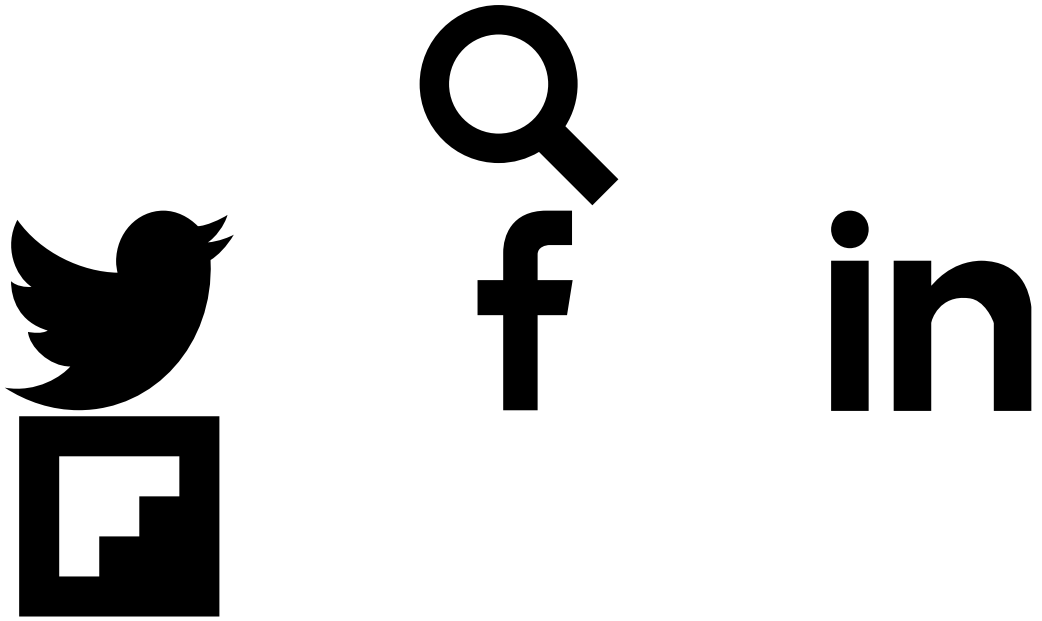
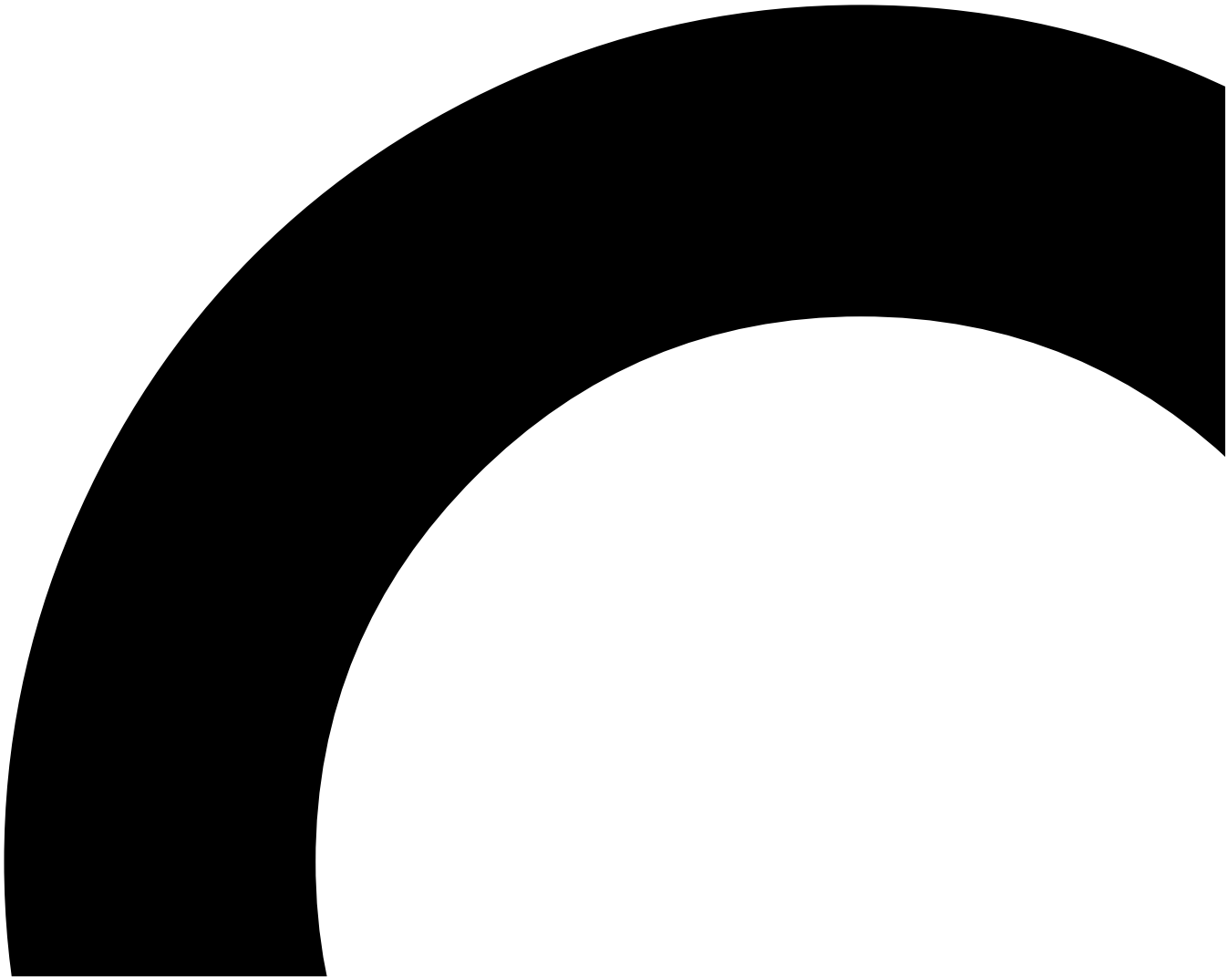
