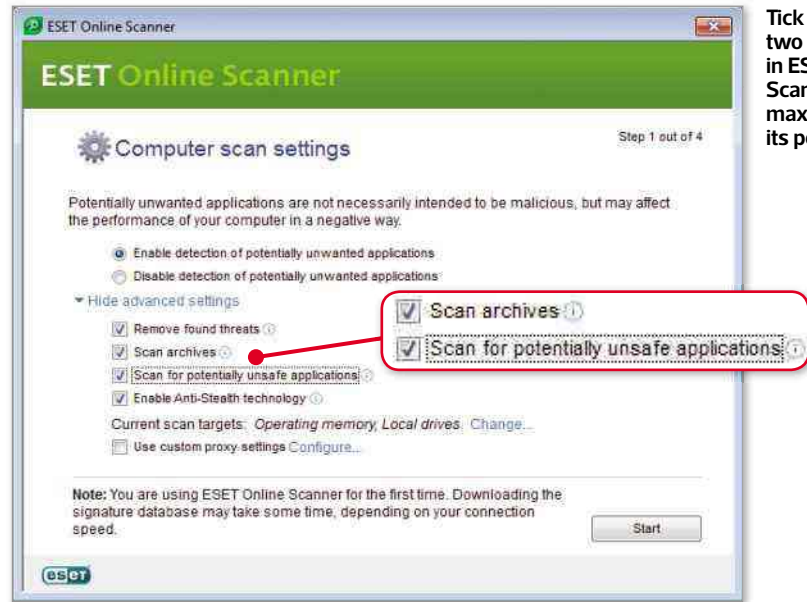
Scan your PC for dodgy processes

The new generation of stealth malware doesn't tend to have obvious giveaway signs, such as weird pop-ups.

The Carberp Trojan is a great (well, notable) example of malware that's being rebuilt over and over to make it much harder to detect. It's unlikely to show up in manual malware scanners or even in a full AV scan.

One option is to use tools like the free startup manager Autoruns (www.snipca.com/19839), which lists every single process, service and task that's active or been active on your PC - including the malicious ones. It's chiefly used to stop unwanted processes running at startup, but it's also a brilliant tool for tracking down mysterious items that you didn't install and whose role you don't understand. Most of these processes (especially the hidden malware) won't show up in Task Manager, so don't even bother using that.

The main downside to Autoruns is that its lists are intimidatingly long. Use the Options menu to narrow it down bit by bit. Tick Hide Empty Locations, then Hide Microsoft Entries, and wait for the list to refresh so it only contains active third-party items. Now read down it and, if you see something you don't recognise,



Tick these two options in ESET Online Scanner to maximise its power

right-click it and click Search Online (or press Ctrl+M) to run a Google search in your browser.

Google will look for the full file name associated with the process and offer links to relevant pages on security sites like File.net (www.file.net), which reveals whether certain files are safe; Process Library (www.processlibrary.com), which explains what a process is and why it's running; and the excellent Should I Block It? (www.shouldiblockit.com).

The latest version of Autoruns (v13.51)

incorporates the file-checking database VirusTotal (www.virustotal.com) and adds a Check VirusTotal option to the right-click menu (see screenshot below left).

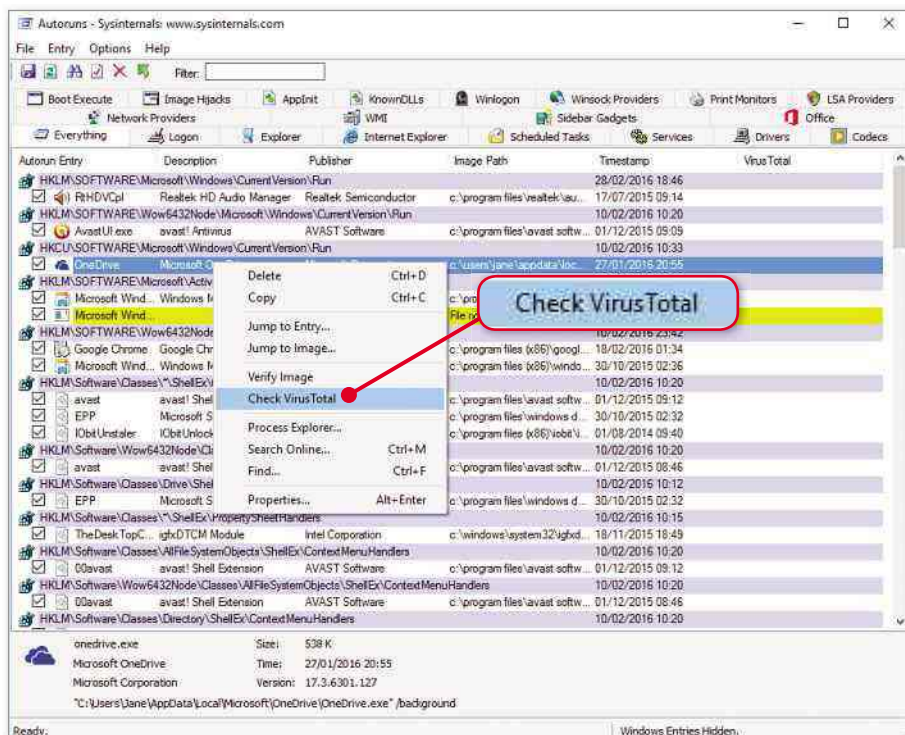
Scan specific areas of your PC

The free Online Scanner from AV company ESET (www.snipca.com/19848) is not quite as "online" as it makes out - it's not actually a browser-based tool. We were initially disappointed by that, because browser-based tools tend to be faster and easier to use than traditional installable software, and of course don't involve having to slog through an installation process.

But ESET Online Scanner is well worth a look, because it lets you scan for hidden malware and dodgy files in certain folders and areas of your PC - and that's much quicker than doing a full scan.

When you click 'Run ESET Online Scanner' a second window opens, inviting you to download ESET Smart Installer. Click the blue 'esetsmartinstaller_enu.exe' link, open it and then click Run if prompted by Windows. Tick the 'Terms of Use' box and then click Start.

During configuration, click 'Enable detection of potentially unwanted applications', then open 'Advanced settings' and tick 'Scan archives' and 'Scan for potentially unsafe applications' (see screenshot above), and leave the two other boxes ticked. Here's where you can select certain folders, other destinations and even specific files. The tool has anti-stealth technology built in, which



To see if a file is safe, right-click it in Autoruns, then click 'Check VirusTotal'



means it can detect and clean hidden files in folders you didn't even know were there.

Our main beef with ESET is its **false-positive** habit. It wrongly identified our favourite NirSoft tools as malicious, and they're certainly not. So before you blitz any file that's flagged as dodgy, run it through VirusTotal online for a second opinion.

Discover where dodgy files are hiding

Free portable tool Runscanner (www.runscanner.net) scans all your PC's startup system files, drivers and settings. Malware is fond of installing startup files and leaving them behind, so they run constantly from the moment you boot your PC.

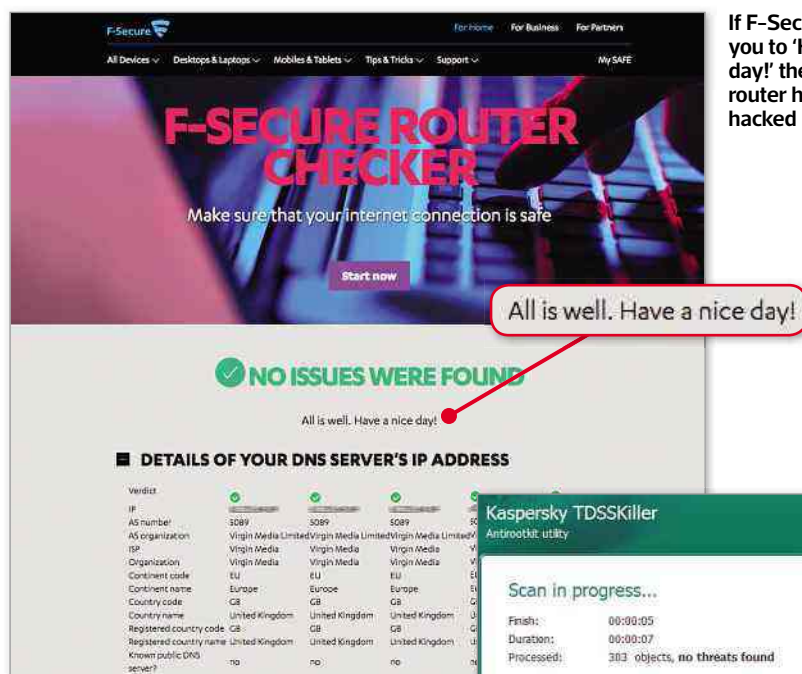
After scanning, the tool reveals which files aren't behaving as they should, drawing information from its database of over 900,000 system files including **EXE**, **DLL** and **SYS** files - precisely the types of files malware likes to create, infect and/or corrupt, and then leave behind.

To get the program, click Download in the top menu bar, then click Freeware Download and save and run the file. In the small program window, you're given the choice of using 'Beginner mode' or 'Expert mode' - the latter lets you make changes to misbehaving Windows files, while Beginner mode does not.

Scan your router for hijackers

You may not consider your router to be part of your computer, but it's a vital part of your PC setup - and it's a prime target for botnet attacks. What's more, you're unlikely to check your router for bugs or problems unless your internet starts playing up, so it could be part of a malicious botnet for months or years before you have any idea about it.

The good news is that checking your router for botnet activity is very easy, and doesn't involve downloading or installing any software. Click 'Start now' on F-Secure's free online Router Checker (www.snipca.com/19852) and wait a few



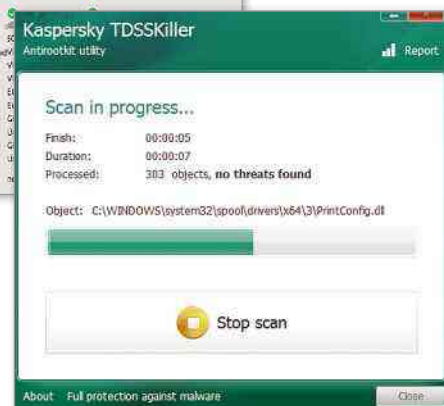
If F-Secure tells you to 'Have a nice day!' then your router hasn't been hacked

seconds while the tool looks for malicious activity such as **DNS** (domain name server) requests that don't end up where they're supposed to go. If it detects any suspicious activity, you'll be guided through what to do next. If not, you'll see the reassuring message in the screenshot above.

Root out rootkits your AV can't see

Kaspersky Internet Security 2016 is one of the most powerful and accurate AV products money can buy. We trust it so much that we're offering it for the special price of £17.99, down from £39.99 (see page 68). But one thing it can't do is root out rootkits, those invisible smugglers that hack your OS to ensure they remain hidden. So we were pleased and relieved to hear about Kaspersky TDSSKiller, which specifically targets rootkits and won't conflict with Kaspersky Internet Security or your other choice of installed AV (you should only have one background-running AV installed, or they will effectively cancel each other out).

TDSSKiller is free and open-source,



Kaspersky's TDSSKiller scans your system for rootkits

and comes in installable and portable versions. First we tried to download the portable one from this page of the PortableApps.com site: www.snipca.com/19853, but this meant having to install the PortableApps platform first. To avoid this hassle, download the 'ZIP Version' from safe **download mirror** site BleepingComputer (www.snipca.com/19854), which also hosts one of our favourite junk-removing tools, AdwCleaner (www.snipca.com/19855).

BleepingComputer says TDSSKiller only works in Windows 8 and earlier, but it worked fine on our Windows 10 PC. Download and extract the ZIP, then run the program file. It'll take a few moments to update its **virus definitions** first. Click 'Start scan' to find and remove rootkits and 'bootkits' hiding in your PC. **ca**

NEXT ISSUE On sale Wednesday 30 March

WINDOWS 10 FIXED!

