



**PHOTO SPECIAL**  
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TO MANAGING IMAGES



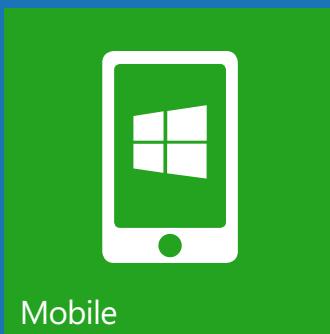
**IN THE CLOUD**  
STORE YOUR DOCS  
AND WORK ONLINE



**UPGRADED TO  
WINDOWS 10?  
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# Windows Help & Advice



Mobile

Desktop



Reclaim more space



Speed up the CPU



Do more on mobile



Tighten privacy



Save battery life



Use two displays



Master a touchpad

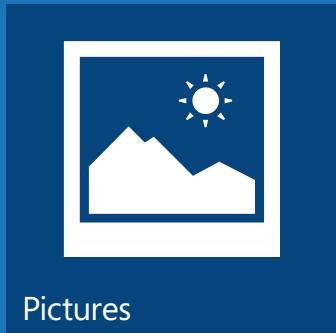


Expand workspace



Tweak your settings

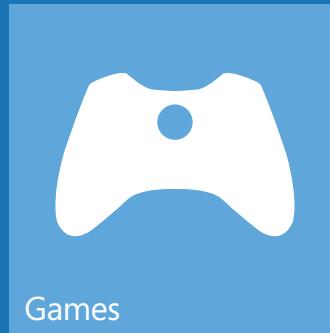
And much, much more!



Pictures



Cloud



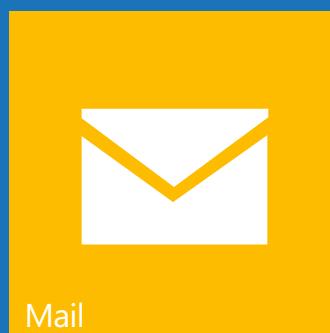
Games



Windows 10



Social



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**PLUS**  
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Why you need Microsoft's  
Anniversary Update **p11**



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# Windows Help & Advice

## Welcome

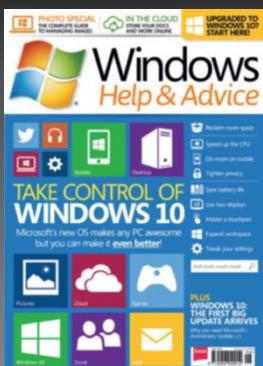
Hold the front page! Microsoft has just announced there's a free Anniversary Update coming for Windows 10 in 'late summer'. It will add more support for handwriting on tablets that use pens, improved Cortana features that turn it into a proper virtual assistant and support for HoloLens, Microsoft's first foray into the world of augmented reality. But really, my first thought on hearing the news was, "Wait! Has it been a year already?" Well, it's strange to think so, but yes, by

the end of July, Windows 10 will have been with us for a whole year. Where has the time gone?

To help you get more out of Windows 10 before the update lands we've got a great tips feature starting on page 16, and there's the complete guide to managing your photos in Windows 10 starting on page 50, as well as our usual selection of tutorials, features and reviews.

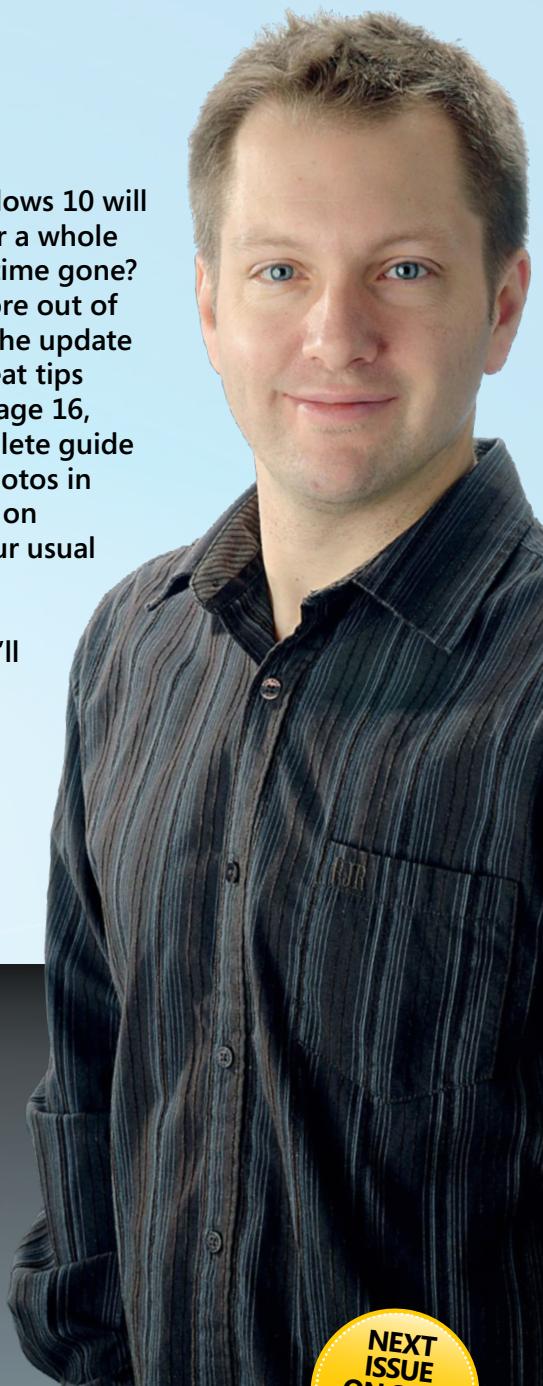
Enjoy the tips and I'll see you next issue!

**Graham Barlow** Editor-in-Chief  
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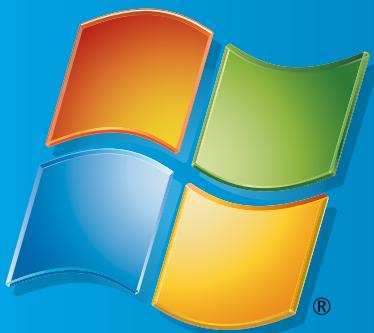
We pride ourselves in being the only magazine on the shelves to show you exactly how to get the very best from the Windows operating system, whether you're using Windows 10 or Windows 8.1. Also, don't forget to take a look at how you can read the magazine on your laptop, phone or tablet.



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Your guide *Graham Barlow* says...

"If you're looking for better ways to use your home computer, then this is the place to start. We'll show you all the tips and tricks the experts use and more!"

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Find out more on page 14



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**SHARE YOUR SNAPS**  
An advantage of online photo storage is you can share your photos almost instantly

# Virtual galleries Make the most of online photo storage

Uploading your photos to the net makes a lot of sense – here are some of the best online photo services

**P**hotos are still the best and easiest way to preserve your memories and most smartphones will include a decent snapper. You still need a place to store all your photos, though, and there are lots of competing online choices. And they all come with a multitude of advantages – you don't have to worry about losing your pics if your computer fails, and you can access them from just about anywhere.

Flickr ([flickr.com](http://flickr.com)) revolutionised online photo storage when it launched in 2004. It completely changed its business model a couple of years ago, too, offering everyone a whopping 1TB of free photo storage. While it's a tempting offer, Flickr hasn't been updated for a while and cracks are starting to show in the site – it's hard to navigate, and it doesn't offer some of the cool contextual searches of other photo hosting services.

By comparison, Microsoft's OneDrive only offers 15GB of free storage, but it

includes nifty tricks such as the ability to group your photos based on their content (such as crowds or landscapes). And while it tightly integrates with Windows via OneDrive, apps are available for Apple's iOS and Google's Android.

Google's own photo storage solution ([photos.google.com](http://photos.google.com)) is not to be overlooked, either. It gives you unlimited storage, with the caveat that your photos are reduced in quality. For

most people this isn't a problem, and you'll find some of the best online photo-editing tools here too. If you want to print out

your snaps on a large scale you can upload them in full resolution, but this will count towards your 15GB free storage limit.

Finally, if you've got lots of photos of people to share, look no further than Facebook. Its face detection algorithm automatically finds people so you can tag them, and it offers unlimited storage – albeit at a reduced quality.

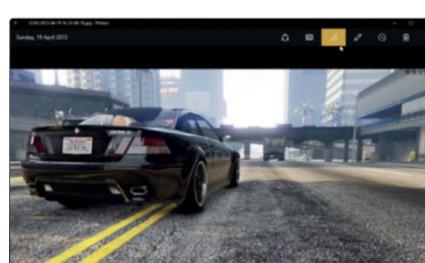
**"You won't have to worry about losing your pics if your PC fails"**

## STYLISE YOUR PICS Edit photos in Windows 10

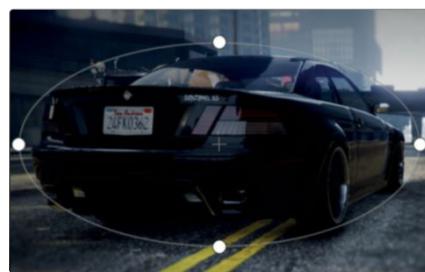
Windows 10's built-in photo software is its best yet, with lots of simple and quick fixes to make your snaps look like they were taken and edited by a pro. It also lets you browse photos in an intuitive way, and combine similar photos into a gallery. If it's not set up as your default editor, you may need to right-click on the photo you wish to edit, then choose 'Open with' followed by 'Photos'. Then you can edit away.



**FILTERS AND LIGHT** Apply retro tints or with the light icon tweak brightness, contrast, highlights



**QUICK FIX** Click the magic wand to automatically balance the contrast and colours in your photo



**EFFECTS** Add neat effects – such as shadowy edges and selective focus – with these tools

## The Knowledge... + | ▶



**SMOOTH OPERATOR** Banish the wobbles with the Revl Arc

### Revl Arc

#### Mmmm... chocolates. Don't mind if I do.

I think you may have confused Revl with Revels, Mars' chocolate-coated sweets. This Revl is a tech company behind a new kind of GoPro-style action camera, which will probably help you lose weight rather than put it on.

#### I have more than ten GoPro-style action cameras and they're all rubbish. What makes this one good?

The problem with most action-camera footage is that it's really shaky, because the cameras are mounted on vibrating or moving surfaces, such as handlebars or helmets. Some include optical image stabilisation to smooth out the footage, but the Arc aims to fix the problem with a motorised gimbal.

#### A motorised what?

A motorised gimbal. This is built into the Arc and connects the camera to its mount. It senses movement and compensates by rotating the camera so it always points upwards. If you've ever seen a Steadicam in operation you'll understand how it works – although this is on a much smaller scale, obviously.

#### What's the camera itself like?

It's not to be sniffed at – it boasts 4K video, and it's waterproof and shockproof. A 1,100 mAh battery will keep it going for up to 90 minutes at 4K, and a linked smartphone app makes editing your silky smooth footage nice and easy. It can also overlay stats, such as your heart rate, on the video you've shot.

#### How can I get one?

At the time of writing the Arc is available via IndieGoGo for \$379 (£265), or you'll be able to buy it from Revl's official shop for \$500 (£350). There's no word on a UK release yet, but it's certainly caught the attention of many an adrenaline junkie, so it's only a matter of time.



HENRY WINCHESTER  
TECH EXPERT

**Windows 7**

## Docx doctor

Microsoft introduced its docx file format in 2007, and it's become hugely popular. Prior to Windows 7, there were only two ways to open docx files, though: with Microsoft Word, which is part of the paid-for Office suite, or with the free OpenOffice software. But Windows 7 brought with it a new and improved version of minimalist text editor WordPad, complete with docx compatibility. It may not be enabled by default, in which case you'll have to find your Word file, then right-click on it and choose 'Open with...' followed by 'Microsoft Wordpad'. Some formatting might not be displayed properly, but it's one of the quickest and easiest ways to view and edit docx files.



**Windows 8**

## Customise the Start Screen

Love it or hate it, Windows 8's Start Screen certainly looks great – and you can personalise the background to suit your tastes. Begin by tapping the Start menu, then move your mouse to the lower-right corner of the screen, or swipe in from the right if you're on a touchscreen, click 'Settings', followed by 'Personalise'. At the top you'll see a selection of different images you can use as the background of your start screen, some of which are animated. Where it gets really cool is with the colour choices – you can use these to change the background and accent, so you can really make Windows your own.



## Speed up slow folders

While most operations within Windows are slick and fast, sometimes you'll find a folder which takes an eternity to load, even on a superfast computer. This is usually because Windows is indexing the folder in a certain way (in order to produce thumbnails for image files, for example), when the actual content of the folder is mixed. It's easy to fix, though – simply go to the sluggish folder, then right-click in an empty area and choose 'Properties'. Now click 'Customise', select the dropdown menu under 'Optimise this folder for:' and then choose 'General items'. Click 'OK' and enjoy faster folders.

## Struggling to get something to work? Need a tip?

Then email us your woes (to [windowsmagazine@futurenet.com](mailto:windowsmagazine@futurenet.com) with the subject line 'Windows Insider') and we'll share your perfect Windows tweaks in a future issue.

### Tip of the month

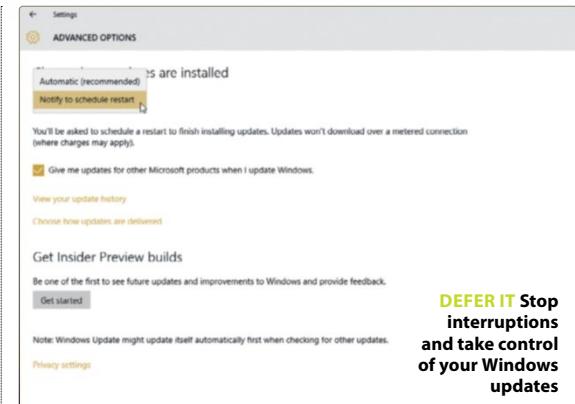
### Do it later

## Schedule Windows 10 updates

Hate Windows 10's automatic updates?  
Use this simple trick to install them later

Whereas previous versions gave users control over which updates were installed and when, Windows 10 automatically keeps itself up to date. It makes sense because the updates deliver new features and beef up your computer's security. But it can be annoying when the updates are downloaded and your computer suddenly starts a countdown to a restart, especially if you're working on

an important document. It's easy to schedule the restarts though – click 'Start', then choose 'Settings'. Next go to 'Update & Security', and choose 'Advanced options' under 'Windows Update'. Now choose 'Notify to schedule restart', and Windows will give you the option to install the updates there and then, install them at a time when you're not using the PC, or schedule them for a later date.



**DEFER IT** Stop interruptions and take control of your Windows updates

## Seeing Redstone

# The Anniversary Update

Microsoft has announced its first major update for Windows 10 – but what can we expect? Read on...

**M**inecraft fans will have heard of Redstone, the vital form of electricity found throughout the game. It's also the codename Microsoft has assigned to its upcoming Anniversary Update for Windows 10 – and it already looks set to inject some sparks into the already awesome operating system.

One of Windows 10's coolest features is Hello, which unlocks your PC by recognising your fingerprint, face or iris – and it gets even better in Redstone. It will work well with Windows apps, as well as some websites, as long as you're using the Edge browser. Also, struggling to remember your complicated passwords could become a thing of the past.

Graphic designers and tablet users will already know how important pen support is, and this is another area Microsoft has focused on. You'll be able to draw perfectly straight lines, calculate distances in the Maps app, and highlight and delete text in

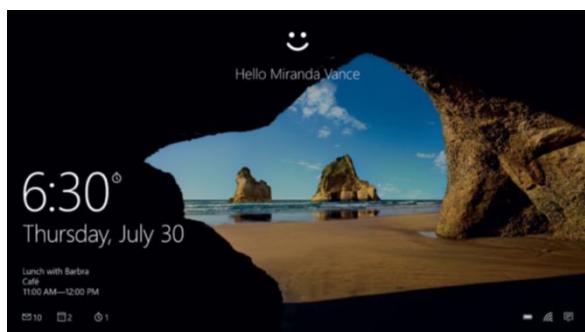
word. Microsoft has noted that three million people use its Sticky Notes Post-it style app every day, and this will now be able to recognise handwriting and add reminders to Cortana.

Speaking of Cortana, Microsoft's supersmart AI assistant is also due an upgrade. Microsoft has promised that it'll be more conversational, and able to understand commands such as "Open that Word file I was working on

yesterday." It will also suggest places to grab food for a lunchtime meeting, or order pizza if you're feeling lazy. After some initial chats we've ignored

Cortana, but the update could turn it from a novelty into an essential Windows app.

Redstone will be released this summer, with a second update due next year. We already love Windows 10, and these improvements seem like small but important steps in the right direction. We hope that Microsoft continues to codename its updates after Minecraft items, too – we can't wait for Creeper!



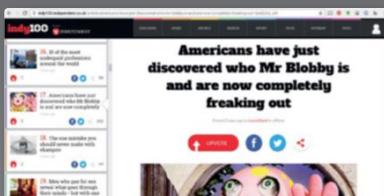
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### Indy100

[indy100.independent.co.uk](http://indy100.independent.co.uk)

The closure of *The Independent's* printed newspapers is the end of an era – but it's also the start of a new one. Founded in 1986, the newspaper won an audience attracted to its thoughtful and in-depth criticism of current affairs, rather than attention-grabbing headlines. Like a lot of printed media it couldn't compete with online news sources, and its last issue was finally printed on Saturday March 26, 2016.

However, the newspaper will still be available online, as well as its offshoot *Indy100*. This approachable site jostles humorous Buzzfeed-style lists, such as '12 things you should never do in a British person's home', with more newsworthy topics such as what's got more expensive as a result of the budget. Its hilarious and compelling take on global affairs is definitely worth a daily visit.



100 REASONS Mr Blobby's surprising internet comeback, as explained by Indy100

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May

31

Tuesday

## THE 60-SECOND QUIZ

Pens at the ready, your time starts now!

**1** Which tech company is rumoured to be creating an electric car?

- A. Bush
- B. Amstrad
- C. Dyson

**2** Which revolutionary technology is pizza chain Domino's trialling?

- A. Delivery robots
- B. Self-heating pizzas
- C. Items of food with fewer than 1,000 calories

**3** Gamer Olivia Munn has a role in which summer blockbuster?

- A. Captain America: Civil War
- B. X-Men: Apocalypse
- C. The BFG

**4** Which actor has created a voice pack for *Elite: Dangerous*?

- A. William Shatner
- B. Mark Hamill
- C. Chris Barrie

**5** A Microsoft chatbot was taken offline for which offence?

- A. Being racist
- B. Starting a revolution
- C. Saying it liked Justin Bieber

**6** Which company brands its cameras FinePix?

- A. Nikon
- B. Fujifilm
- C. Polaroid

Answers: 1C, 2A, 3B, 4A, 5A, 6B.

# Facts & figures

Henry Winchester reveals a host of fascinating digital facts



The budget of *Bright*, a new movie starring Will Smith. While the astronomical budget isn't unusual by Hollywood standards, what makes it stand out is that it's being produced by Netflix. The film tells the tale of a cop (Smith) partnered with an Orc (Joel Edgerton), and it's helmed by *Suicide Squad* director David Ayer. \$45 million is to be spent on the film itself, and a further \$45 million will go on paying the cast and crew.



18,166,973

The number of zombies run over in a 48-hour period. Thankfully the slaughter didn't happen in reality – instead it took place in *Dying Light: The Following*, an open-world game in which the undead walk the earth. Players killed 194 zombies each, on average, but one player dispatched over 20,000. 47 per cent of squishes came from the PS4, followed by 28 per cent on the Xbox One and 25 per cent on the PC.

## ARE YOU A DRUNK TWEETER?

If so, an algorithm created by the University of Rochester could tell if you're micro-messaging under the influence. Boffins analysed tweets in New York for words such as 'party', 'booze' and 'wasted', and cross-referenced them with alcohol sales in the area.

According to the research, it detected tipsy tweeters with an 80 per cent success rate. We think it's only matter of time before the tech is integrated with a kebab-delivery service.



100,000

UK residents reported phishing scams in 2015, according to City of London Police's Action Fraud and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. There were an average 8,000 reports per month of the common cybercrime, in which fraudsters pose as businesses so they can steal details or install malware.



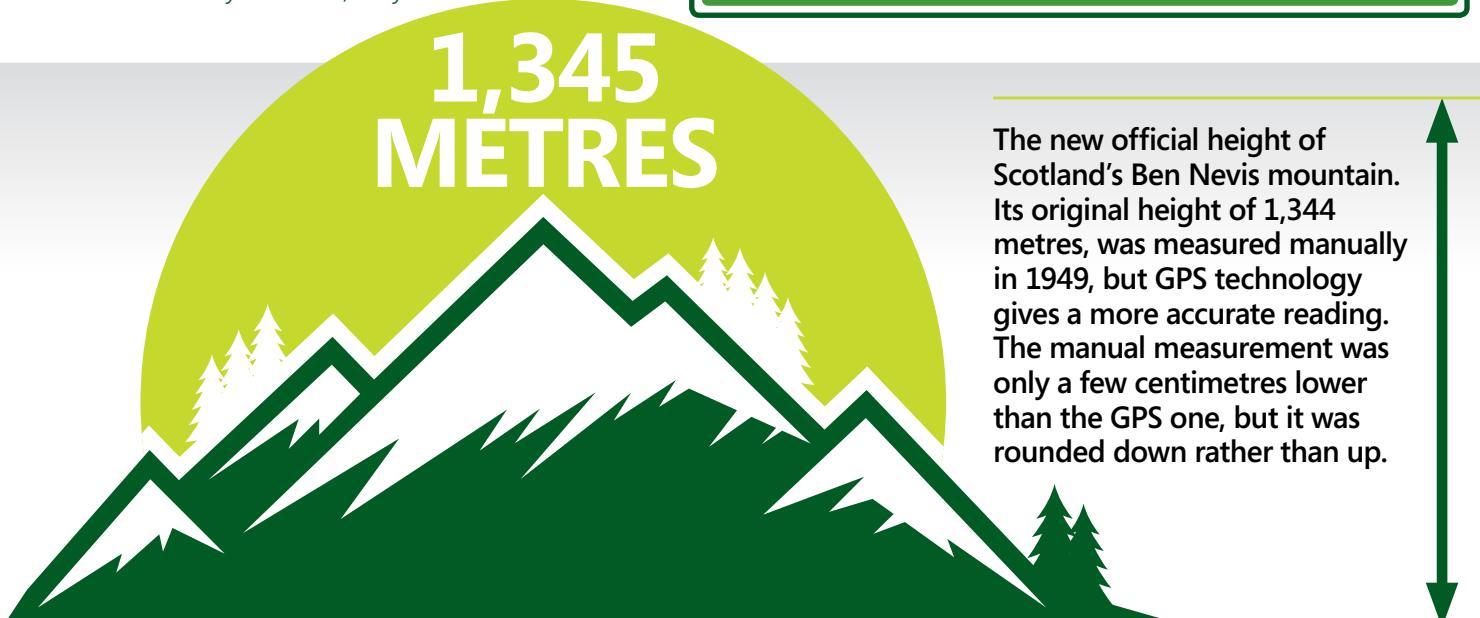
## 13.8 BILLION YEARS

The estimated lifespan of '5D' storage discs created by the University of Southampton. The medium uses advanced DVD-style optical storage to pack 360TB of data on each (virtually indestructible) coin-sized disc. The university is considering commercialising the product – this means your next boxset could be on the disc!

## WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE VALUE?

- 81%** 81 PER CENT WANT FREEDOM OF SPEECH
- 69%** 69 PER CENT CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THE INTERNET
- 64%** BUT JUST 64 PER CENT NEED DAYLIGHT
- 57%** AND 57 PER CENT LIKE HAVING HOT WATER
- 11%** 11 PER CENT OF NIGHT OWLS NEED A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

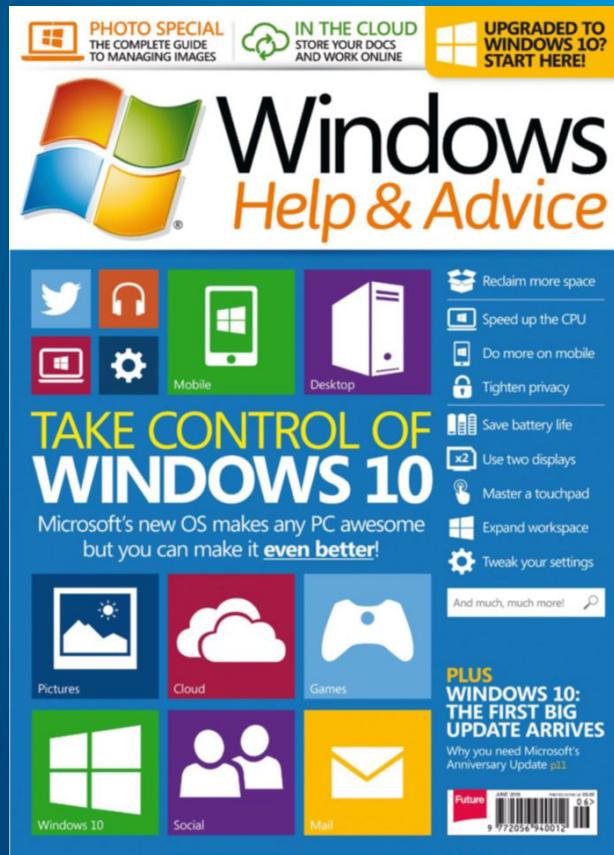
Source: Hillarys Blinds. No, really.





# Windows Help & Advice

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The cover of the Windows Help & Advice print magazine features the Windows logo at the top left. Below it, the title "Windows Help & Advice" is displayed in large, bold, black and orange letters. At the bottom, there's a section titled "TAKE CONTROL OF WINDOWS 10" with a sub-section "PLUS WINDOWS 10: THE FIRST BIG UPDATE ARRIVES". The cover also includes a sidebar with various tips and icons.

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The image shows a tablet and a smartphone displaying the Windows Help & Advice digital edition. The digital version has a similar layout to the print version, featuring the Windows logo, the title "Windows Help & Advice", and sections for "TAKE CONTROL OF WINDOWS 10" and "PLUS WINDOWS 10: THE FIRST BIG UPDATE ARRIVES". The digital interface includes icons for various apps like Photos, Cloud, Games, and Mail.

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I'm Cortana. Ask me anything.



# WS 10



# HARDWARE & CORE SYSTEM

## 1 BYPASS THE UPDATE

Microsoft Update may contain plenty of drivers, but they tend to be conservative in nature. You'll want to download graphics and chipset drivers direct from your manufacturer if any are provided, or you could take the lazy option and use a tool such as IObit Driver Booster Free ([www.iobit.com](http://www.iobit.com)) to automate the process for you, plus uncover updates for more obscure drivers. Just make sure you deselect the relevant option during setup to avoid installing the full Advanced SystemCare suite.

## 2 FIND OLDER DRIVERS

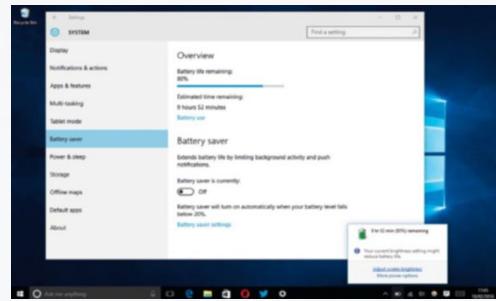
If you've got older hardware, you may find Windows 10 doesn't provide driver support. Don't panic, though – if you upgraded from an older version of Windows, your old drivers should work fine. If you've installed from scratch, you should get away with Windows 8, 7, or – at a push – Vista drivers, so long as they're the correct system type (32-bit or 64-bit).

The biggest issue with older hardware occurs when making the jump from 32-bit to 64-bit, but you might be able to keep your old scanner going a bit longer if you're happy to shell out for VueScan ([www.hamrick.com](http://www.hamrick.com)). Also try sourcing generic PostScript or PCL drivers for laser printers that support either standard.

## 3 SET UP VIRTUAL DESKTOPS

One of Windows 10's best new features is that it adds native support for virtual desktops, making it easy to spread yourself across literally dozens of desktops if you wish. Click the 'Task View' taskbar button, or press Windows and Tab to bring up the new Task Switcher, then click 'New Desktop' to add a second desktop. You can then drag app thumbnails to the desired

Get the  
Windows 7  
battery  
icon back



desktop, or right-click and choose 'Move to' to select a specific desktop.

Speed things up further by creating – and switching to – a new virtual desktop from your current one by using the [Win]+[Ctrl]+[D] shortcut. Close the current desktop using [Win]+[Ctrl]+[F4], and move between desktops using – you guessed it – [Win]+[Ctrl] and the left or right arrow keys.

## 4 MASTER TOUCHPAD GESTURES

Got a touchpad? You'll find there are some handy gestures you can master to speed up the way you navigate your laptop. Start by sliding two fingers vertically or horizontally to scroll the current window, then pinch in and out with the same fingers to zoom in and out. Swipe up using three fingers to switch to Task View, or swipe down to reveal the desktop. Swipe left and right with your three fingers to access the traditional [Alt]+[Tab] task switcher. But not all gestures may work – head over to 'Settings > Devices > Mouse & touchpad' to verify your touchpad is supported if they don't (it should say, 'Your PC has a precision touchpad'). But don't assume it's a requirement; we got all the gestures to work with a touchpad recognised only as a mouse.

## 5 SCROLL INACTIVE WINDOWS

Windows 10 now makes it possible to scroll windows that aren't active – simply roll your mouse over the window and use the scroll wheel without having to select it

Windows 10 includes built-in support for multiple desktops – at last



first. If this behaviour irritates you, switch it off from 'Settings > Devices > Mouse & touchpad' – simply flick the 'Scroll inactive windows when I hover over them' switch to 'Off'.

## MULTIPLE MONITORS

**6** In this new world of ultra-HD monitors, one DPI setting for multiple displays doesn't always cut it. Now the slider marked 'Change the size of text, apps, and other items...' found under 'Settings > System > Display' only affects the currently selected monitor, so make sure the correct one is selected (it's highlighted in blue) before you alter the slider, and click 'Apply'. Log out and back in when prompted to make the change.

## FINE-TUNE YOUR HYBRID DEVICE

**7** If you've bought a two-in-one tablet/laptop device, here are some handy tricks to try. First, bypass Continuum mode, whereby Windows 10 attempts to automatically switch to and from tablet mode, depending on when you've docked it to the keyboard. You can manually switch it via the Notification Center – tap 'Tablet Mode' to do so. Tweak other tablet mode preferences via 'Settings > System > Tablet mode', where you can – among other things – keep the taskbar on screen at all times by changing 'Hide app icons on the taskbar in tablet mode' to 'Off'.

## ACCESS HOTSPOTS SECURELY

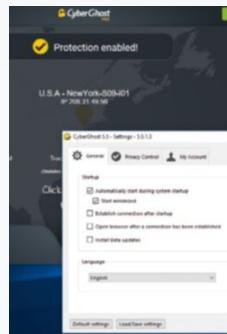
**8** There are serious privacy issues with Windows 10's Wi-Fi Sense feature, but why not take advantage of the convenience offered without compromising security, by only connecting to open hotspots through the security of an encrypted VPN connection? If you're willing to put up with throttled connection speeds and some delays in connecting, a free service such as CyberGhost ([www.cyberghostvpn.com](http://www.cyberghostvpn.com)) should suffice for basic browsing and checking email, all while minimising the risk of being snooped upon.

And while we're on the subject of Wi-Fi Sense, opt your home network out of it by adding '\_optout' to the end of your Wi-Fi network's SSID.

## BATTERY SAVER

**9** Windows 10's new Battery Saver settings may not be to your taste, so fine-tune them with a trip to 'Settings > System > Battery Saver'. Click 'Battery saver settings' to change the point where Battery Saver kicks in (it's 20 percent battery by default), plus configure which apps can continue to notify you even when it's running.

If you hate the new battery taskbar icon, restore the old one – edit the Registry by going to the 'HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\ImmersiveShell' key, and creating a new



Use a VPN if you plan to connect through open Wi-Fi hotspots

Disable the upgrade prompt via the Registry

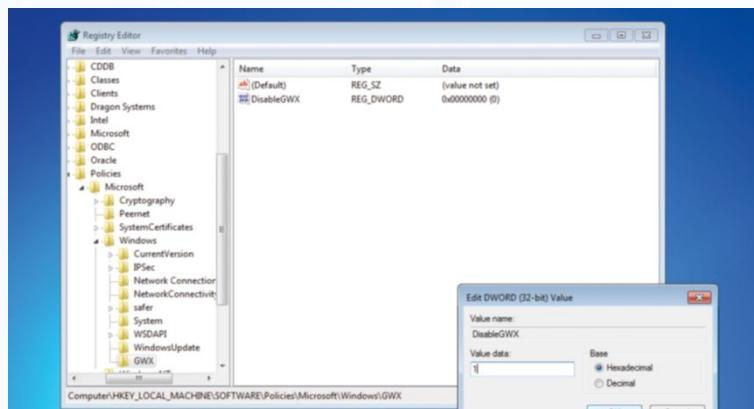
DWORD value 'UseWin32BatteryFlyout' with the value of 1, or use Ultimate Windows Tweaker 4 (<http://bit.ly/uwt-win10>), go to 'Customization > Windows 10', and deselect 'Use New Battery Flyout'.

## VIEW DRIVE USAGE

**10** Wondering what's taking up space on your hard drive? Browse to 'Settings > System > Storage', click on your target drive, and you'll see a colour-coded breakdown of what's where. Click on a section to drill down for more detail.

## SPEED UP CPU

**11** Make sure your CPU always runs at maximum by pressing the Windows button with [X] to open the Quick Access menu. Select 'Power Options' and switch to 'High performance'. Or click 'Change plan settings', then 'Change Advanced Power Settings > Processor power management > Minimum processor state' to set the value to 100 percent manually.



## Sticking with Windows 7?

There may be very good reasons why you've decided to turn your back on Windows 10. Your PC may not be compatible – even if the Windows upgrade tool tells you otherwise. Check with the manufacturer's website first, and Google your PC model to see if others have had issues. Or you may simply just be disinclined to upgrade because everything works, and you know Windows 7 inside out.

On the other hand, Windows 7 is in its 'extended support phase', which means there's no development or free support other than critical security hotfixes and patches, which will continue until January 14, 2020. There's also the fact you can take a full drive image and upgrade for free before July 29, give Windows 10 a try, then revert if you don't like it (the drive image is your fail-safe if 'Settings > Update & Security > Recovery' doesn't work).

If you have no intention of upgrading, you can disable Microsoft's annoying siren calls with two Registry tweaks. Go to 'HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows', and create a WindowsUpdate key inside it, then create a DWORD value inside that called 'DisableOSUpgrade', and set it to 1. Navigate back to the 'Windows' key and create a sub-key called 'GWX', inside which you create another DWORD value – 'DisableGWX' – and set it to 1. Reboot, and the nags should be gone.

# TWEAK YOUR SETTINGS

**12**

## ACCESSIBLE SETTINGS

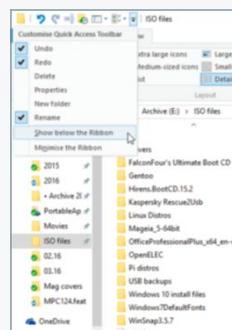
Got a favourite tweak you frequently find yourself burrowing into Settings to find? You can create a one-click shortcut to it in a number of different ways. First, you can pin it as a tile to the Start menu by finding it in 'Settings', then right-click its entry in the left-hand pane, and choosing 'Pin to Start'.

It's also possible to launch individual settings directly from the 'Start > Run' box, or create shortcuts to them on the desktop (right-click the desktop and choose 'New > Shortcut'). The format is pretty consistent – for example, 'ms-settings:display' opens the Display settings, while 'ms-settings:network-wifi' goes straight to the Wi-Fi section of 'Network & Internet'. You'll find a full list at <http://bit.ly/1MrIYqc>.