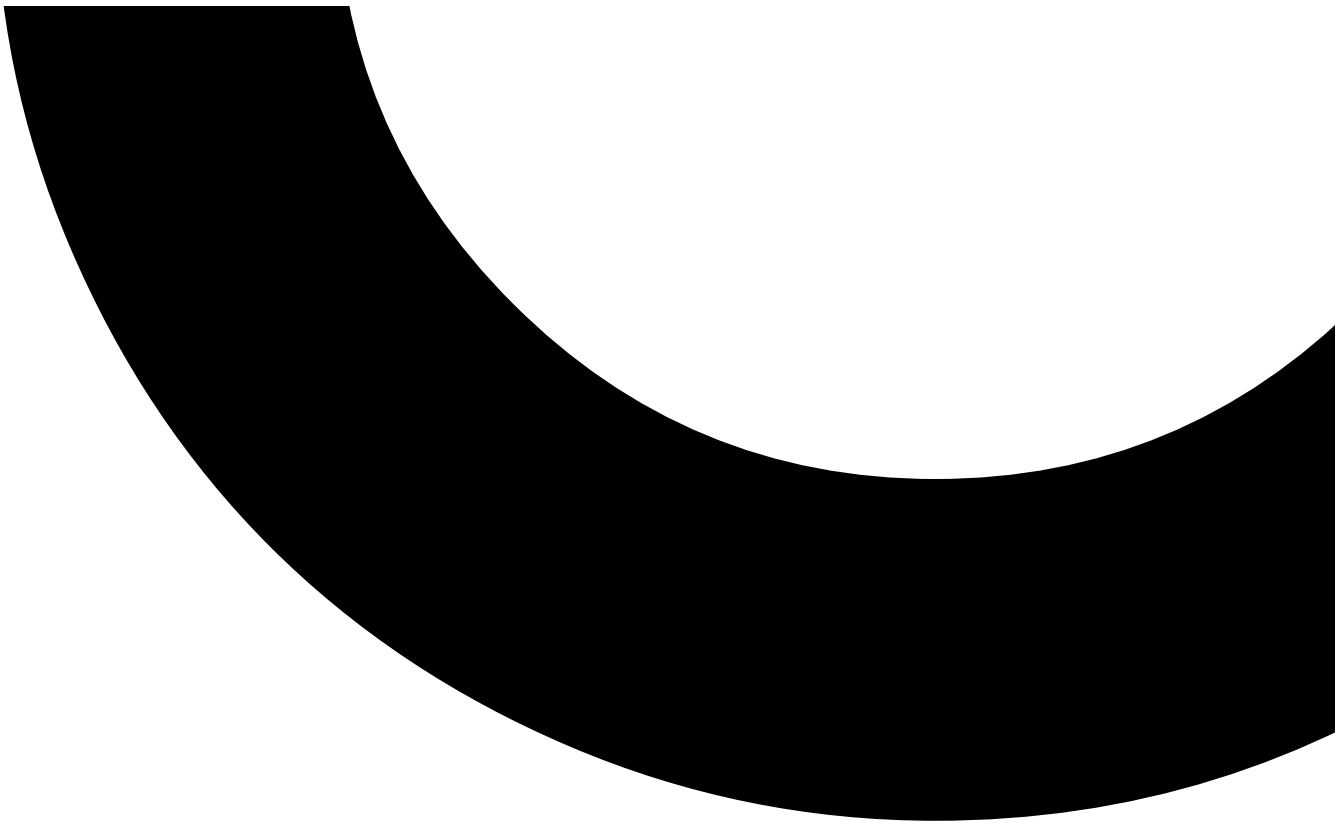