We solve all your problems (because Microsoft never will)

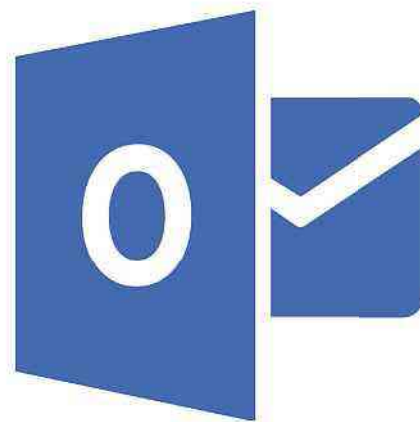


- Plus**
- **Protect Your Eyes**
Stop screen-glare damaging your vision
 - **Don't Use These Devices**
PCs and tablets that are inherently flawed

ON SALE
30 Mar

Subscribe to Computeractive at www.getcomputeractive.co.uk

Outlook.com's BEST NEW TOOL'S



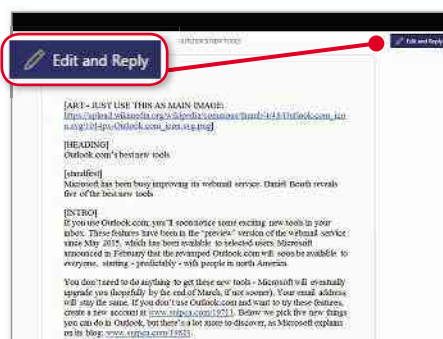
Microsoft has been busy improving its webmail service. Daniel Booth reveals the five best new tools

If you use Outlook.com, you'll soon notice some exciting new tools in your inbox. These features have been in the 'preview' version of the webmail service since May 2015, which has been available to selected users. Microsoft announced in February that the revamped Outlook.com will soon be available to everyone, starting – predictably – with people based in North America.

You don't need to do anything to get these new tools – Microsoft will eventually upgrade you (hopefully by the end of March, if not sooner). Your email address will stay the same. If you don't use Outlook.com and want to try these features, create a new account at www.snipca.com/19713. Below we pick five useful new things you can do in Outlook, but there's a lot more to discover, as Microsoft explains on its blog: www.snipca.com/19821.

Edit Word docs alongside emails

We'll start with the most useful new tool – side-by-side editing. Now, when you receive an Office file – such as a Word document, PowerPoint presentation or Excel spreadsheet – you can open, view and edit it alongside the email it was attached to. Do this by clicking the file icon in the email, then 'View online' and 'Edit and Reply' in the blue button at the top (see screenshot above right). Any changes you make to the file are automatically saved, and attached to your response.



Click 'Edit and Reply' to edit a Word doc alongside the email it was attached to

'Pin' important emails to the top

Helping you to avoid what it calls "email overload", Microsoft has added 'pins' to Outlook.com. These let you highlight important emails in yellow, and place them at the top of your inbox. To do this, right-click an email, then click Pin in the menu that appears (see screenshot below).



Click 'Pin' to place important emails at the top of your inbox

Add people to emails quickly

Let's say you're organising a party, and you need to send an email to lots of people to remind them what to bring. A new tool in Outlook helps you to direct certain requests to each person, so they don't have to read the entire email. As you're writing, type the '@' symbol to launch Outlook's Mentions option. This shows you a list of people to add to the email. Select one, and their email address will appear in the 'To' field, and their name in the body of the email. It's a simple way for multiple recipients of an email to jump straight to the info relevant to them. Read more on the Outlook blog: www.snipca.com/19831.

Don't forget to include 'Bob'

Do you know someone called Bob? Doesn't matter if you don't. But we bet you have a group of people you regularly email, and that you sometimes forget to include one person – with potentially disastrous consequences, for example: 'Meet down the pub at 9pm? But you didn't email me!'

Microsoft has the solution by suggesting that you include the person you appear to have accidentally omitted. This has the potential to get annoying, so Microsoft assures us that Outlook will only nudge you when it's "highly confident" you've forgotten someone. It's good to see this feature arrive in Outlook – finally. Gmail introduced it way back in 2011 (www.snipca.com/19834)!

Never misspell your friend's name

It would be hard to misspell 'Bob', but what about Catherine? Perhaps it's Kathryn? Or maybe Stephen is in fact Steven? Previously, you had to get the recipient's name spot on for them to appear as an option in the 'To' field. Now, Outlook will suggest all the Kathryns you know if it thinks you've typed 'Catherine' by mistake – and likewise for other names with more than spelling. **ca**

GIVE YOUR OUTLOOK FEEDBACK

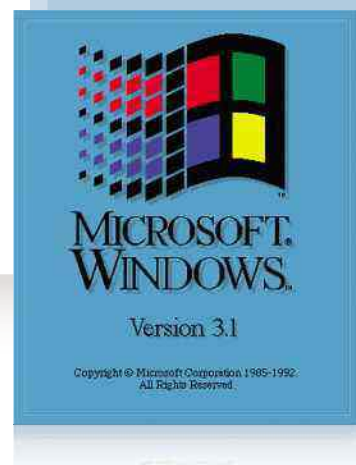
As part of its slightly cringey mission to "make email awesome", Microsoft encourages you to give feedback in its Outlook UserVoice forums (<https://outlook.uservoice.com>). Launched last year, it's an online

'suggestion box' where you can recommend tweaks for every version of Outlook, including the Android and iOS apps. If you like someone else's idea, click the 'Vote' button to make sure Microsoft notices.

Run Windows 3.1

IN YOUR Browser FOR FREE!

Bored by Windows 7? Confused by Windows 10? Then take a trip into computing history by running Windows 3.1 in your browser. Jonathan Parkyn shows you how



Boot up your current computer and you'll be greeted by flashy graphics, smooth fonts and gigabytes of powerful, easy-to-use programs. But it wasn't always like that. For a reminder of what computing was like 24 years ago, you should head online to the Internet Archive (<http://archive.org>), where you'll find a fully working version of Windows 3.1 that runs within your web browser, as well as more than 1,300 free games and programs built for it. We'll explain what's inside this fascinating time capsule.

What is Windows 3.1?

First, a short history lesson. People often cite Windows 95 as the turning point for Microsoft, but Windows 3.1 – its 16bit predecessor – was just as significant. By

1992, Windows had been around for several years, but early versions were crude and unreliable. When Windows 3.1 came along, it was markedly different in a number of ways. Firstly, it was more stable. It pioneered new technologies, too. You needed a PC with a hard drive to run it, and it was the first version of the OS to be distributed on CD-ROM as well as floppy disks.

Windows 3.1 worked and looked much better than earlier versions, with support for **TrueType** fonts and a built-in media player. Crucially, it was the first incarnation of Windows to come pre-installed as standard on many PCs. For many people, Windows 3.1 was their first taste of Microsoft's operating system. Over 3.1's lifetime, thousands of popular programs, tools and games were created

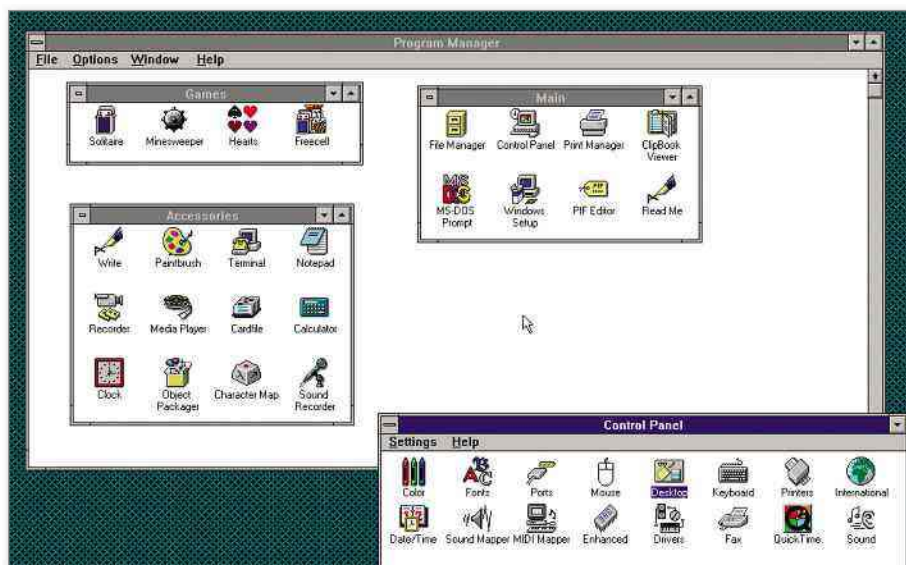
for it, many of which evolved into software we still use today.

Why has Windows 3.1 been put online?

The people at the Internet Archive believe that computer software should be preserved for posterity, just like books, film footage, music, images and other historical artefacts. The non-profit organisation has already built a fantastic online archive of playable arcade games, such as Defender and Astro Blaster (www.snipca.com/19767), and a collection of almost 10,000 programs and games from the **MS-DOS** era (www.snipca.com/19768). This year, as the Internet Archive's Jason Scott puts it in his blog (www.snipca.com/19766), "it's time to upgrade to Windows 3.1".

Head to www.snipca.com/19758 and you'll find a selection of Windows 3.1 software. Scroll through the list and you'll see that large amounts of the programs available have been grouped into 'Software Libraries', including one for games and one for productivity tools. More programs will be added as they becomes available.

If you just want a reminder of the operating system itself, click the Windows 3.11 Stock Installation (www.snipca.com/19775) and take the old OS for a spin – it even makes the familiar old Windows startup sound when you first launch it. You can rediscover the old File Manager and Program Manager navigation systems (see screenshot left), as well as familiar old tools, such as Write and Paintbrush, and built-in games, such as Minesweeper. You can even indulge in a few rounds of



Back in 1992, this was the cutting edge of computing. Now run it in your web browser for nothing



Remember any of these programs? Now run them in your browser

EXPLORE THE INTERNET ARCHIVE FURTHER

As well as games and programs, the Internet Archive pays tribute to the darker side of computing, with its Malware Museum (www.snipca.com/19782), a collection of viruses and other nefarious nasties from the pre-internet age. Another gem is the Wayback Machine (www.snipca.com/19784), an archive of old web pages. Type a URL into the search box, press Enter, then browse the calendar to see what a site looked like at any point in the past 20 years. From the main Internet Archive homepage, click one of the icons in the middle to browse the corresponding libraries. The film icon, for instance, leads to the Moving Image Archive – home to more than 2 million video files, including many classic films (www.snipca.com/19783), all available for free. Similarly, the Audio Archive (www.snipca.com/19786) contains millions of recordings, including concerts and old radio shows that you can listen to for nothing. The 'eBooks and Texts' archive (www.snipca.com/19785), meanwhile, offers more than 8 million free ebooks.

Solitaire which, unlike Windows 10's equivalent, can be played entirely for free – with no annoying adverts.

In terms of third-party software, you won't find too many big names among the programs. That's not to say that there aren't plenty of gems to discover, such as Bookbase (www.snipca.com/19776), a database program that lets you digitally catalogue your book collection, or Guitar Scales and Modes (www.snipca.com/19777) to help you learn the guitar.

There's also a collection of Desktop Toys worth checking out at www.snipca.com/19778. These are simple, fun widgets designed to sit on the Windows desktop – including a rather endearing animated fish tank (www.snipca.com/19779). They're like precursors to modern-day apps on your phone and tablet.

How does it work?

The Internet Archive is able to bring you Windows 3.1 through your browser by clever use of **emulation** and streaming technology. Click the big green power button shown on each program's page to launch a special **JavaScript** version of DOSbox (www.dosbox.com) which, in turn, will boot up an emulated copy

of Windows 3.1 and run your chosen program.

Click anywhere within the program and your browser will prompt you to allow archive.org to hide or disable your mouse cursor. In fact, what happens is that the emulated program will capture your cursor so that you can use the mouse to control it. When you want to return to your 'real' desktop, just press Esc on your keyboard.

Sound can be toggled on or off by clicking the floating, white speaker icon on the right of the browser window. To switch to full-screen mode, click the white icon of four outward-pointing arrows (see screenshot below), though most of the software wasn't designed to be used at such high resolutions, so full-screen mode doesn't always look great. Press Esc to return to smaller windows.