**13**

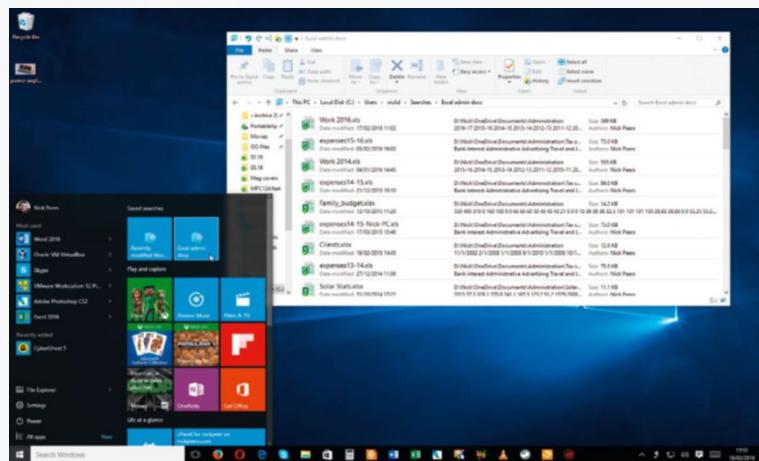
## PIN SEARCHES TO START

File Explorer's search tool is a powerful beast – for example, you can set up a search to reveal all the recently modified Word documents in a specified folder or drive by browsing to that



Place favourite ribbon commands on the Quick Access toolbar

Pin saved searches to the Start menu for quicker access



location in File Explorer, then typing `type:word datemodified:this week` into the Search box. Click 'Save search', give it a suitably descriptive name ('Recently modified Word documents', for example), and click 'Save' to add it to your Searches folder.

If you then browse to your user folder and open Searches, you can access that search – but make it even more accessible simply by right-clicking it and choosing 'Pin to Start'.

**14**

## TWEAK QUICK ACCESS

The Quick Access area now tries to juggle frequently and recently accessed folders with pinned folders of your choosing. Open File Explorer, switch to the 'View' tab, and click 'Options' to choose whether or not to display recent files and frequent folders here. You can also switch the starting point for all new File Explorer windows back to This PC from here, too, via the 'Open File Explorer to' drop-down menu.

**15**

## TIDY UP NAVIGATION

Too many items showing on the navigation pane? Browse to <http://winaero.com/download.php?view.1796> to download the free Winaero Tweaker tool. Launch the app, and select 'Default Items' under 'Navigation Pane'. Then simply deselect those items you don't want to see, such as 'Homegroup' or 'Removable Drives' (which show up under This PC anyway). Sign out and back in for the changes to take effect.

**16**

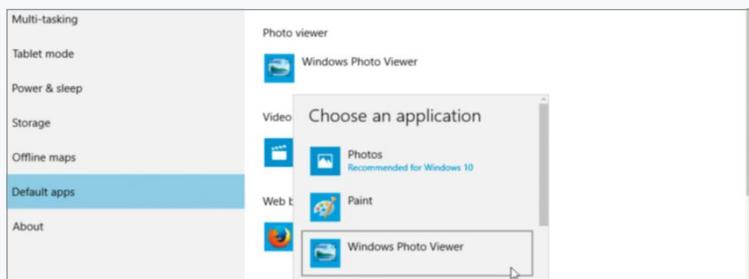
## USE QUICK ACCESS TOOLBAR

This isn't related to the Quick Access menu, but is a separate part of those windows with ribbons, such as File Explorer and Office. It enables you to place shortcuts to frequently used ribbon commands in a place you can get them. Just right-click the item in question, and choose 'Add to Quick Access Toolbar'. Up to seven items can be placed in the toolbar's default location before they disappear behind a '>' button – if you click the down arrow next to the toolbar and choose 'Show below the Ribbon', however, you can free up space to show dozens at once.

**17**

## CORTANA AND GOOGLE

Cortana might be focused on Bing tech, but that doesn't mean you have to put up with its choice of Bing when performing web searches. Make Firefox your default browser, and it automatically uses whichever search engine of choice you like. Sadly, that doesn't work for Chrome, but install the Chrometana extension, and you can choose an alternative from Google, Yahoo!, or DuckDuckGo. Opera users can also access Chrometana, but first you need to install the Download Chrome Extension add-on to open up access to the Chrome web store.



**18**

## RESTRICT YOUR CORTANA SEARCH

By default, Cortana favours web results over locally stored content when using generic search terms. You have to click 'My Stuff' to search locally. If you have no use for Cortana as a web search tool, disable it – open Cortana and click the notebook icon on the left before selecting 'Settings'. Flick the top switch to 'Off', which reveals a new switch: 'Search online and include web results'. Flick this to 'Off' and you'll see the search box now only says 'Search Windows', confirming it's no longer interested in the web.

## TIGHTEN PRIVACY

**19**

There are so many privacy holes in Windows 10, it can be difficult to know where to find them all.

Make the process of locking down your PC that much easier by downloading and running O&O ShutUp! ([www.oo-software.com/en/shutup10](http://www.oo-software.com/en/shutup10)). This free portable tool offers a one-click 'recommended settings', or you can manually configure which privacy settings to apply.

**20**

## SWITCH ON ONEDRIVE FETCH

Windows 10 restores OneDrive Fetch, a setting that gives you remote access to all your PC's files, not just those in OneDrive. Enable it on your PC by right-clicking the OneDrive taskbar notification area icon, and choosing 'Settings > Settings tab', then select 'Let me use OneDrive to fetch any of my files on this PC'. You can now log into OneDrive through any browser, click the '=' button, and select your PC under 'PCs'. If it's switched on and connected, you'll have access to your entire filesystem.

**21**

## LOOSEN ONEDRIVE AND OFFICE 365

OneDrive ties itself tightly into Office 365, trying to force you to default to your online storage rather than the physical file that's residing on your computer. You can tame it with a number of tweaks. First of all, open OneDrive's settings as per the previous tip, then deselect 'Use Office to work on files with other people at the same time'. It's also worth tweaking

Make Windows Photo Viewer the default in Windows 10

Linux Mint provides a familiar desktop environment

Office's own settings: select the 'File' tab, choose 'Options > Save'. Select 'Don't show the Backstage when opening or saving files', deselect 'Show additional places for saving', and finally, select 'Save to Computer by default', before clicking 'OK'.

**22**

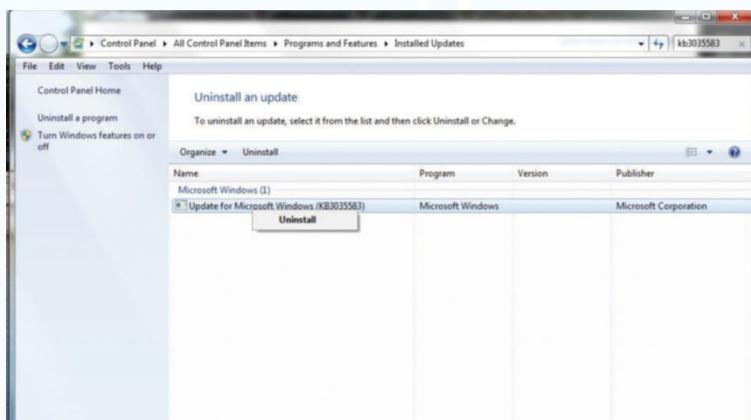
## CHANGE DOWNLOAD FOLDER

It's possible to change the default download folder for Edge, but you'll have to delve deep into the Registry. Alternatively, use Winaero Tweaker again – scroll to the bottom of the available tweaks, where there's an easy way to switch the folder.

**23**

## GRAB PHOTO VIEWER

To replace the Photos app with Windows Photo Viewer, fire up Ultimate Windows Tweaker again, switch to the 'Additional' section, and click 'Enable Windows Photo Viewer'. You should now be able to make it the default under 'Settings > System > Default apps'.



## Dealing with Windows updates

Many Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 owners have complained about being forced to update to Windows 10, often against their wishes. The story is they see a message on the screen telling them to restart, and do so without really paying attention to what it actually said, and the next thing they know, their whole system is being upgraded to Windows 10 and they better buckle in for the ride!

The first thing to say here is that there's nothing wrong with upgrading to Windows 10 – it's been well received as being a great replacement for Windows 7, and it's a lot better than Windows 8.1 was. However, if you don't want to upgrade you shouldn't be forced into it.

The update that does this is called KB3035583, and if you have automatic updates turned on by default it can suddenly appear as a clickable item on your taskbar. If you click on it then a program called GWX.exe launches to entice you to upgrade to Windows 10. If you want to stay on your previous version of Windows forever then you need to remove this update. You'll find it in 'Windows Updates', which you can locate by searching with the search bar. Click on 'Update History', then 'Installed Updates'. In the top right-hand search box do a search for 'KB3035583', and if it finds it then right-click on the update and choose the 'Uninstall' option. Follow any on-screen prompts, then click to restart your computer. On restart, go back to 'Windows Updates' and click 'Check for updates'. KB3035583 will appear. Right-click it and choose 'Hide Update'.

## ADVANCED TIPS AND TRICKS

### 24 RE-ROUTE APPS

If you're running out of space on your hard drive – or have a tablet with limited onboard storage – this next tweak enables you to instruct Windows 10 to install apps on another drive. Just navigate to 'Settings > System > Storage', and scroll down to the 'Save locations' section. Click the drop-down menu under 'New apps will save to', and select your target drive.

You can also move some (but not all) existing Windows Store apps, too, if space is particularly tight – switch to 'Apps & features', then click the app you'd like to transfer. If 'Move' isn't greyed out, click it, select your destination, and click 'Move' again.

### 25 ADD TABS TO FILE EXPLORER

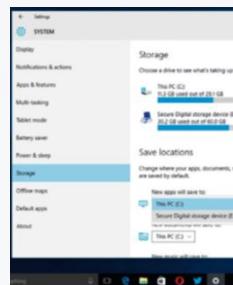
File Explorer in Windows 10 is a huge improvement over Windows 7 – there, we've said it. But it's still lacking in one key area – there's no tabbed support to prevent you cluttering up your desktop with multiple windows. Clover 3 is a free extension that basically adds Chrome-like tabs to File Explorer. Get it from [www.ejie.me](http://www.ejie.me).

### 26 START MENU FOLDER

Want to create your own folder in the 'All Apps' section of the Start menu? Click 'Start > Run', type %appdata% and hit Enter, then browse to 'Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs'. Create your custom folder inside here, then copy or move shortcuts to programs and apps from other folders to put them in one spot.

### 27 CREATE A GODMODE FOLDER

Right-click on the desktop and choose 'New > Folder'. Now enter the following, substituting 'GodMode' with whatever descriptive term you like:



Windows 10 enables you to move apps to another drive

'GodMode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}'. This provides you with a convenient one-stop shop for every Control Panel applet and option on your PC, complete with a search tool for super-fast access. Why not copy it to your new Start menu folder, pin it to the taskbar, or add it to the Windows Quick Access menu that appears when you press [Win]+[X]?

To do the latter, you need to employ the services of Win+X Menu Editor (<http://winaero.com/download.php?view.21>). You can also – with the help of Ultimate Windows Tweaker – place a shortcut in the desktop context menu (select 'All Tasks (God Mode)' under 'Context Menu > Desktop Context Menu').

### 28 FREE UP DRIVE SPACE

Just upgraded to Windows 10? Have no plans to roll back?

Free up gigabytes of drive space by opening File Explorer and verifying the existence of the 'Windows.old' folder in drive C. Now, right-click your C drive and choose 'Properties'. Click 'Disk Clean-up', wait for it to scan, and then click 'Clean up system files'. Select the 'Previous Windows installation(s)' entry.

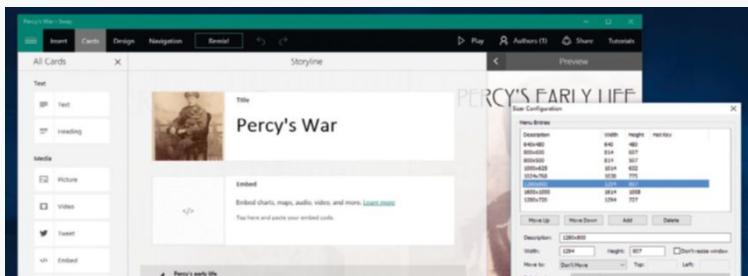
### 29 RECORD APP ACTIONS

It's well known that Windows 10's Game DVR function works across any Windows Store app – press the Windows button with [G] when inside your target app, and click 'Yes, this is a game' when prompted. If you plan to share your video with others, it makes sense to set it to the correct aspect ratio: 16:9 or 16:10 is usually best.

Doing this by hand is tricky, but use the free Sizer app ([www.brianapps.net](http://www.brianapps.net) – choose the beta of Sizer 3.4) to quickly resize any app or program window with a handy right-click in its bottom right-hand corner. Choose 'New Entry' to set up your custom size – owing to changes in Windows, make sure the actual width is 14 pixels wider than you want it to be, while the length

Snap up to four program windows in place





must be seven pixels longer (for example, 1280x800 should be entered as 1294x807).

## 30 UNLOCK CLIPBOARD SHORTCUTS

Windows 10 adds support for using [Ctrl]+[C] and [Ctrl]+[V] to copy and paste commands to and from the Command Prompt, but it's not always enabled by default. Switch it on by opening a Command Prompt window, then right-click the toolbar, choose 'Defaults', and select 'Enable Ctrl key shortcuts'.

## 31 PUT UPDATE IN ITS PLACE

Fed up with Windows Update always reminding you to update? Windows 10 Pro users get the best deal – you can revert to the 'notify me' approach: type **gpedit** into the Search box, and click 'Edit group policy'. Expand 'Administrative Templates > Windows Components' under 'Computer Configuration', and select 'Windows Update'. Click 'Configure Automatic Updates' on the right, select 'Enabled', then select option 2 or 3 to choose when to install updates after being notified. Click 'OK'.

## 32 REGISTRY QUICK SWITCH

Here's a handy tip when browsing the Registry. Many entries are duplicated between 'HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER' and 'HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE' hives, and if there's a corresponding entry in the other hive, you can jump to it by right-clicking the key, and choosing 'Go to'. Perfect if you've drilled down into the Registry only to find you picked the wrong hive.

## 33 EXPAND THE SEND TO MENU

Hold Shift as you right-click an item, choose 'Send To', and you'll reveal a cavalcade of additional options, mostly pointing to personal user folders. Manage Send To items via its own shell folder (type **shell:sendto** into the 'Run' dialog box), or use Send To Toys ([www.gabrieleponti.com/software](http://www.gabrieleponti.com/software)) to add more useful entries, such as transferring files or filenames to the clipboard, or an option to manually select the folder you wish to send the item to.

Resize windows precisely with just two clicks

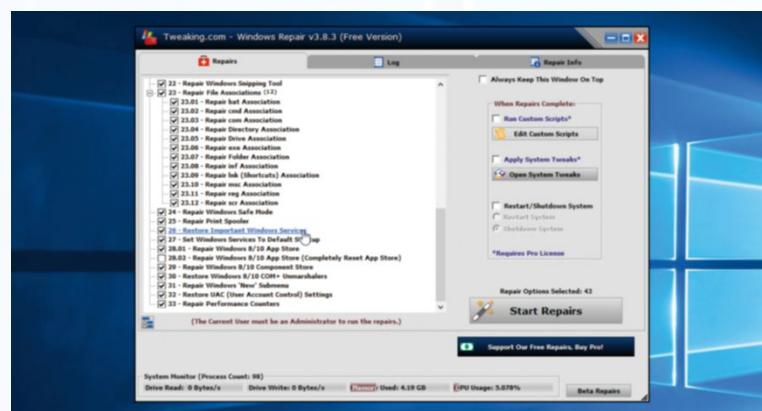
**Windows Repair Tool**  
is an essential troubleshooting aid

## 34 SNAP ASSIST

Windows 10's Snap Assist function extends the previous snapping capabilities – placing two windows side by side by dragging them to either side of the screen – to support three or four windows. Four windows can be dragged to opposite corners to take up a quarter of the screen space each, or you can combine the effect to place three windows together. Fine-tune how this feature works by visiting 'Settings > System > Multitasking', and experimenting with the switches.

## 35 ENCRYPT FILES – TWICE

The simplest way to protect data in the cloud is to add a second layer of encryption before you upload it to OneDrive (or whatever service you use). Viivo (<https://viivo.com>) offers a free-for-personal-use package that enables you to keep sensitive files away from prying eyes, while integrating neatly into Windows and your cloud provider. Pair it with the Viivo mobile app for access on the road.



## Fix Windows 10 problems

Avoiding problems in Windows is easier than dealing with them. This is where regular backups come into their own – Windows 10 includes Windows 7's Backup tool and Windows 8's File History, giving you the best of all worlds, although we also recommend Macrium Reflect Free ([www.macrium.com/reflectfree.aspx](http://www.macrium.com/reflectfree.aspx)) for taking full system images.

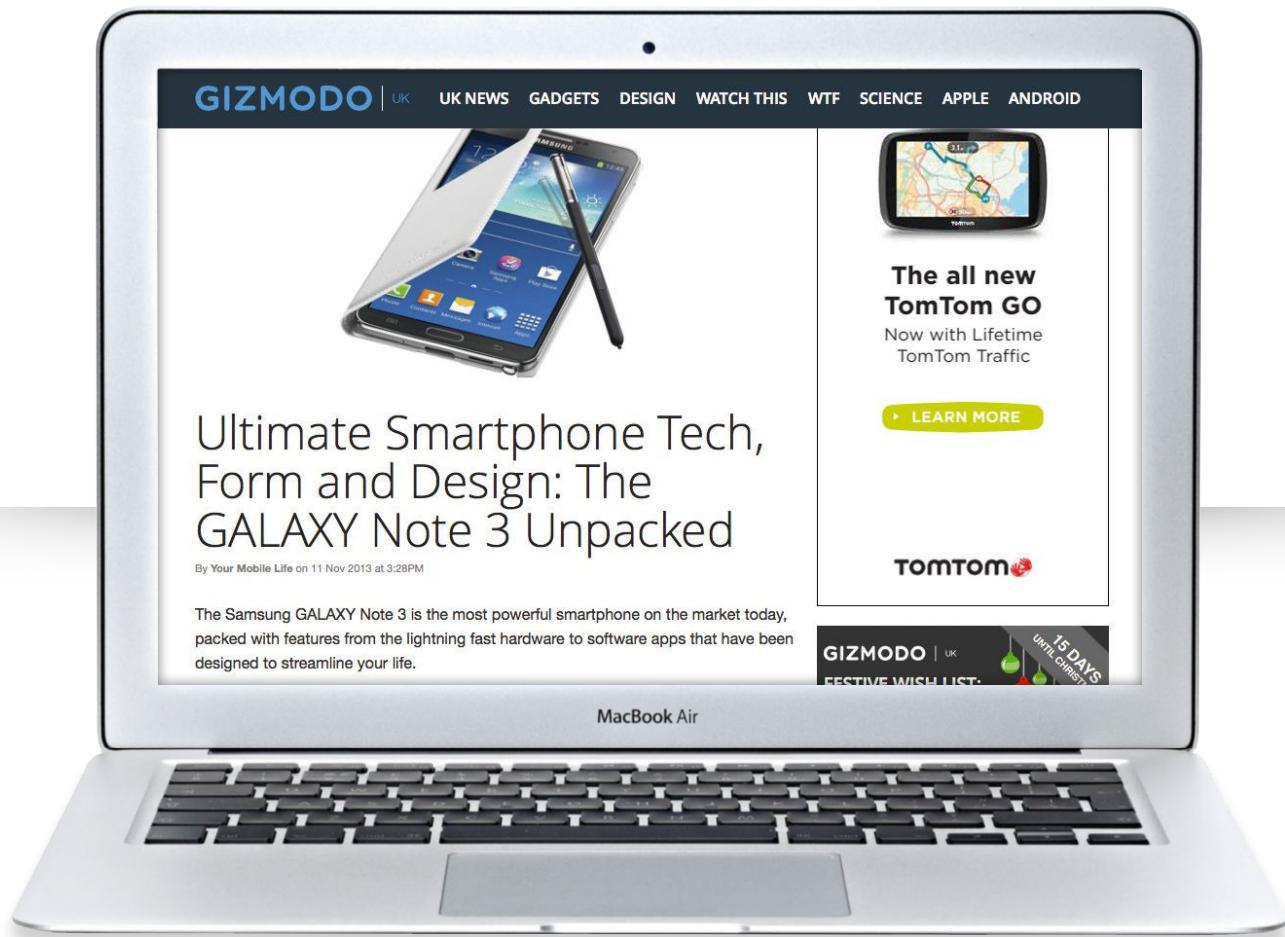
Make sure System Restore is switched on via the System Control Panel (type **restore** into the Cortana search box, then click 'Create a Restore point'). If you upgraded through Windows, create a system recovery drive (type **recovery** into the search box) to give you access to recovery options when Windows won't boot.

We also recommend the Windows Repair Tool from [www.tweaking.com](http://www.tweaking.com) – this contains one-click fixes and system tests that can resolve many issues, from permission glitches to problems accessing the Windows Store.

If you go to 'Settings > Update & Security > Recovery', you'll find a 'Reset this PC' option for major issues – you can keep your files, but no apps or settings. If you'd rather perform a repair install, you need the Media Creation Tool – follow the steps to 'upgrade' to Windows 10, which installs Windows over the top of itself, fixing many problems without losing all your carefully curated programs, apps, settings, and files in the process.

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# Explore

► WINDOWS TIPS ► INTERNET ADVICE ► EXCITING NEW PROJECTS

## Welcome



Whether you're stuck for inspiration or want to become a master of your

**Windows computer, our Explore section is the place to come.** Each month we pack in tutorials covering a range of subjects suitable for all levels of expertise.

This time we show you how to give Windows 10 a new look, and then how to work more efficiently in it. We go exploring through the Windows Store adding new apps. And finally, we demonstrate how easy it is to create your own blog. Enjoy and see you next time!

**Graham Barlow**

**Editor-in-chief**

graham.barlow@futurenet.com

## Full listing...

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**30** Get started with blogging from your Windows PC

**32** Streamline Windows 10 for slicker and smarter working

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Your guide  
*Tim Hardwick* says...  
"There's nothing to stop you transforming your desktop..."  
*Turn to page 26 for more*



## Our promise to you...

Get more from Windows, software and all your favourite sites

### Packed with informative tutorials

Every issue, we guarantee to pack the magazine with great tutorials teaching you all the best things you can do with your PC. Each article features step-by-step instructions to make learning new skills fast and enjoyable.

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We all know how to do the basics but getting the most from Windows isn't always easy. Our dedication to the operating system means you get the very best tips and tricks for all versions of Windows.

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We all have our list of favourite sites but often we miss out on great features because they're difficult to use or hidden from sight. We'll show you how to do more online, for a more satisfying web life.

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From speed-up and security software to superb photo apps, there's always something new to try on your PC. The Windows Store in Windows 10 and Windows 8.1 is packed with software to download.



Learn how to...

# Give Windows a new look



Your guide **Tim Hardwick** says...

"Spruce up Windows 10 and make it more inviting by customising its settings"

## At a glance

### Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

### Suitable for...

Windows 10

Windows 8.1

Windows 7

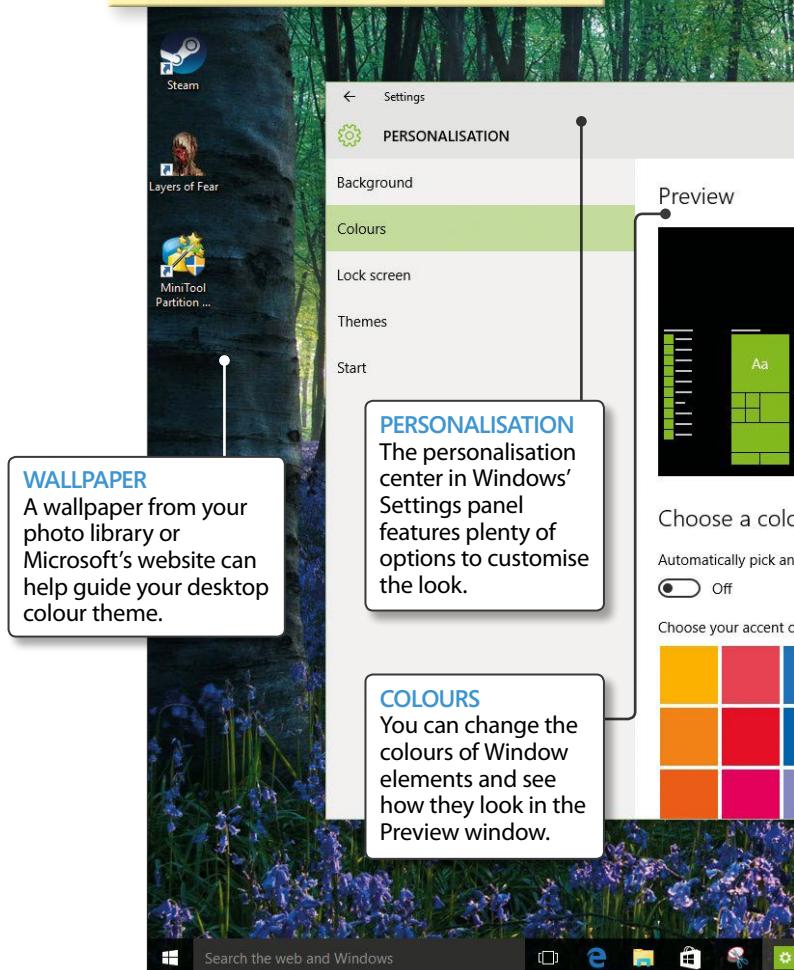
**T**here's nothing wrong with the way Windows 10 looks out of the box, but after living with its understated blue aesthetic for a while, things can start to look a bit dull. Thankfully, there's nothing to stop you brightening things up and transforming the appearance of the desktop, thanks to a number of built-in display options.

Windows 10's settings allow you to change window, Taskbar, Start menu and Action Center colours, but that's not all. A number of desktop themes are also available for you to choose from, meaning with the right choice of desktop background wallpaper, you can tune your system's overall look to suit. We'll also touch on a great third-party desktop tool called Rainmeter that lets you customise your desktop in ways that aren't otherwise be possible. Let's take a look.



### TIM'S BEST TIP!

If your PC has a touchscreen, try out Tablet mode ('Settings > System > Tablet mode') for an altogether different visual experience.

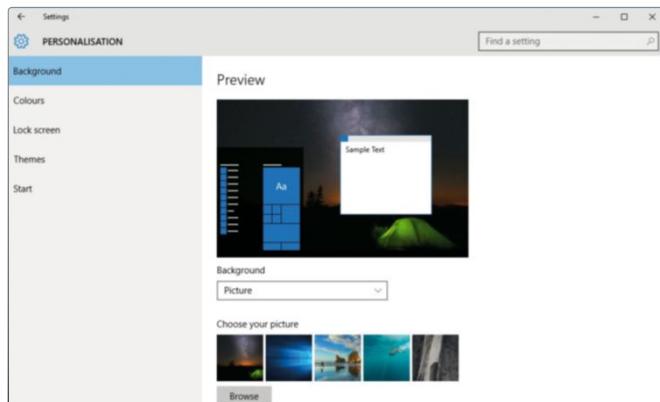
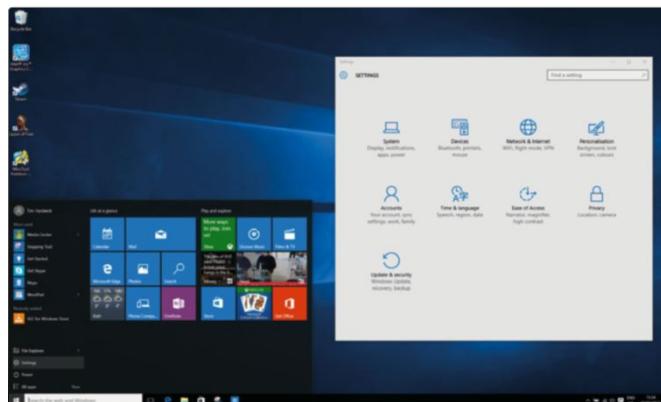


**WALLPAPER**  
A wallpaper from your photo library or Microsoft's website can help guide your desktop colour theme.

**PERSONALISATION**  
The personalisation center in Windows' Settings panel features plenty of options to customise the look.

**COLOURS**  
You can change the colours of Window elements and see how they look in the Preview window.

## Step-by-step | Customise Windows 10's visual appearance

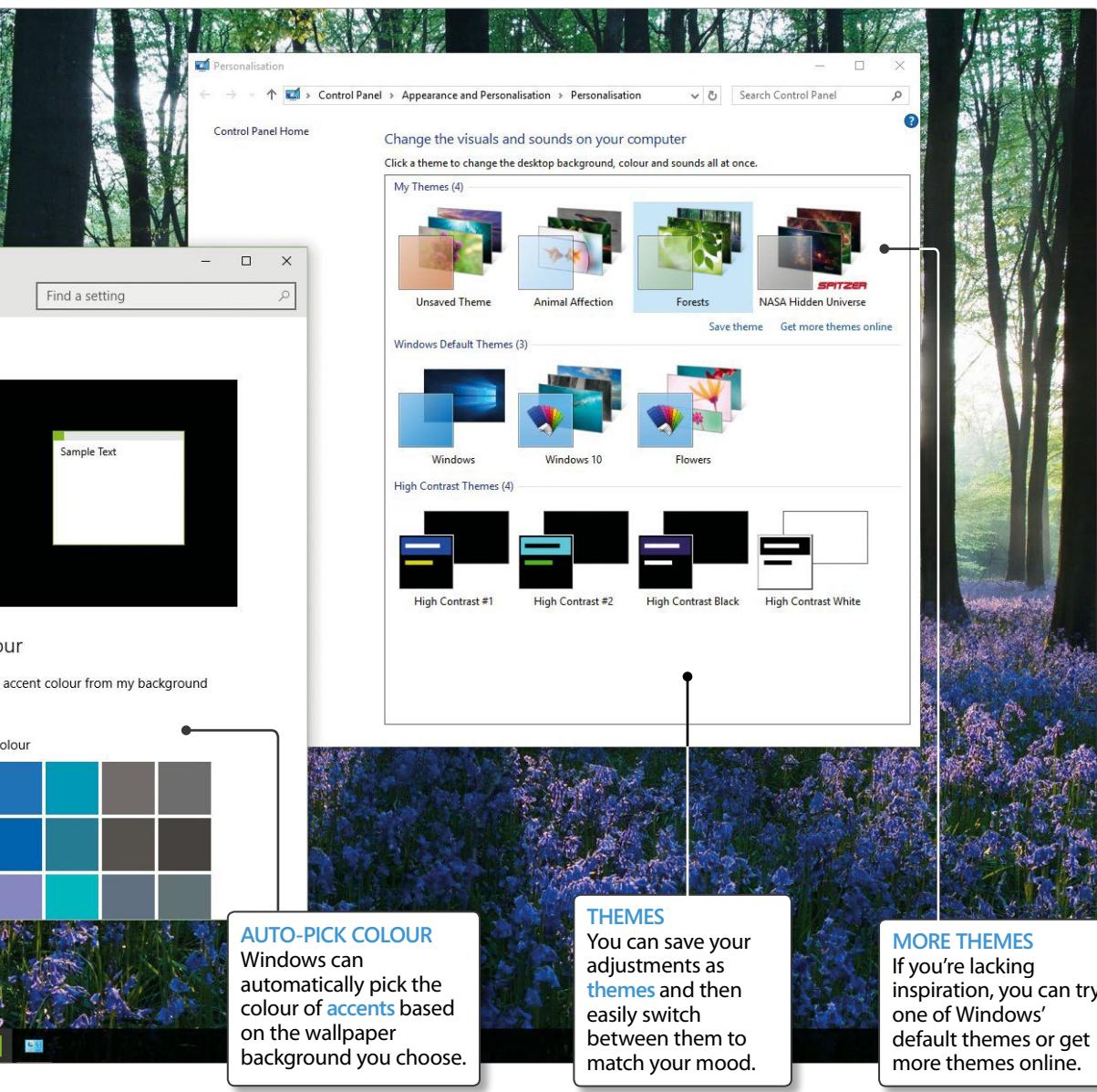


### 1 Personalisation

When it comes to changing the appearance of Windows 10, your first port of call should be its built-in personalisation options. To access them, open up the Windows Start menu and select 'Settings', followed by 'Personalization' in the 'Settings' window. Here is where you'll find a number of option screens including for 'Background', 'Colors', 'Lock screen', 'Themes' and 'Start'.

### 2 Pick a wallpaper

The first setting screen lets you change your desktop background. There are a number of pre-installed backgrounds that you can choose from in the picture row. Alternatively, you can use one of your own photos by clicking the 'Browse' button and navigating to the file. If you're short on inspiration, Microsoft offers additional free wallpapers online at <http://windows>.



## Jargon buster!

### ► Accents

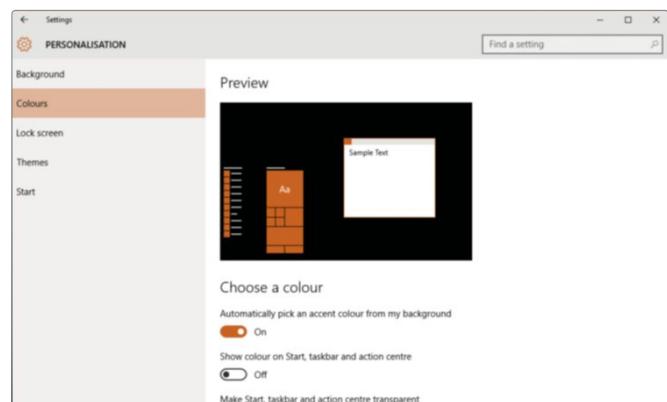
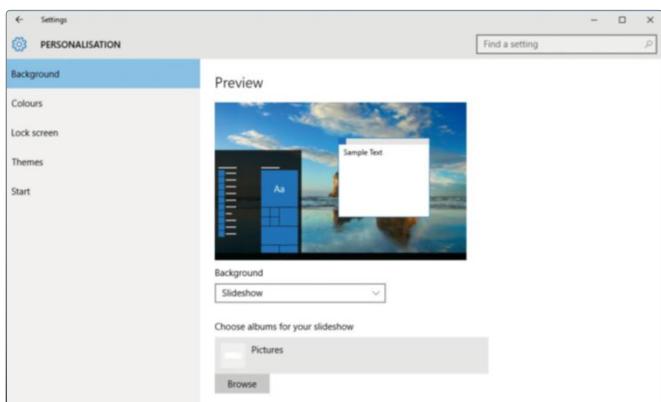
Elements in a desktop window that take a different colour to create internal organisation or indicate user functions.

### ► Themes

Built-in visual settings that collectively change the desktop background, colour and system sounds in Windows 10.

### ► Desktop skin

A user-customised desktop made in Rainmeter that may include functional elements like to-do lists and news feeds.