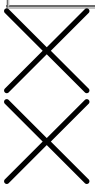
TechRepublic

Search

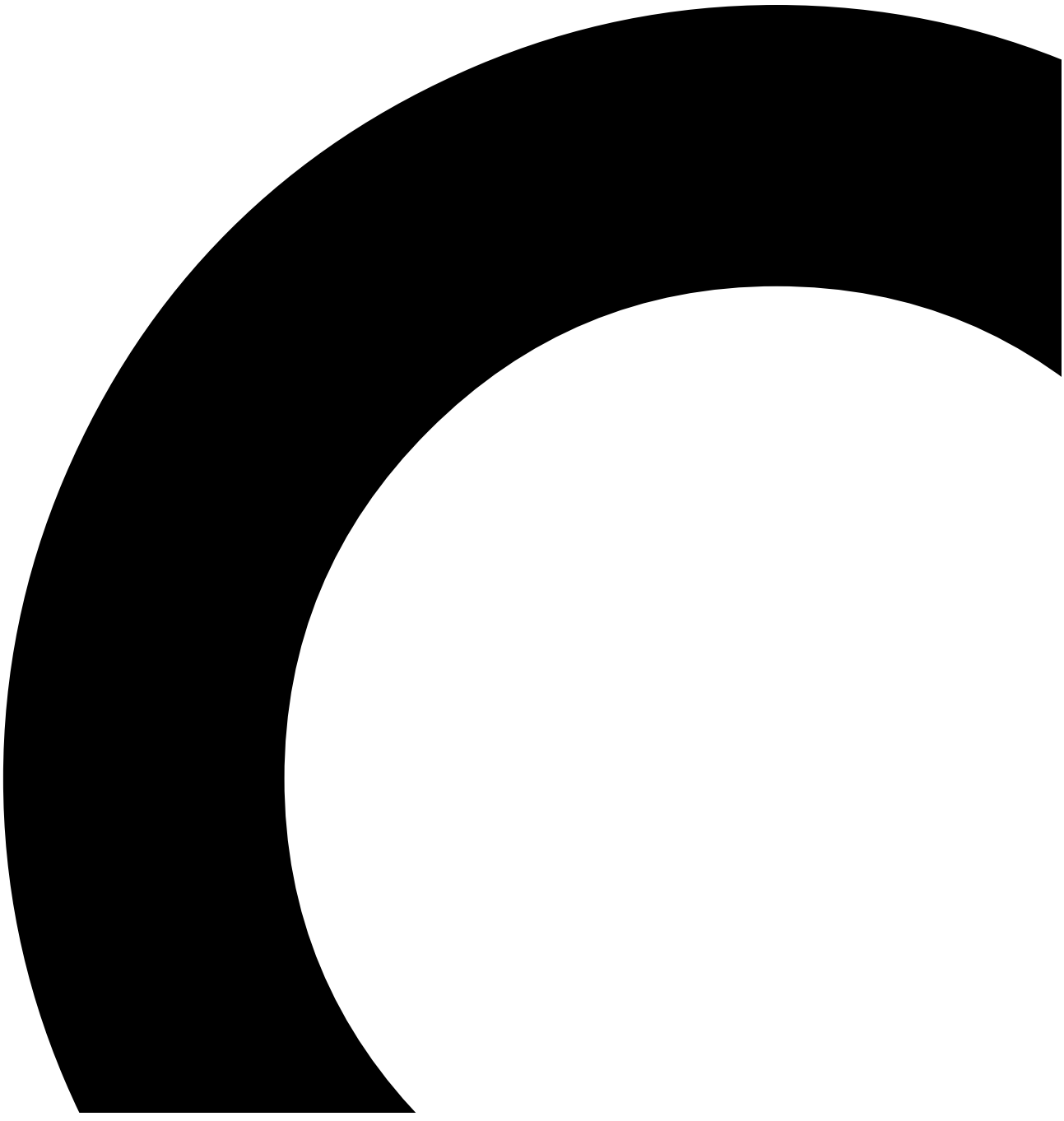


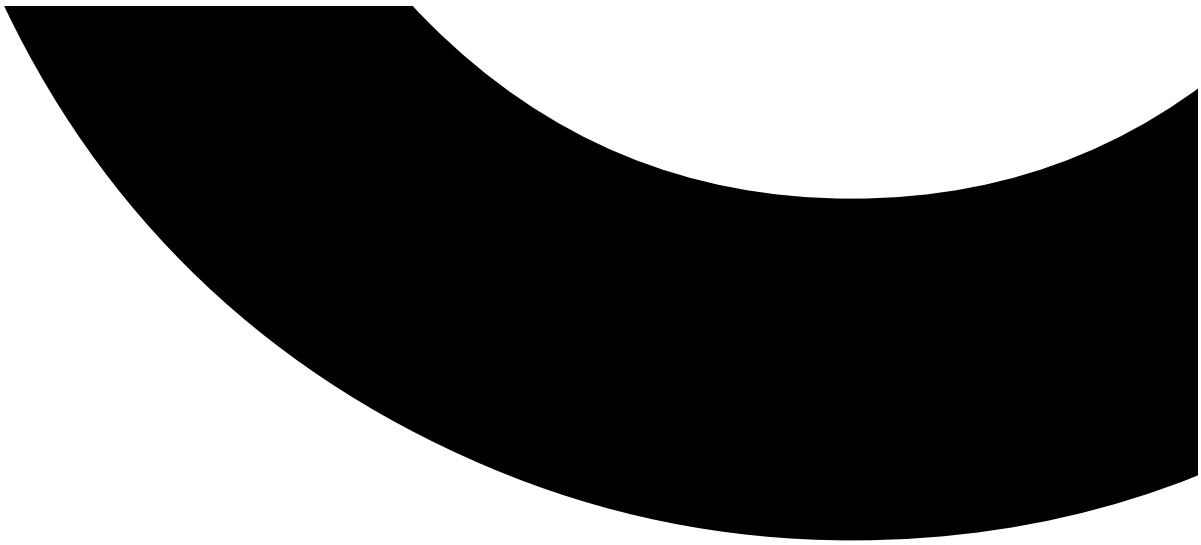


What are you looking for?
GO

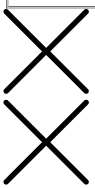


- Search





What are you looking for?
GO



- Topics:
  - Google
  - CXO
  - Software
  - Cloud
  - Startups
  - Innovation
  - Data Centers
  - Hardware
  - Microsoft
  - Apple
  - All Topics
- Sections:
- Photos
- Videos
- All Writers
- Newsletters
  - Forums
  - Resource Library
  - Tech Pro Free Trial
- Editions: AU
  - United States
  - Australia
  - United Kingdom
  - Japan

-
  - My Profile
    - Preferences
    - Community
    - Newsletters
    - Log Out

How to set DNS nameservers in Ubuntu Server 18.04

By **Jack Waller** on June 21, 2018, 9:28 AM PST

With the latest iteration of Ubuntu Server comes much change. Jack Wallen shows you how DNS nameserver entries are now configured for networking interfaces in Ubuntu Server 18.04.