In some cases, it's possible to download the program's **EXE file** – click the Zip link under Download Options. This would, theoretically, allow you to install the program on a Windows 3.1 computer in the unlikely event that you still have such a thing hanging around (please let us know if you do – we'd love a photo!).



Click the arrows to switch to full-screen mode, and switch audio on and off with the speaker icon

Are there any catches?

The Archive's Windows 3.1 emulation is surprisingly sturdy. It didn't crash or freeze when we tested it. We were able to run it in all the main web browsers, including Chrome, Firefox, Edge and Internet Explorer (IE), though the latter two didn't like the full-screen mode. Edge switched to a black screen when we clicked the full-screen icon, while IE flatly refused to fill the screen.

Apart from that, there aren't any real pitfalls. The biggest disappointment is that the free collection doesn't include many of the paid-for programs and games you may remember using back in the Nineties. There's no Microsoft Office or Aldus PageMaker, for example – presumably for licensing reasons. Other minor gripes include the fact that you can't currently save files or game progress (the Archive hopes to add these) and the collection isn't organised particularly well. Items are listed by truncated file names, so it's often not obvious what the program's full name and functions are until you've booted it up.

But these are quibbles. Overall, it's a great way to relive computing glories. **ca**

HOW TO BLOCK THE Windows 10 Upgrade



Microsoft really, really wants you to use Windows 10 – but you don't have to. Jane Hoskyn explains how Windows 7 and 8.1 users can block the Windows 10 upgrade

That blue-and-white notification on your Windows 7 or 8.1 Desktop screams: 'Don't miss out on Windows 10!' It's like an alarm clock that greets you! Every morning! Full of exclamation marks!

If you ignore it, the pop-up automatically changes its tone. Out with 'Don't miss' and in with the more sinister 'Microsoft recommends', which makes it easy to mistake for a compulsory update. But there's nothing compulsory about Windows 10. In fact the notification is just an advert. You don't have to click it, and you don't have to upgrade your operating system (OS).

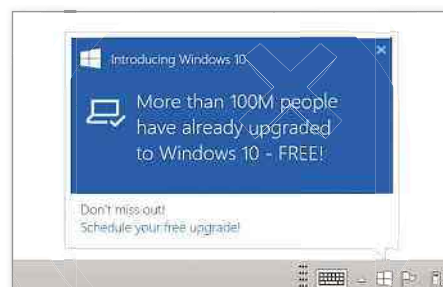
Here we'll show you how to get rid of the pop-up and carry on with Windows 7 or 8.1 for as long as it's safe to do so.

Hide the Windows 10 pop-up

You can hide the upgrade pop-up using the same steps as for any other system tray notification. Click the little triangle on your taskbar, click 'Customize...' and then look for GWX (short for 'Get Windows 10') in the list. Click its dropdown menu, 'Hide icon and notifications' and then click OK (see screenshot below). The good news is that the pop-up won't reappear as soon as you restart your PC, contrary to some reports. The bad news is it will be back as soon as Windows Update runs.

Delete and block the Windows 10 file

Hiding the Windows 10 notification is really only a step above sticking a bit of



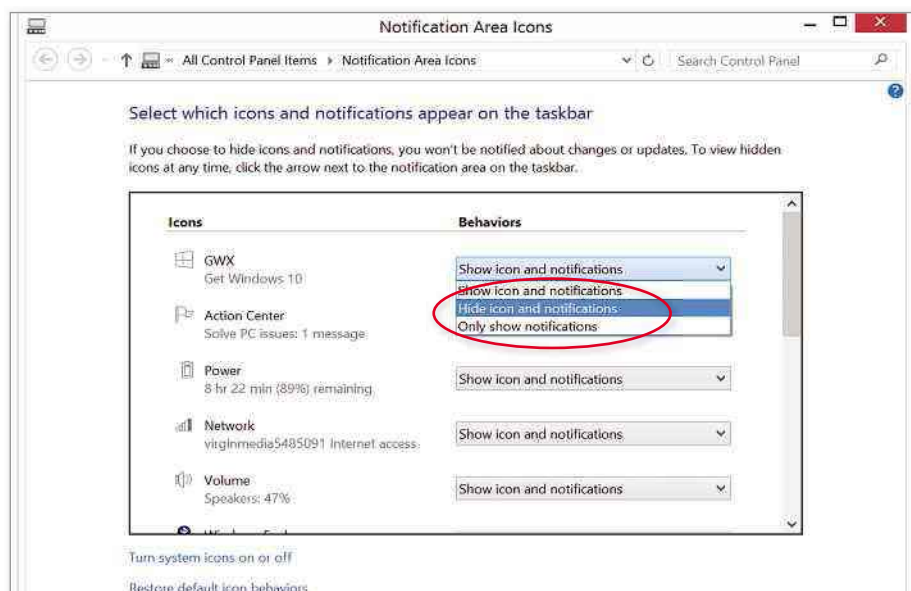
Sick of seeing this? You can remove it – albeit temporarily

paper over the corner of your screen and shouting 'la la la!' to make it go away. GWX – actually a program file, GWX.exe – is still on your hard drive, where it was dumped by Windows Update without your permission.

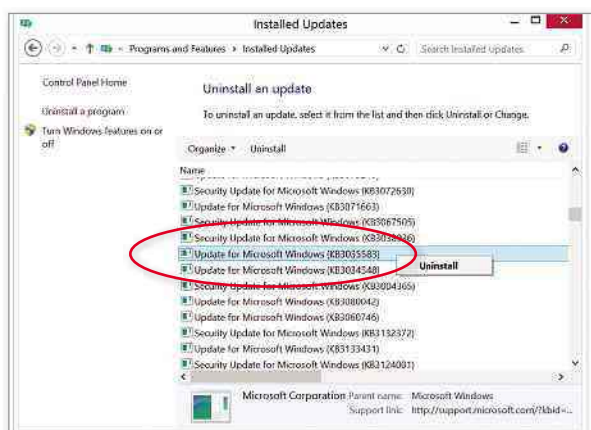
You can find the update – codename 'KB3035583' – in your Windows Update history. Type **update** into Start, click Windows Update in the results and then 'View update history' on the left. Scroll down to KB3035583 (the search box won't find it). As you'll see from the third column, it's a 'recommended' update and not an 'important' one. Microsoft wants you to have it, but you don't *need* it.

To delete it, click the blue Installed Updates link at the top of the window, find KB3035583, right-click it and then click Uninstall (see top-left screenshot page 61). If you use Windows 7, also uninstall updates KB2952664 and KB3021917; if you're on Windows 8.1, also uninstall KB3035583 and KB2976978. Nothing we've seen or experienced suggests these updates are essential to how your PC runs.

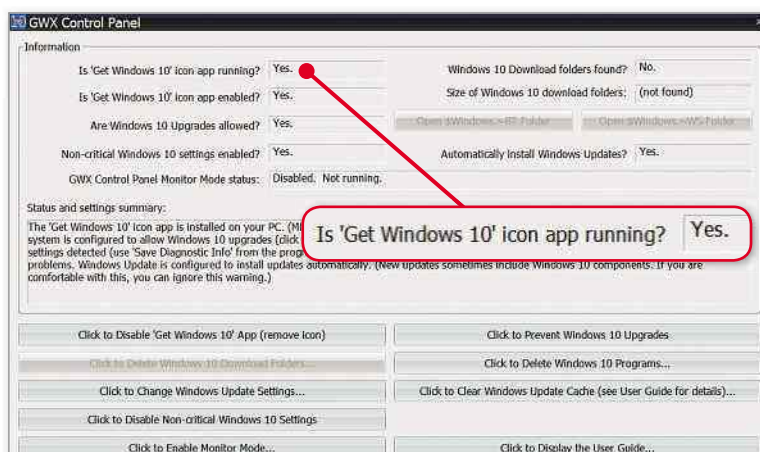
Next, block unnecessary downloads.



You can easily hide the Windows 10 notification – but it'll be back



Remove the Windows 10 pop-up by uninstalling the update that delivered it



GWX Control Panel reveals if the 'Get Windows 10' app is running on your PC

Open Windows Update as above, and this time click 'Change settings' on the left. Under 'Recommended updates', untick 'Give me recommended updates...' and then click OK. You'll still get 'important updates', such as security fixes, automatically.

Use software to block the upgrade

It's useful to know how to remove GWX manually, but it's not the most decisive fix. In fact, we discovered it was still running on our Windows 8.1 PC after we'd disabled it in Windows Update. That's the kind of obnoxious behaviour we'd expect from malware, not from a Windows file.

For extra firepower against the upgrade, use the free tool GWX Control Panel (<http://ultimateoutsider.com/downloads>). This easy-to-use program was made by PC user Josh Mayfield, who deplores the way Microsoft pushes Windows 10 "by hook or by crook". Click 'GWX Control Panel', then save and run the installer. There's no adware to opt out of. Launch the program as administrator, then accept the user agreement.

At the top left of the program window

you can see whether the Windows 10 pop-up is still running on your PC despite your efforts to obliterate it (see screenshot above right). We found some comfort at the top right of the program, where no 'Windows 10 Download folders' were found. If Microsoft has created a Windows 10 folder on your PC, GWX Control Panel lets you delete it with one click.

Get rid of GWX completely

The bottom half of the GWX Control Panel window gives you control Windows Update doesn't. All the buttons are marked with clear descriptions. For example, click 'Click to Disable 'Get Windows 10' App (remove icon)' to do just that – completely and forever, or at least until you re-enable it using the reverse process.

There are buttons for removing Windows 10 apps, clearing your Windows Update **cache** and opening a dashboard of update settings ('Click to Change Windows Update Settings'). You can set your PC to notify you of available updates, but it never downloads or installs them without asking you. If only Microsoft was that respectful.

For more tips on using GWX Control Panel, see the online user guide (www.snipca.com/19665) and troubleshooting guide (www.snipca.com/19666).

Hack your Registry to block upgrades

You can create a new Registry entry to help block attempts by Windows to upgrade to the latest version. This is much riskier than using GWX Control Panel or tweaking Windows Update, but it may appeal to very confident users who'd rather not install more software.

Save a **system restore point** before going anywhere near your Registry, and then open Registry Editor by typing **regedit** into Start and pressing Enter. Navigate to the folder ('key') **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows\WindowsUpdate**. Right-click it, create a new DWORD value named **DisableOSUpgrade** and give it the value '1'.

Stay safe in Windows 7 and 8.1

We've shown you how to silence the Windows 10 prompt so you can keep using Windows 7 or 8.1. Microsoft will say that's a bad idea – but it would, wouldn't it?

Here are the facts. Microsoft ended Mainstream support for Windows 7 last year. That means Windows 7 won't receive any more new features – so the version of the OS you use now is what you'll always use. But it will still receive security updates until the end of the Extended support period, which is January 2020.

As you'd expect, Windows 8.1 support has much longer to run. Mainstream and Extended support end in 2018 and 2023 respectively. Here's Microsoft's timetable of Windows support – it's an essential bookmark: www.snipca.com/19663. **ca**

WINDOWS 10 UPGRADE TIMELINE

- **AUGUST 2015:** Windows 7 and 8/8.1 users found 6GB of Windows 10 files in a hidden folder called 'SWindows.-BT'. The download pushed many over their **bandwidth** limit.
- **SEPTEMBER 2015:** Users reported seeing failed 'Upgrade to Windows 10' tasks in their Windows Update history.
- **OCTOBER 2015:** A Windows Update bug forced some Windows 7 and 8.1 users to install Windows 10.
- **NOVEMBER 2015:** A Windows 10 update removed some users' installed software.
- **DECEMBER 2015:** Users complained they'd accidentally upgraded to Windows 10 after clicking the GWX app pop-up.
- **FEBRUARY 2016:** Windows 10 became a 'recommended update' and now downloads automatically via Windows Update.