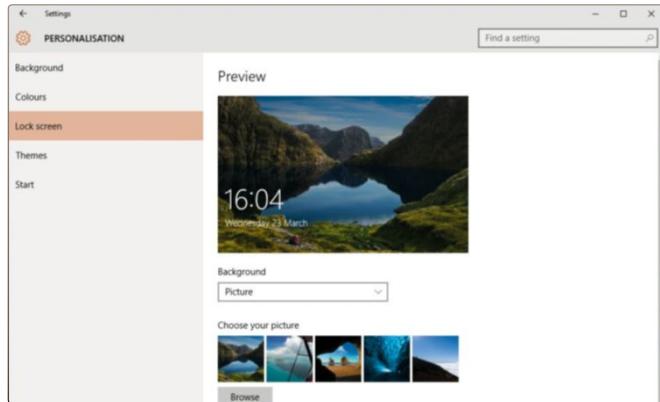
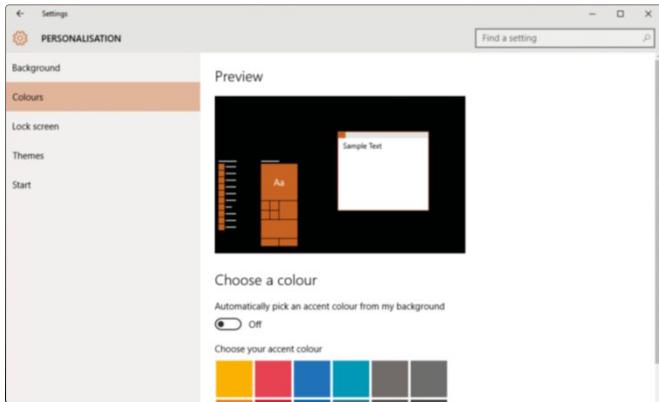


### 3 More background settings

If you're struggling to settle on the perfect desktop background image, try a slideshow instead. Once you've picked which images to include, you can set a display duration for each picture. Here, we've opted to have the wallpaper change every 30 minutes. Finally, select how Windows should fit your pictures from the 'Choose a fit' dropdown.

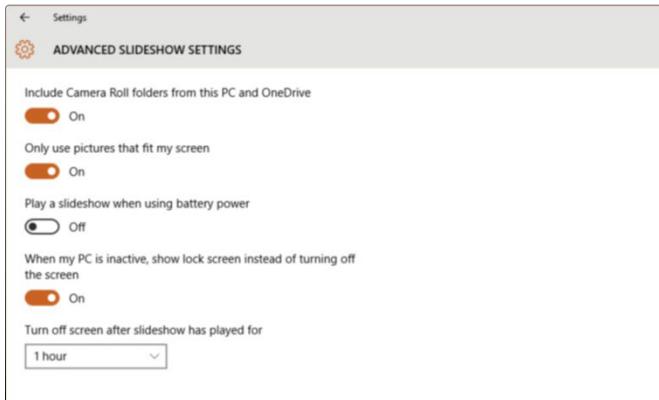
### 4 Changing colours

If you don't want a picture on your desktop you can fill it with a solid colour via the 'Background' menu. When you've chosen a colour, select the 'Colours' menu from the left-hand pane. Here you can choose an 'accent' colour (accents are highlighted elements) or let Windows select one for you. It will find a tone that complements your wallpaper.



## 5 Custom accents

If you're not happy with the accent colour Windows selects, turn off the automatic feature by clicking the switch, and pick your own. Below the colour palette you'll find an option to extend your colour choice to the Start menu, Taskbar and Action Center. There's also an option to make elements transparent, which can improve display performance on systems with older graphics.



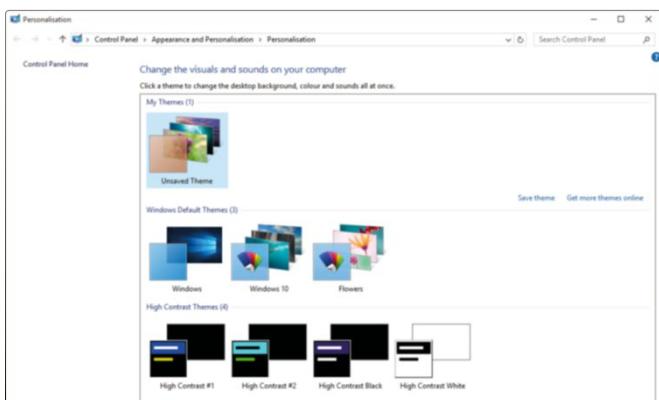
## 6 Lock screen

The next item in the left-hand panel extends your personalisation options to the lock screen. Here you can choose which image is displayed when you're not using your PC. You can also set up a slideshow in the same manner as your desktop wallpaper – choose which images to include by selecting them individually or by pointing Windows to a folder of pictures.



## 7 Advanced slideshow

Click 'Advanced slideshow settings' and you'll see a few more useful options for your slideshow. You can choose to include your camera roll, use only pictures that fit the screen, and whether or not to show the lock screen when the PC is inactive. The last option also enables you to set the screen to turn off after a certain amount of time has passed, or not at all.



## 8 Screensaver panel

The rest of the Lock screen options relate to app status updates, except for a link to the screensaver control panel. Anyone familiar with the old Windows XP screensaver options should feel at home, since little has changed. Select a screensaver from the dropdown, preview it, choose how long to wait before it's displayed, and configure other settings via the 'Settings...'.



## 9 Windows Themes

Back in the 'Personalisation' settings, click the next option in the left-hand panel called 'Themes'. Themes change the look of Windows wholesale, and affect not only desktop background and colours, but also system sounds. Click the 'Theme settings' link and you'll be taken to the Control Panel, where you can pick from existing themes, get more themes online or create your own.

## 10 Rainmeter tool

If you've exhausted Windows' native personalisation options and want more control, download Rainmeter from [www.rainmeter.net](http://www.rainmeter.net). This free tool allows you to 're-skin' Windows and totally change its appearance; it even lets you add 'applets' to your wallpaper for a more functional desktop. There are thousands of pre-made **skins** available thanks to the Rainmeter community. ■

# Mac Format

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*Learn how to...*

# Get blogging from your Windows PC



Your guide *Cat Ellis* says...

"It's now easier than ever to share your hobbies, interests and passions with these brilliant free blogging tools"

## At a glance

### Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

### Suitable for...

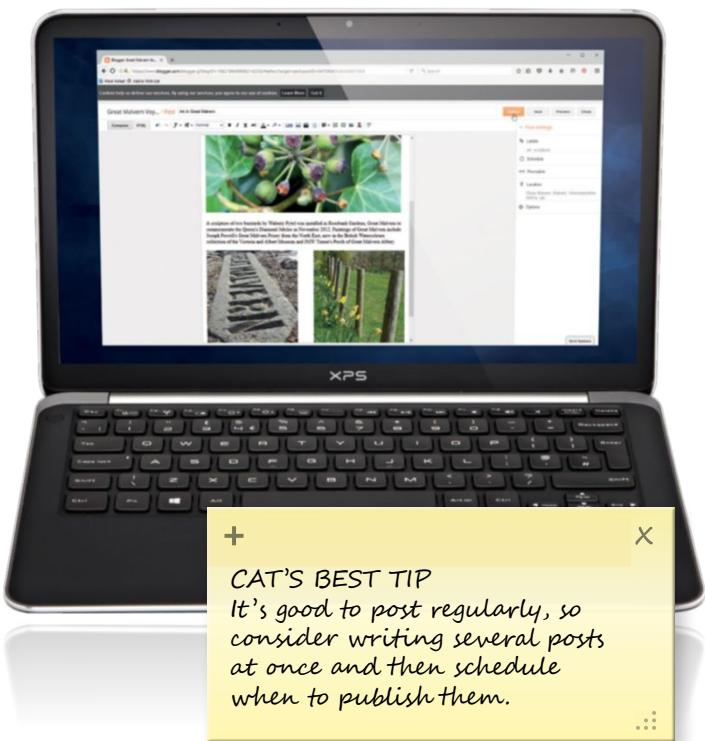
Windows 10

Windows 8.1

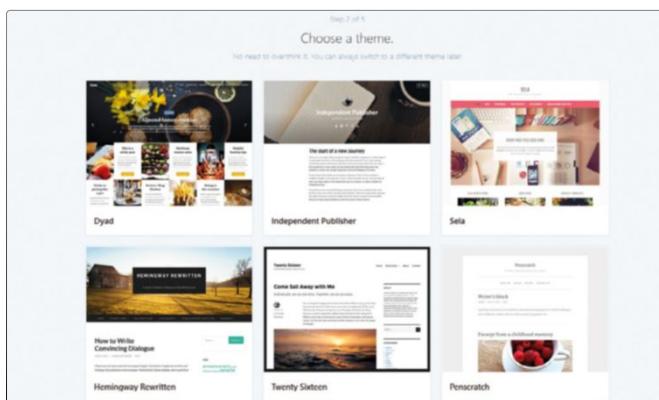
Windows 7

The internet is packed with passionate people sharing tips, advice and much more about their favourite pastimes. And thanks to free blogging tools, you can also become part of that vibrant community of enthusiasts with just a few clicks of your mouse.

We're going to look at three of the best blogging platforms – Wordpress, Blogger and Weebly – all of which have their own special features and options. Roughly speaking, Weebly is the most straightforward of the three, letting you drag and drop images and text into place, whereas Wordpress and Blogger require a little more effort, but provide more advanced features (including scheduling, tagging and more). None of these tools will cost you a penny though, and you'll be ready to make your first blog post in just a few minutes. You've got something to say, so here's how to say it!

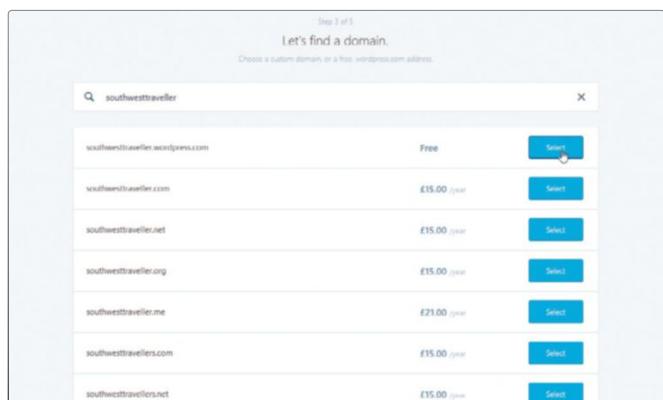


## Step-by-step | Start your own blog



### 1 Get started with Wordpress

First, let's try blogging with Wordpress. Go to [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com) and click 'Create website' to get started. Choose a topic (we've selected 'Family, Home and Lifestyle' > 'Travel') and you'll be presented with a selection of templates for your new blog. You can always pick a different one later, but think about the type of content you're going to be posting when you choose one.

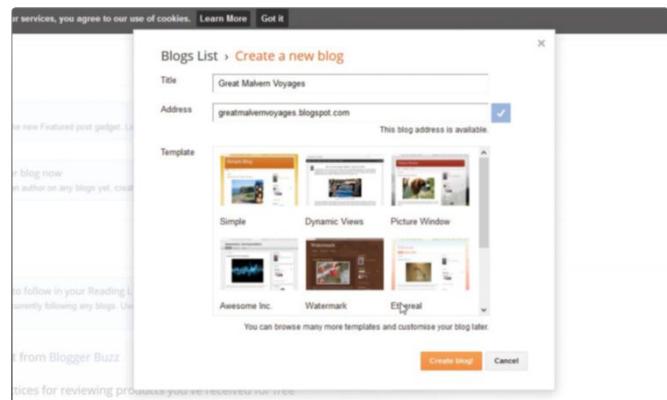
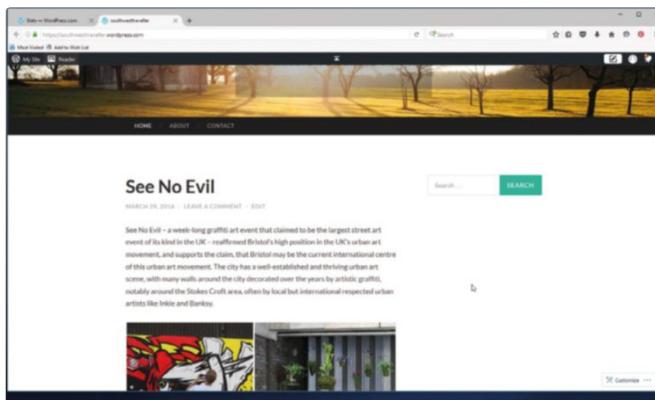


Domain	Price	Action
southwesttraveller.wordpress.com	Free	Select
southwesttraveller.com	£15.00/year	Select
southwesttraveller.net	£15.00/year	Select
southwesttraveller.org	£15.00/year	Select
southwesttraveller.me	£21.00/year	Select
southwesttravellers.com	£15.00/year	Select
southwesttravellers.net	£15.00/year	Select

### 2 Pick a domain and plan

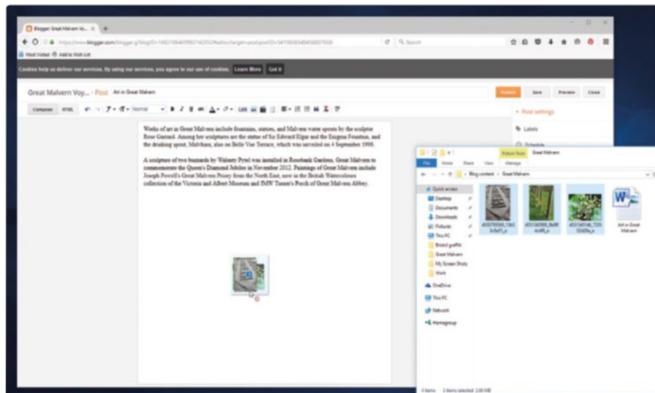
You now need to choose a domain for your blog. You can pay for a '.com' web address, or use Wordpress's free option, which ends in '.wordpress.com'. Type in the address you'd like, to see which options are available (with variations if your chosen name is taken). Next, select the plan and create an account using the form provided, then verify your email address.

# Explore Blogging from Windows



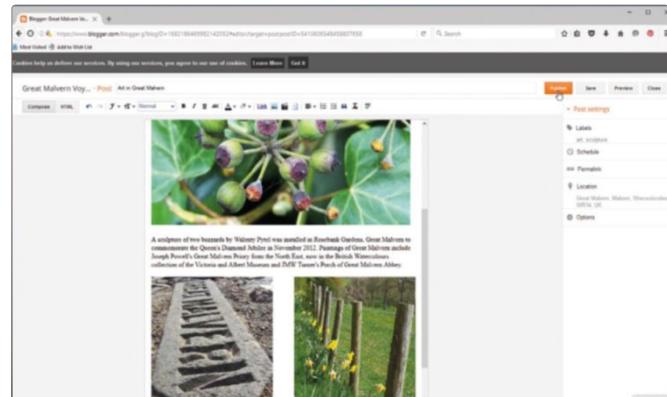
## 3 Make your first post

You can now see your new blog! To get started, select 'Add' beside 'Blog posts' from the menu on the left. Type a title, then enter the text for your post. To include photos in your post, click the 'Add media' button on the left, then click 'Upload media', choose the pictures from your PC, decide how to arrange them and click 'Insert'. Once you're happy, click 'Publish'.



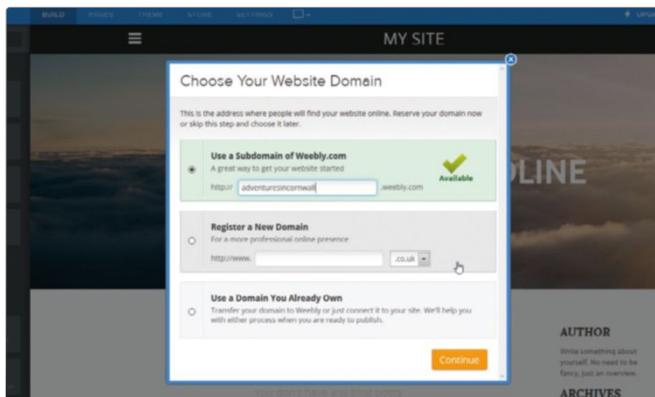
## 4 Begin with Blogger

Blogger is owned by Google, so if you already have a Google account then you won't need to register again – simply go to [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) and sign in. Confirm that you want to post using your Google account, then click the 'New blog' button. As with Wordpress, you'll need to enter suitable a title and domain, and choose a template from the selection provided.



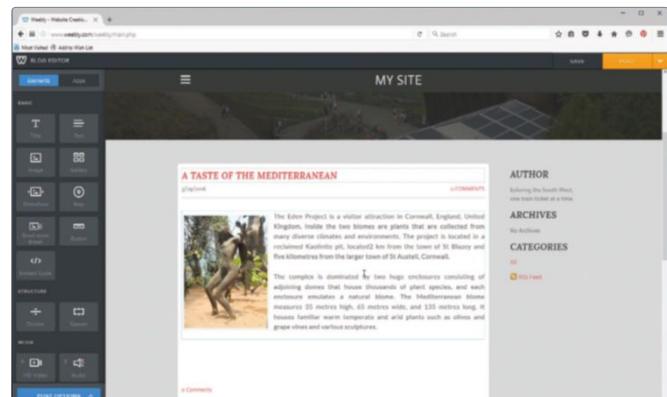
## 5 Write a Blogger post

Select 'Posts' from the menu on the left, then click 'Create a new post'. The page you'll see next looks and works much like a document in Microsoft Word. Enter a title for your post, then type your text in. Adding pictures is simpler in Blogger than Wordpress – you can drag each file straight from your desktop into the editing window, then use the options to resize and position it.



## 6 Labels, places and scheduling

Adding labels will make it possible for readers to find posts by topic once your blog has plenty of content. Select 'Labels' from the left-hand menu and enter a few topics, separated by commas. You can also use this menu to set a location for your post (ideal if you're starting a travel blog) and to schedule when your post should be published. Once you've finished, click 'Publish'.



## 7 Work with Weebly

Getting started with Weebly only takes a moment – go to [www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com), click 'Sign up' and log in with either your Facebook or Google account. Now pick a theme from the list of blog templates. As before, bear in mind the type of posts you'll be making – will they mostly feature pictures or text? Choose a domain and you're ready to get creative.

## 8 Drag, drop and publish

Enter a title for your blog, then type a little bit about yourself in the 'Author' box. Weebly uses a drag-and-drop interface for creating posts. Click the 'New post' button, type a title, then drag the 'Text' element underneath and type your content. Images, maps and other elements are also added by dragging them into place. Once you're happy, click 'Post'.

# Learn how to... Streamline Windows 10



Your guide [Alex Cox](#) says...

"With just a little effort, you can make Windows 10 slicker, faster and easier to use"

## At a glance

### Skill level...

Anyone can do it

- Straightforward
- Tricky in parts

### Suitable for...

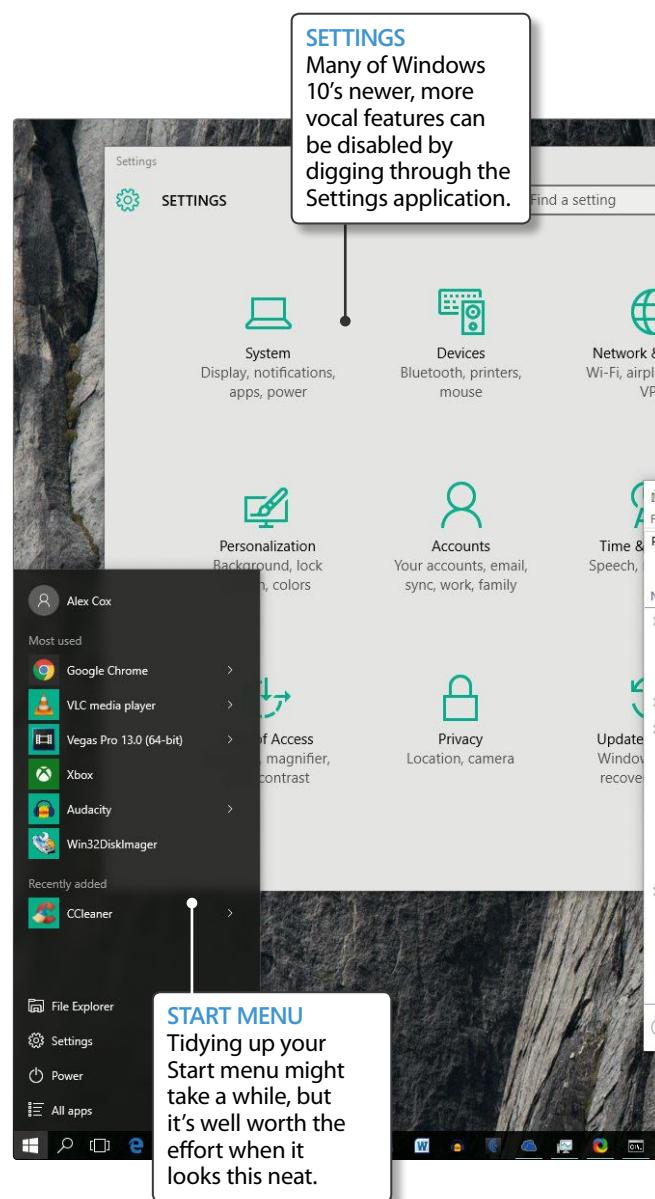
Windows 10

Windows 8.1

Windows 7

**N**ot all computers fare particularly well in their transition to Windows 10. The promised quick, clean environment and super-fast boot time might not have materialised. Or there might be as much clutter as there was before, if not more. And for the majority who have had a pleasant Windows 10 experience, you could make it even better still.

Here we'll speed up your system and clean it up at the same time. We'll disable some of Windows 10's less-essential features, clear away unwanted clutter, and make sure you're only running the programs you need at startup. You should end up with a faster boot time and a much more elegant experience. And since most of the things we're going to do are non-destructive, you'll be able to switch back the changes at any time if you miss certain features.



**SETTINGS**  
Many of Windows 10's newer, more vocal features can be disabled by digging through the Settings application.

**System**  
Display, notifications, apps, power

**Devices**  
Bluetooth, printers, mouse

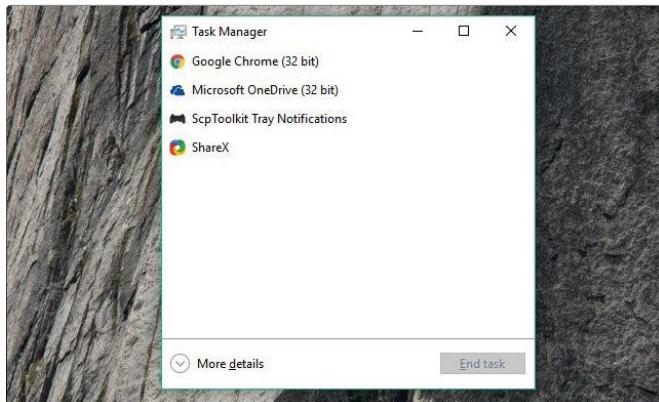
**Personalization**  
Background, lock screen, colors

**Accounts**  
Your accounts, email, sync, work, family

**Privacy**  
Location, camera

**START MENU**  
Tidying up your Start menu might take a while, but it's well worth the effort when it looks this neat.

## Step-by-step | Clean your Windows 10 system



### 1 Start attack

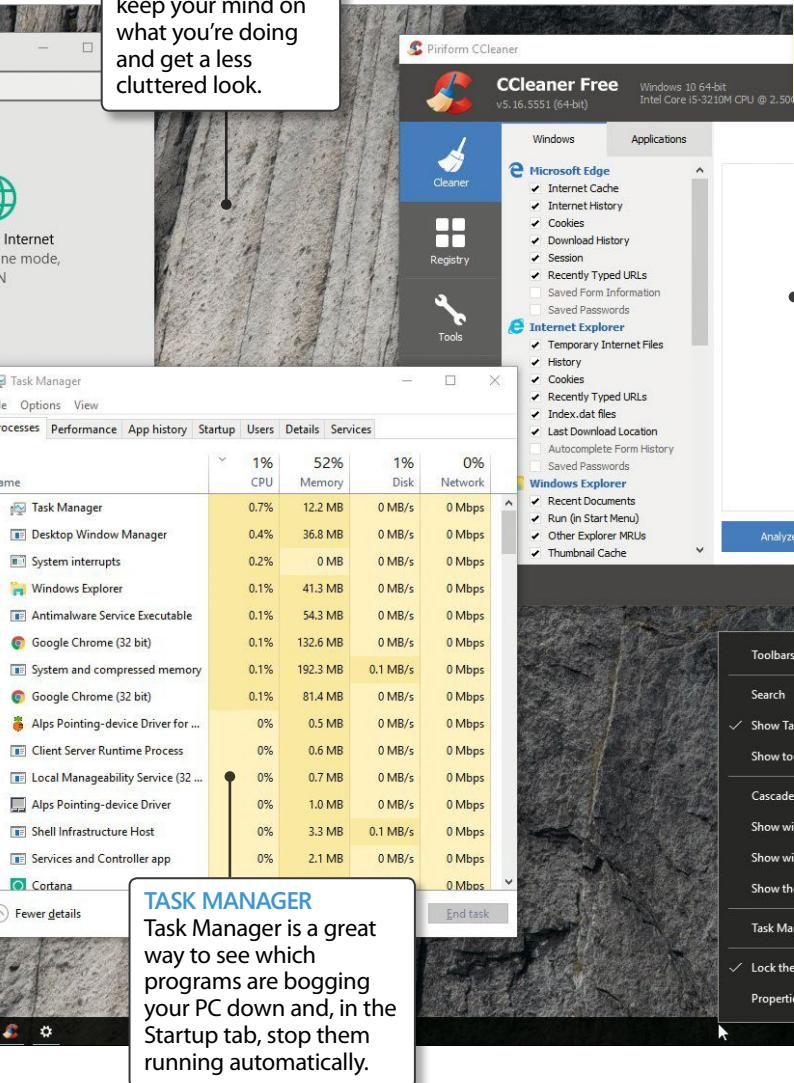
If you've upgraded or picked up a new PC with Windows 10 preinstalled, it's likely a number of existing programs will run at startup. Each one of these takes time to load, contributing to that laboured power on sequence. Hit [Ctrl]+[Shift]+[Esc] to open Task Manager, click the arrow to see more information, then click the Startup tab to see the offenders.

Name	Publisher	Status	Startup impact
Google Drive	Google	Enabled	Not measured
IDT PC Audio	IDT, Inc.	Enabled	Not measured
iTunesHelper	Apple Inc.	Enabled	Not measured
McAfee Security Scanner Scheduler	McAfee, Inc.	Enabled	Not measured
Microsoft Windows Based Script Host	Microsoft Corporation	Enabled	Not measured
Microsoft OneDrive	Microsoft Corporation	Enabled	Not measured
Monitor Application	LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc.	Enabled	Not measured
QuickSet	Dell Inc.	Enabled	Not measured
ScpToolkit Tray Notifications	Scarlet.Crush Productions	Enabled	Not measured
SpotifyWebHelper	Spotify Ltd	Enabled	Not measured
TightVNC Server	GlasSoft LLC.	Enabled	Not measured
Unified Remote	Unified Intents AB	Enabled	Not measured
Virtual CloneDrive Daemon	Elaborate Bytes AG	Enabled	Not measured
Webcam Central	Creative Technology Ltd	Enabled	Not measured
Wondershare Studio	Wondershare	Enabled	Not measured

### 2 Choose your victims

You'll see a whole list of programs, the majority of which you've probably never used. So, with the exception of your anti-virus software, you're safe to disable as many as you like. Reboot your machine, and you should notice the difference. If you disable something then find you need it, head back to Task Manager to switch it back on again.

**NO ICONS**  
Hiding your desktop icons means you can keep your mind on what you're doing and get a less cluttered look.



**ALEX'S BEST TIP!**  
What's slowing down your PC? Check Task Manager, and sort by the CPU or Memory columns to find out.

**CCLEANER**  
Sometimes special measures are required. CCleaner can do away with certain things Windows would rather you keep.

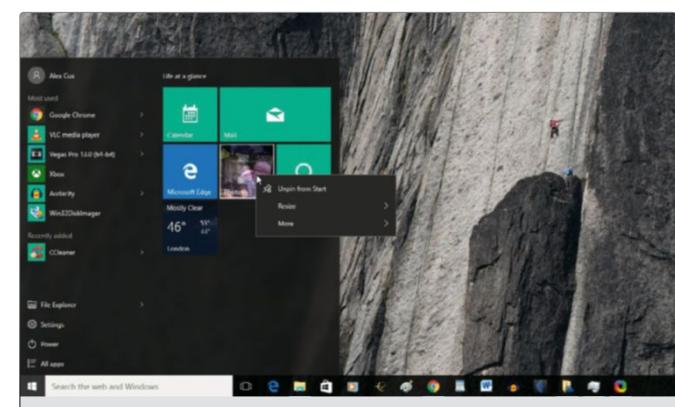
**► Uninstall**  
Removing software completely from your computer. This usually deletes all of its files, including those stored away from the program's main folder, and cleans references to the software from your PC.

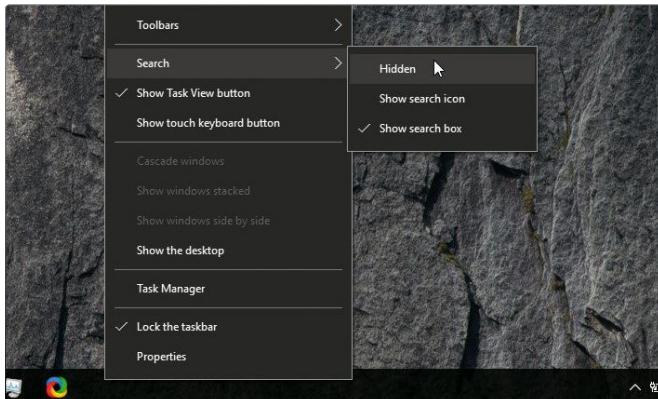
**► Live Tiles**  
Windows 10's big, bright icons. These sometimes display up-to-date information, and usually lead to built-in programs.

**► Third-party**  
Applications made by a company other than Microsoft.

## Jargon buster!

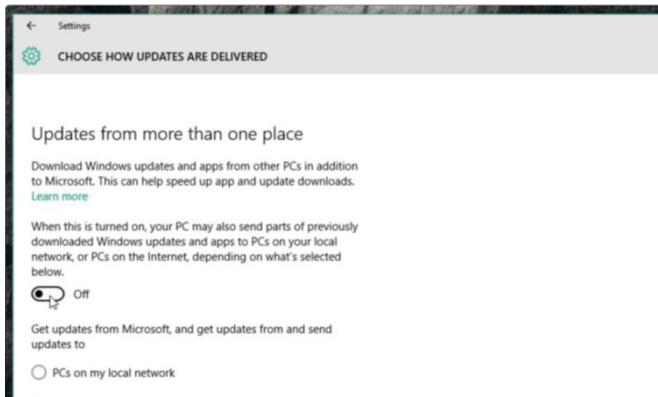
**TASKBAR SETTINGS**  
Gain extra screen space with a smaller taskbar and do away with that ugly search box using its right-click menu.





## 5 Search silence

The gigantic search box at the bottom left of the screen isn't to everyone's taste, but it's easy to switch off. Right click an empty area of the taskbar, select 'Search', then 'hidden' to do away with it. You can also select the 'Properties' menu and use it to switch on small taskbar icons for a sleeker look that saves screen space and shrinks the search box down to a single small icon.



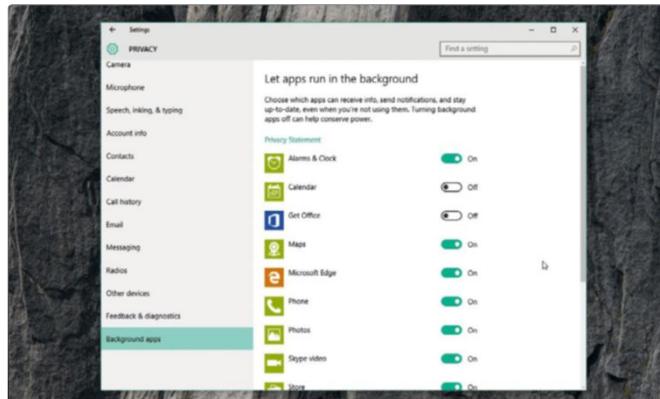
## 7 Bandwidth practice

Head back to the settings screen and go to 'Update & Security'. From the Windows Update tab click 'Advanced options' then 'Choose how updates are delivered'. Here you'll find a toggle switch for Microsoft's new peer-to-peer update sharing service, which uses your internet connection to send updates to other Windows 10 users. Switch it off for a little more internet speed.



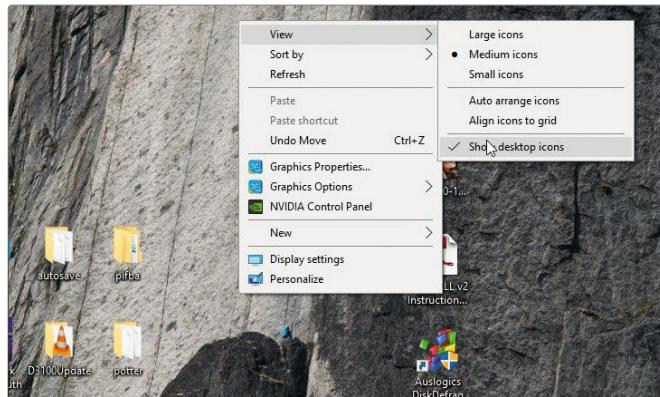
## 9 Enter the cleaner

Our final bit of housecleaning involves an old favourite third-party program, CCleaner Free, which you can download from [www.piriform.com/ccleaner](http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner). Not only is it great at scouring away the unwanted stuff lurking beneath Windows 10, you can also use it to do away with those useless apps that Microsoft insist must remain installed.



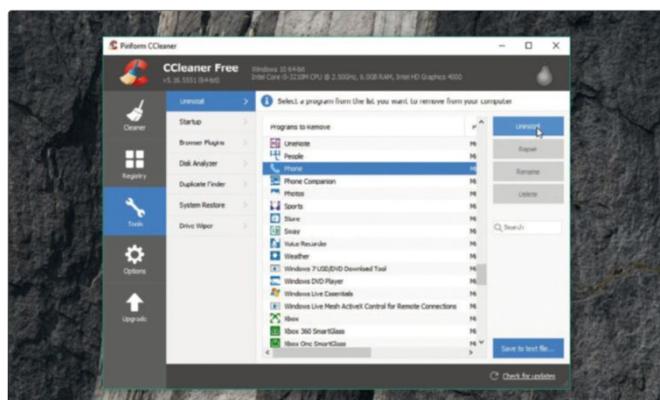
## 6 Background bother

Now let's search for a little more performance. While earlier we switched off auto-running [third-party](#) apps, Microsoft also automatically runs some of its own apps in the background. Click the Start, Settings, Privacy or Background apps to see the list, and use the toggle switches to disable them. This has the benefit of reducing a few of Windows 10's more pestering pop-ups.



## 8 Hiding icons

If you're like us, you have a messy desktop cluttered with files and icons. There's no need to delete them all – you can clean up that desktop to just your wallpaper in a couple of clicks. Right-click an area of empty space, go to the View menu and deselect 'Show Desktop icons'. When you need to see your stuff again, view it through File Explorer, or reverse the process.



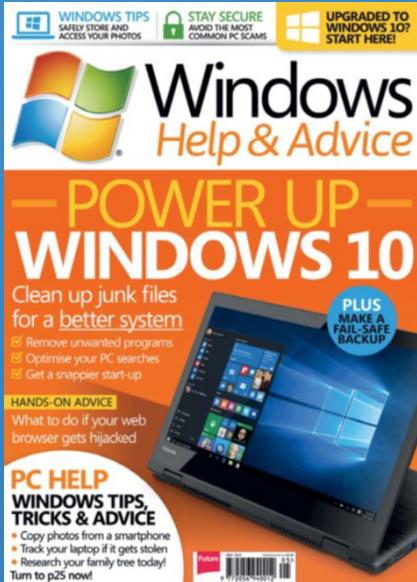
## 10 A full clean

In CCleaner's tools tab, seek out the built-in Windows 10 apps you wish to remove, click them, then click 'Uninstall'. Be careful, as you can remove semi-essential tools like the Windows Store and it's very difficult to replace them later on. Finish off by running CCleaner's 'Cleaner' function (select it in the left menu) to wipe away just about everything we haven't already covered. ■

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Learn how to...

# Make Windows 10 work harder for you



Your guide *Nick Odantzis* says...