-

wrench into your works to change the way you've been doing your admin thing for decades. This is true for both open and closed source technologies.

Such is the case with DNS on Ubuntu Server. Although the */etc/resolv.conf* file still exists, it is no longer where you configure your DNS nameservers. That's right, the networking changes keep on coming. But then, to be fair, configuring DNS hasn't actually been configured (at least not permanently) in the resolv.conf file for quite some time. In fact, prior to Ubuntu 18.04, DNS nameservers were configured in */etc/network/interfaces*. In this file, an entry as you see below would successfully get you beyond your LAN:

```
dns-addresses 8.8.4.4,8.8.8.8
```

Log into your 18.04 server and look for that */etc/network/interfaces* file. Guess what? It's there. However, you can configure it all you want, but it'll have zero effect. Why? Netplan. That's the new kid on the Ubuntu networking block. It is through Netplan that we now configure our DNS nameservers.

Why did Canonical make this move? From the official documentation, comes this:

> Netplan has been implemented to support simple, declarative representation of complex network configurations, as well as address some current limitations of ifupdown. Netplan provides a simple and elegant yaml configuration format with support for multiple backend providers.

In other words, simplicity. And it does make sense (especially considering how popular the .yaml format is becoming).

SEE: [20 quick tips to make Linux networking easier (free PDF)] (TechRepublic)

The new configuration

Although many do not like change, I believe Netplan was the right move. With this change, your network configurations are handled in one location (each interface having their own configuration file). The configuration files are found in */etc/netplan*. The file names will be in the form 01-netcfg.yaml. One of the most important aspects of the file is that they must use a consistent indent (otherwise they will fail to be loaded). Within these files, you configure all aspects of a network interface (IP address, gateway, DNS, etc). As for the DNS configuration, this is done with two lines of code. For example, if you use Google's DNS servers, the entry would look like that shown in **Figure A**.

Our newly configured DNS nameservers.

DNS servers are comma separated. To keep things clean, I recommend combining related servers together as you see in **Figure B**.

A clean grouping of nameserver entries.

You can, of course, fit all of those DNS server addresses on a single line (**Figure C**).

All of our nameservers on one line.

As long as they are comma-separated, everything will be groovy. You can even separate them more clearly, by adding a space after the comma (**Figure D**).

Now that's a clean, easy-to-read entry.

Once you've made the configuration change, save/close the file, and then issue the command:

```
sudo netplan apply
```

The configuration will be read and, so long as it is in the proper form, will take effect. If something goes askew, you can add the debug switch like so:

```
sudo netplan --debug apply
```

The above command will give you all the output you need to troubleshoot your network configuration (**Figure E**).

Figure E

The output of the netplan —debug apply command.

Welcome to the new world order

Whether you like it or not, this is how Ubuntu networking is now configured. Make sure you're up to speed on the new Ubuntu world order, otherwise you'll wind up growing exponentially frustrated as to why your networking continues to fail. Netplan is here to stay.

Open Source Weekly Newsletter
You don't want to miss our tips, tutorials, and commentary on the Linux OS and open source applications. Delivered Tuesdays

Also see

- How to install nextCloud 13 on Ubuntu 18.04 (TechRepublic)
- How to change the hostname on Ubuntu 18.04 (TechRepublic)
- How to configure a static IP address in Ubuntu Server 18.04 (TechRepublic)
- How to install Ubuntu Server 18.04 (TechRepublic)
- Mark Shuttleworth dishes on where Canonical and Ubuntu Linux are going next (ZDNet)

Image: Jack Wallen

Editor's Picks

Inside the Raspberry Pi: The story of the $35 computer that changed the world

How self-driving tractors, AI, and precision agriculture will save us from the impending food crisis

Smart farming: How IoT, robotics, and AI are tackling one of the biggest problems of the century

Agriculture 4.0: How digital farming is revolutionizing the future of food

The Brexit dilemma: Will London's start-ups stay or go?

Can Russian hackers be stopped? Here's why it might take 20 years

Jack Wallen is an award-winning writer for TechRepublic and Linux.com. He’s an avid promoter of open source and the voice of The Android Expert. For more news about Jack Wallen, visit his website jackwallen.com.

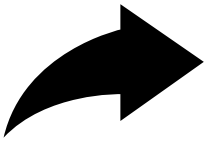
- | **Full Bio** | **See all content by Jack**

×

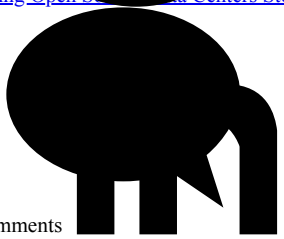
Full Bio

Jack Wallen is an award-winning writer for TechRepublic and Linux.com. He’s an avid promoter of open source and the voice of The Android Expert. For more news about Jack Wallen, visit his website jackwallen.com.