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

☒ **YES!** Please start my subscription to Computeractive and send me my **FREE 15-piece screwdriver set.**

YOUR DETAILS

Mr/Mrs/Ms	Forename
Surname	
Address	
Country	
Postcode	Year of Birth
Daytime phone	
Mobile No.	
Email	

2 EASY WAYS TO PAY

1 DIRECT DEBIT £19.99 for 6 months (13 issues) saving 22% on shop price

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit</h2>											
<p>Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 100px;"> <p>To the manager: Bank name</p> <p>Address</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">Postcode</p> </div>												
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 65%;"> <p>Account in the name(s) of</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Originator's Identification Number</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 16.6%;">7</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">2</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">4</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">6</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">8</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">0</td> </tr> </table> </div> </div>			7	2	4	6	8	0				
7	2	4	6	8	0							
<p>Branch sort code</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33.3%;"> </td> <td style="width: 33.3%;"> </td> <td style="width: 33.3%;"> </td> </tr> </table>												
<p>Bank/Building Society account number</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"> </td> </tr> </table>												
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 65%;"> <p>Signature(s)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Date</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> </div> </div>												
<p><small>Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account</small></p>												

2 CREDIT CARD £39.99 annually (26 issues) saving 22% on the shop price

Please charge my:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Debit (Issue No. _____)

CARD NUMBER START DATE EXPIRY DATE

SIGNED _____ TODAY'S DATE _____

RETURN TO:

**FREEPOST RLZS-ETGT-BCZR,
Computeractive Subscriptions,
800 Guillat Avenue, Kent Science Park,
Sittingbourne ME9 8GU**

(This address can be used on an envelope – no stamp required)

Gift limited to 200 subscribers. Please allow 28 days for delivery. UK only.

Dennis Publishing reserves the right to limit offers of this kind to one per household.

Dennis Publishing (UK) Ltd uses a layered Privacy Notice, giving you brief details about how we would like to use your personal information. For full details please visit our website www.dennis.co.uk/privacy/ or call us on **01795 592 910**. If you have any questions please ask as submitting your details indicates your consent, until you choose otherwise, that we and our partners may contact you about products and services that will be of relevance to you via direct mail, phone, email and SMS. You can opt-out at ANY time via ManageMyMags.co.uk or privacy@dennis.co.uk or **01795 592 910**.

Offer code: **D1606P**



- Receive every issue **before** it's available in the shops
- **FREE** delivery to your door
- **FREE 15-piece screwdriver set**
- **Save 22%** on the shop price

What our subscribers say about Computeractive

“Computeractive seems to read my mind. I have an issue with my PC, next fortnight it has the solution. It’s been invaluable during the Windows 10 upgrade and continues to be the best, jargon-free computer magazine on the market. Keep it up!”

Jason Bowyer

“As a not very confident PC user, I know I can totally rely on the advice given in each and every issue. Thank you Computeractive.”

Maureen L'Honore

“The best technology magazine out there bar none! No complicated jargon-filled articles – just great advice! Also, in a clear, concise format. Thank you.”

Tom Housden

Read more comments at www.snipca.com/18623

SUBSCRIPTION
OFFER

Pay £1.54 an issue

when you subscribe using
offer code **D1606P**

Subscribe to Computeractive today and not only will you pay just £1.54 an issue (a 22% saving on the shop price), you'll also get your copies delivered **free** to your door every fortnight.

**FREE
GIFT**



Order securely online
dennismags.co.uk/computeractive
or call **0844 815 0054** quote offer code above

Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge

Problems Solved

PROBLEM OF THE FORTNIGHT

How do I index *Computeractive*?

Q I keep a record of all the *Computeractive* features, tips, reviews, software and so on that I may find useful in the future. As my list is getting quite long, I would like to create an easily indexed record of these on my PC, so that I can summon a list of items that match specific criteria with just one or two clicks. Is there a software package available that I could use in this way?

Roy Knowles

A You're describing the purpose and mechanics of a database. You might have Microsoft Access installed, and that would do the job. So too would a free alternative, such as LibreOffice Base (www.snipca.com/19561).

However, for your needs, trying to come to terms with the complexities of database software would be overkill, because you could achieve what you want just as efficiently – and more easily – using a spreadsheet. Microsoft Excel will work if you have it installed, or LibreOffice Calc (www.snipca.com/19562) if you want a free tool.

We'll tell you how to do it in Calc, although the process is much the same in Excel or any other spreadsheet software. Type some relevant headings in the first row. So, for example, in cell A1 type 'Content of interest', then in B1 type 'Issue number', 'Page' in C1, 'Section' on D1 and so on. The rows below these headings are where you'll enter the data you want to store.

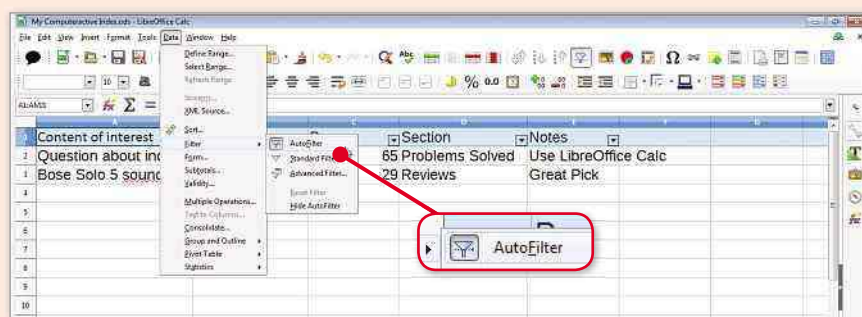
Obviously you will need to update this on an ongoing basis.

When you've entered some data, use the AutoFilter tool to sort and search your records. Click the '1' row label to the left of your headings to select the entire row, and then open the Data menu, point to Filter and click AutoFilter (see screenshot). This turns every heading into a dropdown menu, letting you sort or search your data in a variety of ways.

To sort by 'Section' for example, click the down arrow in D4 and then choose Sort Ascending or Sort Descending to arrange the sections alphabetically. Alternatively, you can add or remove ticks from the various checkboxes here to show or hide particular sections. Also notice the 'Search items' box: type a search term here to filter the selected column accordingly. Click OK to carry out the search, or Cancel to clear the AutoFilter box and start again.

If you want to search your entire database, press Control+F to open the search box, type your search term and then click Final All. Now simply click an entry in the Search Results box to jump straight to that entry.

Finally, if you'd rather leave all this work to someone else, check out our Back Issue CDs. Each one contains an entire year's output of 26 issues in all their full-colour glory, with a simple, fast search tool built in. They usually sell out quickly, so grab the 2015 edition now – for around £15 from Amazon (www.snipca.com/19124).



Use LibreOffice Calc's AutoFilter tool to sort your data by specific values

How do I get Amazon Video subtitles?

Q Sometime last year you said it was now possible to get subtitles on Amazon Prime videos. So how do I do it with my new Panasonic smart TV? The picture and sound are very good, but no subtitles. Any ideas?

Brian Hammond

A You didn't tell us your specific Panasonic TV model but we're assuming that you're using the Amazon Video app within the TV itself, rather than via some external box that's attached to your TV (such as a games console). That being the case, the first thing to do is make sure the video you want to watch actually has subtitles.

On the latest version of Amazon Video for Firefox OS – the operating system employed by Panasonic's most recent smart TVs – you need to look for the 'CC' icon when browsing the content library. CC stands for 'closed captioning', which is just the technical term for subtitles (captions) that aren't visible until they're enabled by the viewer.

Select the programme you want by pressing OK on your remote and then look at the row of headings directly above the programme's title. Tap the right-pointing cursor arrow on your remote control's keypad until Captions is highlighted, then press OK. Move down to select English (or another language) and then tap OK. Now move to the programme's icon and press OK to play.



Look for the 'CC' icon next to your favourite programme to make sure it has subtitles

Our experts solve all your tech problems

✉ Email us your problem and we'll try to help: noproblem@computeractive.co.uk

Where is OneDrive's smart files feature?

Q My hard drive is relatively small, so I stored my files in OneDrive and accessed them using File Explorer on my Windows 8.1 PC. However, since upgrading to Windows 10 I can't find a way to view the files I already have stored in OneDrive without syncing them all to the computer. Where's the option to have the files stored 'online only', as in Windows 8.1?

David McBride

A Sadly it's not there anymore. For the benefit of readers who might not have stumbled upon the feature, Windows 8/8.1 allowed you to remove specific files or folders from the local OneDrive folder and store them online only. A quick right-click followed by 'Make available online-only' and that was that.

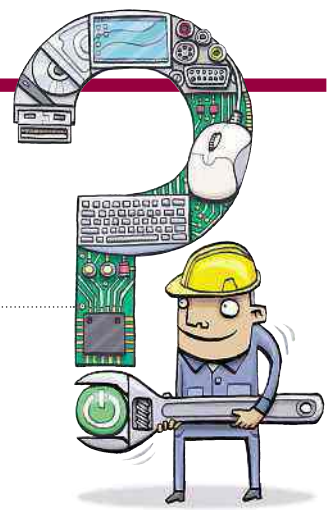
However, when you did this, 'placeholder' files would remain displayed in File Explorer so your OneDrive content looked as though it was still available offline. Indeed, the way OneDrive's synchronisation 'engine' used to work meant that the content of these placeholder files were searchable offline – and small (low-resolution) thumbnails



Sync files and folders between your PC and OneDrive account by ticking or clearing these boxes

of images were actually stored locally, (ie, on your network) and were still available to browse in File Explorer.

So that's the background. Microsoft decided that the concept of online-only files was too confusing to the majority of users, so it killed the feature. Files can still be stored online only, using selective synchronisation, but File Explorer will



not display local placeholders for these files.

To set up selective syncing, right-click the OneDrive icon in the notification area of the taskbar then choose Settings. Now select the Account tab and click the 'Choose folders' button. Tick or clear the boxes next to the folders depending on which you want to sync, and then click OK. Deselected folders will remain safely stored on OneDrive, but they won't be synced to the current PC.

To access the files, enable synchronisation for the relevant folder or log in at www.onedrive.com.

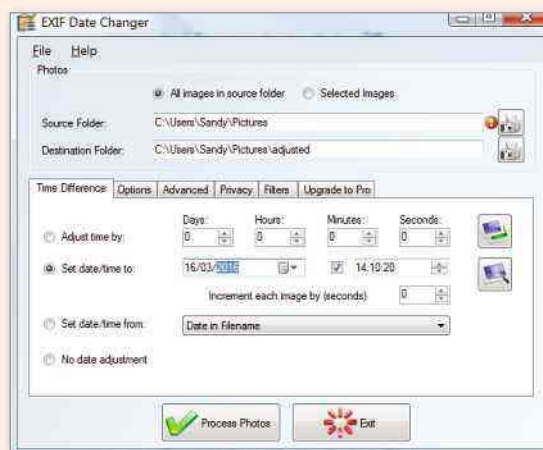
We know that's not as flexible as before but for now that's just how it is. However, there's light on the horizon: well-sourced rumours hint strongly that Microsoft will reintroduce OneDrive's online-only feature in a future update to Windows 10 – possibly as soon as this summer.

How do I fix my photo dates?

Q The Windows 10 Photos app shows my snaps dated as 2027, 2028 and so on. I'm guessing this is because the camera's date had not been set properly after I changed the batteries. I can't find how to change the date in Photos. Is it possible?

Sandy Watson

A It's possible, but not from within the Photos app. If you have just a few affected photos then it's simple enough to fix them using File Explorer. Press Windows key+E to open it and then navigate to the folder containing your photos. Right-click an image and choose Properties. Now select



Use EXIF Date Changer to amend incorrect details of multiple photos in one batch

the Details tab, scroll down to the Origin section, click in the field alongside 'Date taken', make your adjustment and click OK to save. Repeat for other photos.

If you have loads of incorrectly dated images, you can use software to process them as a batch. The free version of EXIF Date Changer (www.snipca.com/19657) works only with JPEGs, but as that's the file format most digital cameras use, it should be fine for your needs.