"Windows 10 is a powerhouse of productivity, but you can make it even more potent with these amazing tips"

## At a glance

### Skill level...

Anyone can do it

#### ► Straightforward

Tricky in parts

### Suitable for...

 Windows 10

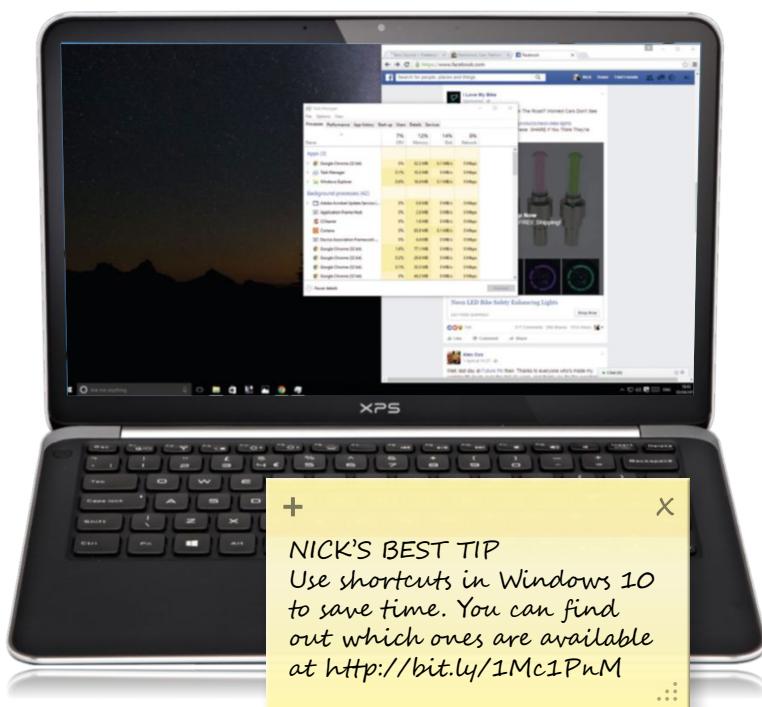
 Windows 8.1

 Windows 7

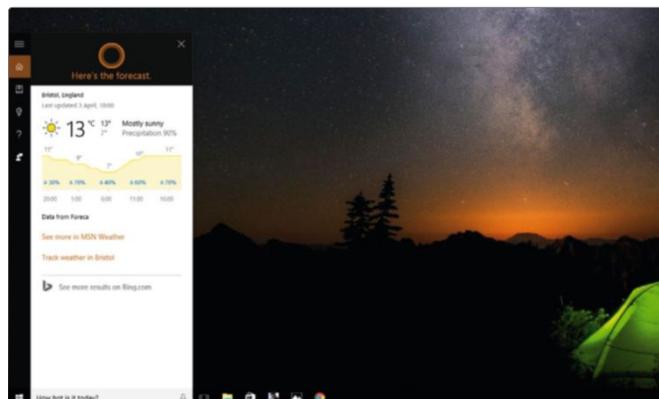
**W**indows 10 is designed for getting stuff done, whether it's writing documents, sending emails or editing pictures. In fact, it will do most things you ask of it, getting your work done in the best way possible, as well as including many improvements to productivity, allowing you to access things faster and easier than ever before.

However, that's not to say it can't be improved further – the default settings in Windows 10 are designed for the majority of people, but everyone's needs are unique. You can make Windows 10 better suited to your particular needs with just a few simple tweaks.

In this tutorial – the first half of a productivity tips series – we're going to show you how to do just that, so you'll get things done faster and smarter. See you next issue for more essential advice!

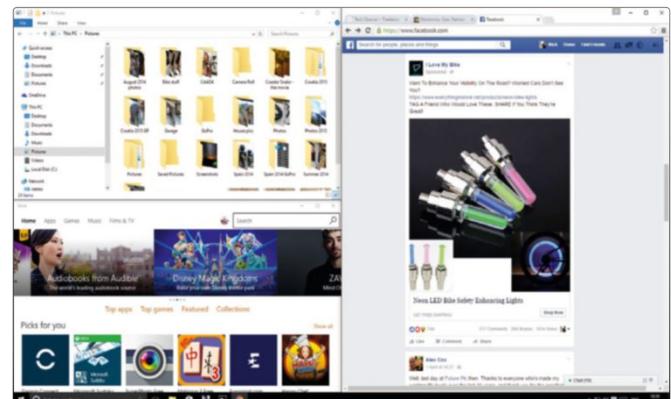


## Step-by-step | Top Windows 10 productivity tips



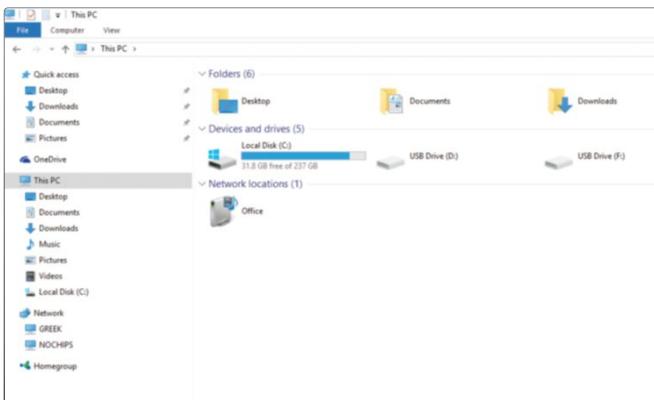
### 1 Say it with words

Use your voice to find what you need on your PC. To start using Cortana – the voice assistant in Windows 10 – click inside the search box on the Taskbar. If you've never used it before, hit 'Start > Use Cortana'. To ask it a question, click the microphone symbol by the search box. You can find out some of the things to ask Cortana in the Tips & Tricks section of the search function.



### 2 Snap to it

Working on multiple windows can be tiresome if you have to always swap between them. But multi-tasking is easier with Snap View, which allows you to see up to four windows at the same time on screen. To snap windows into place, click and hold the top of a windows with the left mouse button and drag a window to an area of the screen; either to one side or in a corner.



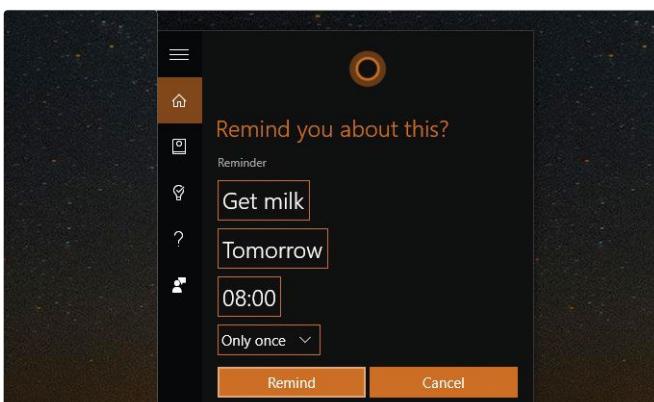
### 3 Use File Explorer

Windows is getting easier to use, and the latest iteration is probably the most straightforward yet, with many of the complicated parts hidden away. However, one thing you should get acquainted with is the File Explorer. It's a great way to look through files without sifting through menus. Just click the folder icon on the Taskbar to open it and see all your files in one place.



### 5 Master your desktop space

If you're cluttering your desktop with files, folders and apps, you might want to consider doing some tidying up to make it easier to find what you need. Head to the desktop and right click it. In the menu that appears, point your cursor on 'View' and from here you can do a variety of things, such as change icon sizes, or hide all of them at once.



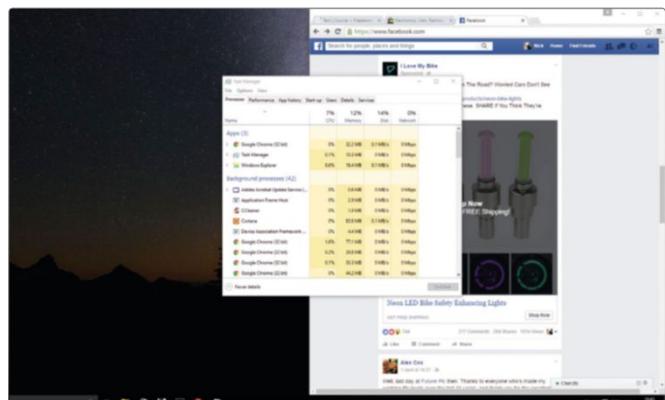
### 7 Use reminders

Windows 10 can keep you up to speed with handy notifications. You can create these notifications and receive reminders to complete them by hitting the search box and clicking the bulb icon on the left hand side. Click the + icon to create a new reminder and fill in the rest, that is you want to be reminded of, as well as who with, where or when.



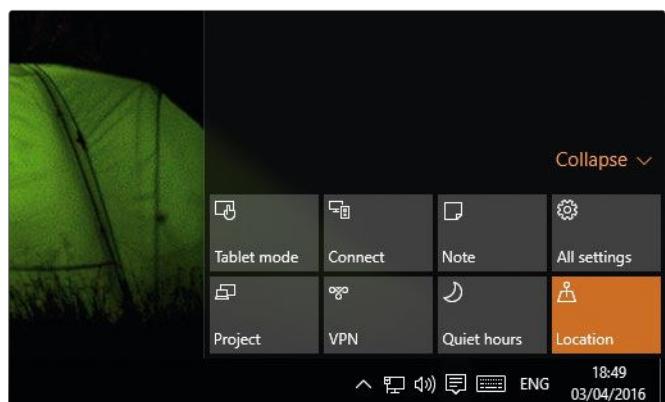
### 4 Close all windows

Sometimes you'll need to free up your screen and get straight to the desktop. You can either go through all the open windows and manually minimise them one by one, or you can close them all at once with a single click. If you prefer the latter, left-click in the right-hand corner of the Taskbar. Simply click it again to show all your windows once more.



### 6 Scroll without clicking

In previous versions of Windows, you'd have to click inside a window to scroll up or down, which meant you'd have to keep clicking all the time if you were working on multiple windows. In Windows 10 you can now scroll without clicking inside a window; instead hover over it and use your mouse wheel. This is already activated by default, so you don't need to turn it on.



### 8 Use the Action Centre

While some might avoid the Action Centre as a way of not having to deal with notifications, it's a good place to deal with many things at once, such as your email inbox or upcoming diary events. To start using Action Centre, click the speech bubble on the right-hand side of the Taskbar. If you're satisfied you've dealt with everything, get rid of them all at once by clicking 'Clear all!'. ■

Learn how to...

# Explore the Windows Store



Your guide **Tim Hardwick** says...

**"Discover a world of great new apps that have the Microsoft stamp of approval"**

## At a glance

### Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

### Suitable for...

Windows 10

Windows 8.1

Windows 7

**W**indows 10 isn't short of great built-in apps, but there will come a time when you want to do more with your PC, which is where third-party apps come in.

Finding apps online and downloading and installing them can be a lottery. Many apps out there are of questionable quality. Worse, some installation packages sneak other executable files onto your system with dubious intent. How can you be sure an app is what it says it is without some sort of independent review process in place?

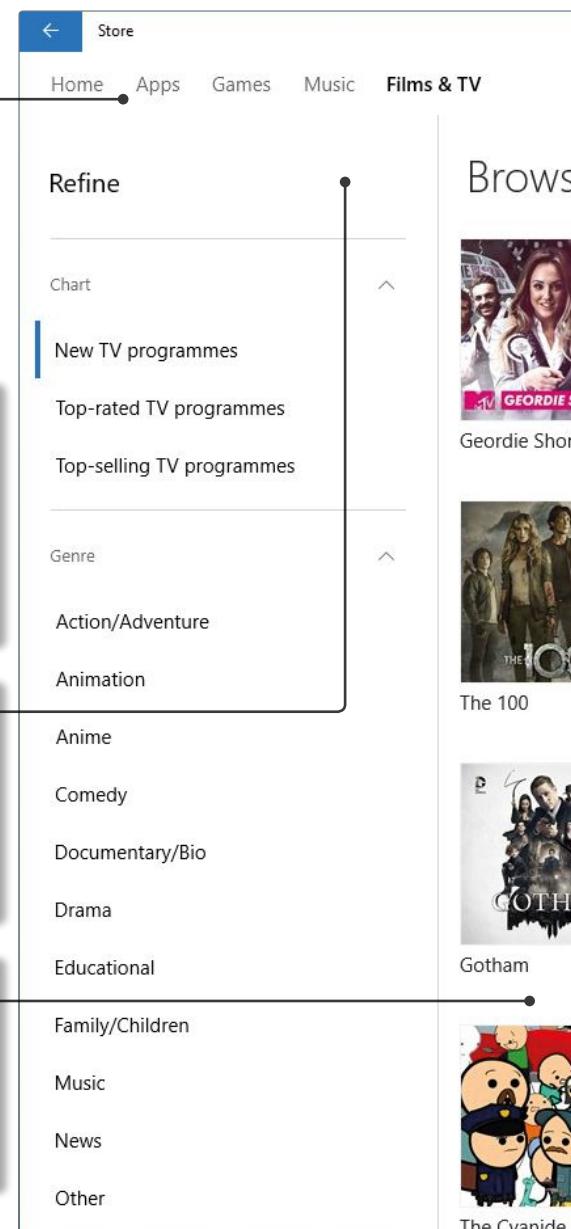
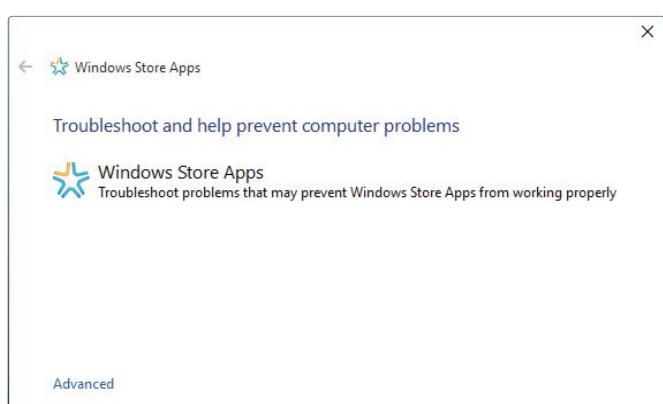
That's where the Windows Store comes in. Every app in the Store is certified by Microsoft and can be installed on your PC with confidence. It's not just apps either. The Store is packed with great games for all gamers. Here we'll show you how to use the Store and point you to some apps you should definitely check out along the way.

## Step-by-step | Dive into the Windows Store



### 1 Open for business

When the Windows Store first appeared with Windows 8, decent apps were sparse and generally there wasn't much to get excited about. Since Windows 10, thankfully that's all changed, and the store is cleaner, more organised and better populated with useful third-party apps. To start exploring, open up the Start menu and click on the 'Store' tile.

### 2 Store troubles

If the Windows Store doesn't open when you select it, try running the Apps troubleshooter (you can download it for free from [http://aka.ms/diag\\_apps10](http://aka.ms/diag_apps10)). This tool from Microsoft can identify and fix problems with the Windows Store. If you can open the Store but are having trouble signing in, check to make sure you entered the correct Microsoft account and password.

# Explore

## Explore the Windows Store

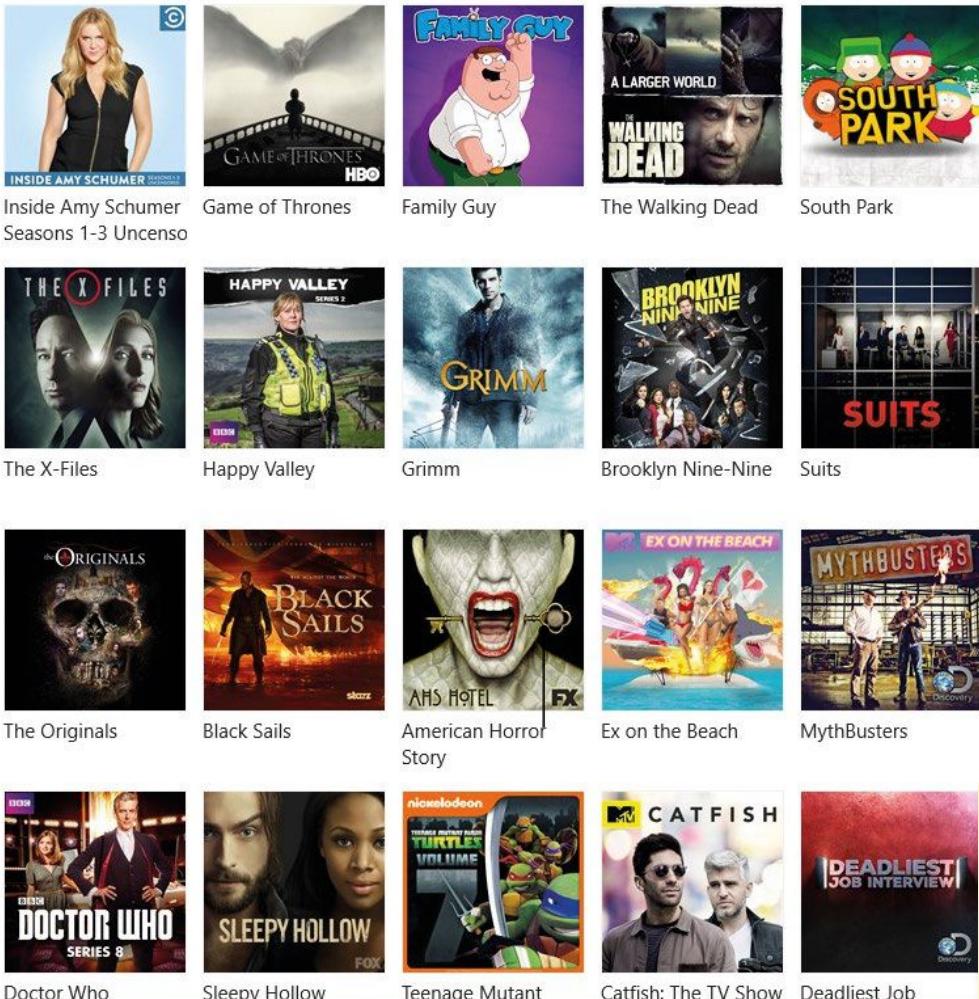
e TV

### PROFILE

This button takes you to your Store Profile, where you can adjust settings and add to your payment options.

### DOWNLOADS

This symbol indicates how many apps or media items selected in the Store are downloading in the background.



### Jargon buster!

#### ► Universal apps

So-called universal apps are single download packages designed to run on a wide variety of devices, from tablets to PCs.

#### ► Auto-updates

Microsoft-certified apps can be updated through the Windows Store so you don't have to go searching for the latest version.

#### ► Media controls

Media-based apps like Netflix and Plex are designed to work with Windows 10's built-in playback controls.

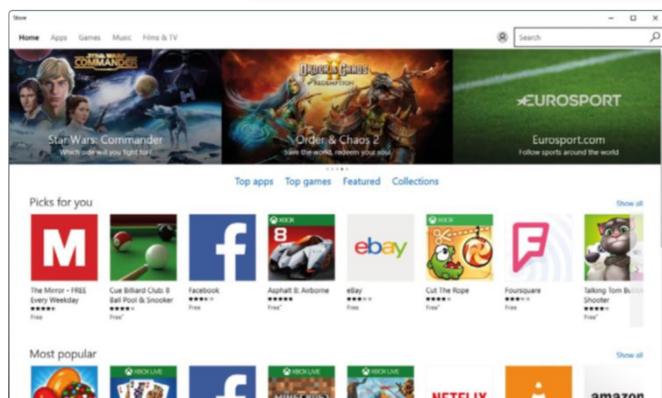
### SEARCH

If you have an idea what you're looking for, try typing a related term into the Search field and press 'Enter'.



#### TIM'S BEST TIP!

Be wary of 'free' apps that use in-app purchases, as some can end up costing you a lot of money in the long run.

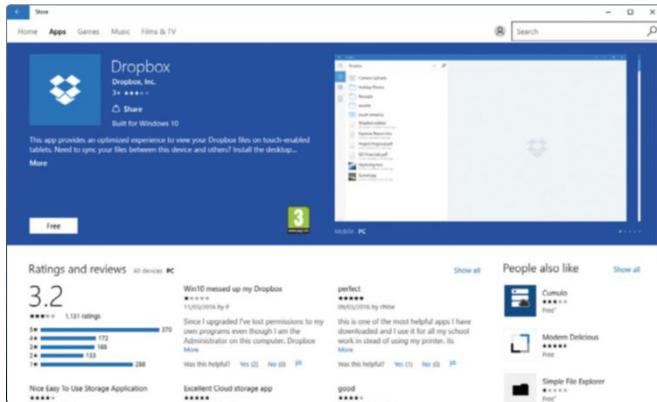


### 3 Signing in

If you're still having trouble signing in, reset your password. Open a web browser and go to <https://account.live.com/password/reset>, choose the relevant option and follow the instructions. If you still can't log in, clear the Store cache – click 'Search' below the Start menu, enter **Run** in the box, click the 'Run' option, enter **wsreset.exe** in the Run command and click 'OK'.

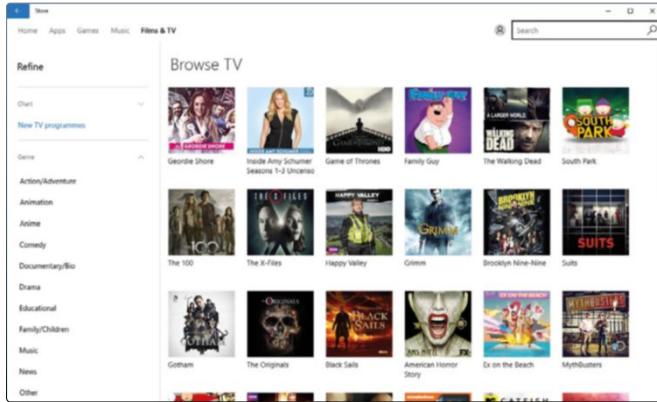
### 4 First shop

On entering the Store, you'll see that it's categorised into five sections. The main section is called 'Home' and showcases the best apps and games currently trending. Click the second section, Apps, and you'll notice its contents are arranged by sub-categories at the bottom of the screen. You can also search categories using the input field at the top of the Store window.



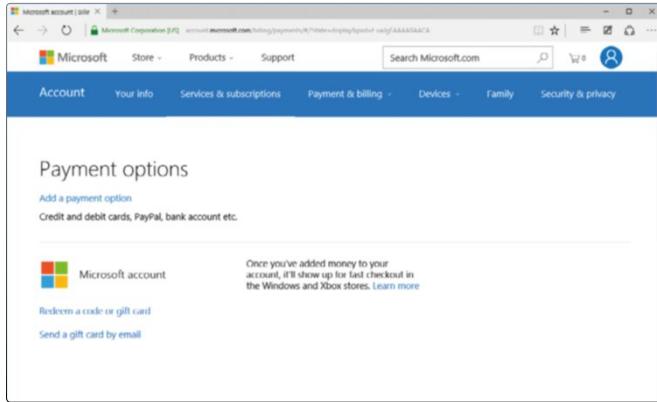
## 5 Best apps

Before you buy, there are many free staple apps you should check out. For example, if Microsoft's OneDrive cloud storage isn't enough, search for Dropbox, which syncs files uploaded to the service. If you play media files, VLC is another free app you should snap up. Elsewhere, Flipboard is great for collating news from across the web and viewing it in a magazine-style layout.



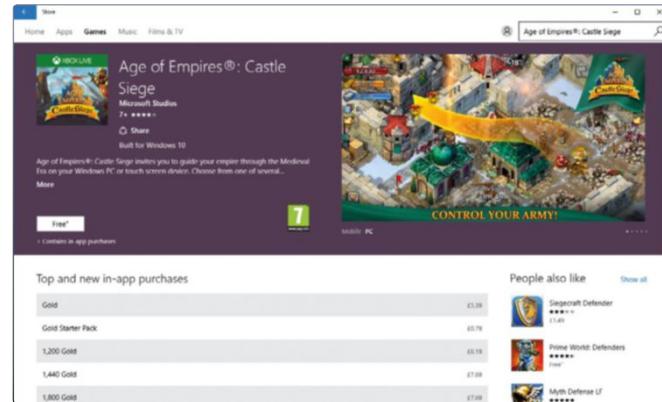
## 7 Movies and music

You can also access TV series, movies and music on the Windows Store. Music can be purchased by album or by individual track, while TV series are available to buy as a whole season or by episode. Music tracks tend to be priced at 99p, while individual TV episodes often cost around £2.49. Be sure to check out the user reviews before making a purchase.



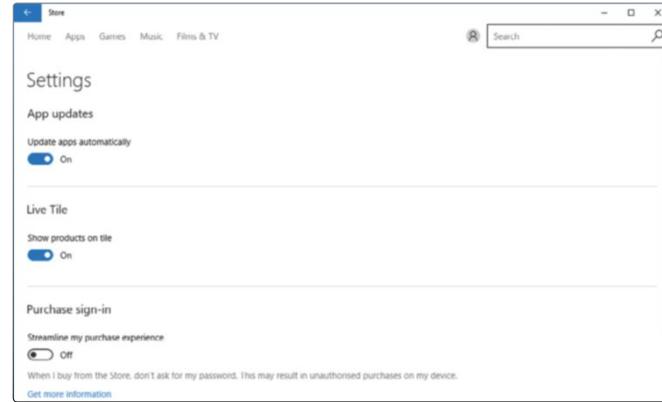
## 9 Payment

Clicking 'Payment options' in the profile menu takes you to a screen that manages how you pay for Windows Store purchases. You can link a payment method, such as a credit card, to your Microsoft account, or you can drop pre-purchased funds into it using a redeemable gift card. For the latter, type in the code on the back of the card. You can also view your purchase history here.



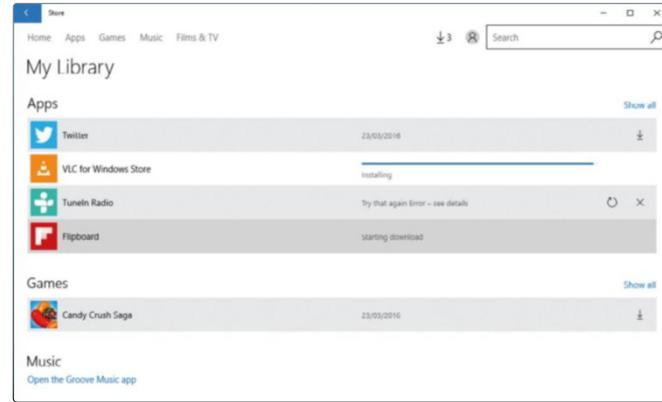
## 6 Best games

Microsoft got rid of Solitaire in Windows 10, so if you're looking for a game to fill your free time then you came to the right place. Age of Empires: Castle Siege continues a well-loved Microsoft strategy franchise. And if you're after something a bit more high-octane, check out Asphalt 8: Airborne, one of the most popular arcade racing games in the Store.



## 8 Account options

The Windows Store can be customised by clicking your user profile. The first option in the dropdown, 'Settings', lets you control app updates, as well as how featured products are shown as Start menu tiles and how often said tiles update. 'View Account' is a convenient link to change your name and password, view your connected devices and see recent purchases.



## 10 My Library

The 'My Library' menu lists all the apps and games you've bought and/or downloaded in the past. To re-download and install a title in the list, click the arrow along the right-hand edge of the window. If you opt to download a few items at the same time then they'll be queued. You can check on their status, and pause/resume downloads, by clicking 'Downloads'. ■

# GET EVEN MORE FROM WINDOWS 10

Technology  
Tips Guide



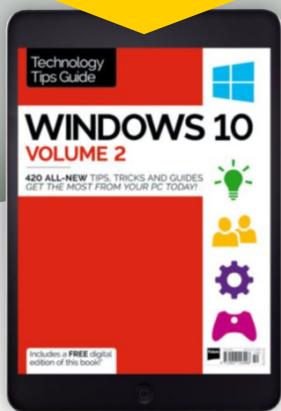
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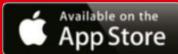
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Future



Learn how to...

# Childproof your Windows 10 PC



Your guide [Tim Hardwick](#) says...

"Control what your kids can and can't see and do in Windows 10 with child accounts"

## At a glance

### Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

### Suitable for...

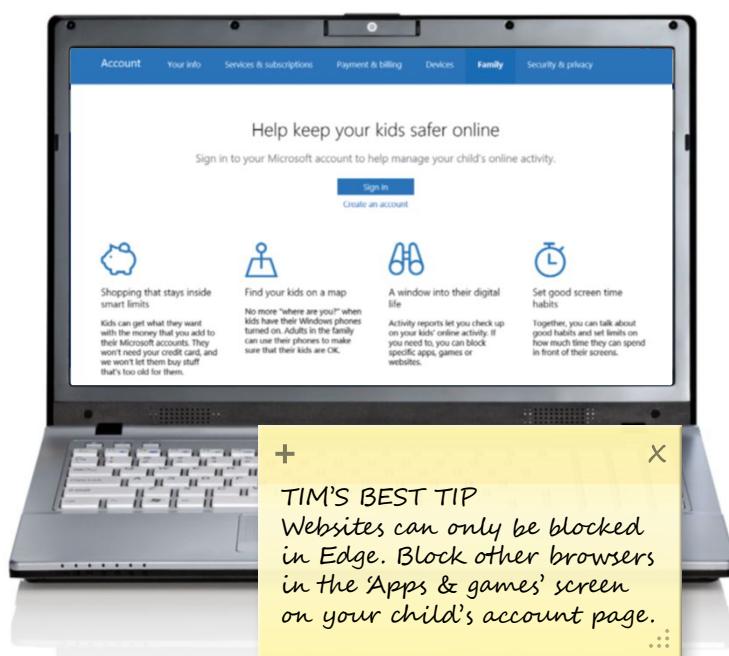
Windows 10

Windows 8.1

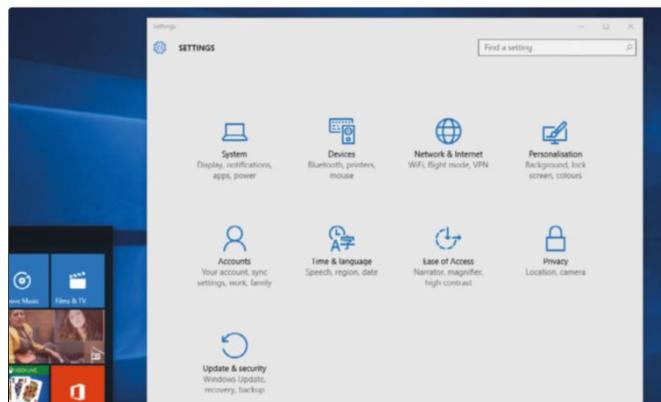
Windows 7

The internet is an amazing information resource that brings convenience to our everyday lives. But with such freedom come drawbacks, particularly when it comes to child safety. Few would deny their children access to the web, but how do you ensure they are protected from unsuitable content? Happily, Windows 10 offers a solution in the form of child user accounts.

If you're sharing your PC with your kids, giving them their own account allows them to go online safely by letting you set up age restrictions. That way, you can ensure they aren't visiting websites that aren't right for them, and prevent them from downloading and/or launching apps or games they aren't old enough to be using. These steps also explain how to set time limits on usage, so you can be sure your kids won't be surfing all night.

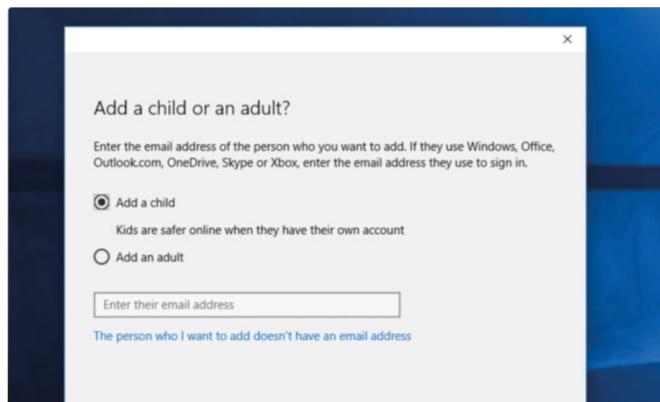


## Step-by-step | How to set up child accounts



### 1 Add a family member

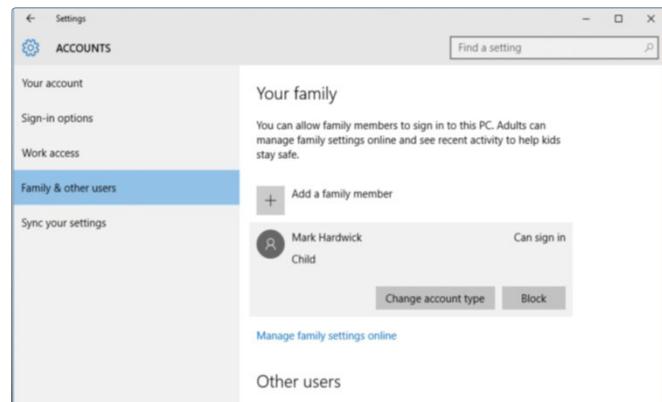
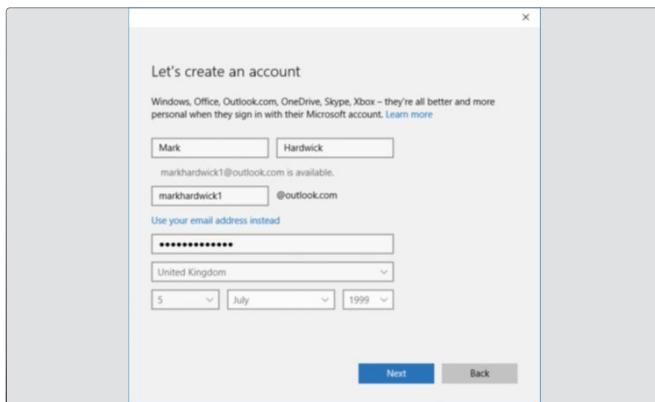
With a child account, your kids will get their own desktop layout, their own set of user folders and their own Start menu. To set them up in Windows 10, choose 'Settings' from the desktop Start menu and click on 'Accounts'. Next, select 'Family & other users' from the left pane, click the plus button next to 'Add a family member' on the next screen, and then select 'Add a Child'.



### 2 Add a child account

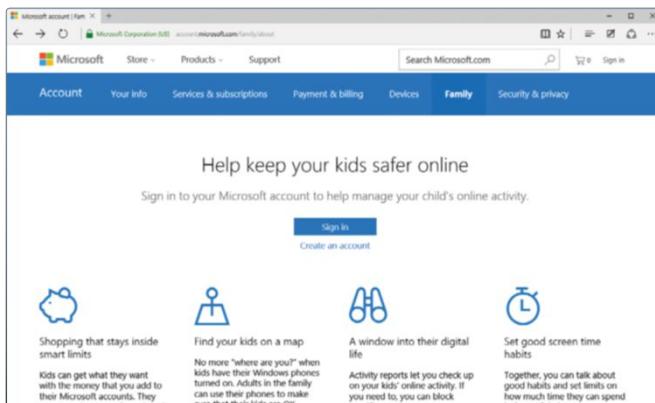
Next you'll be asked to enter an email address associated with the new account. If your child doesn't have a Microsoft account or they're too young to have an email address, that's okay. Just click 'The person I want to add doesn't have an email address', and you'll be prompted to create an account and @outlook.com email address for them. Click 'Confirm' to finish.

# Explore Childproof your Windows 10 PC



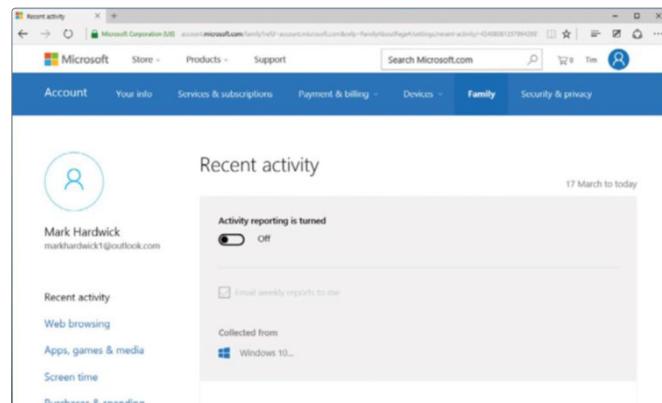
## 3 Accept an invite

One of the benefits of a child account is that your children can use theirs to log onto any device you own. Before they can do that however, they may need to accept an invite that Windows sends to the email address associated with the new account. If they're too young to understand, you can do this for them using the account details you added in the previous step.