Related Topics:



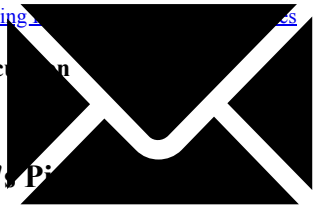
Networking Open [illegible] Centers Storage Hardware Security Virtualization Networking on ZDNet



Hide Comments Show Comments

| Commenting [illegible]

Join Discussion



Editor's Picks

Inside the Raspberry Pi: The story of the $35 computer that changed the world

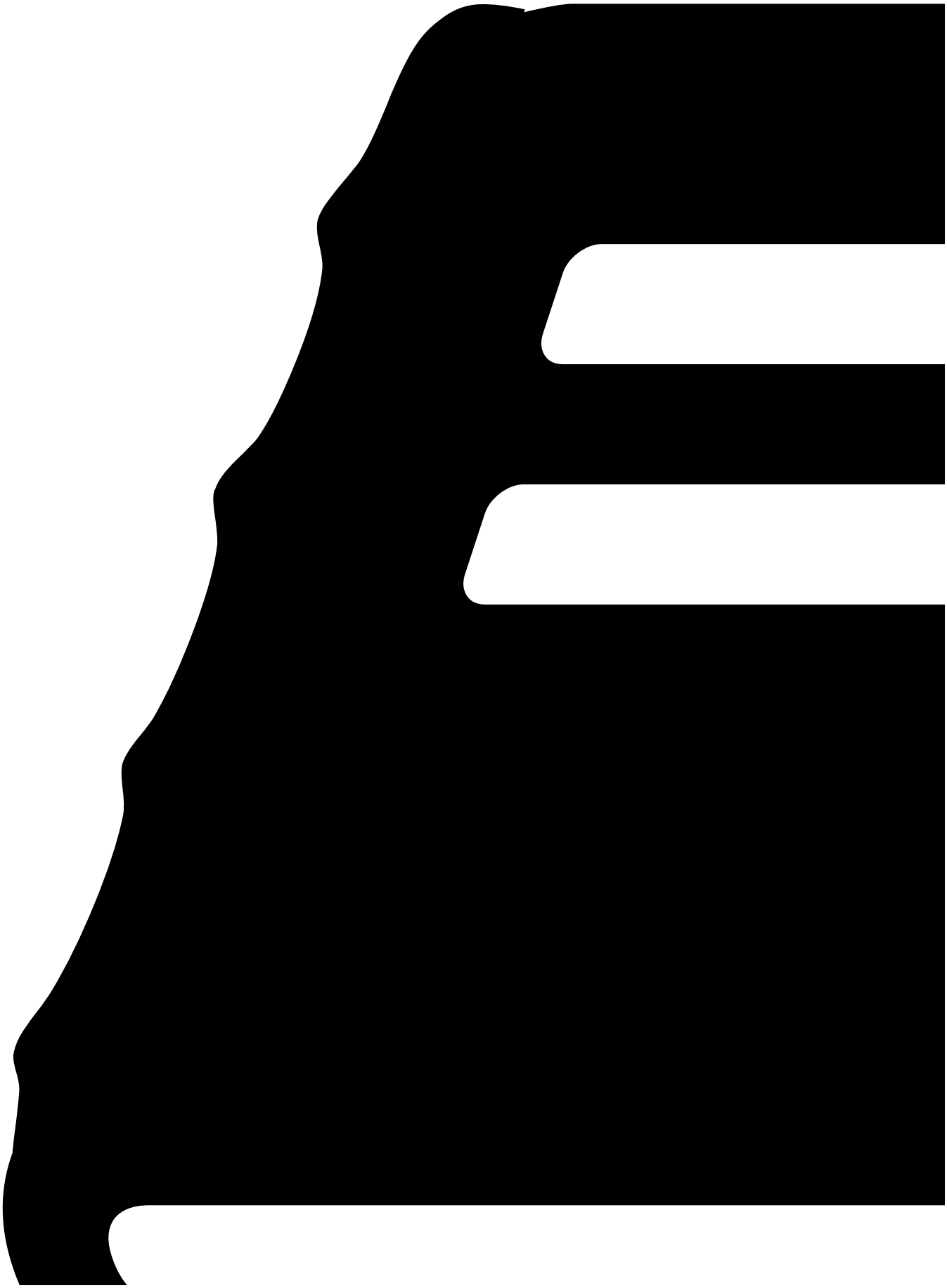
How self-driving tractors, AI, and precision agriculture will save us from the impending food crisis

Smart farming: How IoT, robotics, and AI are tackling one of the biggest problems of the century