There are loads of options to explore but the basics are as follows. Use the Time Difference tab to set both the source folder (the one containing your photos) and a destination, where EXIF Date Changer will save the amended photo files. Select the 'Set/data time to' button, choose the desired date and time and then click Process Photos.

Problems Solved

How do I know which ports are USB 2.0?

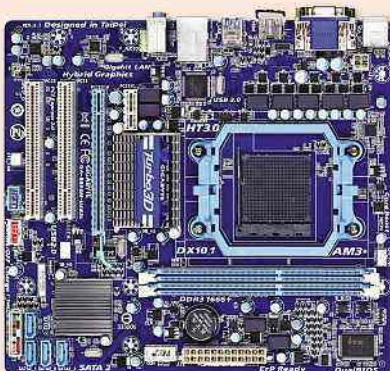
Q I have several USB ports on the back of my computer, and two on the front. From using SiSoftware Sandra (www.sisoftware.co.uk) I know that some are **USB 2.0**. But which ones? Is there a way I can find out?

Tony Atkinson

A The quickest and easiest way is to take a device that you know to be USB 2.0, such as a USB memory stick or a smartphone, and connect it in turn to each USB port. Next, wait for a few moments. If Windows displays a message saying "This device can perform faster", then you know the port is the older, much slower USB 1.1 type – so don't use it for your USB 2.0 devices.

If you don't have any USB 2.0 devices handy, then open up your PC and take a look inside. You should be able to physically trace the USB sockets back to their motherboard connections, which will probably have etched labels to explain what they are. These could be cryptic but a phrase such as 'Enhanced USB', 'Enhanced Host Controller' or 'EHC' would indicate a USB 2.0 connection. Labels such as 'Universal Host Controller' ('UHC') or 'USB Root Hub' indicate USB 1.1.

If you're not sure, make a note of the labels and then search for them on Google along with your motherboard make and model, if known.



Open up your PC and take a look inside to work out which ports are USB 2.0

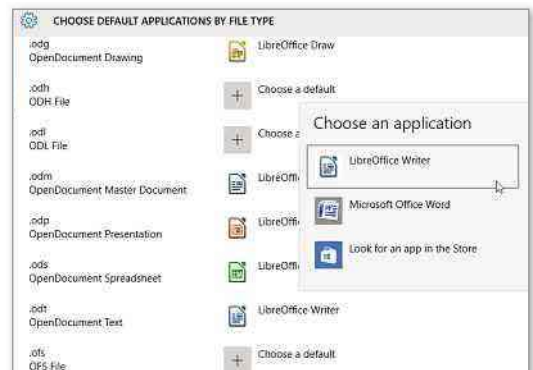
Why won't Windows 10 let me open my documents?

Q I am 89 years old so please bear with me. I upgraded from Windows 8.1 to 10 and now I cannot open any of my documents. I am asked how do I want to open this file type, with options including **BitTorrent**, 'Look for an app in the Store' and 'More apps'. Clicking on BitTorrent does not help, as I then get a message saying: 'Unable to load 'Repeat medication.odt' torrent is not valid bencoding'.

Noel Woutersz

A We're not sure if you upgraded an existing machine or bought a new one with Windows 10 pre-installed, but either way, the problem here is that Windows does not know which program to use to open your documents.

The file type – ODT – is the default for free office suites such as OpenOffice (www.openoffice.org) and LibreOffice (www.libreoffice.org), so our guess is that you haven't yet installed this on your new PC, or Windows has somehow



Check file associations and select OpenOffice or LibreOffice if you are unable to open document files

lost the file association that tells it to open ODT files with one of these programs.

First, check the associations. Click Start, Settings, System followed by 'Default apps' and then 'Choose default applications by file type'. Scroll down to find the .odt entry then the 'Choose a default' button, to the right. If either OpenOffice or LibreOffice is there, select it. Otherwise, install one or the other and then repeat our instructions.

Why has iPhone Safari gone dark?



Deselect Safari's Private mode if the browser has black borders at the top and bottom

Q I've had my iPhone 5 for a couple of years now and it's never given me any bother. However, my Safari web browser seems to have gone dark – the top and bottom borders are black. It's not much of a problem, I know, because it otherwise seems to work as normal. But I'm sure it used to be lighter. Am I imagining that, or is this a design change by Apple?

Jacob Newton

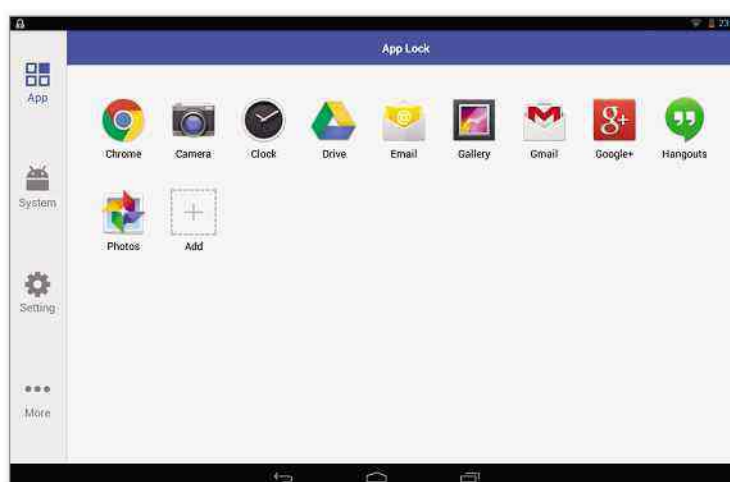
A You didn't imagine it, but nor is it a design tweak by Apple. Instead, you've accidentally enabled Safari's Private mode, which turns the borders black to let you know that your browsing isn't being recorded.

To switch back, tap the overlapping-squares icon at the bottom right and then tap to deselect Private. If you have browser tabs open you'll have to choose whether to Close All or Keep All. So tap your choice, click Done and you're back to the standard blue-on-grey colour scheme.

How do I stop others reading my Android emails?

Q I have a cheap Android tablet. I use the Yahoo Mail app on this. Is there any way I can set up a password to stop other people who use the tablet being able to read my emails?
Malka Gluck

A There are a couple of ways to protect your privacy in this regard. Perhaps the easiest is to enable Android's Guest account before handing your tablet to anyone else. This puts your device into a pared-down mode that allows access only to core Google apps, which won't include Yahoo Mail. To do this, either tap Settings followed by Users and then Guest, or use two fingers to swipe down from the top of the screen, tap the head-and-shoulders icon



AppLock 2 asks users for a passcode before certain apps are opened

and then tap Guest. When they're done, repeat either method, but tap 'Remove guest' at the last stage.

Alternatively – or as well, if you'd like a second option – you can download a free app to password-protect specific apps. There are loads to choose from, though they all do much the same thing.

With AppLock 2 (www.snipca.com/19610), for example, you can

require a pass code or swipe pattern to be entered before specific apps are launched. Once you've installed the app, open it, select the Apps tab, tap Add, select Yahoo Mail (in your case) and then decide how it should be protected – by typing your code or swiping a pattern. Repeat to confirm.

What is this Bitdefender message?

Q I'm getting an unwanted message, apparently from Bitdefender, that appears every time I boot up. It says 'Welcome to the AntiCryptoWall Setup Wizard'. I do not have Bitdefender installed on my PC. I am running Windows 8.1 and have both Avast Free Antivirus and Malwarebytes Anti-Malware, but these have not reported any problem. Needless to say I have not clicked the link in the message. Incidentally, some recent comments you made about CryptoPrevent appear to be at odds with what you said at the beginning of 2014, when you recommended installing it. I have had it installed since then without any problem that I am aware of.

Roger Lewry

A The message is from Bitdefender, and it's legitimate. At some point in the past you installed free Bitdefender's AntiCryptoWall tool, and it's been quietly running in the background ever



This message from Bitdefender is merely telling you that there's an updated version of AntiCryptoWall available

since – much like CryptoPrevent, in fact. The alert is simply telling you that there's an updated version of the tool and, if clicked, the link should take you to the download page. If you want the reassurance of updating manually, go to www.snipca.com/19588.

Our recent point about CryptoPrevent could also be applied here: these single-purpose tools can be very useful at a specific point in time, before the larger comprehensive anti-malware programs have been updated to deal with the

emergent threats.

You have to decide whether keeping lots of individual tools installed, running and using computing resources – in addition to your other two security programs – is worthwhile. Keeping them installed won't do your PC any harm and, if kept up to date, they will continue to protect your computer from specific infections. But each one of them slows down everyday performance just a fraction.

NEW!
COMPATIBLE
WITH
WINDOWS
10!

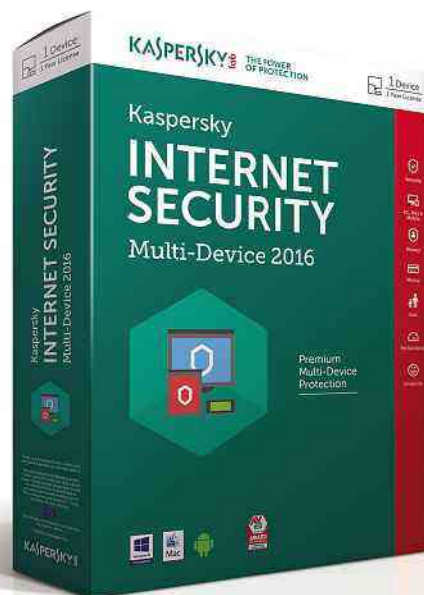
OFFER OF THE FORTNIGHT

Kaspersky Internet Security 2016

Available now - the 2016 version of Kaspersky Internet Security, winner of our past **SEVEN** Antivirus Megatests.

WHAT'S NEW IN KASPERSKY 2016:

- ✓ Full support for **Windows 10**
- ✓ Stop websites tracking your activities
- ✓ Adware detection
- ✓ Improved Safe Mode
- ✓ Stronger anti-phishing protection



SINCE WINDOWS 10 LAUNCHED 5,689 COMPUTERACTIVE READERS HAVE BOUGHT KASPERSKY SOFTWARE FROM OUR SOFTWARE STORE

One PC for one year NOW ONLY £19.99*
Normally £39.99

Buy it on our Software Store at www.snipca.com/17874

Three PCs for two years NOW ONLY £39.99
Normally £89.99

Buy it on our Software Store at www.snipca.com/17923

* while stocks last

WINNER OF THE PAST SEVEN COMPUTERACTIVE ANTIVIRUS TESTS



Whatever happened to... Windows' transparency effects?

Q I've been enjoying your 'Whatever happened to' answers, so I thought I'd submit a question of my own. In Windows 7, the windows had a kind of see-through look, which I loved. This style disappeared in Windows 8, and I was hoping it would make a comeback in Windows 10 – but I can't find it. Whatever happened to it?

Dylan Fuller

A The feature you're talking about is called Aero Glass, and you're right that it's not in Windows 10. You'd have to ask Microsoft for the true motivations behind its removal, but the apparent reasons are twofold.

Aero Glass is a complicated graphical effect that requires a fair bit of computing effort. With the increasing shift to mobile devices, power-efficiency became paramount to Microsoft. Both Windows 8 and 10 run faster, smoother and draw less power than previous



Use Glass2k to add transparency effects to Windows 10


versions partly because they don't need to process fancy transparency effects.

But there's also a stylistic aspect to which Microsoft would probably never admit. Windows 8 represented a radical overhaul of the operating system. The company wanted Windows 8 to be easy to operate on the new breed of touchscreen devices. So, the whole Windows interface was 'flattened' to make it 'easy' to use with either a mouse or a touchscreen. Transparency was apparently unfashionable.

While Windows 10 has fixed many of the things people hated about Windows 8, Aero Glass has not (yet) made a return. It probably will sooner or later, because prior to launch Microsoft released **beta** versions of Windows 10 with different types of transparency – for test purposes.

If you can't wait, then there are free tools that'll enable Aero Glass-like effects. We'd

suggest trying Glass2K, which is free from www.snipca.com/19659. It requires no installation as such, but we'd suggest ticking both 'Auto-Load Glass2k every time Windows starts' and 'Auto-Remember every window's Transparency Settings'. Then, just right-click in a window to set the transparency level.