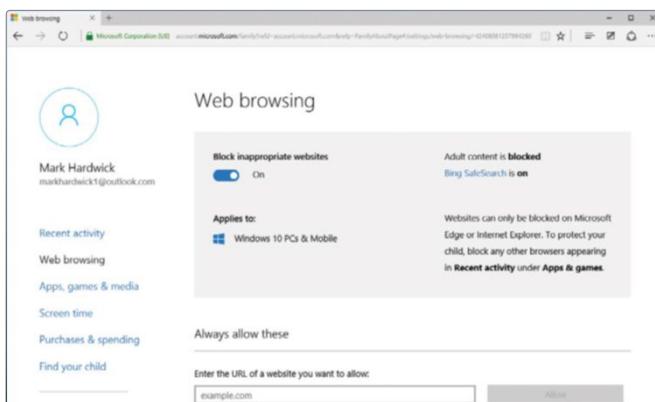
## 4 Parental permission

Once you've logged into their email account and accepted the invitation, the child will be prompted to log into their account. If the administrating Microsoft account lists your child as being under 13, you'll need to sign in yourself and confirm them as a family member. A screen will appear titled 'You need a parent's permission'; click the button that says 'Have a parent sign in'.



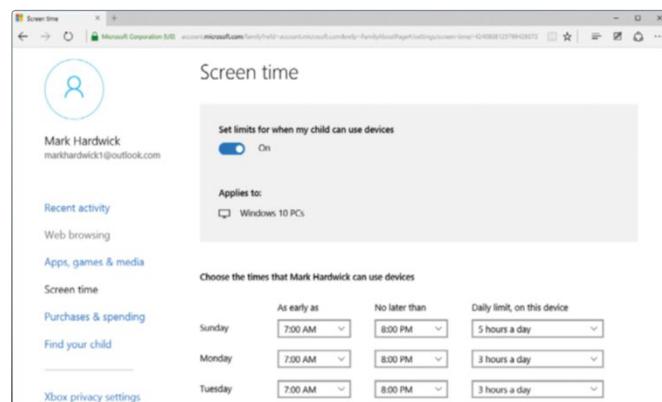
## 5 Set up permissions

Windows may ask you for your credit card number to verify you're an adult. Once you've done that, it's time to set up the child's permissions. Back in the Windows 10 account settings menu, select the option to 'Manage family settings online'. A browser window will open and load the Microsoft website. Once you've logged in you'll be able to control family member access.



## 6 Your family

A list of user accounts that come under the family category will be displayed. Select the child from the list that you're setting up the account for and you'll see a number of options. The first, 'Recent activity', lets you see what websites they've been visiting, what apps/games they've been downloading/playing, and how much time they've been spending on their devices.



## 7 Browsing and apps

In 'Web browsing', you can choose to block or allow specific sites and to restrict sites rated beyond a certain age. If you have very young children, you can choose to allow them to only visit websites you've decided are safe, by entering the URLs and clicking 'Allow'. From the 'Apps, games & media' screen, you can block inappropriate apps and games in the Windows Store.

## 8 Screen time and spending

Screen time lets you set time limits and time of day for your child to use their account. You can let them use it more at the weekends, for example. You can also use the 'No later than' fields so they can't use their account beyond a certain time. Finally, 'Purchase and spending' lets you add money to their account so they can buy items from the Windows Store. ■

Learn how to...

# Create a presentation with Google Slides



Your guide *Tanya Combrinck* says...

"Creating presentations with Google Slides is easy and allows you to share your presentation with others, work collaboratively or publish online"

## At a glance

### Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

### Suitable for...

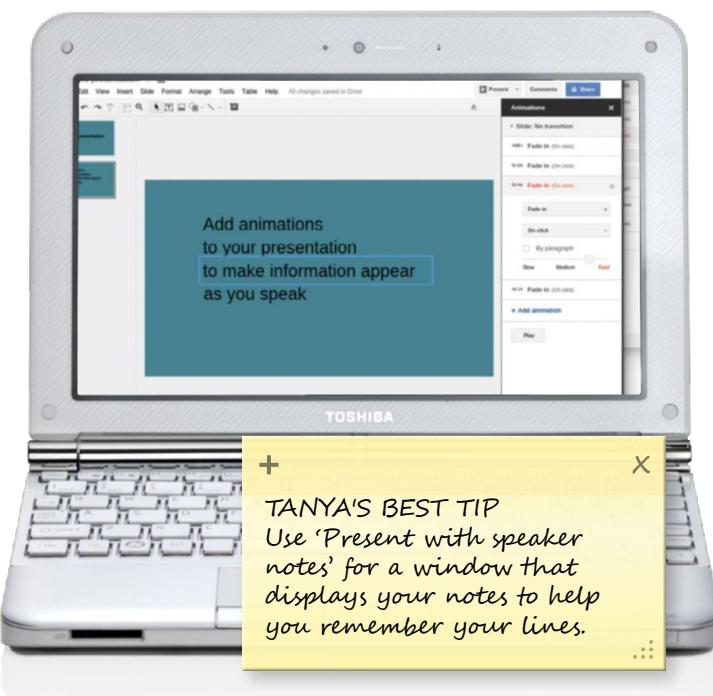
 Windows 10

 Windows 8.1

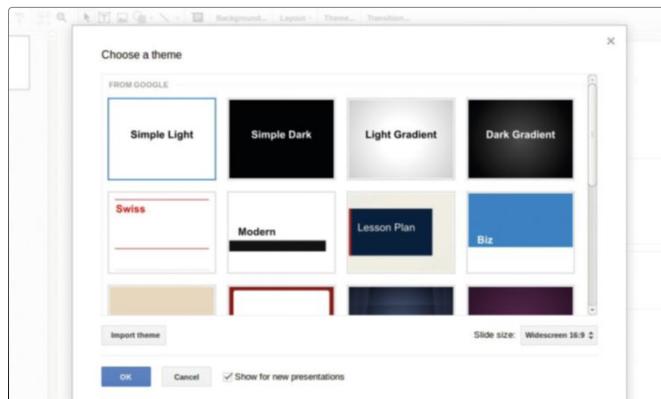
 Windows 7

**T**here's now no need to use an office suite to build presentations; there's a full-featured, free application that's accessible from your Google account! From within your Drive, just click 'New > Google Slides' (or 'Create > Presentation' if you're still on the old Drive) to get started.

If you're new to presentations, a good place to go for inspiration is slideshare.net. Exploring the slides here will give you an idea of how much information to use and what images work well. Like most presentation software, Slides gives you access to many transitions and animation effects. Try not to overuse these; simple designs and layouts work best. Finally, find out the aspect ratio of the screen or projector you're using, otherwise your slides will be the wrong shape. Select 4:3, 16:9 or 16:10 from the first screen when you create a new presentation.

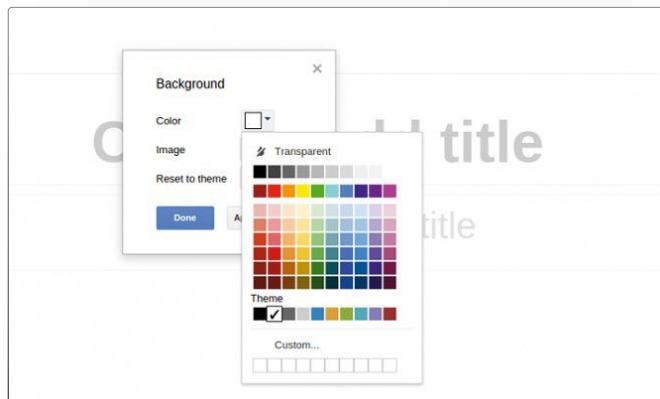


## Step-by-step | Getting started with Google Slides



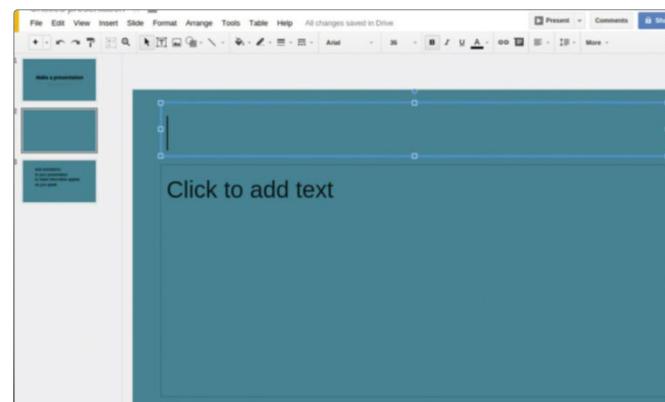
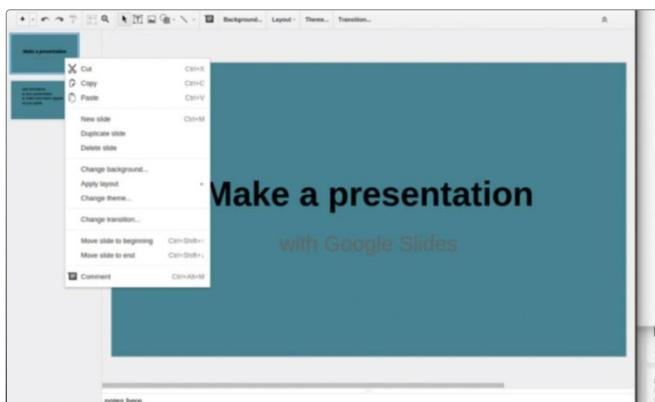
### 1 Choose a theme

Slides comes with a number of themes that control the style of your presentation. The simple ones are the most versatile, and you can customise the colours and fonts. Use the 'Slide size' box to enter the aspect ratio for the equipment you will use to display your presentation. If you want to use the theme from another presentation, find 'Import theme' and select the presentation file.



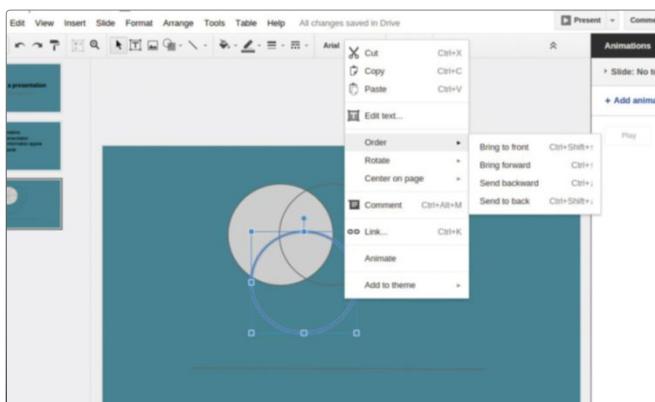
### 2 Customise your theme

Return to the previous screen by choosing 'Theme...' from the toolbar. If you want to change slide colour, or use an image as a background, click 'Background...' to bring up this dialog. The change will only apply to the current slide unless you click 'Apply to all'. Some useful layouts for your text boxes can be found in the adjacent 'Layout' menu, which can of course be adjusted.



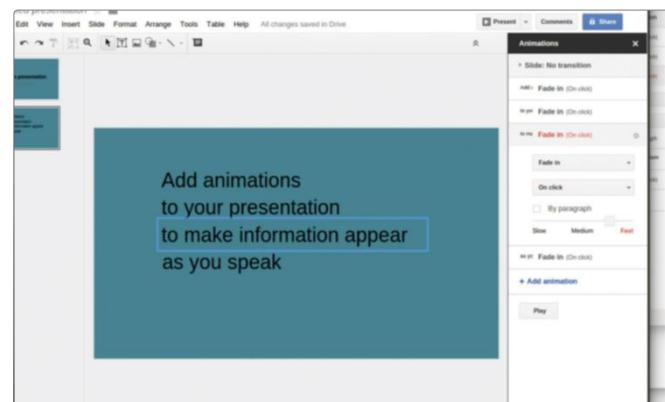
## 3 Get to know the interface

Click the + button on the left to add more slides. These appear in the column underneath and can be dragged if you need to reorder them. Right click in the column to see a number of useful options for duplicating, deleting and moving slides. At the bottom of the window you can add your speaker notes, which can be displayed in a window visible only to you as you speak.



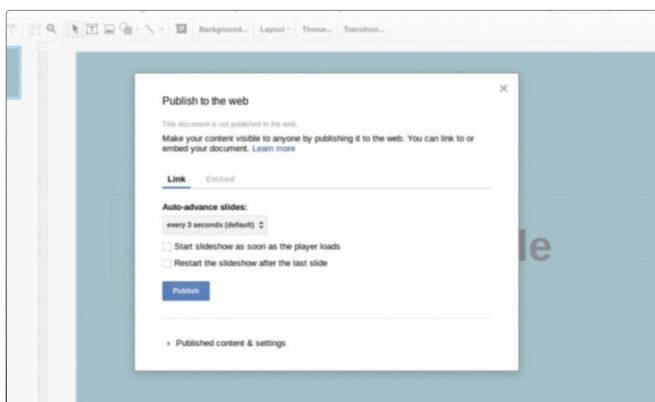
## 4 Handling boxes

To move or resize a text box, click the edge and drag the corners to resize. Images, shapes and other elements can also be adjusted in this way. Use the circle at the top if you want to rotate an element. Drag with the mouse to position things roughly, then use the arrow keys on your keyboard for precise alignment. Guides will appear in red, or you can choose 'View > Snap to Grid'.



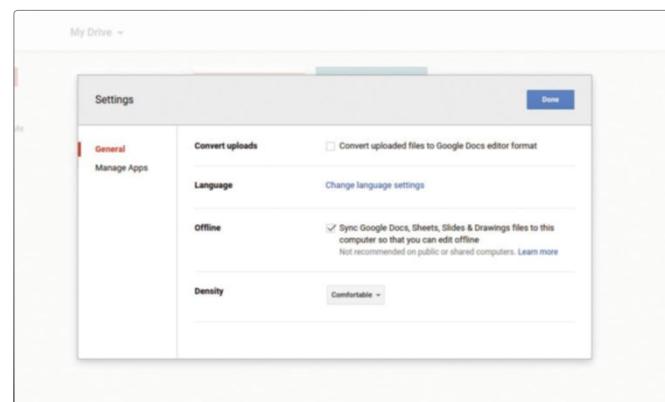
## 5 Adding other elements

Use the toolbar buttons to import images, draw shapes, lines and more text boxes. Use the fill bucket and line colour tools to change the colours of elements; notice the option at the top to make things transparent. When objects overlap, right click them to change the order in which they're arranged. You can also use animation to make things fade in or fly in from the side.



## 6 Adding animation

Here, we have four text boxes. We'll be setting up animations so when the slide first appears it is empty, then each line of text appears as you click. Right-click the first text box, choose 'Animate', then 'Add animation', leaving the default 'Fade in (on click)'. Repeat this for each text box, then press 'Play' to see it working. Animations can be reordered by dragging them.



## 7 Share, publish, present

A great advantage of using online software is the ease with which you can collaborate with others. Choose 'File > Share' and enter the Google email addresses of the people who would like to work with you. To publish your work as a slideshow click 'File > Publish' to the web, and to run your presentation click the 'Present' button at the top and choose 'Present from beginning'.

## 8 Work offline

You can create presentations even when there's no internet by setting up offline syncing in Google Chrome. In Drive, click the cog to get to your settings and tick 'Offline syncing'. Note this only works in Chrome (and not Firefox or Internet Explorer). You can also work on your iPad or Android tablet by installing the Google Docs app, as offline syncing is available here as well. ■

Learn how to...

# Sync files easily in Windows



Your guide *Nick Peers* says...

"Syncthing-GTK makes it easy to keep the latest version of your files on all your PCs"

## At a glance

### Skill level...

Anyone can do it  
► Straightforward  
Tricky in parts

### Suitable for...

Windows 10  
Windows 8.1  
Windows 7

**O**ne of the biggest challenges with working on more than one computer as part of your daily life is having easy access to the latest version of your files. Cloud storage, like Microsoft's OneDrive, is one option, but these come with limits to the amount of free storage, and occasional hiccups with syncing files is par for the course.

If you want a rock-solid option then consider an app called Syncthing. This free and open-source solution uses P2P technology to directly link two or more PCs together through the use of shared folders. So long as each PC is switched on and connected to the internet (or same local network), changes on one PC are replicated on the others – and because everything is encrypted and doesn't go through any file servers, your data is as secure as it can be. Read on to find out how it works.

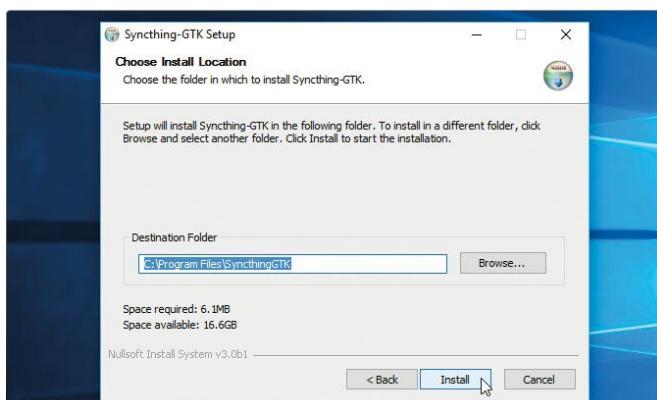


**SYNCTHING MENU**  
Click this button to access Syncthing-related options – including a link to the program's web-based user interface.

**SYNC FOLDERS**  
Each folder displays a summary of its sync progress, plus a handy reminder of where it's stored on your hard drive.

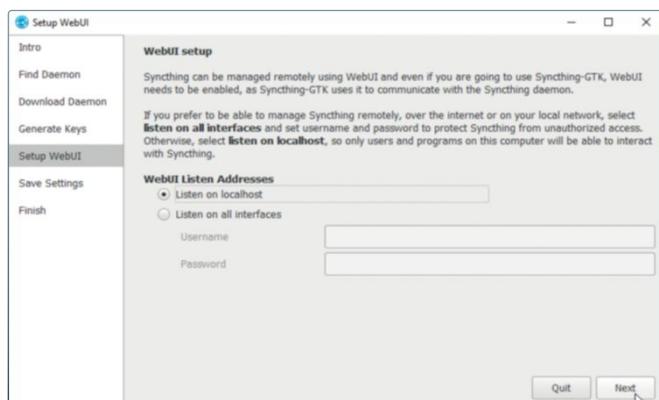
**FOLDER DETAILS**  
Click a folder header to reveal more details about its status, or right-click to browse, edit or delete the pairing.

## Step-by-step | Set up and use Syncthing



### 1 Install Syncthing-GTK

We're using a special version of Syncthing that's easy to install and offers a convenient front end for managing your synced folders. Browse to <https://github.com/syncthing/syncthing-gtk>, scroll down and click the 'Latest installer from here' link next to Windows. Save the file ending .win-installer.exe to your hard drive, then double-click it to install Syncthing-GTK.



### 2 Initial configuration

After installation the program may download additional components, leave 'Run Syncthing-GTK' ticked and click 'Finish'. The first-run wizard will appear. Click 'Next' to download Syncthing (if challenged by your security software, allow the connection). Click 'Next' to generate encryption keys. Click 'Next'. Leave 'Listen on localhost' selected, click 'Next' then 'Close'.

# Explore

## Sync files easily in Windows

**NICK'S BEST TIP!**  
Start Syncthing by clicking the Syncthing button and choosing 'UI Settings' > 'Start Syncthing-GTK...'

Scanning	
Football	Y:\Movies\Football 52 Files, 39.67 GB
52 Files, 39.67 GB	0 Files, 0 B
Yes	60 s
Mac mini, NICK-PC, NSA325 v2	

• **Syncing (39%)**

Syncing (15%)	
TV-Comedy	Y:\Movies\TV\Comedy 2716 Files, 525.84 GB
634 Files, 80.57 GB	2082 Files, 445.08 GB
Yes	60 s
Mac mini, NICK-PC, NSA325 v2	

Syncing (9%)

Up to Date

**NICK-PC**

- RAM Utilization
- CPU Utilization
- Download Rate
- Upload Rate
- Announce Server
- Version

**PC DETAILS**  
This panel reveals statistics about Syncthing's performance on your own PC, including its memory and processor usage.

**Mac mini**

**Up to Date**

**NSA325 v2**

**Syncing (0%)**

192.168.35.2:22000  
0%  
Metadata Only  
0 B/s ( 84 B)  
No  
v0.12.21

**Linx (Unused)**

**Connected**

**REMOTE PCS**  
All remote PCs are listed here, complete with current connection status. Click one for more info.

**SETTINGS MENU**  
Click this for options including adding new computers and tweaking Syncthing-GTK's own settings.

### Jargon buster!

#### ► P2P

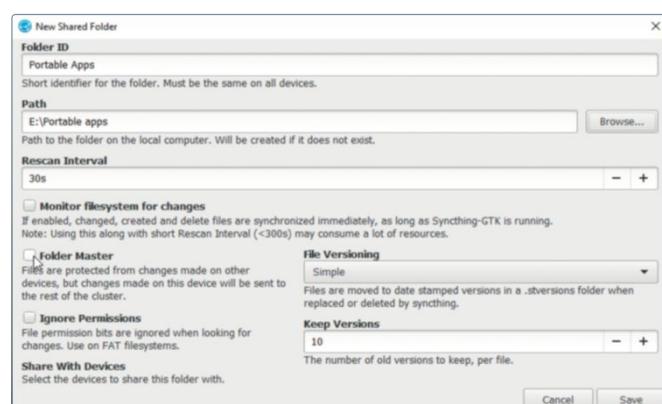
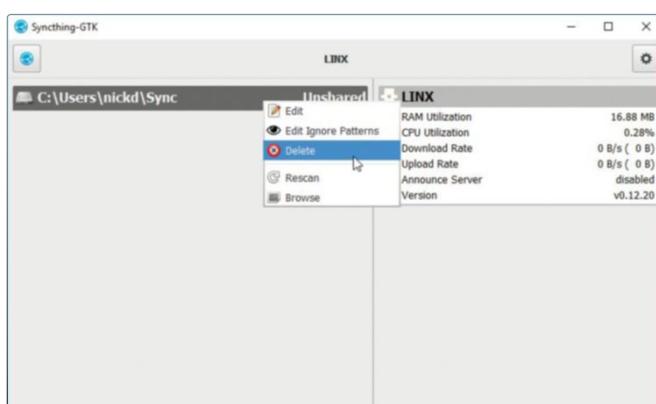
Stands for 'peer-to-peer', and is a specialist network that connects two or more PCs together with no intermediary connections (such as central file servers).

#### ► Localhost

A special host name for the PC – typing 'localhost' into your browser will always redirect you to your own PC.

#### ► Introducer

PC 1 connects to PC 2. PC 1 marks PC 2 as an 'Introducer'. When PC 1 connects to PC 3, PC 2 will advertise its presence to PC 3, making them easier to connect to.

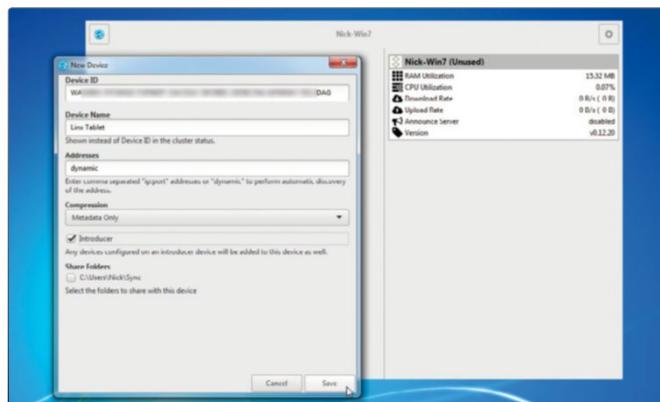
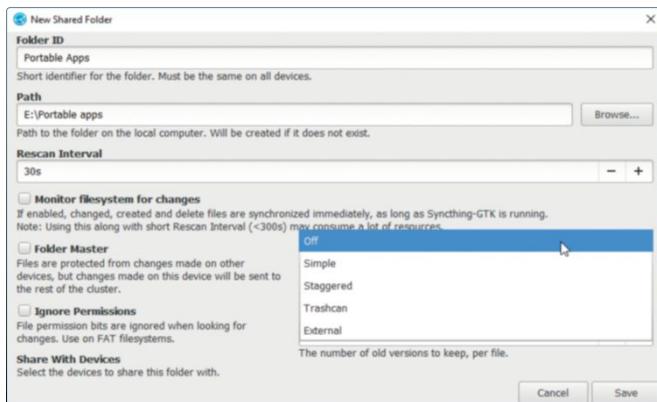


### 3 Set folder to sync

The main Syncthing-GTK window will now appear. Click 'Yes' to allow anonymous reporting. Your PC's details are shown, while a list of folders to sync is displayed on the left. By default, one folder is configured; a Sync folder inside your personal user folder. Remove this by right-clicking it and choosing 'Delete', then click the 'Settings' button and choose 'Add Shared Folder'.

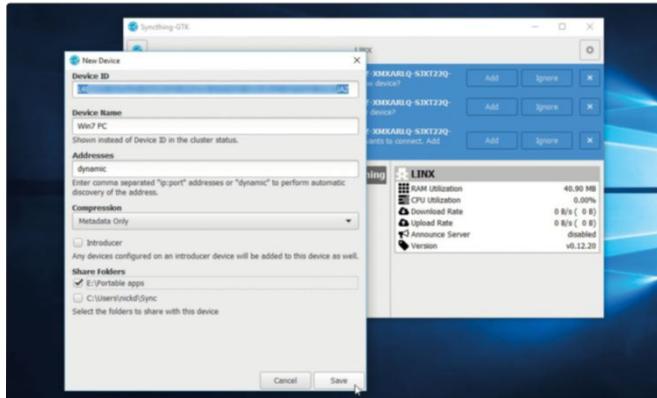
### 4 Select folder

Enter a description of the folder in the Folder ID box. Click 'Browse...' to select the folder to sync – this can be empty or contain files and sub-folders you wish to sync. If you want to sync this folder one-way only – so it can't be affected by changes made to the folder on other PCs – tick 'Folder Master'. Tick 'Ignore permissions' if any of your sync folders are on FAT32 drives.



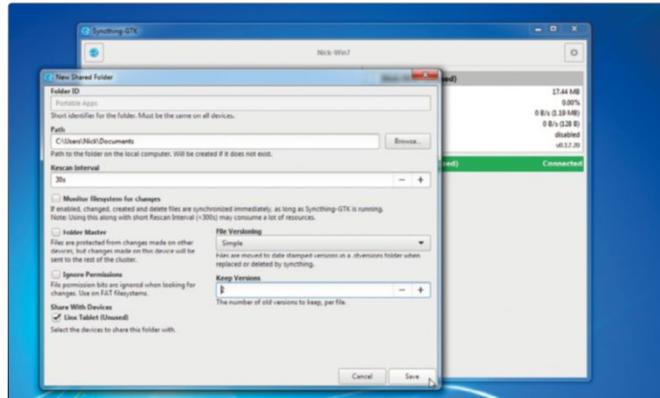
## 5 File versioning

By default, the last ten versions of a file are kept to protect against unwanted changes. This can consume lots of extra disk space, so if necessary reduce this number using the 'Keep Versions' box, or switch off versioning by choosing 'Off'. Once you've set up your folder, click the 'Save' box. Syncthing will start to scan and index the folder's contents, ready for syncing.



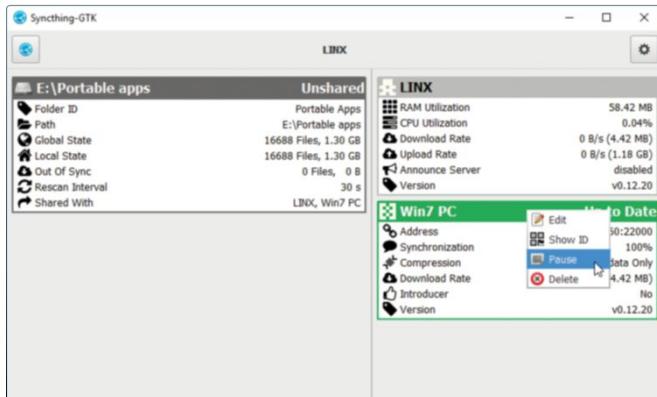
## 6 Set up second PC

Click the 'Settings' button again, but this time choose 'Show ID' to reveal your PC's unique identifier. It's quite long, so you may want to copy it to your second computer via email or a text document. Now install Syncthing-GTK on the second PC. Click the 'Settings' button and choose 'Add Device'. Enter (or paste) the identifier into the 'Device ID' box, give it a label and click 'Save'.



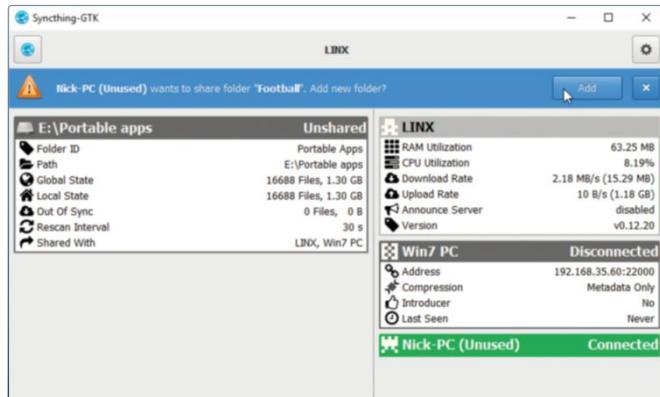
## 7 Link computers

Switch back to your original PC – after a short pause one or more prompts will appear indicating your other PC wishes to connect. Click 'Add' next to any one, add a Device Name and tick the folder you created in step four. Tick 'Introducer' if you wish to add more PCs to your network – this will speed up the connection process. Click 'Save', then click 'Ignore' next to the other entries.



## 8 Confirm link

When Syncthing-GTK indicates your other PC is now connected, switch back to it. You'll see a prompt asking you to confirm the new folder share. Click 'Add', then click 'Browse...' to choose where to store the folder on this PC, plus set up other options for the folder (you can, for example, protect this folder, or choose a different kind of versioning for files). Click 'Save' again.



## 9 Get in sync

Both folders will be scanned and compared, and then Syncthing will start to transfer files between them, ensuring the latest version of your data is in both locations. You can track progress on either PC, then set up other sync folders and link other PCs (and Macs) too – there's no practical limit to what you share, other than the amount of storage you have available.

## 10 Your files, everywhere

You've now set up your own secure network of shared folders and computers. And because Syncthing works over the internet, you can use it with others to securely share files – just take into account everyone's internet speed and bandwidth limits before sharing large folders. Thankfully, each computer retains full control over what it connects to and shares. ■

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It's easy to keep photos on our computers, but are you using Windows 10's photo features to the full? Read on to find out more about going further with your images

## P

otos are more valuable than they've ever been to us, mainly because we take so many of them these days. We all have a camera in our smartphones, which means we've always got a camera with us, and the quality of the photos we can take using just a phone is beyond what we could have imagined even a few short years ago. We have photos of every major life event, and every victory our loved ones have achieved, and we love to share them with others.

### Enter Windows

But just keeping your photos on your phone and nowhere else is hardly a good idea. If your phone is damaged, lost or stolen then you risk losing everything in one go. This is why it's essential to back up your photos to the cloud, in the form of Microsoft's OneDrive, or to your Windows PC on a regular basis.

In this guide to handling photos in Windows, we'll show you everything you can do with the options built into Windows, from improving the photos to storing them in the cloud.

While the built-in Photos app is okay for very simple photo edits, such as cropping or straightening, or removing blemishes, you can take your photo editing a step further using a third-party app. There are lots of these available, with a popular option being the free Paint.NET, which you can get from [www.getpaint.net](http://www.getpaint.net).

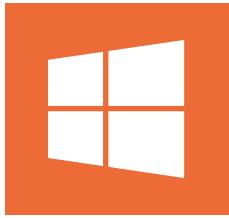
However, here we've gone for an app you can get directly from the Windows Store – Adobe Photoshop Express. The majority of its features and tools are absolutely free, but if you fancy taking things further with extra features then you will need to pay for an upgrade.

We hope you enjoy this comprehensive guide to handling your photos in Windows and don't be afraid to drop us a line if we've left anything out!

# MANAGE PHOTOS IN WINDO



**WS10**



Learn how to...

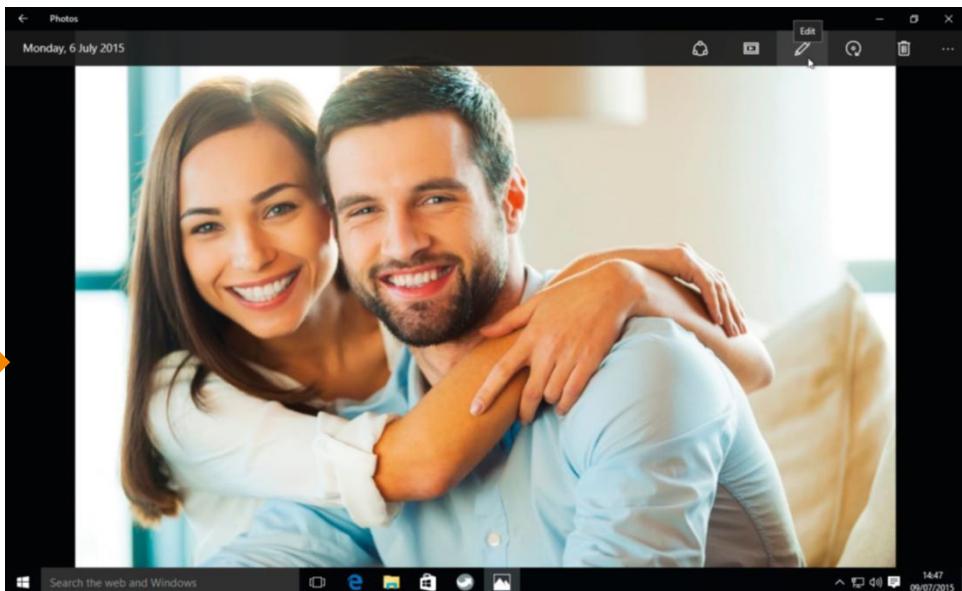
# Edit images in the Photos app

The built-in app adds a number of useful tools for improving your images

**TIME TAKEN**  
40 minutes

## Access the editing tools

Open the Photo app from the Start menu, then locate the photo you want to edit by the date it was taken or created. When you've found it, double-click it to view it up close. If the picture appears blurry, don't panic – it's because it's being downloaded from your OneDrive storage. Once done, click on the image to reveal a number of options at the top of the screen – click the pencil icon to go to editing mode.