Agriculture 4.0: How digital farming is revolutionizing the future of food

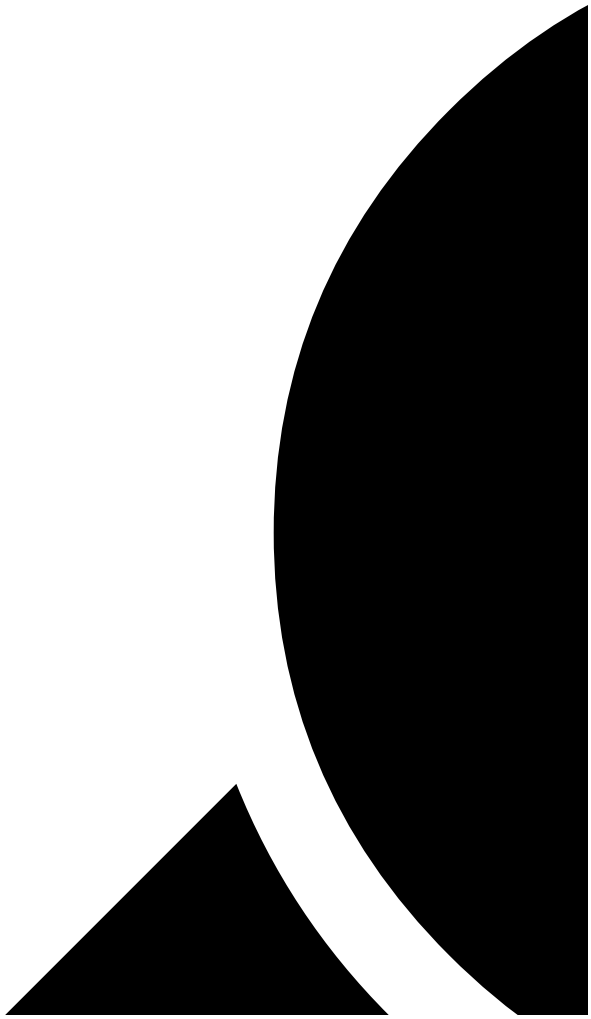
Latest From Tech Pro Research

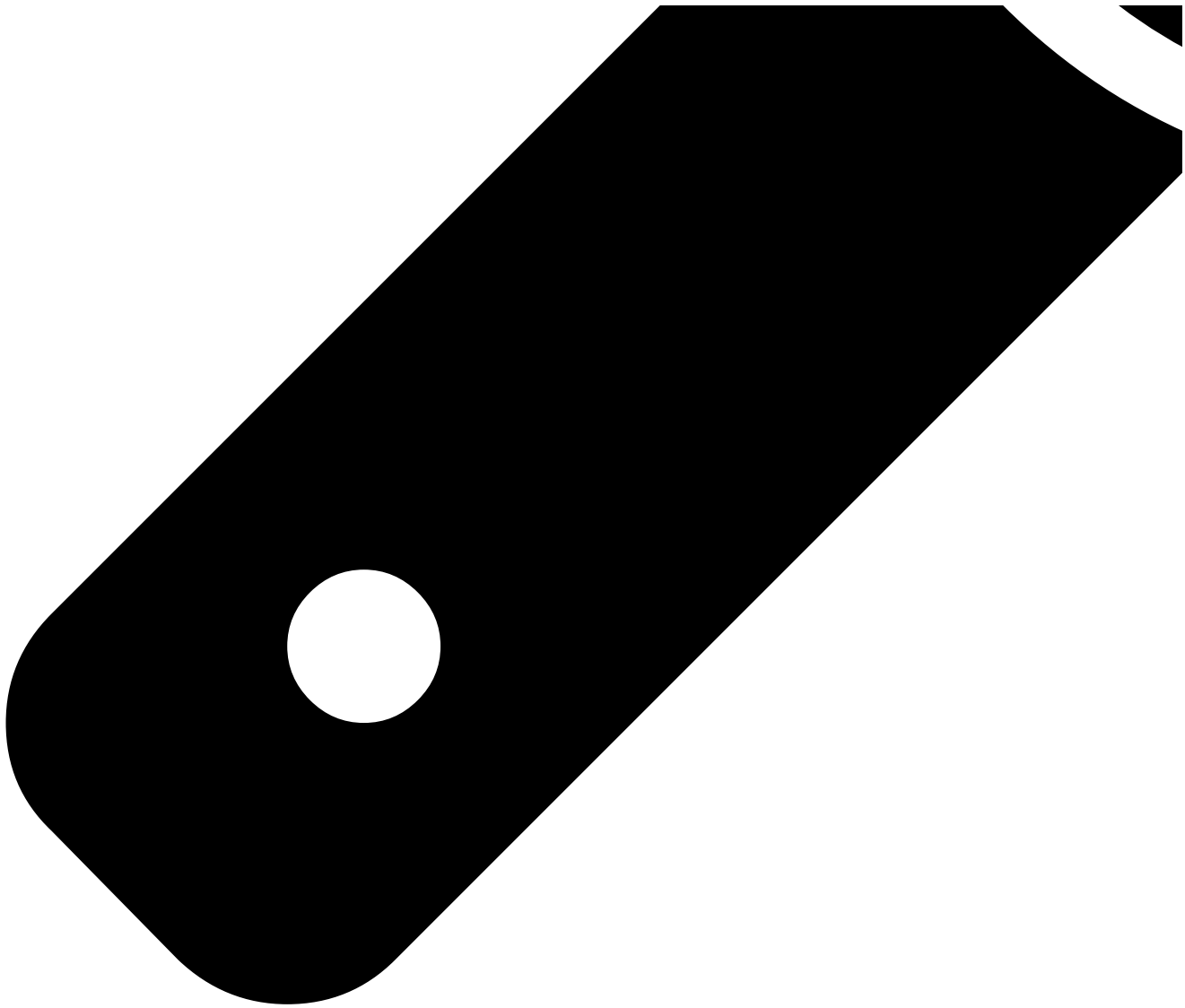
Taking your photos to the next level: Tips for business professionals