 Want to know what happened to your favourite program, website or technology? Email noproblem@computeractive.co.uk

How do I get Windows Live Mail to autocorrect?

Q I write my emails using Windows Live Mail (WLM). Despite ticking the 'Automatically correct common capitalizations and spelling mistakes' box in options, I find I still have to

correct things. For example, when I type the lowercase pronoun 'i' I have to manually capitalise it, to make it the correct 'I'. Is there any way round this fault?

Dr Bob Pawson



Use English (United States) as the spell-check dictionary to fix problems with capitalisation

A You're right to call it a fault, because this is indeed a bug – and one that's existed in WLM for a very long time. With that in mind we doubt fixing it will ever be high on Microsoft's to-do list. So, if you continue using WLM, you're pretty much stuck with it.

However, there is a solution of sorts. The bug relates to the fact that the autocorrect feature only works properly with US English set as WLM's default spell-checking dictionary. This will fix your lowercase 'i' annoyance, but you'll instead have to live with WLM underlining some correct UK spellings with the red squiggle – because obviously our American cousins have a different

perspective on how many common words should be spelled.

But if you can put up with this for the auto-capitalisation convenience then click the down arrow to open WLM's menu, then click Options followed by Mail. Now select the Spelling tab and, in the Languages list, click to select 'English (United States)'. If the label alongside says Available (rather than Installed), click Install and then wait a few moments while the dictionary is downloaded. Then click Set Default followed by OK.

NEXT ISSUE

ON SALE
17 Mar

- How do I stream to my TV over Wi-Fi?
 - Why do my emails disappear?
 - Have cheap cartridges ruined my printer?
- ...And many more

Subscribe to Computeractive
at getcomputeractive.co.uk

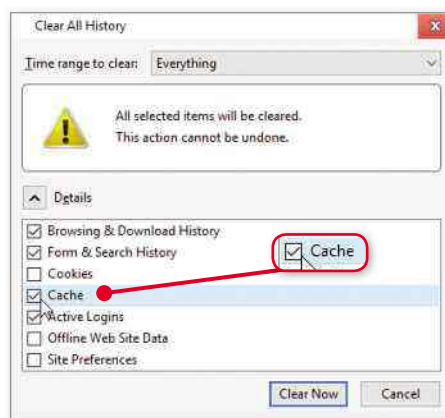


Firefox

Fix websites that won't load, stop random crashes and restore a lost home page

Websites won't load or update

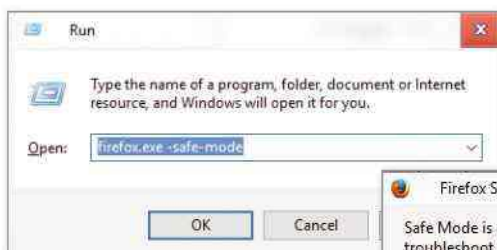
If you encounter problems with sites that won't load fully (or at all), or they load but won't update to show the latest information, then try clearing Firefox's **cache**. Click the menu button (three horizontal lines at the top right), then go to History and click Clear Recent History. Open the 'Time range to clear' dropdown menu and choose Everything. Make sure at least Cache is ticked (see screenshot below) and then click Clear Now. Try opening the affected websites again. If they still don't work, repeat this tip but tick Cookies in addition to Cache.



If websites won't load or update, use the Clear All History box to clean out Firefox's cache

Random crashes or unpredictable behaviour

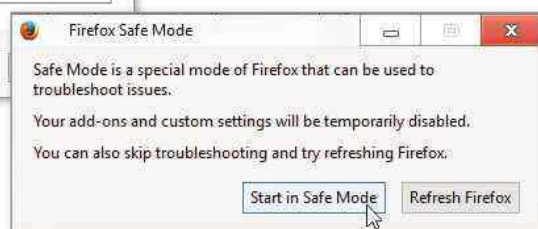
Unexpected problems in Firefox are almost always caused by misbehaving extensions. The only sure-fire way to work out which one is responsible is by disabling them individually, through a process of trial and error. Click the menu button, followed by Add-ons, and then Extensions on the left. Either disable those that you suspect might be causing problems by clicking the adjacent Disable buttons, or disable them all one by one. When you find the extension that is causing the problem, leave it disabled, update it or uninstall it. To check for extension updates, click the cog icon and choose 'Check for Updates' from the menu (see screenshot right).



Firefox refusing to launch? Use the Run box to enable Safe Mode

Firefox won't launch

When Firefox refuses to load at all, try doing it in Safe Mode. Press Windows key+R to open the Run box, type **firefox.exe -safe-mode** into the Open box (see screenshots above) and then press Enter. Now click the 'Start in Safe Mode' button. Assuming it launches, disable all extensions and then re-enable them one at a time, in case one is causing the problem. If Firefox won't even launch into Safe Mode, repeat the first part of this tip but click the Refresh Firefox button to restore Firefox to its original settings (see Readers' Tips, Issue 470).



Pages') to have Firefox launch and reopen all current open tabs, or type the relevant website address into the box alongside Home Page.

Firefox is no longer your default browser

This is a common problem and usually caused by installing a new browser or updating an existing one, because all browsers – Firefox included – will try to hit you in an unguarded moment with the option to set themselves as your default browser. To fix this, click Firefox's menu button followed by Options. Now select the General tab on the left and then click Make Default. If you're using Windows 10, Firefox will launch Control Panel's System pane, with the 'Default apps' tab selected. Under 'Web browser' click 'Choose a default' and then choose Firefox.

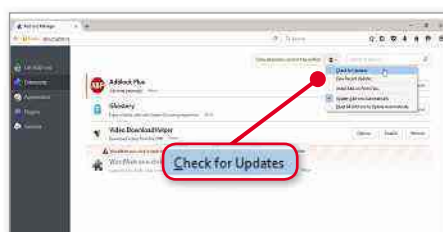
Scrolling is jerky

A few things can cause choppy scrolling in Firefox, including programs running in the background – so first close all other programs to eliminate them as culprits. If the problem persists, click the menu button, then Options, followed by Advanced and then General. Under Browsing, check that 'Use smooth scrolling' is ticked. Also try clearing the tick from 'Use hardware acceleration when available', because this feature can sometimes clash with your **graphics card's** drivers. If scrolling is smoother with this option unticked, check the graphic card manufacturer's website for updated **drivers**.

Home page has changed unexpectedly

A changed home page is usually the result of installing some browser extension or toolbar, so first identify what you've added recently and think about whether you really want to keep it. To remove unwanted extensions, click the menu button followed by Add-ons. Select the Extensions tab, find the unwanted item in the list and click its Remove button.

To reset your home page, click the menu button followed by Options, then General. Next, click one of the buttons under Home Page (such as 'Use Current



Updating your add-ons can fix unpredictable behaviour like random crashes



Lowering the cost of printing...

We are a small, family owned and run company, specialising in photographic consumables – and proud winners of multiple Good Service Awards.
We are located in Leamington Spa, in the heart of Warwickshire.
If you're passing, please pop into our shop and meet Cooper – our office dog!

01926 339977 www.premier-ink.co.uk

Ink Cartridges

We carry one of the largest ranges of printer ink cartridges in the UK, with cartridges in stock for practically every inkjet printer. We always stock **Original** cartridges, which are made by your printer manufacturer, and in many cases we also offer **Compatible** cartridges, which are usually made by a UK company called **Jet Tec**. Using **Jet Tec Compatibles** is a way of saving money, without compromising on the quality of your prints.

Here are the results from two independent ink tests that agree...

"Jet Tec's colours were superb, with single greys and blacks very close to Epson... so Jet Tec wins!"
- Total Digital Photography Magazine

"What we're looking at here is not only the best choice of ink for the R300 printer, but also the best choice of ink in this group test, period. There's just no getting away from the superb combination of performance and pricing."
- Computer Upgrade Magazine



Canon

EPSON

PGI29 Pixma Pro 1
Originals:
Set of 12 Colours 36ml each
£229.99
£19.99

PGI72 Pixma Pro 10
Originals:
Set of 10 Colours 14ml each
£94.99
£9.99

CLI42 Pixma Pro 100
Originals:
Set of 8 Colours 13ml each
£74.99
£9.99

CLI8 Pixma Pro 9000
Originals:
Set of 8 Colours 14ml each
£74.99
£9.99
Compatibles:
Set of 8 Colours 14ml each
£27.99
£3.99

PGI9 Pixma Pro 9500
Originals:
Set of 10 Colours 14ml each
£84.99
£8.99
Compatibles:
Set of 10 Colours 14ml each
£44.99
£4.99

More Canon Inks...
Originals:
PGI520/CLI521 Set of 5 **£42.99**
PGI520 Black 19ml **£9.99**
CLI521 Colours 9ml **£8.99**
PGI525/CLI526 Set of 5 **£42.99**
PGI525 Black 19ml **£9.99**
CLI526 Colours 9ml **£8.99**
PGI550/CLI551 Set of 5 **£37.99**
PGI550 Black 15ml **£9.99**
CLI551 Colours 7ml **£7.99**
PGI550X/CLI551XL Set of 5 **£54.99**
PGI550XL Black 22ml **£11.99**
CLI551XL Colours 11ml **£10.99**
PG540 Black 8ml **£10.99**
PG540XL Black 21ml **£15.99**
CL541 Colour 8ml **£13.99**
CL541XL Colour 15ml **£15.99**
PG545XL Colour 13ml **£15.99**
CL546XL Colour 13ml **£15.99**
Compatibles:
PGI5 Black 27ml **£4.99**
CLI8 Colours 13ml **£3.99**
PGI5/CLI8 Set of 5 **£19.99**
PGI520 Black 19ml **£4.99**
CLI521 Colours 9ml **£3.99**
PGI520/CLI521 Set of 5 **£19.99**
PGI525 Black 19ml **£4.99**
CLI526 Colours 9ml **£3.99**
PGI550/CLI551 Set of 5 **£19.99**
PGI550XL Black 25ml **£4.99**
CLI551XL Colours 12ml **£3.99**
PGI550/CLI551XL Set of 5 **£19.99**
BCI6 Colours 15ml **£2.99**
PG40 Black 28ml **£12.99**
CL41 Colour 24ml **£16.99**
PG50 Black 28ml **£12.99**
CL51 Colour 24ml **£14.99**
PG510 Black 11ml **£13.99**
CL511 Colour 11ml **£13.99**
PG512 Black 18ml **£13.99**
CL513 Colour 15ml **£15.99**
PG540XL Black 21ml **£13.99**
CL541XL Colour 15ml **£14.99**
PG545XL Black 15ml **£11.99**
PG546XL Black 21ml **£12.99**

Many more in stock!

No.16 Fountain Pen Inks
Originals:
No.16 Set of 4 **£22.99**
No.16 Black 5.4ml **£7.99**
No.16 Colours 3.1ml each **£5.99**
No.16XL Set of 4 **£42.99**
No.16XL Black 12.9ml **£14.99**
No.16XL Colours 6.5ml each **£11.99**
Compatibles:
No.16 Set of 4 **£14.99**
No.16 Black 12ml **£4.99**
No.16 Colours 12ml each **£3.99**

No.18 Daisy Inks
Originals:
No.18 Set of 4 **£22.99**
No.18 Black 5.2ml **£7.99**
No.18 Colours 3.3ml each **£5.99**
No.18XL Set of 4 **£42.99**
No.18XL Black 11.5ml **£14.99**
No.18XL Colours 6.6ml each **£11.99**
Compatibles:
No.18 Set of 4 **£14.99**
No.18 Black 12ml **£4.99**
No.18 Colours 6.5ml each **£3.99**

No.24 Elephant Inks
Originals:
No.24 Set of 6 **£41.99**
No.24 Colours 4.6ml each **£7.99**
No.24XL Set of 6 **£64.99**
No.24XL Colours 8.7ml each **£11.99**
Compatibles:
No.24 Set of 6 **£22.99**
No.24 Black 7ml **£3.99**
No.24 Colours 7ml each **£3.99**

No.26 Polar Bear Inks
Originals:
No.26 Set of 4 **£29.99**
No.26 Black 6.2ml **£8.99**
No.26 Colours 4.5ml each **£7.99**
No.26XL Set of 4 **£49.99**
No.26XL Black 12.1ml **£14.99**
No.26XL Colours 9.7ml each **£13.99**
Compatibles:
No.26 Set of 4 **£14.99**
No.26 Black 10ml **£3.99**
No.26 Colours 7ml each **£3.99**

T0481-T0486 Seahorse Inks
Originals:
Set of 6 **£69.99**
Colours 13ml each **£16.99**
Compatibles:
Set of 6 **£19.99**
Colours 13ml each **£3.99**

T0541-T0549 Frog Inks
Originals:
Set of 8 **£105.99**
Colours 13ml each **£14.99**
Compatibles:
Set of 8 **£27.99**
Colours 13ml each **£3.99**

T0591-T0599 Lily Inks
Originals:
Set of 8 **£89.99**
Colours 13ml each **£11.99**
Compatibles:
Set of 8 **£27.99**
Colours 13ml each **£3.99**

More Epson inks >>>

Photo Papers

We carry a massive range of papers (sheets & rolls) at competitive prices. Below are some examples of the selection we stock.