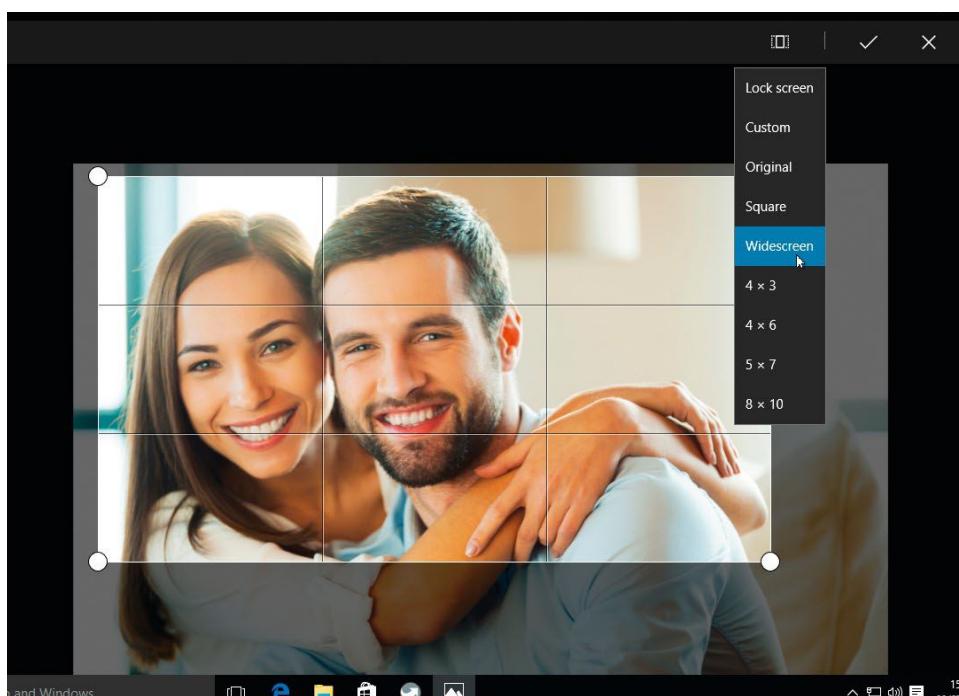


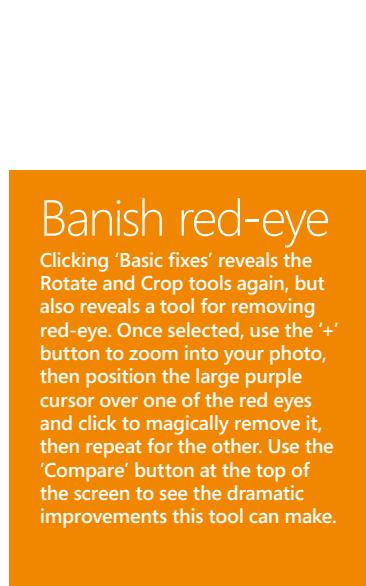
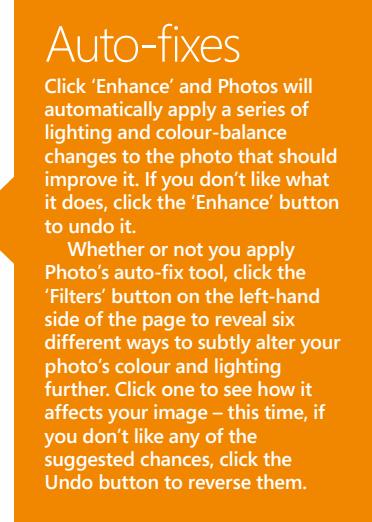
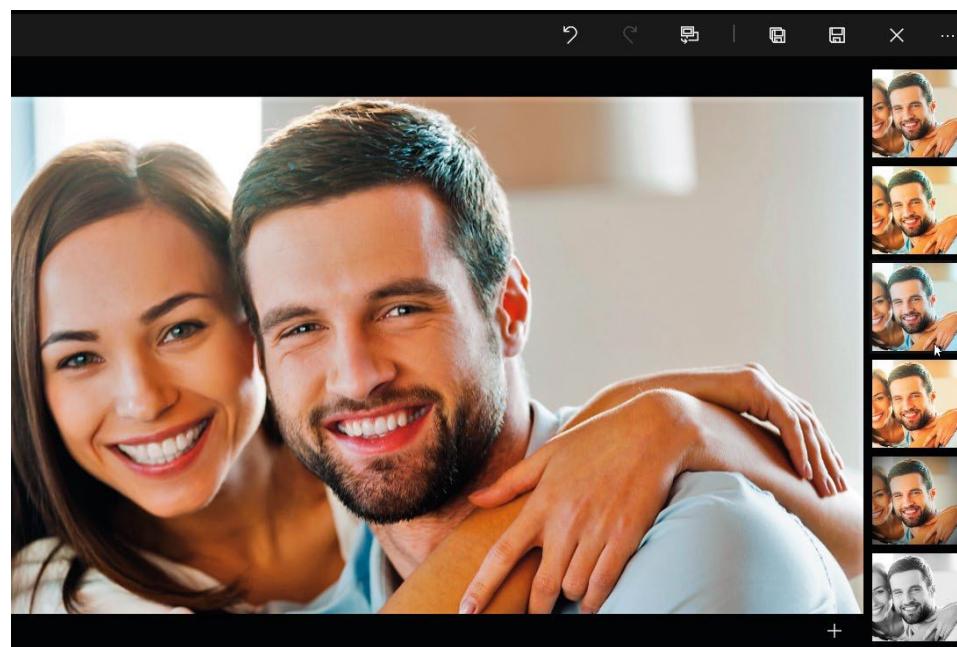
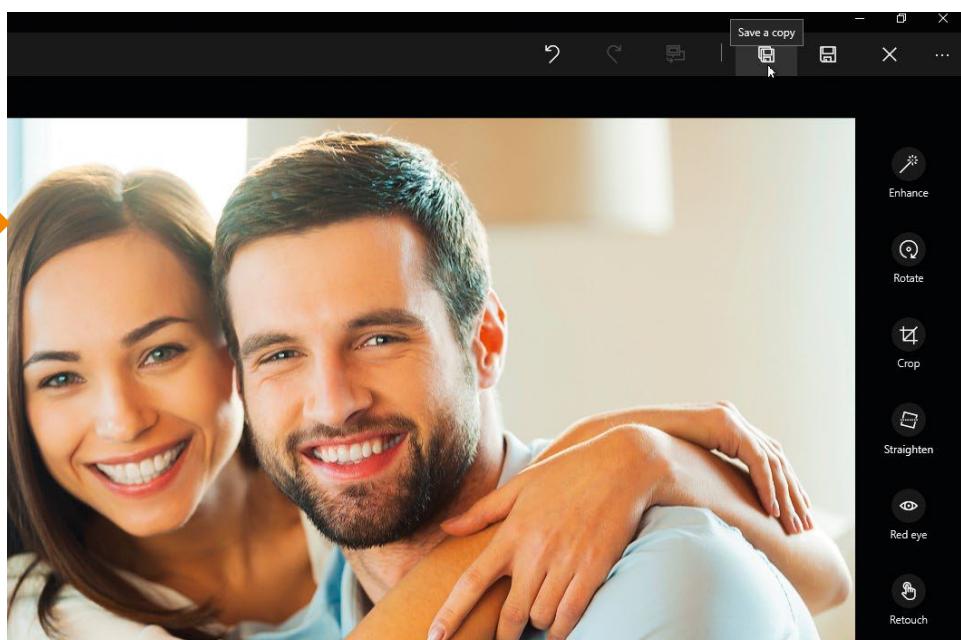
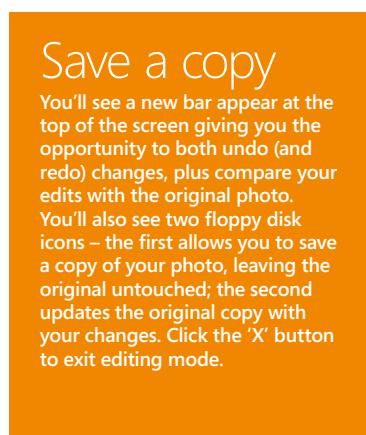
## Crop and straighten

Basic Fixes should be selected on the left of the picture by default – click it if it's not. The Rotate button rotates your photo by 90 degrees clockwise – perfect for photos that have come out on their side or upside down.

For scanned images that aren't quite straight, click and hold the Straighten button to reveal a rotation slider. Use the grid to help align the photo and click on the photo to apply your change.

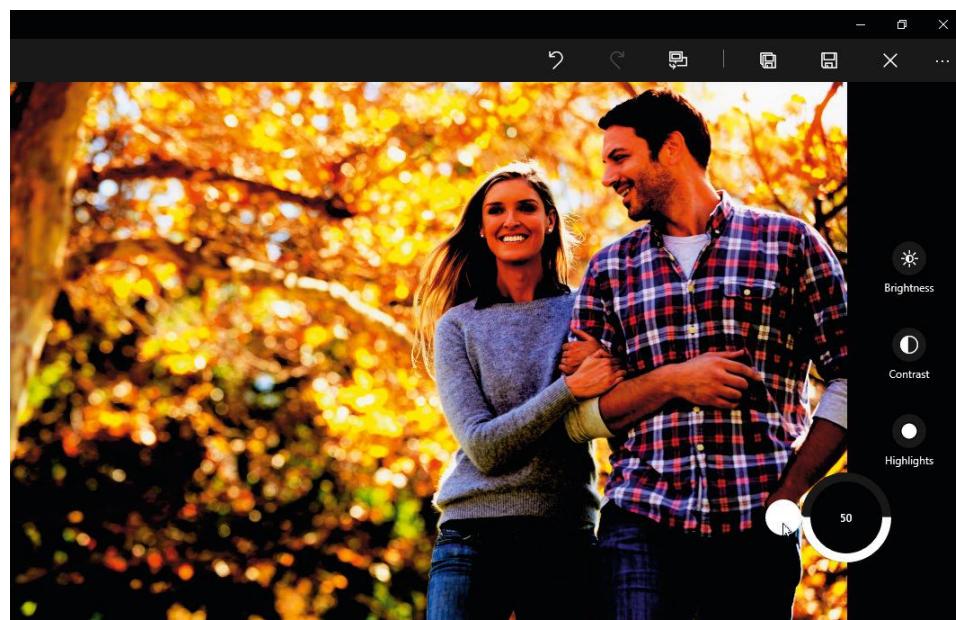
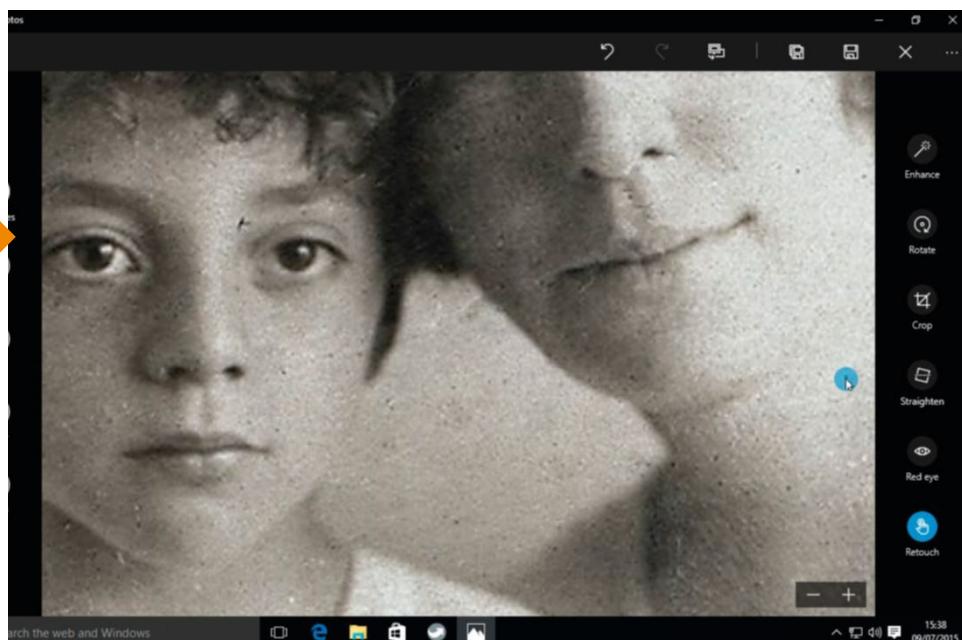
Finally, click the Crop tool to cut out unwanted detail from your photo – click 'Aspect Ratio' if required to select a standard grid size, then click and drag on the corners of the selection to make it smaller or larger or click on the photo to move it. Click the tick box when you're done.





## Remove dust, scratches and noise

The Retouch tool makes it easy to get rid of even quite large scratches, spots, dirt and other unwanted elements from your photos – particularly older photos you've scanned in. It works in the same way as the Red-Eye tool – zoom into the affected area using the '+' and '-' buttons, then click over the affected part of the image to attempt the repair.

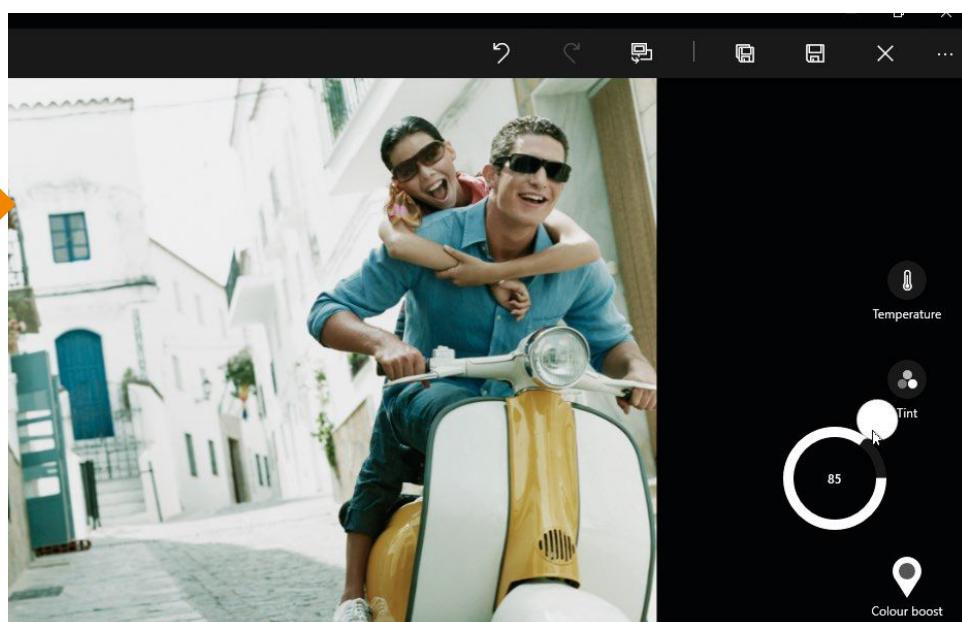


## Adjust lighting

Click 'Light' and you'll see four tools – Brightness, Contrast, Highlights and Shadows. Choose one and a wheel appears; click and drag it clockwise to increase the control's value, or anti-clockwise to decrease it. Your photo changes in real time as you adjust each wheel, so you can see the effect of your tweak. Set the sliders back to zero to start again if necessary.

## Tweak colours

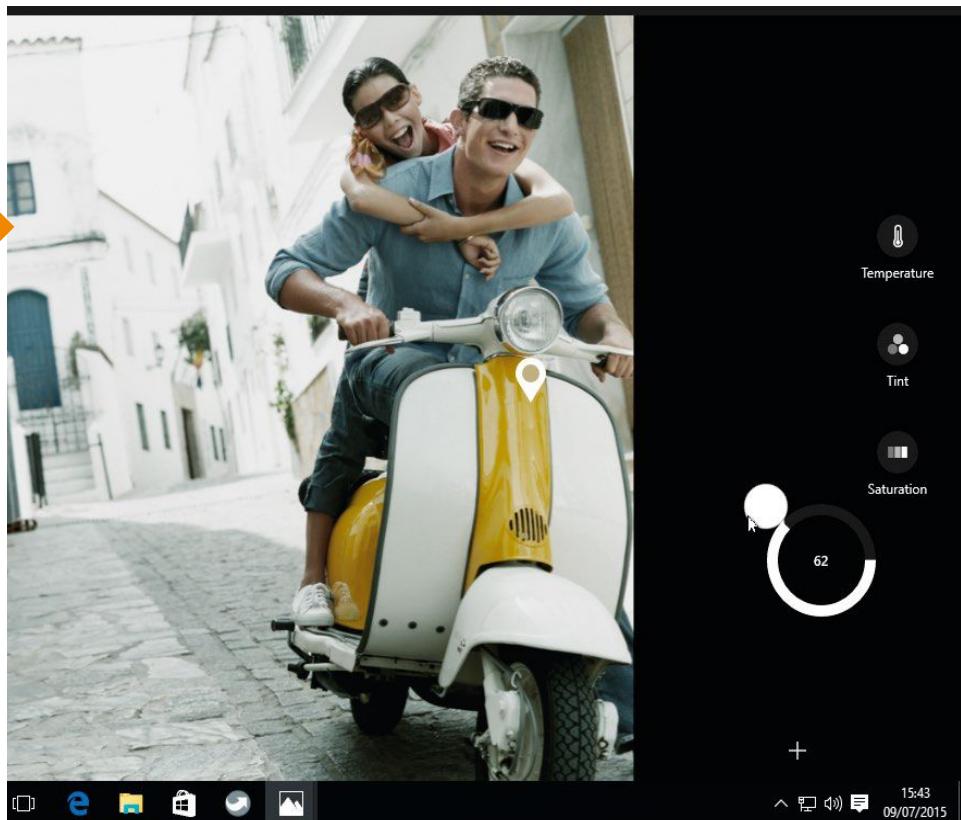
The Colour controls work in the same way as the lighting ones – click and drag the circular slider to increase or decrease an effect. 'Temperature' makes colours warmer or cooler, while 'Tint' enables you to apply a redder (clockwise) or greener (anti-clockwise) tint. 'Saturation' enables you to restore colour to washed-out photos.





## Spot colour tweaks

The 'Colour Boost' button works slightly differently by enabling you to tweak the colour balance using a single colour as its reference point. Click and drag the pointer over your choice of colour on the photo, then use the circular wheel to make adjustments to accentuate or reduce that colour's effect. Click and drag the pointer to another colour and repeat as necessary.



15:43  
09/07/2015

Strongest

Strong

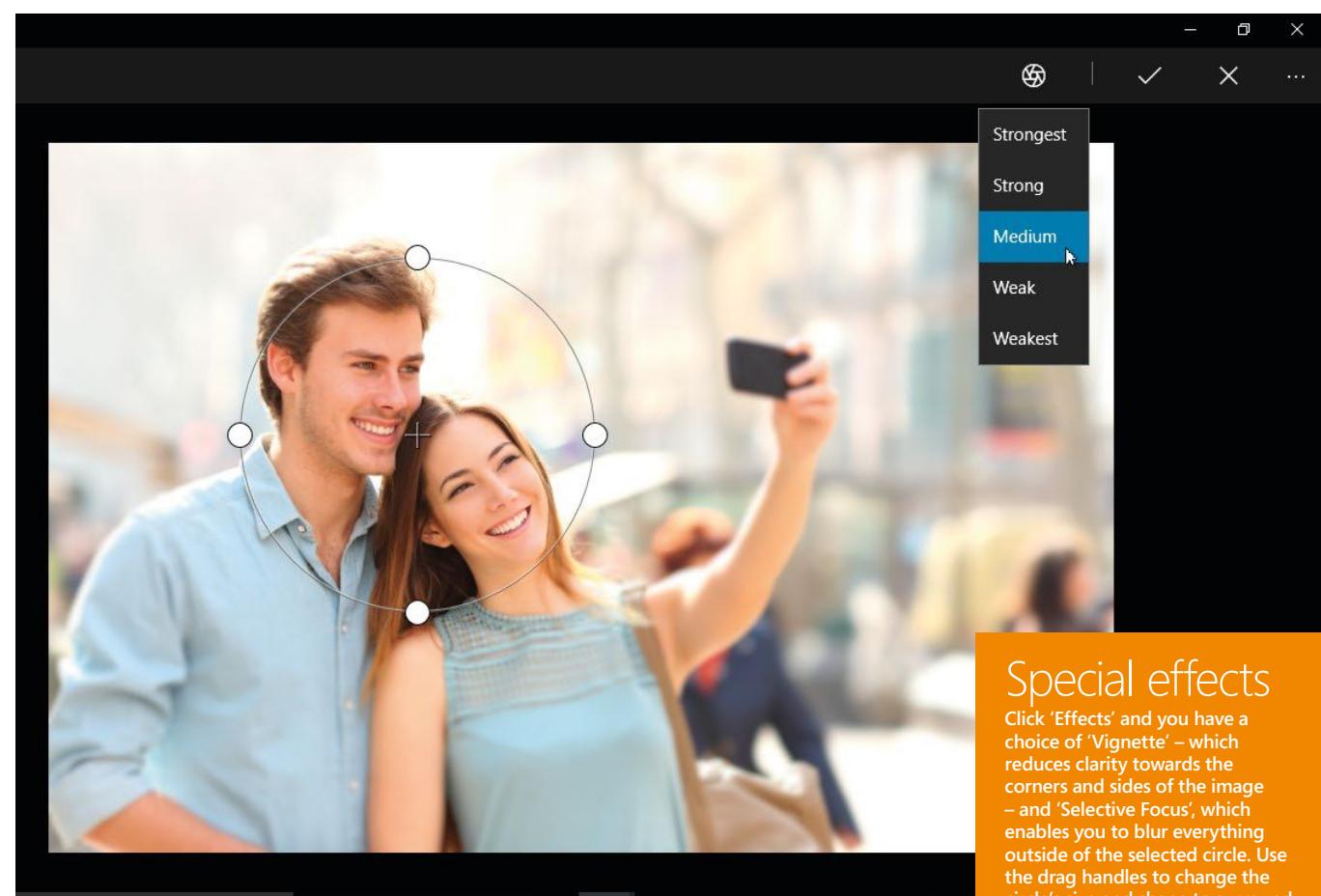
Medium

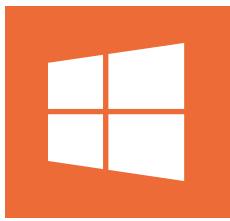
Weak

Weakest

## Special effects

Click 'Effects' and you have a choice of 'Vignette' – which reduces clarity towards the corners and sides of the image – and 'Selective Focus', which enables you to blur everything outside of the selected circle. Use the drag handles to change the circle's size and shape to surround the object you want to highlight, then use the 'Strength' button to alter the level of the blur effect.





Learn how to...

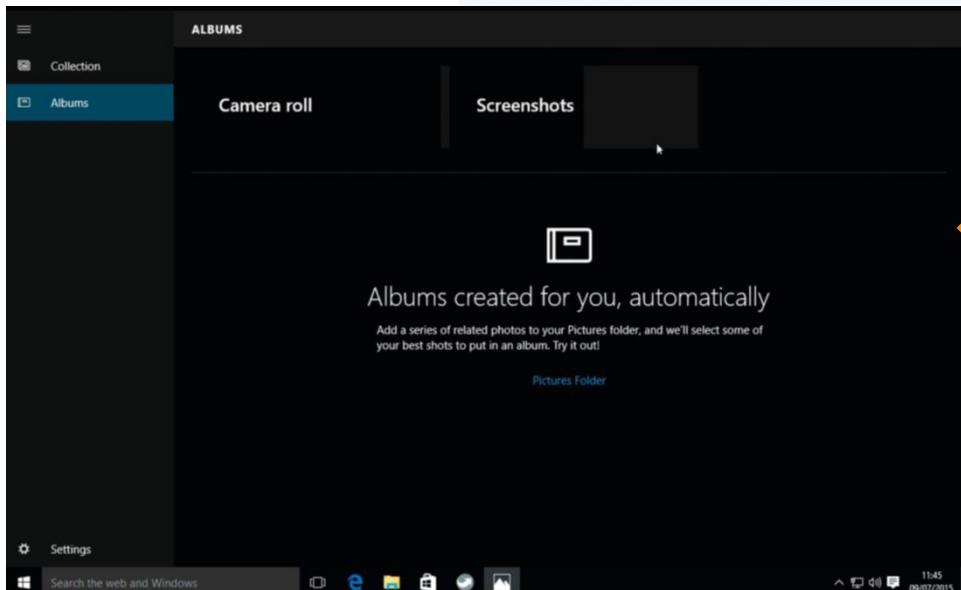
# Organise your photographs

Use the Photos app to manage your expanding collection of snaps

**TIME TAKEN**  
40 minutes

## Find the app

The Photos app should be sitting on your Start menu – look for a tile with a blue background. The app's live tile is probably activated, so if you've already added images to your Pictures folder (or you've uploaded photos to your OneDrive account) you'll probably find it's displaying some of your personal images, if it's not immediately obvious.



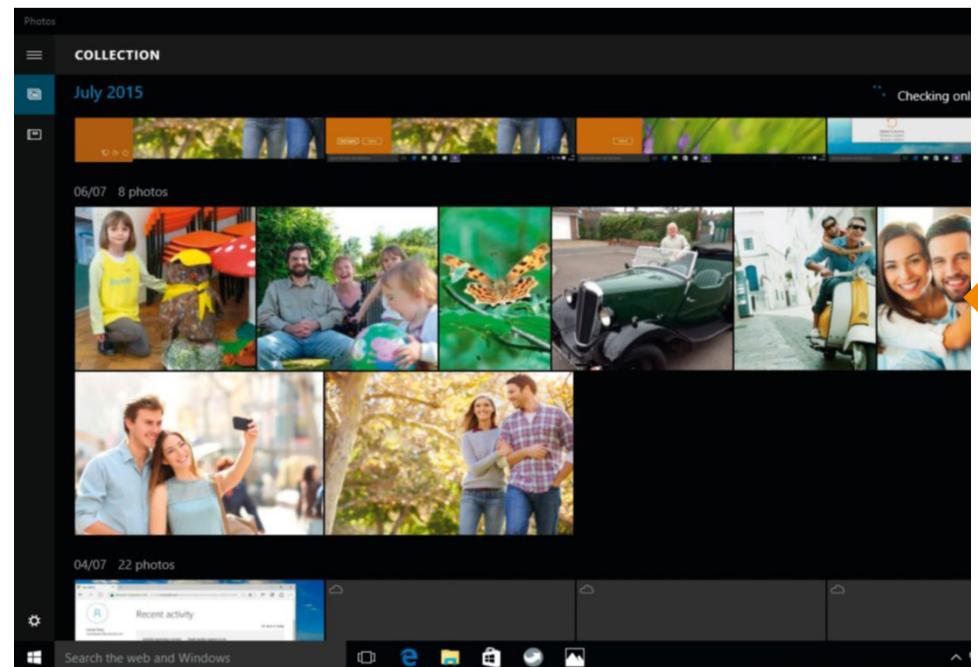
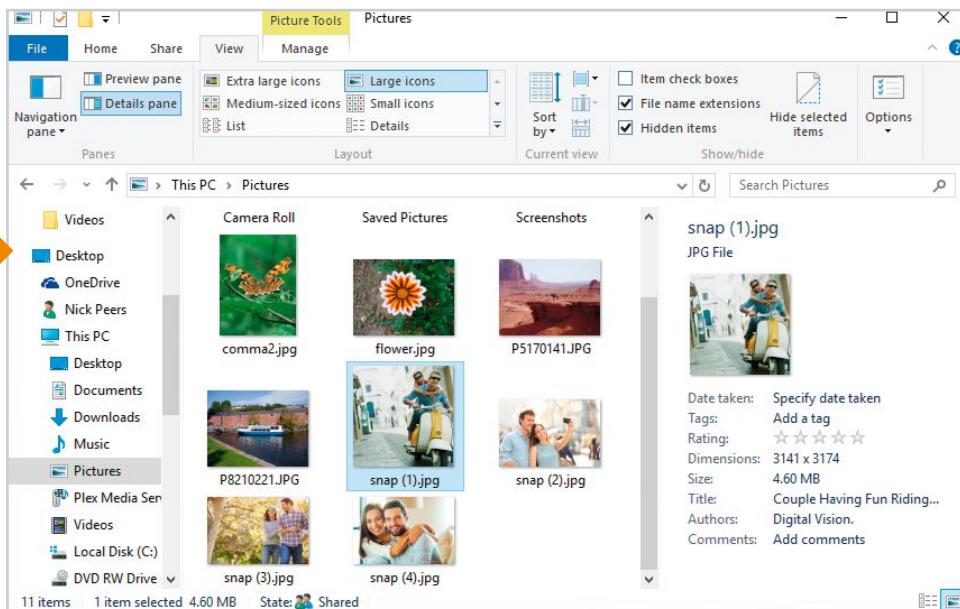
## Your first run

If you don't have photos in your OneDrive folder, and haven't added any pictures yet, Photos probably looks a bit bare – there's just a dark screen and a folder for screenshots. Prove to yourself that it's working by taking a screenshot. To do this, press [Windows]+[Print Screen] together, or hold the [Windows] button and press the volume rocker if you're using a tablet.



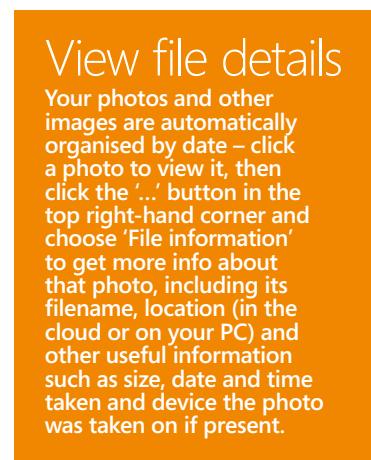
### Find your pictures

By default, screenshots are saved to a folder in your Pictures library. You can open the desktop and have a poke around if you'd like to see it for yourself. You should see the screenshots you've taken have been added to the Pictures library section of the Photos app. Copy more pictures to that folder, and they should follow suit.



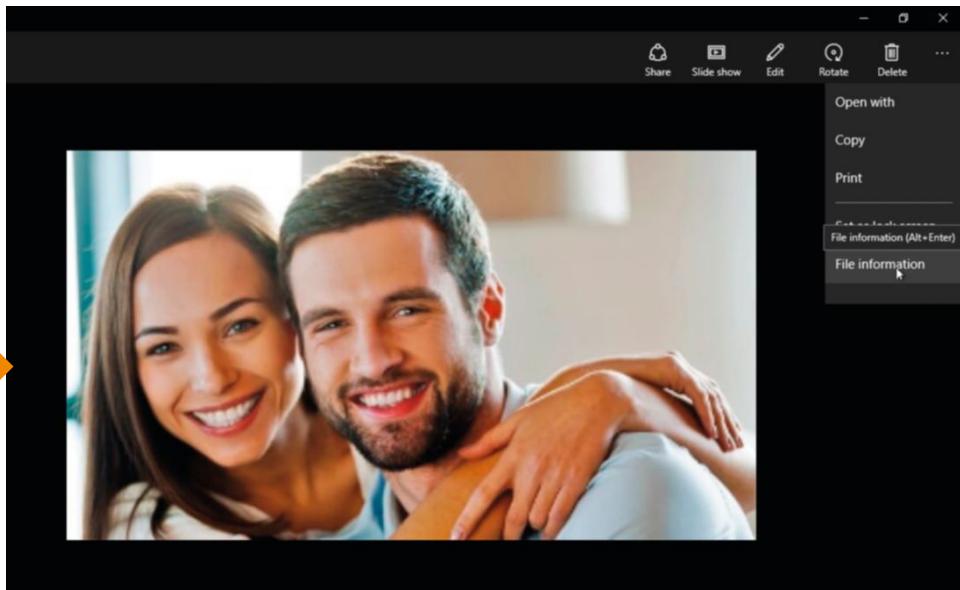
### Photos, everywhere

Photos is primarily designed to work with OneDrive, giving you access to all the photos you've previously uploaded from your other PCs and connected devices. If you've not already done so, install the OneDrive app on your Android or iOS phone, then switch on the setting to automatically upload photos and video from your mobile to your OneDrive account. These will then appear automatically in Photos – along with any locally stored pictures in your Pictures library – via the Collection section of the app, organised by date taken.



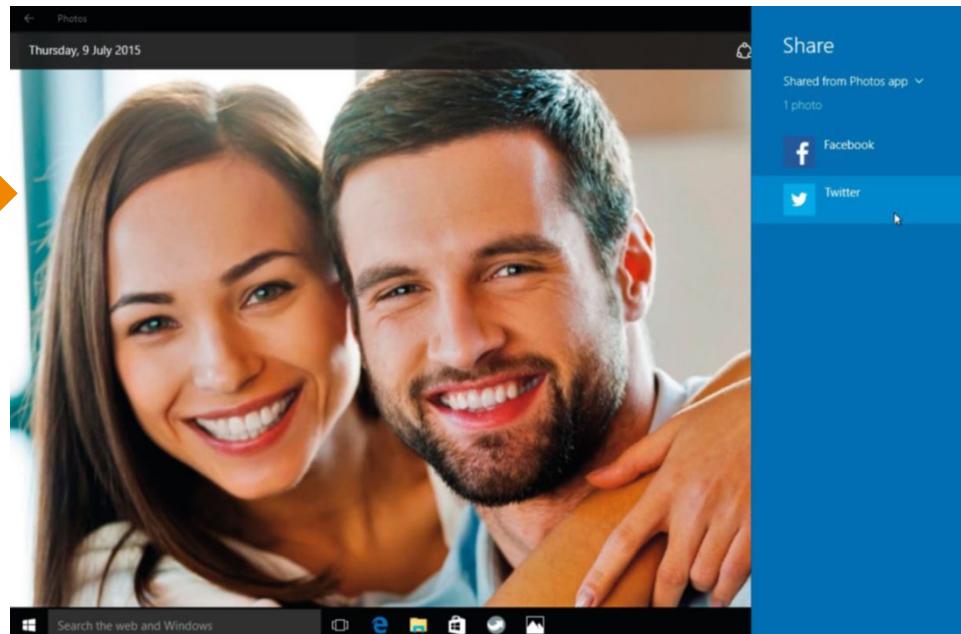
### View file details

Your photos and other images are automatically organised by date – click a photo to view it, then click the ... button in the top right-hand corner and choose 'File information' to get more info about that photo, including its filename, location (in the cloud or on your PC) and other useful information such as size, date and time taken and device the photo was taken on if present.



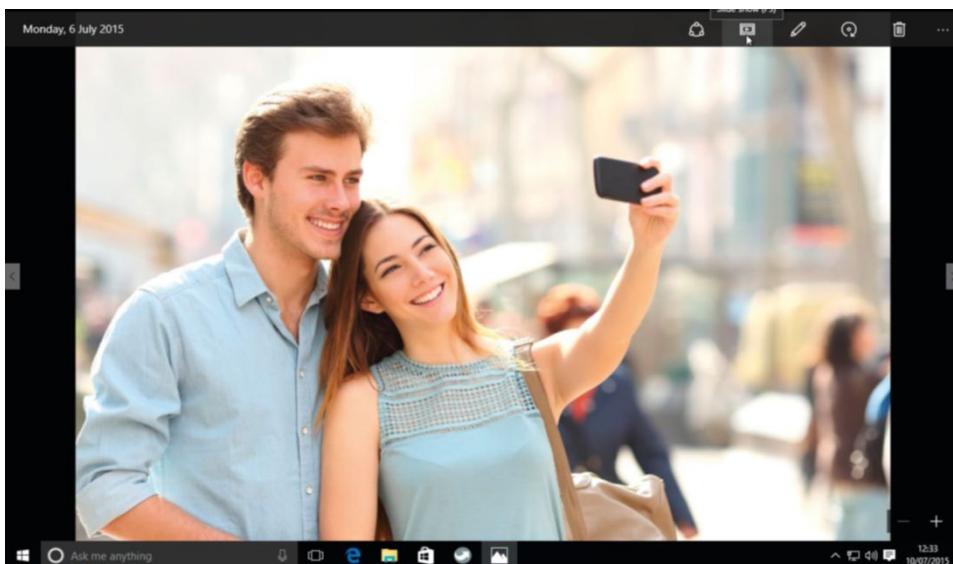
## Post or share

When viewing a photo, click 'Share' at the top of the screen to reveal a list of apps you can share it with. Two obvious examples are Twitter and Facebook – select these to quickly post the selected photo to either network. If you want to share multiple photos at once, see the tip on the opposite page.