Smart cities: A guide for tech and business leaders

Choosing your Windows 7 exit strategy: Four options





Feature comparison: Social media management tools

Services

- About Us

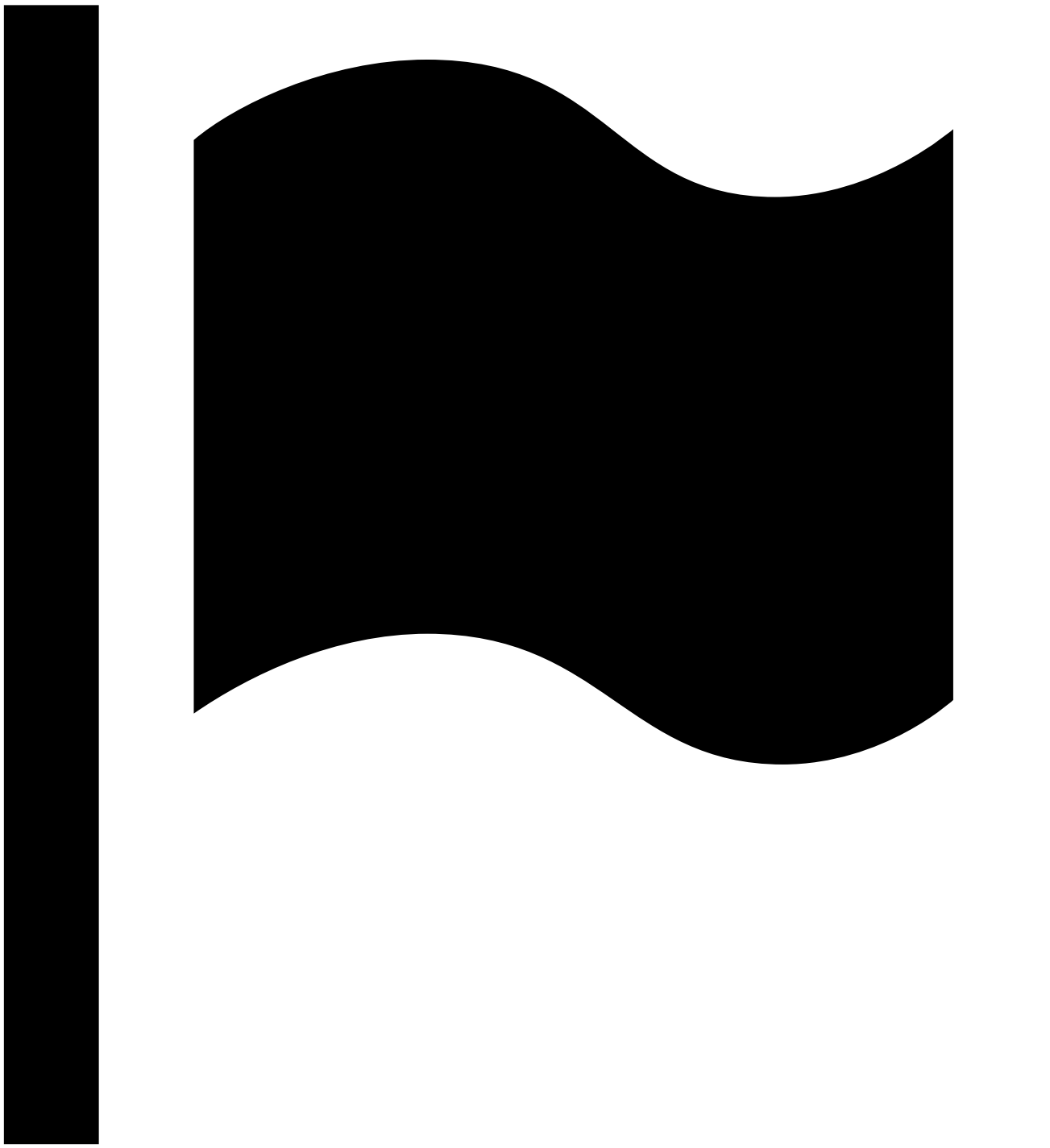
- Newsletters
- RSS Feeds
- Site Map

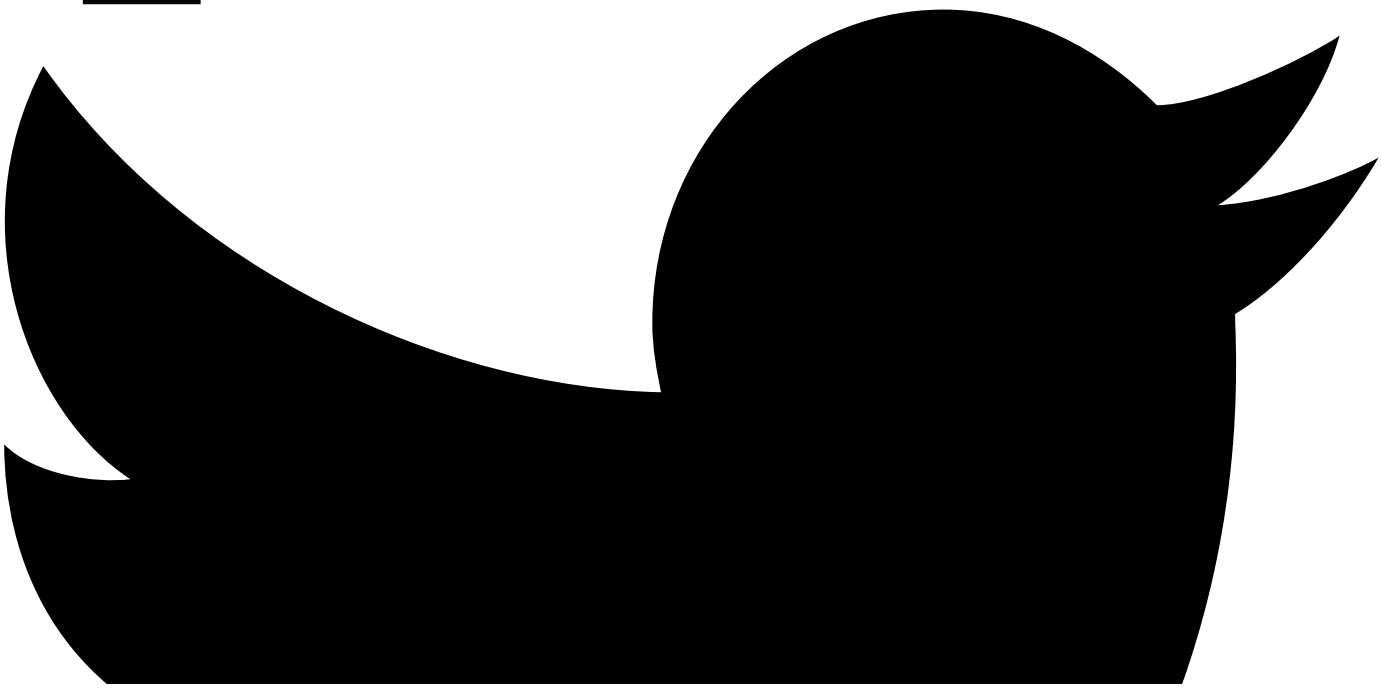
- Site Help & Feedback
- FAQ
- Advertise
- Reprint Policy