ILFORD GALERIE
Photo Satin 200gsm:
6x4 100 sheets **£100 FREE** **£9.99**
A4 100 sheets **£100 FREE** **£19.99**
Photo Glossy 200gsm:
6x4 100 sheets **£100 FREE** **£9.99**
A4 20 sheets **£6.99**

Premium Pearl 270gsm:
6x4 50 sheets **£50 FREE** **£6.99**
A4 20 sheets **£20 FREE** **£8.99**
Premium Gloss 270gsm:
A4 25 sheets **£8.99**
A3 25 sheets **£15.99**
A3+ 25 sheets **£19.99**
Smooth Pearl 310gsm:
6x4 100 sheets **£14.99**
7x5 100 sheets **£17.99**
A4 25 sheets **£12.99**
A4 100 sheets **£39.99**
A4 250 sheets **£84.99**
A3 25 sheets **£25.99**
A3+ 25 sheets **£35.99**

Smooth Gloss 310gsm:
6x4 100 sheets **£14.99**
7x5 100 sheets **£17.99**
A4 25 sheets **£12.99**
A4 100 sheets **£39.99**
A4 25 sheets **£25.99**
A3+ 25 sheets **£35.99**
Premium Matt Duo 200 gsm:
A4 50 sheets **£12.99**
A3+ 50 sheets **£34.99**
Heavy Duo Matt 310gsm:
A4 50 sheets **£17.99**
A3+ 50 sheets **£44.99**

Canon
PP-201 Plus Glossy II 275gsm:
6x4 50 sheets **£9.99**
7x5 20 sheets **£11.99**
A4 20 sheets **£11.99**
A3 20 sheets **£27.99**
A3+ 20 sheets **£36.99**
SG-201 Semi-Gloss 260gsm:
6x4 50 sheets **£9.99**
A4 20 sheets **£11.99**
A3 20 sheets **£27.99**
A3+ 20 sheets **£42.99**

More Ink Cartridges...

EPSON
T0711-T0714 Cheetah Inks
Originals:
Set of 4 **£32.99**
Black 7.4ml **£8.99**
Colours 5.5ml each **£8.99**
Compatibles:
Set of 4 **£14.99**
Black 7.4ml **£4.99**
Colours 5.5ml each **£3.99**

T0791-T0796 Owl Inks
Originals:
Set of 6 **£72.99**
Colours 11.1ml each **£12.99**
Compatibles:
Set of 6 **£19.99**
Colours 11.1ml each **£3.99**

T0801-T0806 Hummingbird Inks
Originals:
Set of 6 **£49.99**
Colours 7.4ml each **£8.99**
Compatibles:
Set of 6 **£19.99**
Colours 7.4ml each **£3.99**

T0871-T0879 Flamingo Inks
Originals:
Set of 8 **£66.99**
Colours 11.4ml each **£9.99**
Compatibles:
Set of 8 **£27.99**
Colours 11.4ml each **£3.99**

T0961-T0969 Husky Inks
Originals:
Set of 8 **£69.99**
Colours 11.4ml each **£8.99**
Compatibles:
Set of 8 **£27.99**
Colours 11.4ml each **£3.99**

Many more in stock!

PermaJet
Smooth Pearl 280gsm:
6x4 100 sheets **£12.99**
7x5 100 sheets **£18.99**
A4 50 sheets **£18.99**
A4 50 sheets **£18.99**
A3 25 sheets **£35.99**
A3+ 25 sheets **£28.99**
Oyster 271gsm:
6x4 100 sheets **£12.99**
7x5 100 sheets **£18.99**
A4 50 sheets **£18.99**
A3 25 sheets **£22.99**
A3+ 25 sheets **£28.99**
Gloss 271gsm:
6x4 100 sheets **£12.99**
7x5 100 sheets **£18.99**
A4 50 sheets **£18.99**
A3 25 sheets **£22.99**
A3+ 25 sheets **£28.99**
Double Sided Matt 250gsm:
A4 100 sheets **£24.99**
A3 50 sheets **£27.99**

EPSON
Premium Gloss 255gsm:
6x4 40 sheets **£40 FREE** **£9.99**
7x5 30 sheets **£9.99**
A4 15 sheets **£15 FREE** **£9.99**
A3 25 sheets **£29.99**
A3+ 20 sheets **£24.99**
Ultra Gloss 300gsm:
6x4 50 sheets **£9.99**
7x5 50 sheets **£12.99**
A4 15 sheets **£11.99**
Premium Semi-Gloss 251gsm:
6x4 50 sheets **£8.99**
A4 20 sheets **£14.99**
A3 20 sheets **£29.99**
A3+ 20 sheets **£24.99**
Archival Matte 192gsm:
A4 50 sheets **£14.99**
A3 50 sheets **£33.99**
A3+ 50 sheets **£44.99**
Heavyweight Matte 167gsm:
A4 50 sheets **£11.99**
A3 50 sheets **£34.99**
A3+ 50 sheets **£44.99**

HP
Originals:
No.38 Colours 27ml each **£26.99**
No.300 Black 4ml **£10.99**
No.300 Colour 4ml **£12.99**
No.301 Black 3ml **£9.99**
No.301 Colour 3ml **£11.99**
No.350 Black 4.5ml **£11.99**
No.351 Colour 3.5ml **£14.99**
No.363 Black 6ml **£13.99**
No.363 C/M/Y/C/PM each **£9.99**
No.363 SET OF 6 **£39.99**
No.364 Black 6ml **£7.99**
No.364 PB/C/M/Y 3ml each **£6.99**
No.364 SET OF 4 **£21.99**
No.364XL Black 14ml **£13.99**
No.364XL PB/C/M/Y 6ml each **£4.99**
No.920XL SET OF 4 **£46.99**
No.932XL SET OF 4 **£43.99**
No.950XL SET OF 4 **£69.99**
Compatibles:
No.15 Black 46ml **£4.99**
No.21 Black 10ml **£7.99**
No.22 Colour 21ml **£11.99**
No.45 Black 45ml **£4.99**
No.56 Black 24ml **£9.99**
No.57 Colour 24ml **£12.99**
No.78 Colour 36ml **£9.99**
No.110 Colour 12ml **£10.99**
No.300XL Black 18ml **£14.99**
No.300XL Colour 18ml **£16.99**
No.301XL Black 15ml **£14.99**
No.301XL Colour 18ml **£16.99**
No.337 Black 21ml **£10.99**
No.338 Black 21ml **£10.99**
No.339 Black 34ml **£12.99**
No.343 Colour 21ml **£12.99**
No.344 Colour 21ml **£14.99**
No.348 Photo 21ml **£12.99**
No.350XL Black 30ml **£14.99**
No.351XL Colour 20ml **£16.99**
No.363 Black 20ml **£6.99**
No.363 Colours 6ml each **£4.99**
No.363 SET OF 6 **£24.99**
No.364 Black 10ml **£4.99**
No.364 Colours 5ml each **£3.99**
No.364 SET OF 4 **£15.99**
No.364XL Black 18ml **£8.99**
No.364XL Colours 11ml each **£7.99**
No.364XL SET OF 4 **£31.99**

Albums & Frames

We now stock a comprehensive range of frames, mounts, albums and accessories. The full range can be viewed on our website, with detailed close-up images of each product to help you choose the perfect way to display your printed photographs. Below is just a tiny sample of what we offer:

Grace Albums
Available in Burgundy or Blue.

Travel Albums
Over a dozen designs in stock.

Grafton Albums
Available in Burgundy or Blue.

Baby Albums
Multiple different designs available.

Memo Style Albums:
Grace 6x4 100 photos **£5.99**
Grace 6x4 200 photos **£9.99**
Grace 6x4 300 photos **£14.99**
Grace 7x5 100 photos **£7.99**
Grace 7x5 200 photos **£13.99**
Grace 7x5 300 photos **£15.99**
Grafton 6x4 200 photos **£9.99**
Grafton 7x5 200 photos **£13.99**
Baby 6x4 200 photos **£9.99**
Travel 6x4 200 photos **£8.99**

Traditional Style Albums:
Grace 29x32cm 100 pages **£14.99**
Grafton 29x32cm 100 pgs **£14.99**
Baby 29x32cm 100 pages **£12.99**

Accessories:
Photo Corners Pack of 250 **£2.99**
Photo Stickers Pack of 500 **£1.99**

Plastic Bevel, Glass Front:
Frisco 6x4 seven colours **£1.99**
Frisco 7x5 seven colours **£2.29**
Frisco 8x6 seven colours **£2.79**
Frisco 9x6 seven colours **£3.49**
Frisco 10x8 seven colours **£3.79**
Frisco 12x8 seven colours **£4.59**
Frisco A4 seven colours **£3.99**
Frisco A3 seven colours **£8.99**

Wood Bevel, Glass Front:
Emilia 6x4 two colours **£4.99**
Emilia 7x5 two colours **£5.99**
Emilia 8x6 two colours **£6.99**
Emilia 10x8 two colours **£7.99**
Emilia 12x8 two colours **£8.99**
Rio 6x4 four colours **£5.99**
Rio 7x5 four colours **£6.99**
Rio 8x6 four colours **£7.99**
Rio 10x8 four colours **£8.99**
Rio 12x8 four colours **£9.99**

SanDisk
USB Pen Drives
8GB: £3.59 **16GB: £5.49**
32GB: £9.99

Memory
SDHC & SDXC
SanDisk Blue
33X (5MB/s)
4GB **£3.49**
8GB **£3.99**
16GB **£5.99**
SanDisk Ultra
26X (40MB/s)
8GB **£4.99**
16GB **£6.99**
32GB **£12.99**
64GB **£24.99**
SanDisk Extreme
400X (60MB/s)
16GB **£10.99**
32GB **£17.99**
64GB **£34.99**

Batteries
BP-511 for Canon **£12.99**
LP-E6 for Canon **£16.99**
LP-E8 for Canon **£12.99**
LP-E12 for Canon **£12.99**
EN-EL3e for Nikon **£14.99**
NB-2L/LH for Canon **£9.99**
NB-6L for Canon **£9.99**
NB-10L for Canon **£12.99**
NP95 for Fuji **£9.99**
NPW126 for Fuji **£12.99**
EN-EL3e for Nikon **£14.99**
EN-EL14 for Nikon **£19.99**
EN-EL15 for Nikon **£24.99**
BLN-1 for Olympus **£24.99**
BLC12 for Panasonic **£23.99**
FW50 for Sony **£24.99**
BX-1 for Sony **£14.99**
AAA 1300mAh (4) **£3.99**
AAA 1100mAh (4) **£3.99**

Filters
Screw-type Filters
46mm UV / Haze **£4.99**
49mm UV / Haze **£4.99**
52mm UV / Haze **£4.99**
55mm UV / Haze **£5.99**
58mm UV / Haze **£6.99**
62mm UV / Haze **£7.99**
67mm UV / Haze **£8.99**
72mm UV / Haze **£8.99**
77mm UV / Haze **£11.99**
Skylight Filters from: **£6.99**
Circular Polarising Filters from: **£14.99**
ND4 and ND8 Filters from: **£11.99**





P-Type Square Filters
49-82mm Adapter Rings **£4.99**
Filter Holder **£5.99**
ND2 Filter **£12.99**
ND2 Grad Filter **£13.99**
ND4 Filter **£12.99**
ND4 Grad Filter **£13.99**

Readers & Cases
Delkin USB2 Card Reader **£9.99**
Delkin USB3 Card Reader **£19.99**
Delkin SD Card (x8) Case **£6.99**
Delkin CF Card (x4) Case **£6.99**

Many more in stock!