## See a slideshow

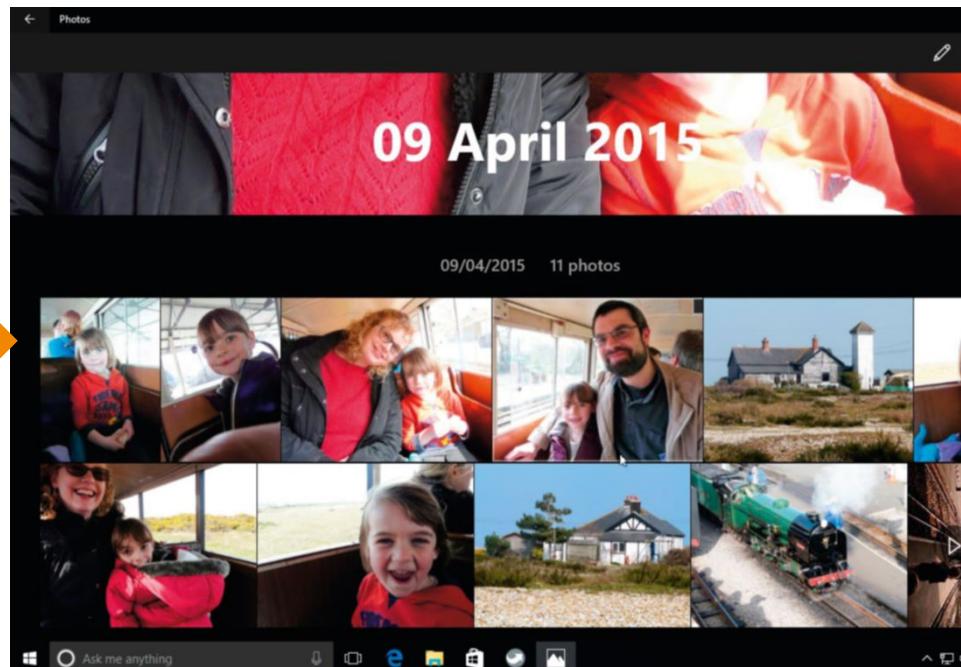
The slideshow button can be found to the right of the 'Share' button – click this and Photos will start displaying a slideshow of your images, moving through them in the order they appear in their album.

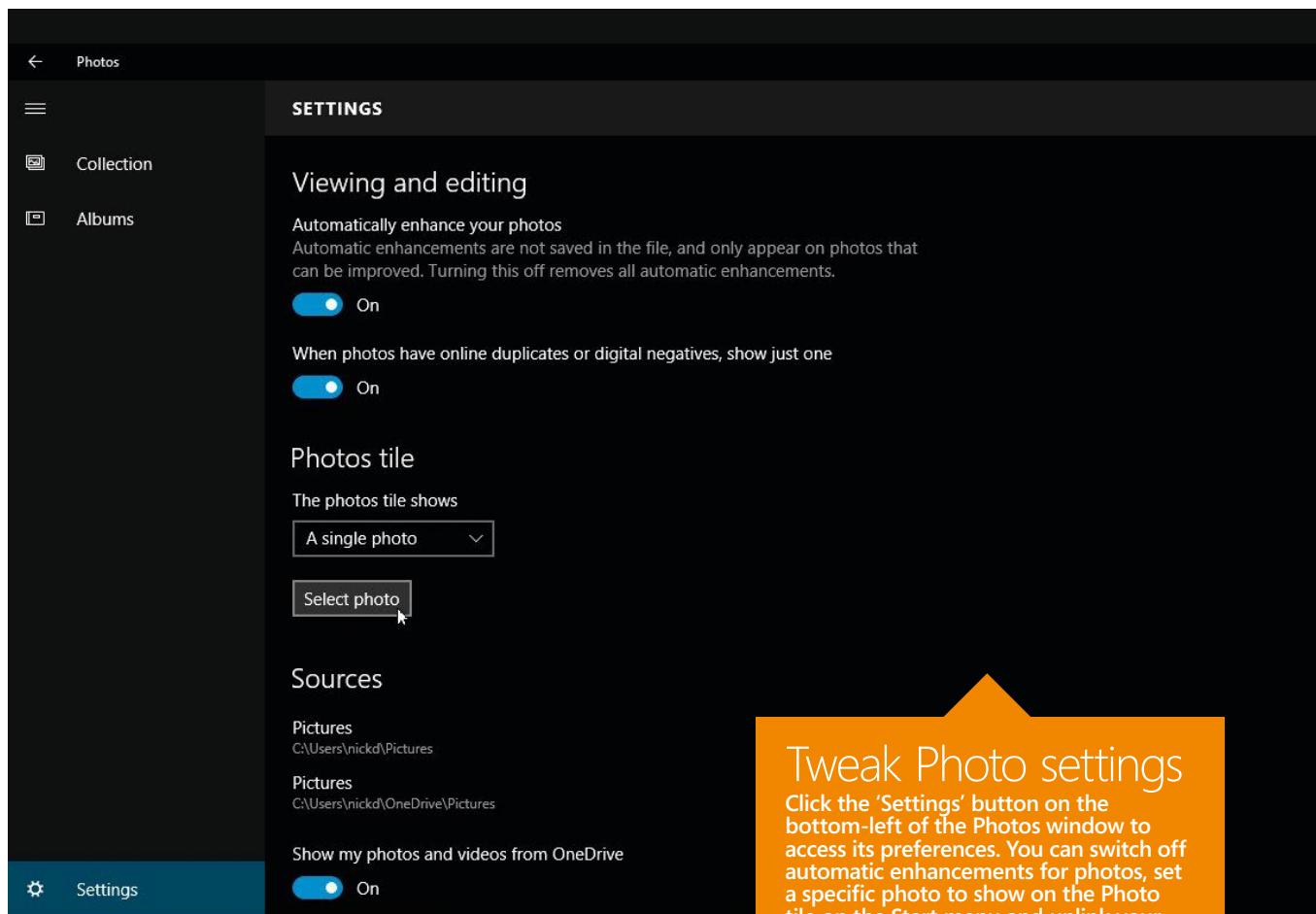
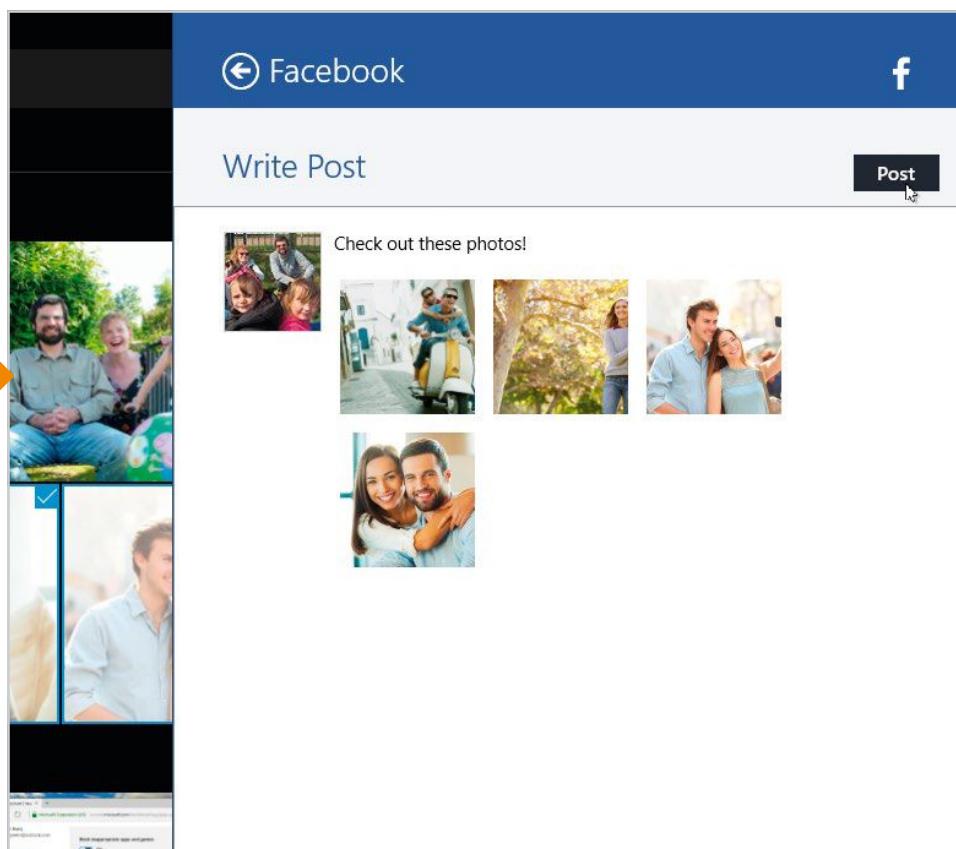
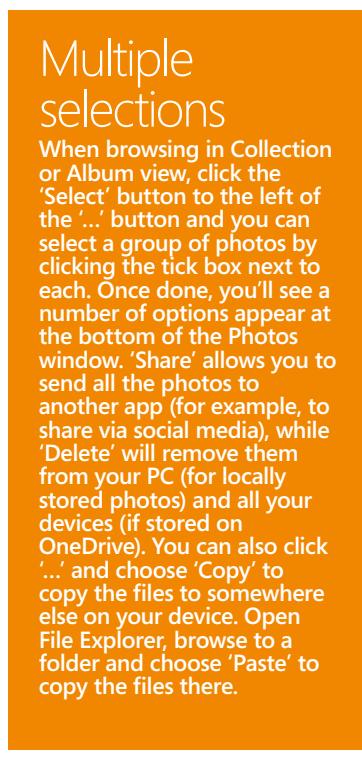


## Auto albums

Return to the main screen and click the 'Albums' button on the left to switch to Albums view. Photos will go through all the folders in your Pictures library and try to group related shots together in albums, providing you with an alternative way to browse your collection.

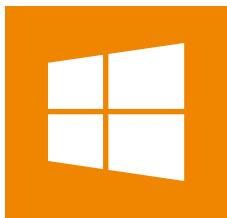
Click an album title to view the photos inside, which are arranged beneath the main header image. Keep an eye out for an 'Add or remove photos' button at the bottom of the list – click this and you'll see similar photos that haven't been selected for the album, allowing you to include them if you wish (or remove photos from the album that aren't a good fit).





## Tweak Photo settings

Click the 'Settings' button on the bottom-left of the Photos window to access its preferences. You can switch off automatic enhancements for photos, set a specific photo to show on the Photo tile on the Start menu and unlink your OneDrive account from the app if you only wish to use Photos for images stored on your own PC.



Learn how to...

# Tweak photos to perfection

Go beyond Photos with the Adobe Photoshop Express app

**TIME TAKEN**  
30 minutes

S

o far we've used the built-in Windows 10 Photos app or organise and edit your photos, but it is quite basic. If you want more then Adobe Photoshop Express (free on the Windows Store) enables you to edit your shots to perfection. This fantastic Windows app is like a cross between Photoshop and Instagram, with simple tools to help you correct common flaws, plus it has an array of fun filters. There are a few paid-for options, but the majority of its tools and features are free. It's easy to use, with a simple interface ideal for mice and fingertips alike. Visit the Windows store to download it now!

## Make your snaps shine



### 1 Pick a pic

You can add a picture from your hard drive, the camera of your Windows device, or Revel – Adobe's image backup and sharing service. Here, we're going for an image from our Pictures library. Select your photo, then click 'Open image'. You'll now be presented with the editing screen. If you can't see the tool icons, click your photo once to make them visible.

>Edit

#### BACK

Click here at any time to return to the main editing window and choose a different tool. You won't lose any of the edits you've made so far.

#### TOOLBOX

These tools let you crop, straighten and colour-correct your images. You can also apply special filters called 'Looks'.



Crop



Correct



Looks

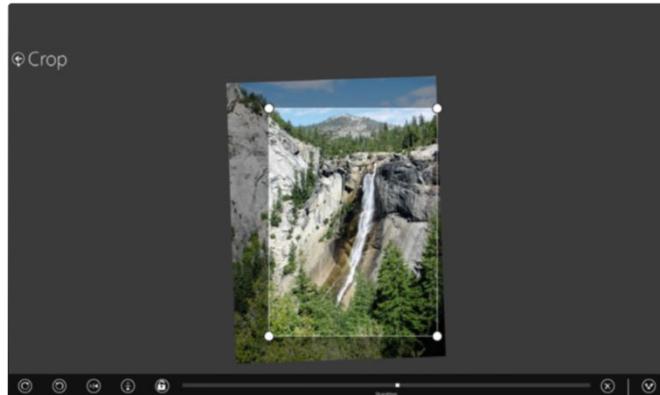


Red Eye



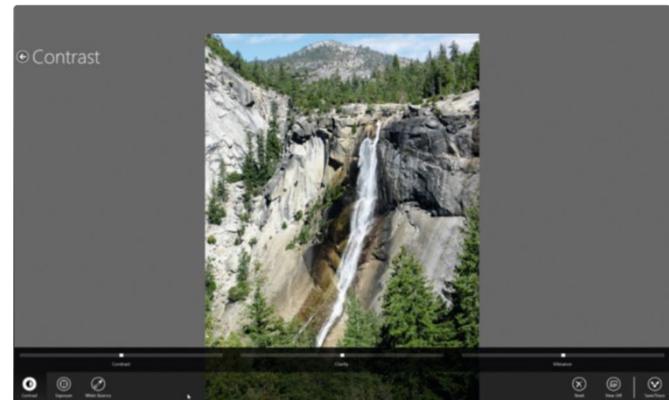
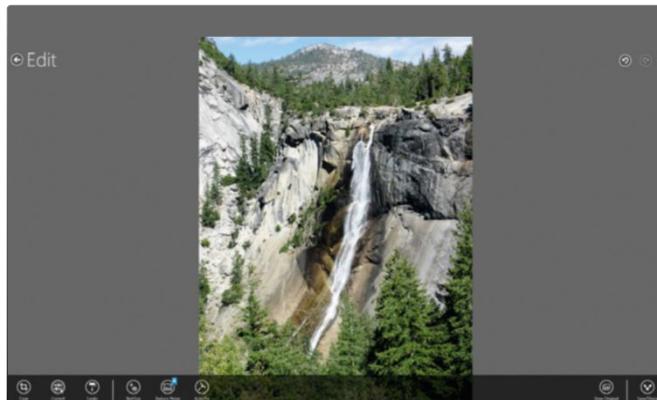
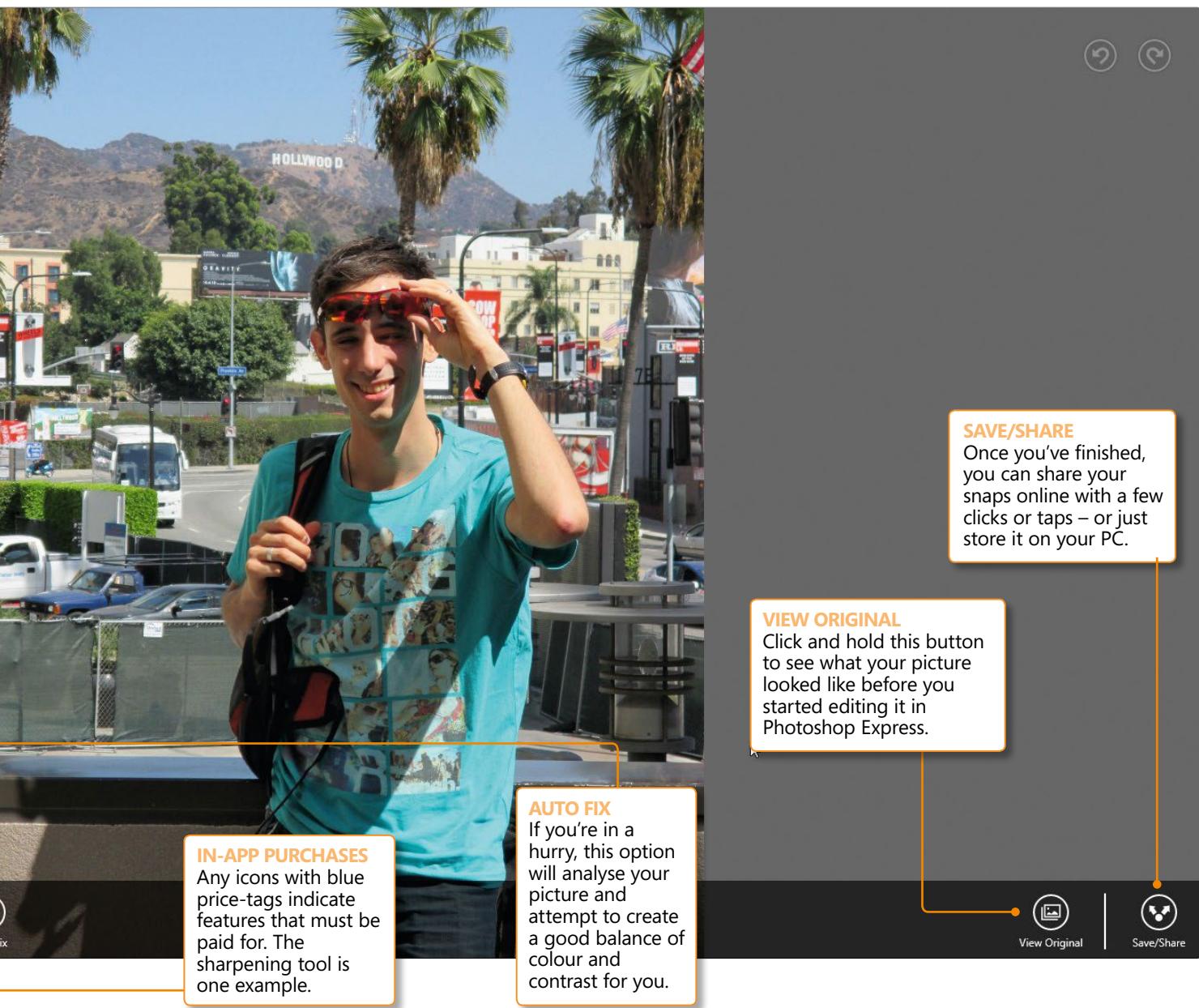
Reduce Noise

Auto F



### 2 Compose and crop

Select the 'Crop' icon at the bottom left and handles will appear at each corner of your picture. While cropping snaps, bear in mind the rule of thirds (<http://bit.ly/1h9rrEh>) to help create more dramatic-looking images. You can also use the Crop tool to rotate your image – ideal if you've snapped your picture with a phone held at a jaunty angle.

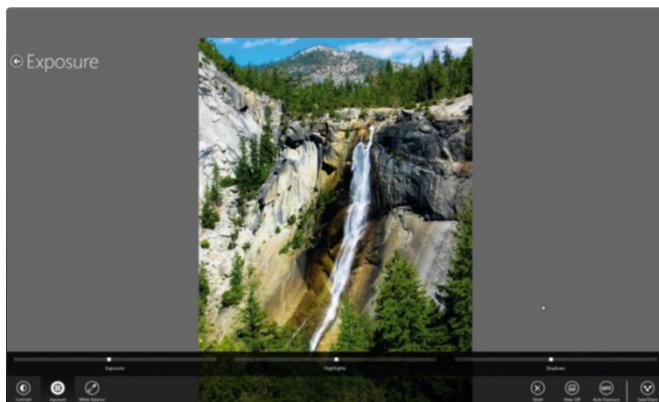


### 3 Changed your mind?

Once you've finished cropping and straightening, click the 'Back' arrow at the top left to return to the main editing screen. If you change your mind about any of the edits you've made, simply tap the 'Undo' arrow at the top right; none of the changes you're making will become permanent until you save the picture at the end.

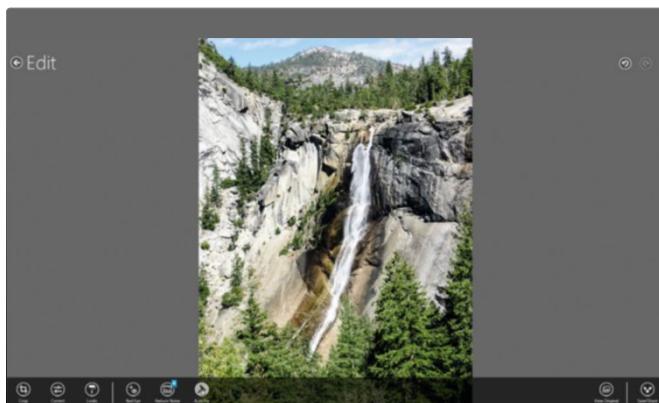
### 4 Compare and contrast

Select the 'Correct' tool and three tabs will appear – Contrast, Exposure and White Balance. Select 'Contrast' to adjust contrast, clarity and vibrance. Contrast is the difference between the brightest and darkest parts of your image, clarity makes the midtones in your image lighter or darker (resulting in a softer or 'harder' effect), and vibrance is colour saturation.



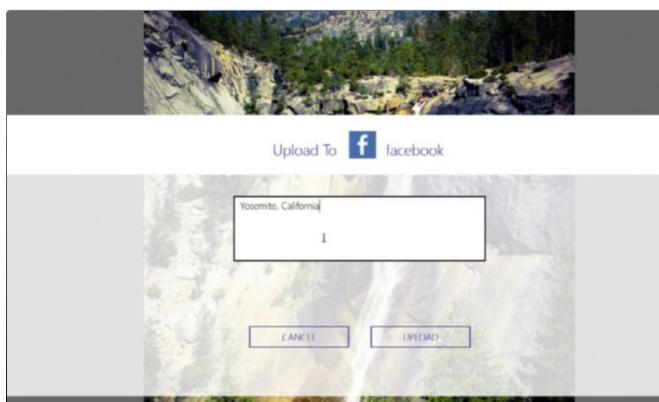
## 5 Decent exposure

Selecting the Exposure tab will reveal three sliders – ‘Exposure’, ‘Highlights’ and ‘Shadows’. These aim to replicate the effect of more or less light hitting the sensor in your camera. It can be a useful way to brighten up a picture, but it can never restore a part of the picture that’s in total darkness. The same is true of overexposure, where the highlights are white.



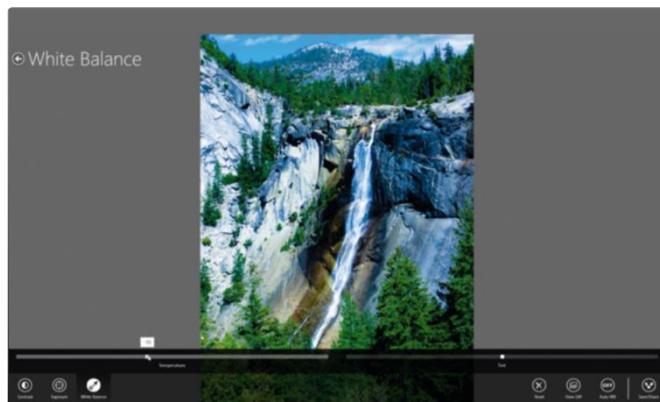
## 7 Auto-correct

The final corrective action you can take is red-eye repair. This eliminates the effect produced when light from a camera flash reflects off the eyeball. Select this option, then click the centre of each eye to fix it. If all those sliders and options sound like too much effort, you can click ‘Auto fix’ and the app will attempt to create a good balance of light, shade and saturation.



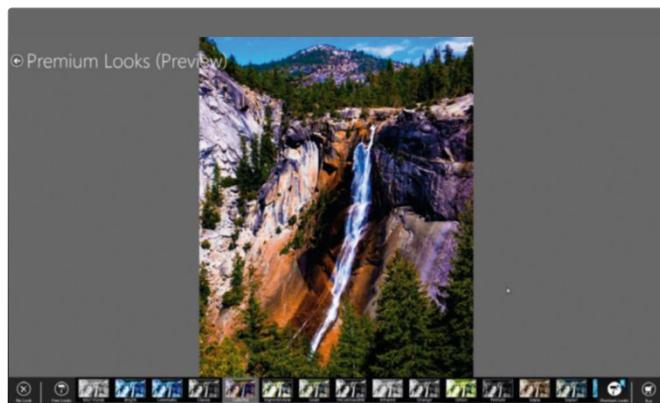
## 9 Share and enjoy

Click and hold the ‘View original’ button at the bottom left to see the differences your edits have made to your photo. Once you’re happy, select ‘Share/save’ and choose whether you’d like to save it to your PC, or share it on Facebook or Revel. If you choose Facebook, you can then enter a caption and share your polished snap with the world.



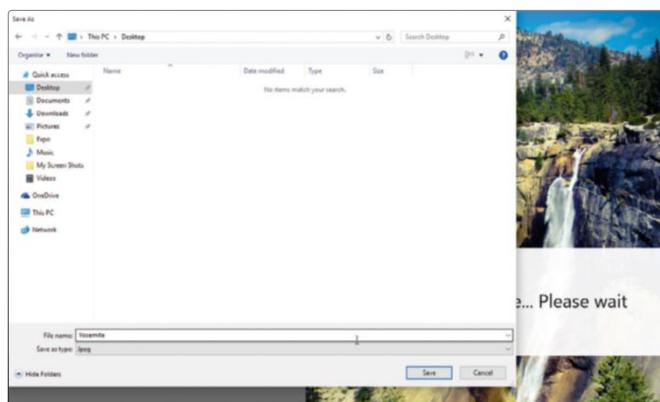
## 6 Balancing act

Indoor lighting is rarely white, and different types of lighting can tint your photos. For example, an incandescent lightbulb gives off warmer (more orange) light than a fluorescent bulb. The ‘White balance’ tab can help counteract this effect. The ‘Temperature’ slider makes images more orange (warm) or blue (cold), and the ‘Tint’ slider shifts it towards purple or green.



## 8 New looks

Instagram is best known for its retro-style image filters, which are a great way to liven up your shots. Photoshop Express has a similar selection of options, known as ‘Looks’. There are lots of free Looks, plus an array of premium ones that can only be previewed (not applied) unless you’re willing to pay. If you like the paid-for options, click the shopping cart icon to buy it.



## 10 Next, please!

If you’d prefer to store your picture locally, just choose a location, enter a filename and click ‘Save’. The editor will close and you’ll be ready to start perfecting another picture! Congratulations, you now know how to make your favourite snaps look amazing, and share them with your family and friends – all with only a few taps or clicks!

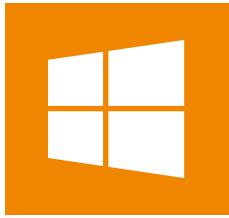
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Learn how to...

# Store files on OneDrive

Thanks to Microsoft's cloud storage, the days of plugging in fiddly cables are over

**TIME TAKEN**  
30 minutes

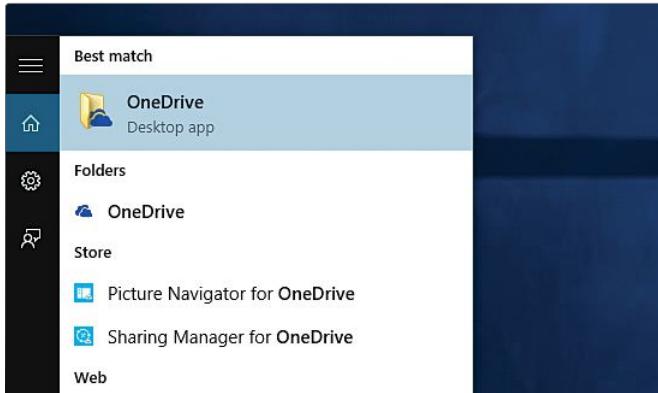


icrosoft OneDrive is a free tool that enables you to store your files online and retrieve them through a web browser. It comes built into

Windows 8.1 and 10, but there's also a desktop app available to download from <http://onedrive.live.com>.

In the wake of its success on the desktop, Microsoft has launched mobile apps that bring all the convenience of OneDrive to your Android or iOS devices. Not only does this enable you to open files and work with them on the move, it enables you to back up photos and videos taken on your phone, so a stolen handset doesn't mean lost memories.

## One drive for everything



### 1 Discover OneDrive

When you installed Windows 10, you will have been asked to create a Microsoft account. This account includes access to OneDrive; type OneDrive into the Start menu and select the desktop app to access your online storage area. You can also access your account via File Explorer, and it appears as an option when you save a file in any Microsoft Office app.

**MENU**  
Tap here to choose the type of files to view (photos or other documents), adjust your sharing options, and access or empty your recycling bin.

**ALBUMS**  
These are a good way to group photos together and share them with your contacts. OneDrive has access to your phone's address book for this purpose.

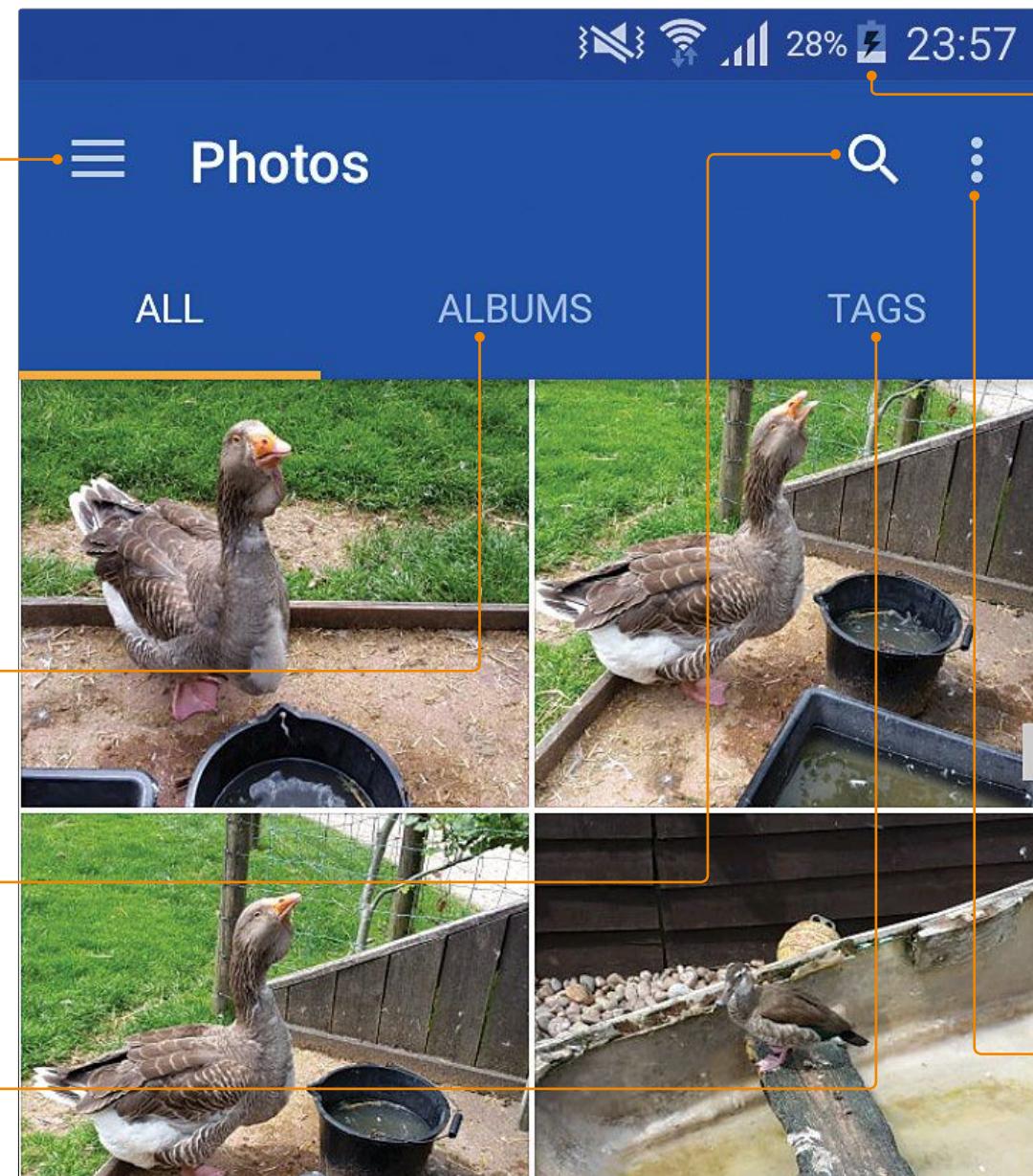
**SEARCH**  
OneDrive gives you lots of free space, so sometimes you might need to search for what you need. This can be text within a document, or tags.

**TAGS**  
OneDrive uses the power of Bing – Microsoft's search engine – to guess the subjects of your photos and apply appropriate tags to organise them.



### 2 Going mobile

Now you're familiar with OneDrive, it's time to move beyond the desktop. Windows 10 was created with mobile in mind, so it's easy to access and synchronise files across devices. To begin, type 'companion' into the Start menu and select 'Phone companion'. You'll be prompted to choose your device's operating system. Here, we're going to set up an Android phone.



Automatically get photos from your phone or tablet onto your PC  
Step 1 of 4

Get photos onto your PC using OneDrive for Android – it's free

When you take a photo or video with your phone or tablet, it's automatically uploaded to OneDrive, so you can get to it in the Photos app on your PC.

Download it for your phone or tablet from [Google Play](#), or email yourself a link. Use an email address that you can easily check on your phone or tablet:

While the app is downloading, continue to the next step.

**OneDrive**  
Microsoft Corporation   
 PEGI 3

### 3 Photo transfer

Once you've made your choice, you'll see the Microsoft services available (plus any coming soon). The second option – automatically get photos taken with your phone or tablet onto your PC – uses OneDrive to transfer your snaps to your desktop; no cables required. Select this option, and then verify that you're logged into Windows with your own Microsoft account.

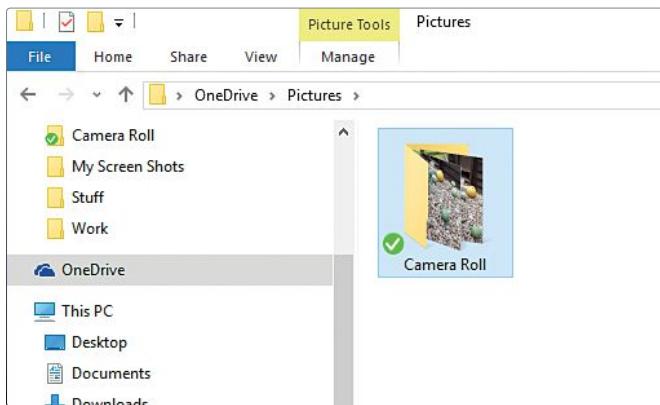
### 4 Get the app

Now you need to download and install the OneDrive app on your phone or tablet. You can do this through your phone's app store, or enter an email address to send yourself a direct link. The installation file is 28MB, so it's best to download it over a Wi-Fi connection rather than 4G if you have a limited monthly data allowance.



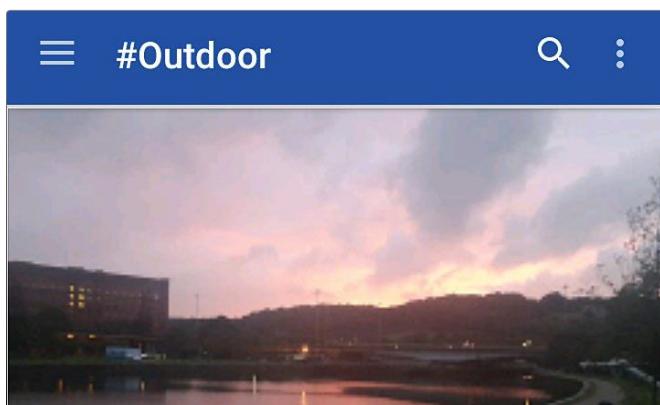
## 5 Log in

Click the 'Next' button on your PC and you'll be prompted to sign into the OneDrive app on your phone using your Microsoft account details. Open the app and click 'Sign in', then enter your email address and password. Once you've logged in, you'll be asked whether you want to upload the photos and videos already on your device. Tap 'Not now'.