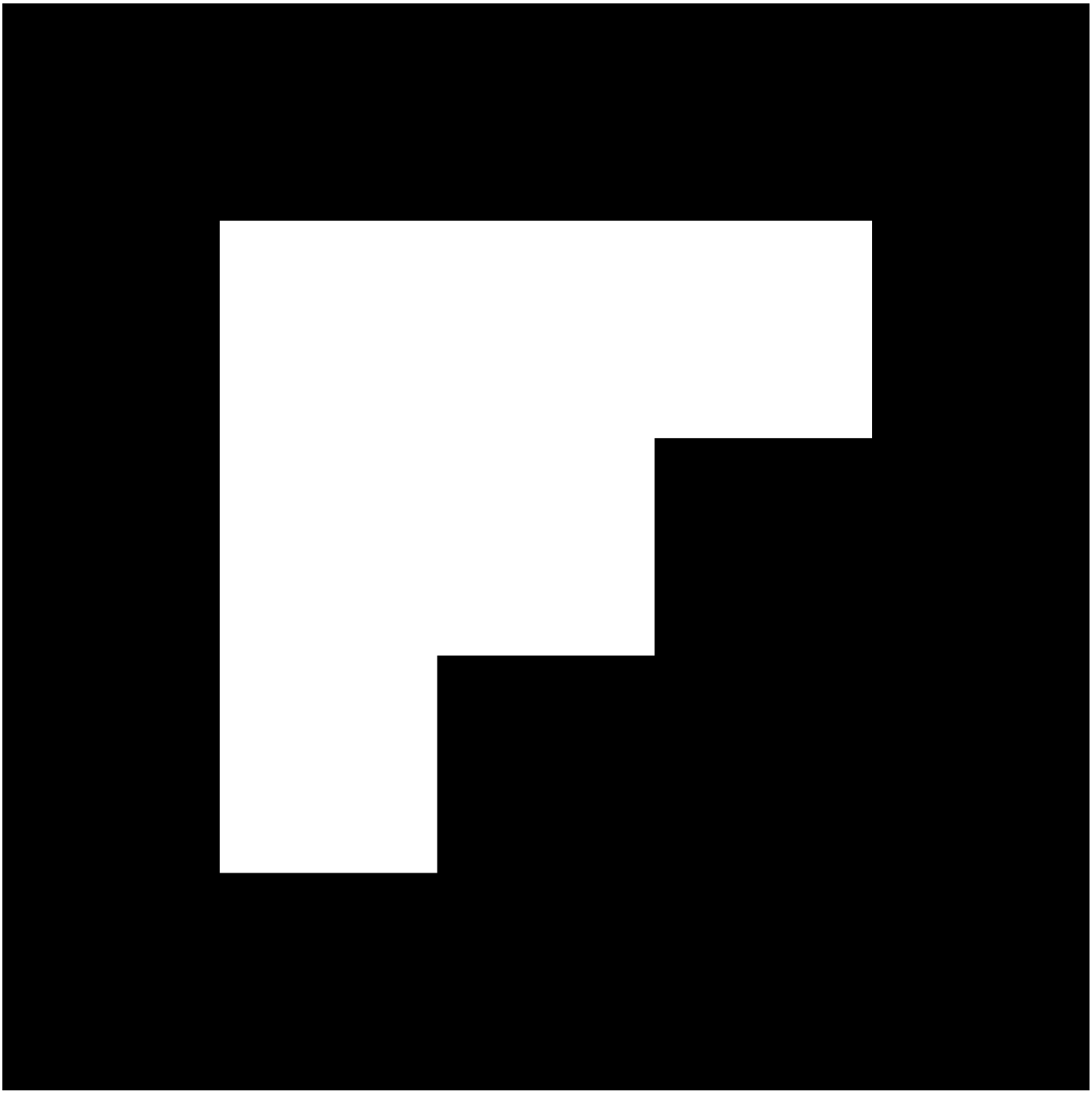
Explore

- Blogs
- Downloads
- TechRepublic Forums
- Meet the Team
- TechRepublic Academy

- Tech Pro Research
- Resource Library
- Photos
- Videos







© 2019 CBS Interactive. All rights reserved. Privacy Policy | Cookies | Ad Choice | Terms of Use | Mobile User Agreement
A ZDNet site |
Visit other CBS Interactive sites: Select Site