Broadband Deals

Call **FREE** on 0800 542 4709 to switch your broadband today

	Provider	Package Name	Monthly Price	Contract Length	Broadband Speed	Allowance	First-year Cost*
1		TalkTalk: Broadband	£7.50 (FREE for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	CHEAPEST £0.00
2		Plusnet: Broadband	£9.99 (FREE for 18 months)	18 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	£0.00
3		EE: Broadband & Calls	£9.95 (£1 for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited **	£12.00
4		Sky: Broadband	£10.00 (HALF PRICE for 12 months)	12 months	17Mbps max speed	∞ unlimited	£60.00

Terms & Conditions apply - see ISP sites for details

*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.

Data supplied by www.broadbandgenie.co.uk. Correct as of 01/03/2016

Ofcom

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

In the next issue of our sister title Web User...

- **HOW WEBSITES SPY ON YOU**
And how you can stop them
- **FIND ALL YOUR FORGOTTEN PASSWORDS**
The fastest, easiest and safest way
- **ADD NEW SPEED TO OLD LAPTOPS**
Complete step-by-step guide
- **GET THE BEST WI-FI IN ANY ROOM**
No more deadspots in your home



NEW!

Buy the Web User 2015 Back Issue CD on Amazon at www.snipca.com/19697



Next issue on sale Weds 23 March

Subscribe to Web User at <http://subscribe.webuser.co.uk>

Jargon Buster

4K Video with a resolution of at least 3840x2160 pixels.

64bit A technology that processes information in larger chunks. Most modern computers are 64bit.

802.11ac A standard for wireless networks that allows for higher transfer speeds than 802.11n.

Add-in Microsoft's name for tools that can be added to Office software.

Bandwidth A measure of how much information can be transferred through a connection at one time.

Beta A version of software that's being tested. Beta versions are often released so problems can be ironed out.

BitTorrent A technology for downloading files. Allows large files to be downloaded quickly.

Bluetooth LE Bluetooth low energy/Bluetooth Smart. A type of Bluetooth technology designed to consume less power while not sacrificing signal strength.

Cache A temporary space for storing information.

Cell Spreadsheet programs split up the page into many small areas known as cells.

Clean install An operating system installation that overwrites all other content on the hard drive.

DLL Dynamic Link Library. DLL resources can be made use of by one or more Windows programs.

DLNA wireless Digital Living Network Alliance. A technology that enables devices such as televisions, network media players and NAS devices to communicate with each other and display media files.

DNS Domain Name System. A technology that associates computers with their addresses on the internet.

Download mirror A website that contains the same downloadable software as others, bundled in its own installer.

Driver A file that tells Windows how to work with an external device.

EXE A program file designed to run in Windows. Named after the file extension .exe.

Emulation The process of programming one computer to act like another.

Ethernet A standard used for almost all wired PC networks.

Flash storage A data-storage device that includes flash memory with an integrated USB interface.

False positive When an antivirus program wrongly detects a malware infection.

Metadata A set of data that gives information about a file, such as the camera used to take a photo.

MicroSD card A small type of memory card. Can be converted to SD size using an adapter.

Miracast A standard for connecting a computer to a television or monitor wirelessly.

MS-DOS Microsoft Disk Operating System. The standard PC operating system before the dawn of Windows.

NFC Near-field communication. A technology that allows two devices to communicate by being touched or placed near to each other.

Plug-in A small program that adds extra features to software or to your web browser.

PNG Portable Network Graphics. A format for images that shrinks file sizes using compression.

PUP Potentially Unwanted Program. A program that may not be desired, despite the user consenting to it being downloaded.

Quad core A computer that has four processors on a single chip.

RAM Random-access memory. The PC's working area used for data storage while the PC is on.

sRGB A standard RGB colour space for use on monitors, printers and the internet. RGB stands for red, green and blue.

SD card Secure Digital card. A popular type of memory card.

Source code Program instructions that are readable by people but not computers.

SSD Solid-state drive. Storage that uses no moving parts.

SYS A filename extension in Microsoft Windows and DOS-type operating system.

System restore point The collection of system files stored by System Restore on a given date and time to which Windows can revert if a problem occurs.

Travel The distance the keys of a keyboard have to be pressed before the keystroke is recognised.

Trojan A malicious computer program that's disguised as a different, harmless program.

TrueType A font developed by Apple and Microsoft in the late 1980s as a competitor to Adobe's Type 1 font used in PostScript.

USB 2.0 Faster successor to USB that's used by devices such as external hard drives.

Virus definitions A database of known viruses and other malware used by an antivirus program when scanning your computer.

2015 BACK ISSUE CD

ON SALE NOW!



BUY IT NOW FROM AMAZON
at www.snipca.com/19124

Graphics card A component in a computer that produces the image shown on the monitor.

HDMI High-definition media interface. A type of connection that transmits video and audio signals.

JavaScript A 20-year-old programming language developers use to make web pages interactive.

LCD Liquid-Crystal Display. The technology used to create many flat displays, from watches to TVs.

LED Light-Emitting Diode. A light source used on electronic devices. Provides the backlight for LCDs.

Noise Visible dust-like speckles that appear in some camera and TV images.

Open source Software that can be modified by anyone, rather than just by the employees of the company that created it.

PCI Express x16 A graphics interface that offers increased bandwidth over the previous AGP8X generation. PCI Express x16 allows up to 4GB/s of peak bandwidth per direction, and up to 8GB/s concurrent bandwidth.

Phishing A form of internet fraud that tries to trick you into revealing personal details.



The Final Straw



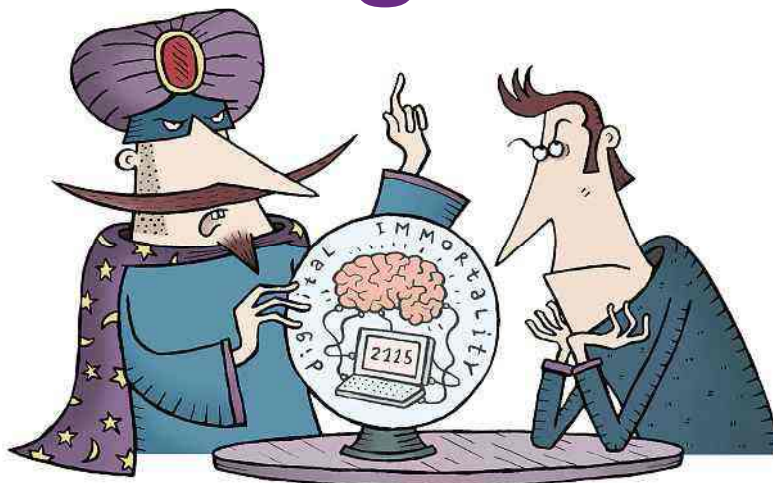
KEN RIGSBY is
Computeractive's Mr Angry

This issue we predict Ken Rigsby will put the boot into...

Foolish futurologists

Imagine that it's 2115. Take a good look around you. It's a fantastical place, isn't it?

All your worldly possessions were manufactured on your levitating 3D printer. This includes your own biosphere, located in a well-to-do part of your underwater bubble city. You telework only three days a week, never get sick, and grow all your own food on your own hydroponic farm – an invention that has eliminated world hunger. Quantum broadband means that Windows 10 updates are delivered before Microsoft has even developed them. All that incredible stuff, and it's only a quarter past nine (boom, boom!).



“

The futurologists of yesteryear predicted flying taxis and underwater croquet, but no PCs or internet

”

Actually, by 2115 I really mean a vision of the world 99 years into the future. Why 99 years rather than a nice round century? Patience, kemo sabe – our journey has only just begun. But it's an adventure for which we have some keen and apparently knowledgeable guides. They're the ones who call themselves 'futurologists'. It might be a made-up job title but, as Maureen Lipman's Beattie would remind us, if you have an ology, you're a scientist. Trust me, I'm a columnologist.

You see, back above ground in boring old 2016 *Computeractive* receives regular tech predictions from these futurologists. Some I included in my introduction, but you'll

have to guess which ones, as they're so daft I can't now remember the fakes.

But it matters not: predictions of future technology are generally as amusingly unreliable as the futurologists themselves. Remember how Microsoft's former boss Steve Ballmer laughed at the launch of Apple's first iPhone? If you don't, watch it right now (www.snipca.com/19675). The car-salesman-caught-in-the-body-of-a-multinational-CEO's amusement was a barely veiled prediction of Apple's failure and Microsoft's success in the mobile-phone industry.

So, if Ballmer can't reliably predict what'll happen in technology a mere couple of years hence, why should I, you or anyone else listen to the latest crystal ball-gazing from Dr Predictably Double-Barrelled, Professor of Futurology at University of Nowhere?

We shouldn't, but they won't stop spouting. A couple of years ago I read a prediction that by 2050 human brains would be hardwired to computers, allowing software algorithms to second-guess our behaviour and fast-track our every thought. And then, just last month, I read another futurologist foretelling that humans would achieve 'electronic immortality' by the same date. The same futurologist also said that our pets would be able to talk to us, like real-life Furbies. Computer-generated hallucinations.

Talking pets. And digital immortality to prevent escape. That's some future!

I guess it's clear by now that I don't like digital fortune-telling. But there's one futurologist I do like. In 2014, Ed Fries – co-creator of Microsoft's Xbox games console – delivered a conference talk entitled 'Secrets from the Future' (you can watch it at www.snipca.com/19716). The self-deprecating Fries presented his cautionary tale through a series of 100-year-old postcards that depicted visions of the future – so, basically, how the futurologists of yesteryear imagined we would be living today. Their predictions included flying taxis and underwater croquet, but no computers and no internet.

All of which brings me to my conclusion and the question that I left hanging at the beginning – why did I ask you to imagine the world 99 years hence? Simple. Envisioning the world in 99 years' time is no more or less ridiculous than predicting what'll happen in 100 years. Or even a couple of years from now – just ask Steve Ballmer.

But most importantly, 99 years was necessary to make my pathetic opening joke work. I've got many more rubbish gags to come, and you don't need to be a futurologist to predict that.



Do you agree with Ken?

Let us know at letters@computeractive.co.uk

This HD gaming PC is now just £500...

...go on, have a blast



expert[★]reviews
★★★★★ 5/5

"A competent and compact gaming PC, the Fusion Drone is a bit of a Bargain"

Michael Passingham, Computer Shopper

Chillblast

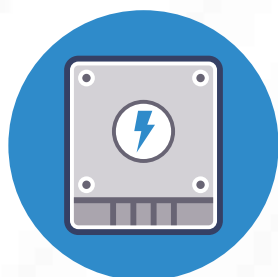
www.chillblast.com/hdgaming
01202057270

Dedicated Servers

Get 1Gbit/s connectivity



Unlimited monthly data transfer



Smart SSD technology



UK data centres and 24/7 support

NEW

Dedicated Servers from:

£29.00
per month

£29.00 ex VAT for 3 months then £39.00 ex VAT per month.
12 month minimum term contract. One-off set up of £49.00 ex VAT applies. 6 months discount available on selected servers.
See website for terms and conditions

Call **0808 1686 777**
or visit **fasthosts.co.uk**



SERVERS • WEB HOSTING • DOMAIN NAMES • EXCHANGE EMAIL