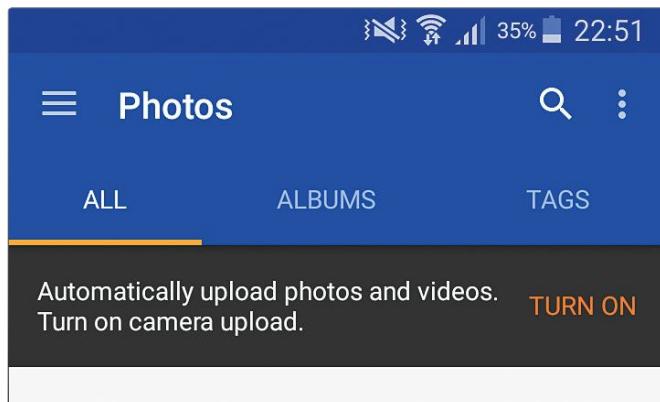
## 7 Auto sync

Now close the guide on your PC and open your OneDrive folder in File Explorer. Open 'Pictures' and you'll see a folder named 'Camera roll'; this is where all pictures from your phone will be stored. If you can see a green tick beside the folder, all your pictures have been synchronised. If there are two blue arrows, the pictures are currently being updated.



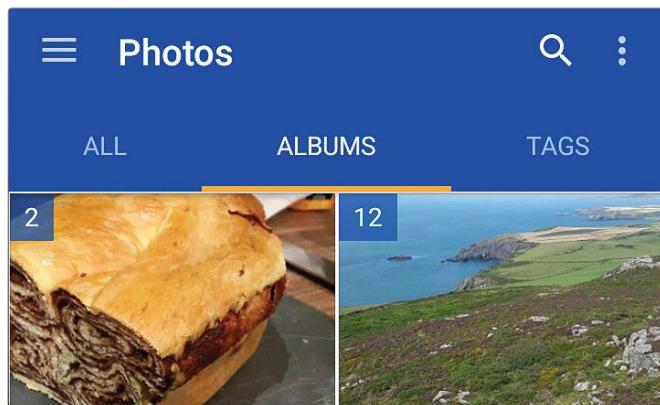
## 9 Smarter tagging

Tags are a useful way to categorise photos, but it's a chore tagging photos individually. That's not a problem with OneDrive, which uses Bing's image-recognition to guess the subject of each picture. It's accurate for the most part (although it's not infallible – in our tests, it tagged a hamster as #cat and #people). Select the option just below the search button to try it.



## 6 Camera Upload

Back on your PC, check the box labelled 'I'm signed in to the OneDrive app on my phone or tablet' and click 'Next'. You'll now be asked to enable Camera Upload on your phone – to do this, open the app's menu, then select 'Settings > Photos > Turn on'. If your phone is connected to Wi-Fi, it will now begin uploading the photos from its camera reel to OneDrive.



## 8 Album art

When you tap and hold your finger on a photo, a selection of options appear in the top bar. One of the most useful is the ability to add photos to albums. This not only keeps them neatly organised, it enables you to share a collection of pictures rather than individual snaps – ideal for pictures from a special event.



## 10 All together now

Congratulations, all the photos taken with your phone will synchronise automatically with your OneDrive account! Not only can you now access them from your PC, but from any internet-connected device – including those on different mobile operating systems. If you have another smartphone or tablet, installing OneDrive on both will combine your snaps into one place. ■

# GET TO GRIPS WITH A WINDOWS 8.1 PC

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**148**

pages of tips,  
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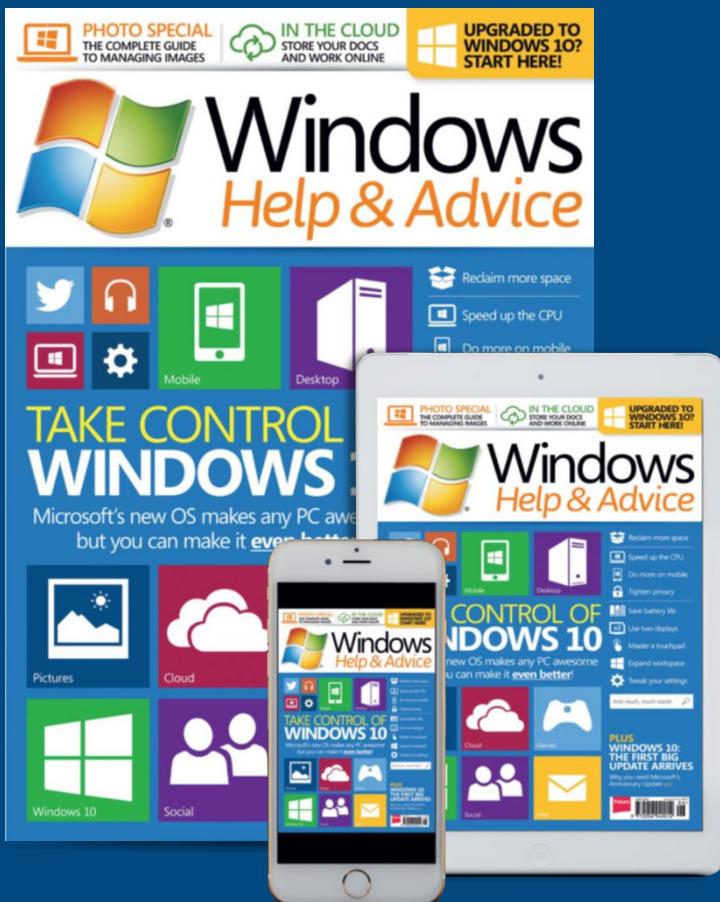
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# GET AHEAD IN THE CLOUD

Why putting your stuff on someone else's computer is a good idea...

**H**ave you ever wondered where things actually are when you're using them? Your Netflix film, your Spotify song, the Office 365 document you're working on in your web browser? They're all in the cloud – or in other words the storage and processing is happening on somebody else's computer before the results are sent to yours.

When you upload photos to Facebook you're storing them in the cloud. When you access your Outlook.com emails, those messages are in the cloud. Social networking, photo sharing, music streaming... more and more, the things we do with our gadgets involve putting things on or getting things from the cloud.

On Windows, the cloud can do even more. You can use it to store more files than your hard disk could ever handle, or you could use it to ensure the things that are important to you are always available regardless of where you are, or what kind of device you have handy. You can use the cloud to collaborate or share things with people far away, or just put your music collection up there so you can stream it to your smartphone. Or you could just use it to remind you to pick up some milk when you're out.

Over the next few pages we'll discover what the cloud can do for you, which services are the best and of course, how to ensure your files, photos or top-secret plans for world domination are safe and sound.

# The wisdom of clouds

Why cloud computing services make everything easier

**C**loud services have been around for a long time. In the 1990s, firms called 'application service providers' offered software over the internet, but unfortunately the computers and communications links at the time were so slow and expensive that the technology didn't take off. That started to change in the late 1990s, and one of the pioneers was Hotmail.

Hotmail – or Outlook.com as it's known now – might not seem like a big deal today, but in 1996 it was revolutionary – instead of downloading emails to your computer, you read them in your web browser. Hotmail gave you 2MB of free storage, which was a lot at the time, and by late 1997 more than 8.5 million people had signed up for the service. As our internet connections became faster, our web browsers better and storage space more generous, more of us took to the cloud. And today, Outlook.com has 400 million users and does much more than just email.

Cloud services weren't just for email, though. Flickr.com made it

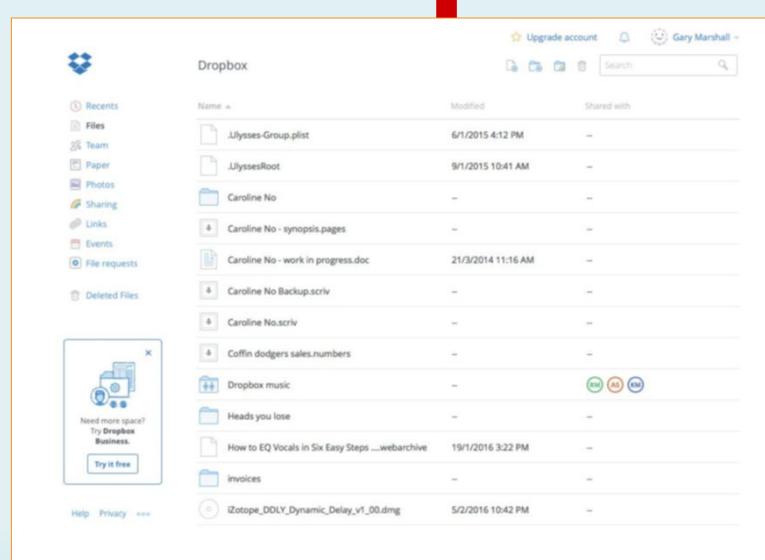
easy to store and share photos, while Soundcloud did the same for music, and services such as Evernote made it easy to store web pages, notes and anything else you want to keep. But what really kicked cloud computing into overdrive was the arrival of the smartphone and tablet.

Before smartphones, most of our computing was done on our PCs – and most of our important files, photos and media were

stored on our PCs too. But the arrival of PC-style power in handheld devices – devices that could connect to the internet almost as quickly as our PCs at home could connect – changed all that. Why spend time copying songs from your music library to your phone when you could just stream music from Spotify wherever you happened to be? Why download huge movie files when you could stream Netflix?

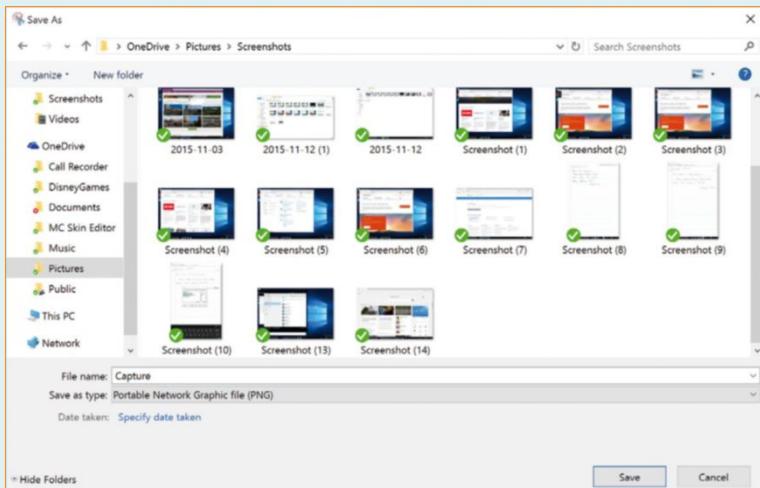
**"What really kicked cloud computing into overdrive was the smartphone and tablet"**

Get your head in the cloud for smarter working



Dropbox is a recommended and reliable storage option to keep your files safe





OneDrive, like Dropbox, looks like any other Windows folder on your PC

Why mess around with memory card readers and photo programs when you could automatically upload every photo to Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, Google Photos, OneDrive or whichever photo sharing service you liked best?

Computing used to be something you did by going to your PC. Now, computing is something you do on whatever device happens to be handy.

#### Different kinds of clouds

Cloud services tend to fall into one of three categories: cloud storage, cloud sync and cloud apps. Cloud storage is the simplest, and it's the model used by services such as photo-sharing services. The provider gives you a

bunch of space to store things, such as photos or music. These services are great for sharing files, for adding storage when your hard disk or SSD starts getting full or for backing up crucial photos and files.

The second type of service, cloud sync, is a little smarter. Cloud sync services such as OneDrive or Dropbox make copies of files and folders, and you can then synchronise those files and folders with other devices. Update the file on your phone and it updates every copy, so the changes are on your PC or on your tablet. Many apps use cloud sync behind the scenes, so for example, if you create a to-do list in the Wunderlist app that list

## ONEDRIVE: FOR OFFICE AND WINDOWS 10 USERS

OneDrive is Microsoft's cloud service for home and small-business use. It integrates with Windows and also works on Apple Macs, Windows Phone devices, iOS devices and Android devices. If you're running Windows 10 you don't even need to install it, as it's there for you already.

In addition to storage, OneDrive has some handy features. It automatically tags photos, and it enables you to highlight, draw and sign PDF files. You can also use it to collaborate on Office documents, and to make your documents available anywhere.

You can sign up just for OneDrive only, or you can get it as part of an Office 365 subscription at £5.99 per month for 1TB, or £7.99 per month for 1TB for up to 5 people. Those prices include Office.

For OneDrive without Office, there is a free version with 5GB of space, or you can have 50GB for £1.99 per month.



OneDrive is best value when you get it as part of an Office 365 subscription

## DROPBOX: A BIG DEAL FOR BUSINESS, BUT HANDY FOR HOME

Dropbox was an early star in cloud storage and its app treats your Dropbox storage just like any other Windows folder – save files or folders in your Dropbox folder and they'll be mirrored to your Dropbox account and any other devices you've installed Dropbox on. It offers selective sync, which is useful – you might dump everything from one PC into Dropbox, but only want to sync specific folders on another PC. It also enables you to send huge files without having to send them as email attachments.

The free plan has just 2GB of space, but 1TB is only £7.99 per month. For business users the rate is £11 per month per person. And Dropbox is available for Windows, Mac OS, Windows Phone, iOS, Kindle Fire and Android, so it works on almost anything. The mobile apps are good, with features such as MP3 playback and Office file editing on tablets.

We've been using Dropbox for a long time and we've found it exceptionally reliable, even when we're throwing around lots of files and folders. It does its job quietly and without any fuss.



Dropbox isn't the most generous service, unless you pay for it, but we've always found it to be utterly reliable

is there on the web version and the desktop app too, or if you save a recipe to the cooking app in your smartphone that recipe is available on your tablet too.

Then there are cloud apps. Facebook is a cloud app, so everything you see is happening on Facebook's computers and sent to your web browser. Twitter's also in the cloud. Office 365 in your browser is a cloud app. Google Docs is a cloud app. Netflix is a cloud app, and so on. These apps are all happening far, far away, and you're using them in a dedicated app or in your web browser.

In practice, cloud services often combine the categories – so Dropbox offers storage and link sharing as well as synchronisation, while Facebook enables you to upload photos, Office stores files in the cloud or on your device. The end result is simple – what you need is available wherever you are, on whatever device you happen to have in your hands.

# Every silver lining has a grey cloud

## What to watch out for when you opt for a cloud service

**T**here are three things to consider when you're thinking about using a cloud service for anything important. Those things are reliability, security and privacy.

Reliability is the obvious one. It's a good idea to experiment with free versions of any paid-for service before committing any cash. It's also worth looking for services that work offline when you can't get a connection, so for example OneDrive and Dropbox will wait until you get an internet connection and update your files and folders when you do.

There's more to reliability than access, though. In November 2015, Microsoft cut the available

storage on its OneDrive service. Office 365 users had their unlimited storage reduced to 1TB, while free storage was reduced from 15GB to 5GB. After some bad publicity Microsoft decided not to cut storage for existing users. The point is if a provider decides to change what they offer, or shut down their service, there might not be much you can do about it.

You'll also find that if something bad happens to your stuff, there isn't much you can do about that either, as the terms and conditions absolve the service provider of any responsibility should anything

## AMAZON CLOUD DRIVE: GO LARGE ON STORAGE

Everybody knows Amazon for its online shopping, but it's also the biggest cloud-computing provider in the world, and its servers power some of the world's most popular sites and services.

Cloud Drive wants you to sign up for the £79 per year Prime service. If you do, or if you have a recent Fire Phone or Fire Tablet, you get unlimited Cloud Drive photo storage. For everyone else, storage starts at 5GB on the free plan, rising to £6 per year for 20GB or £16 per year for 50GB. The biggest option is 1TB for £320.

The real draw here is Kindle Fire support, but Amazon isn't the only cloud service that works on Amazon's tablets – OneDrive is available in Amazon's app store and you can install Google Drive or Dropbox by disabling the ban on non-Amazon app installation.



Your Files.  
Wherever You Are.

Put your important files in Cloud Drive and access them from any of your computers, the Kindle Fire, or online. Get started using your 5 GB of free storage by installing Cloud Drive for Windows and Mac.

Install Cloud Drive



Amazon offers unlimited photo storage to Prime members and Kindle Fire owners

Be aware of  
security and  
privacy when you  
use a cloud service

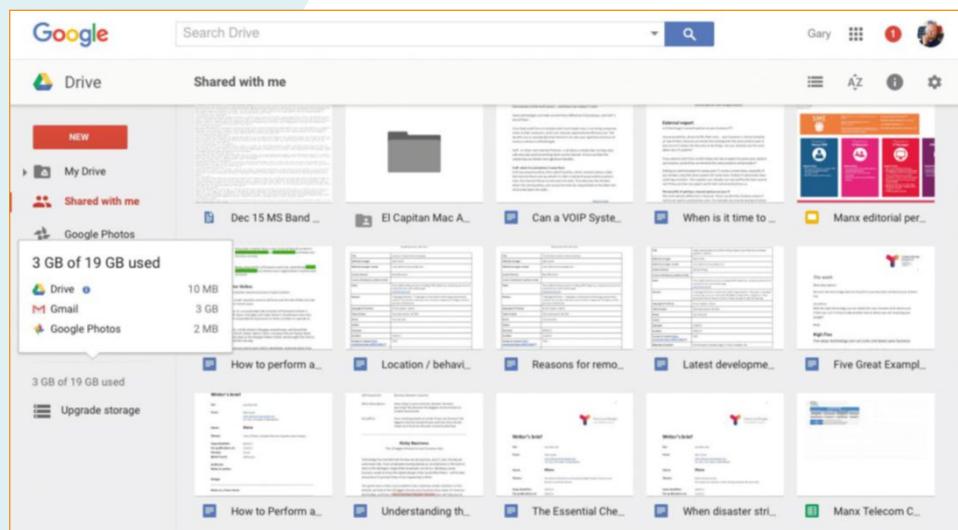


happen to your files. That means it's essential to have a backup of anything important, on an external hard drive or another cloud service.

### Safe as mouses

The biggest issue with cloud services, though, is security. The combination of a username and a password is fairly easy to break, especially if you use simple passwords. If you use the same password on multiple services then one of your accounts gets hacked, all your other accounts could get hacked too. The recent leaks of celebrities' photos weren't the result of complex hacking, they were the result of simple passwords and security questions on their iCloud accounts.

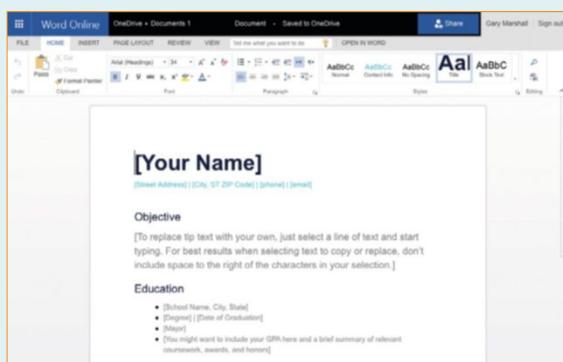
The best cloud services from Microsoft, Google and others offer two-factor authentication, which supplements the usual login with an extra layer of security. For example, whenever we try to access Outlook.com on a computer we haven't used before, Microsoft sends a code to our mobile phone. Other services give you extra security questions, have



**Google Drive**  
allows you to  
specify who's  
allowed to open  
what file

Cloud-based apps  
are great, but  
make sure you  
explore their  
security settings

## "The best cloud services offer two-factor authentication, for an extra layer of security"



a smartphone app that generates a passcode or ask for a special code that you set up when you open your account. If somebody tries to get in and can't provide the correct information, they don't get in. Many cloud services also enable you to review what devices you've authorised, and it's a good idea to check the list from time to time in case something's there that shouldn't be.

Finally, there's privacy to consider. As a rule of thumb, if you aren't paying for the service then there's a chance that you're the product it's selling. Many cloud services are the same, and the amount of personal information they store can be

frightening. Other services have other ways of making money, so for example in addition to selling advertising the photo-sharing site Flickr can resell images with 'Creative Commons' free-for-commercial-reuse labels without paying the photographers.

It's also important to consider what steps the service takes to keep your data private, especially if you're storing sensitive or commercial data. Many cloud services will scan files you upload, usually to ensure they're legal. However, such measures can pose a risk even to some innocent data you're storing. If that's an issue for you then you can always encrypt files before uploading. ■

## GOOGLE DRIVE: A BIG DEAL



Google Drive has the best  
free storage offer, although  
the space is shared with Gmail

Google helped kickstart the cloud revolution with its generous Gmail space and its Google Docs suite, so it's not a surprise its current cloud service, Google Drive, is also solid. You can use it as online storage, as photo storage or to synchronise files, and it integrates tightly with Google's online word processor, spreadsheet, presentation program and Gmail. There are apps for Windows, Mac, iOS and Android. If you want to use Drive on a Windows phone you'll need an app such as Metro Drive. With Google Drive you get 15GB for free, although that space is shared across Google Drive, Gmail and Google Photos. If you need more, prices start at \$1.99 per month for 100GB to \$299.99 per month for 30TB.

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# Support!

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Do you have a  
PC problem?  
Get in touch...

Email full details of your  
problem to the  
support team and we'll  
do our best to help  
[windowsmagazine@  
futurenet.com](mailto:windowsmagazine@futurenet.com)

## Windows WHY IS THERE AN ERROR WHEN STARTING MY PC?

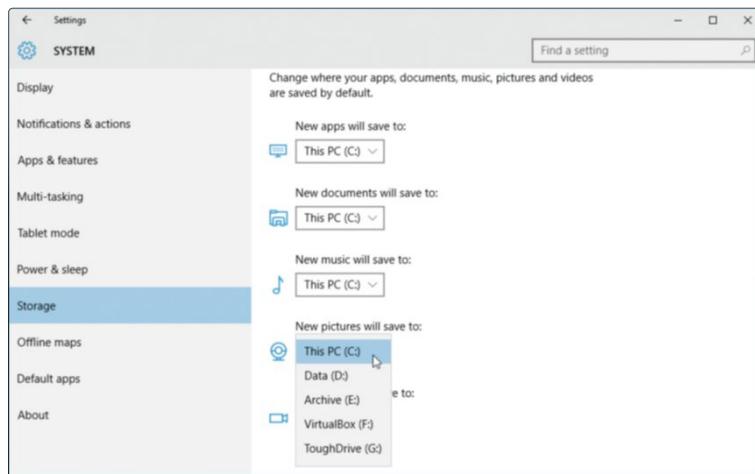
**Q** My PC didn't shut down properly the last time I used it, and now refuses to load. It throws up the error: 'Unknown Hard Error: \systemRoot\system32\ntdll.dll'. I'm worried as there's a lots on the drive that I need access to.  
**Steve Hedges**



### Matt's solution

The error can be caused by all kinds of things – first we asked Steve to check the cable connecting his hard drive to his PC motherboard. He swapped cables with his DVD drive and ensured both were seated correctly. The good news now was the PC would boot again, but then demanded a restart, after

which Windows proved unresponsive at the desktop. Steve could, thankfully, reboot into Safe mode, allowing him to transfer key files to an external drive. He could also access the internet using 'Safe mode with networking', so our next step was to instruct him to try a clean boot following the procedure at support.microsoft.com/kb/929135 – sadly we didn't hear back, so it's possible Steve decided to perform a full reinstall of Windows, which should finally resolve the problem.



**CAMERA ROLL**  
Make sure  
Windows knows  
where to look for  
your Camera Roll

## Camera I HAVE AN ANNOYING CAMERA ROLL PROBLEM

**Q** When I try to open my camera on my Acer Aspire E15 laptop I get the message: 'You can't take pictures with a Camera Roll, but it looks as though you removed yours from this device. To fix this, reconnect the USB or SD card where you moved your Camera Roll.' I'm not aware of having done anything – what has happened?  
**Ronald Young**



**FINANCIAL WIZARDRY** Take control of your money with Moneywiz

**Graham's solution**

Most laptop and tablet cameras should save photos to a folder called Camera Roll, which by default is stored in your user's Pictures folder. It sounds like this reference has changed, so first, open File Explorer and click 'Pictures' under 'This PC'. Assuming there isn't an error message, you should see a Camera Roll folder inside here. If it doesn't exist, try creating it – make sure it's named Camera Roll (two words, with 'C' and 'R' in caps). If this doesn't resolve the problem, click 'Start > Settings. Select System > Storage', scroll down and see where 'New Pictures will save to' is set. It should point to the same drive as your Pictures folder (typically 'This PC (C:)'), but may have changed – set it back to the correct drive, and your camera should function again.

## Applications

**DO I NEED A NEW MONEY PROGRAM?**

**Q** I've just upgraded to Windows 10, and realised my old Quicken money management software is no longer fit for purpose. Can you recommend a good replacement?

**Dinah Towers**

**Nick P's solution**

If you're looking for a straight, free replacement to Quicken then HomeBank (<http://homebank.free.fr/>) is the perfect choice. It's regularly updated and

can import your data from Quicken. However, if you're looking for a solution that can be accessed via tablet, phone and your PC, then take a trip to [www.moneywizapp.com](http://www.moneywizapp.com) and check out MoneyWiz. It includes all the functionality you're looking for, and can be purchased with online banking support for around £3.99 a month with access across all your devices included. Or you can make one-time purchases of around £17.50 for the Windows version, and £4 for each of the iOS and Android versions if you need them. Thanks to its **SYNCbits** technology, your accounts can be accessed and synced on all your devices, making it easy and convenient to keep on top of your finances.

**"Errors can be caused by all kinds of things – first check the PC's cables..."**

**Jargon buster!****► SYNCbits**

A cross-platform technology for syncing Moneywiz files and smaller data chunks (such as individual transactions) across devices using the cloud.

**► Windows PowerShell**

A programming language that's used to automate system tasks, and which uses a command-line interface.

Where to next?

Search or enter web address

Can't reach this page. Check your Internet connection.

Go to network settings

**Quickfire questions**

I'm ready to take advantage of the free upgrade to Windows 10. Do I need a product key, and where do I get it from?

**Frank Walker**

You don't need a key – and if you reinstall Windows and get prompted for one, select 'Skip'.

Can I transfer my Evernote notes into OneNote?

**Mariusz Kozłowski**

Yes, but you'll need to download a free importer tool from [www.onenote.com/import-evernote-to-onenote](http://www.onenote.com/import-evernote-to-onenote) in order to do so. You'll need the Evernote for Windows tool installed to complete the transfer.

## Quickfire questions

Is there a simple add-on I can use to monitor and block tracking cookies from websites?  
**Jed Winter**

The free Ghostery add-on for IE, Firefox and Chrome allows you to block all kinds of tracking information, including scripts. It's recently been updated with a friendlier interface and additional monitoring features – see [www.ghostery.com](http://www.ghostery.com) for details.

I'm a bit confused – I see VLC Media Player is now in the App Store, so should I install it from there instead of the VLC website?  
**Steve Cox**

The version in the App Store is different to the desktop version, and less powerful. Try them both, but we suspect you'll want to stick with the version you download from [www.videolan.org](http://www.videolan.org).

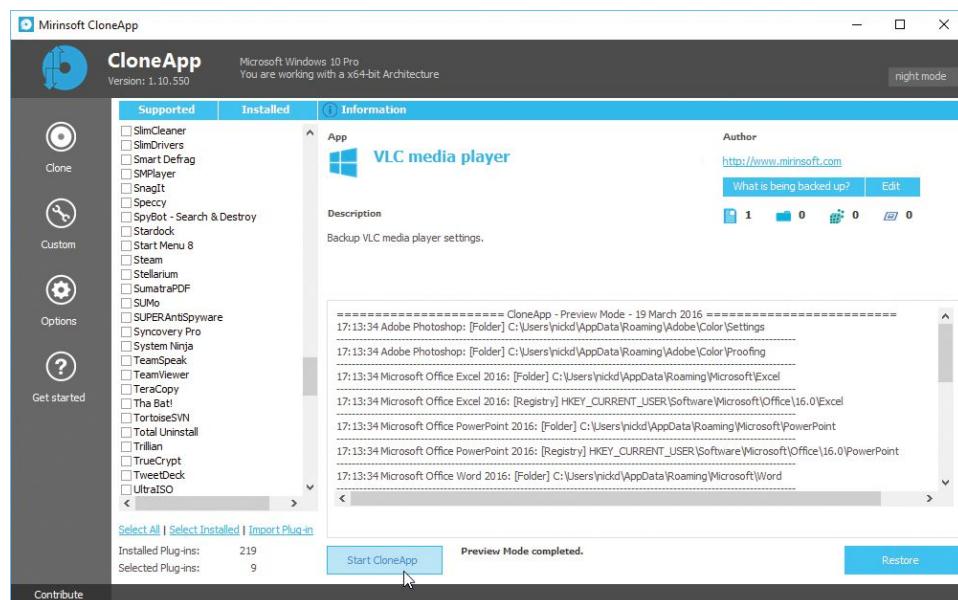
Is my Dell Inspiron 1525 100 per cent compatible with Windows 10 Home?  
**Peter Claxton**

A quick trip to Dell's support site ([www.dell.com/support](http://www.dell.com/support)) reveals it's not officially supported, but Googling 'Inspiron 1525' and 'Windows 10' suggests it should be compatible, although drivers may be difficult to track down.

## NON-HOMEGROUP FOLDER SHARING

**Q** After a recent Windows update, my laptop can no longer see my desktop, although its Wi-Fi connection is fine. Help!  
**Colin Travis**

**Nick O's solution**  
There are reports of Homegroup connections breaking after Windows updates – either delete and recreate the Homegroup, or switch it off completely in favour of the traditional approach by following these steps on both PCs.



## MY EDGE BROWSER WON'T CONNECT

**Q** I recently reset my Dell desktop, but since doing so, although I still have access to Wi-Fi and can send and receive emails, I cannot access any web pages in my browser. Can you help?  
**Peter Williams**



### Cat's solution

We eventually were able to target the issue as being firmly with Microsoft Edge, which was the browser Peter had been using. He was able to confirm this when – on reinstalling his printer – was prompted to install Google Chrome as part of the process. Once done, Chrome opened and connected with no issues, giving him web access again and confirming the problem lies squarely with Edge. Re-registering Edge could potentially solve this solution: type

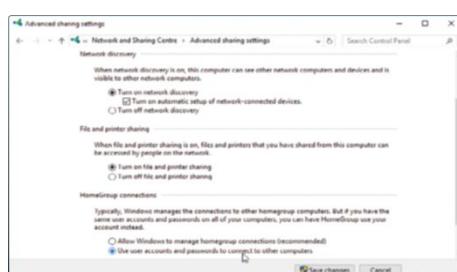
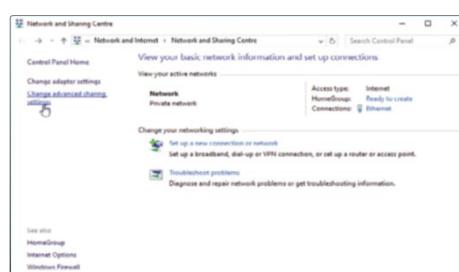
**GRANULAR BACKUP** Back up key program settings with **CloneApp**

**PowerShell** into the Cortana search bar, then right-click the Windows PowerShell desktop app entry and choose 'Run as administrator'. Now type the following, all on a single line:

```
Get-AppxPackage -Name *Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge* | Foreach {Add-AppxPackage -DisableDevelopmentMode -Register "$($_.InstallLocation)\AppXManifest.xml" -Verbose} Hit [Enter], and this will hopefully get Edge working correctly again.
```

## CAN I BACK UP PROGRAM SETTINGS IN WINDOWS?

**Q** I need to reinstall Windows, but I'd like to save as much time as possible afterwards by not having to reapply program settings. Can you recommend a good tool that gives me an option to easily back up (and restore) my app settings please?  
**Louis Parker**



## Access sharing settings

**1** Right-click the network icon in the Taskbar's Notification area and choose 'Open Network and Sharing Centre'. Click 'Change advanced sharing settings' and check network discovery and file and printer sharing are switched on.

## Change settings

**2** Switch off Homegroups by selecting 'Use user accounts and passwords to connect to other computers', then scroll down to the 'All Networks' section and click the down arrow next to it in order to reveal additional options you need to tweak.



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a PC problem?  
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### Graham's solution

Download the free CloneApp tool from [www.mirinsoft.com](http://www.mirinsoft.com) – go to the Downloads section to download the program, which is a portable app. After unzipping the program, right-click CloneApp.exe and choose 'Run as Administrator', then browse the list to see what programs are supported – over 100 are covered, including major apps such as Office (2010 onwards), Photoshop and so on. Tick the boxes of those programs you wish to back up, then click 'Start CloneApp'. After reinstalling Windows and your programs, launch the app again, but this time click 'Restore' to bring back your previous settings.

### Microsoft OneDrive SAVING FILES DIRECTLY TO ONEDRIVE

Would it be quicker to work on documents directly in my OneDrive folder rather than saving them to my desktop and then creating a backup copy inside the OneDrive folder?

**Gill Stevenson**



### Nick P's solution

I store my work files directly in my OneDrive folder – it ensures the latest version is always available on whatever PC or device I access the file on. That said, there are times when OneDrive will be unable to save the file in Office due to what it sees as **conflict** with the file stored online. When this happens, it'll save a copy of the file with your computer name appended, but you won't tell you it's done this. You need to be vigilant – if you open a file and discover recent changes appear to be missing, close the program, open the folder

and look for a file that begins the same, but ends with your computer name. Check the date stamp – if it's dated later than the original, open it to confirm the changes are in there, then save a copy of that file using the original filename, replacing it when prompted to merge the changes back.

### Windows UPGRADE PROMPT WON'T GO AWAY

I cannot believe Microsoft's cheek – I'm not ready to upgrade to Windows 10 yet, but it's thrown up a nag screen that seems impossible to remove. It tells me if I want to upgrade now or upgrade tonight – I don't want to do either, so how do I stop this appearing or at least remove from the screen?

**Jenny Hiron**

### Matt's solution

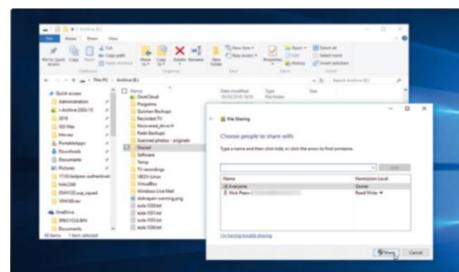
It seems strange of Microsoft's to try and force this update on to people. While it's possible to uninstall the specific update from Windows Update, then hide it from view the next time you check for updates, Microsoft keeps sneaking in other updates too that bring back a prompt to upgrade. An effective way to disable the Windows 10 nag is to download and install a free program called GWX Control Panel. Download it from <http://ultimateoutsider.com/downloads/> and double-click it to launch the program. You'll see it can detect the presence of the Windows 10 upgrade tools, plus allows you to block them, giving you some respite from Microsoft's incessant nagging.

The GWX Control Panel window displays several configuration options:

- Information section:
  - Is 'Get Windows 10' icon app running? No.
  - Is 'Get Windows 10' icon app enabled? Yes.
  - Are Windows 10 Upgrades allowed? Yes.
  - Non-critical Windows 10 settings enabled? No.
  - GWX Control Panel Monitor Mode status: Disabled. Not running.
- Status and settings summary: A note states that the 'Get Windows 10' icon app is installed and configured to allow Windows 10 upgrades.
- Buttons at the bottom:
  - Click to Disable 'Get Windows 10' App (remove icon)
  - Click to Prevent Windows 10 Upgrades
  - Click to Delete Windows 10 Download Folders...
  - Click to Delete Windows 10 Programs...
  - Click to Change Windows Update Settings...
  - Click to Clear Windows Update Cache (see User Guide for details)...
  - Click to Enable Non-critical Windows 10 Settings
  - Click to Enable Monitor Mode...
  - Click to Display the User Guide...

**STOP THE NAG OF  
WINDOWS 10**  
**The GWX Control  
Panel blocks the  
upgrade pop-up**

**"Store files directly on OneDrive to ensure the latest version is always available on whatever PC or device you access it on"**



### 3 Final tweaks

Switch on Public folder sharing if you'd like to share files through your computers' Public folders. Then verify 128-bit encryption is selected and set password-protected sharing depending on who has access to your network. Click 'Save Changes'.

### 4 Set up share

You'll need at least one shared folder on the desktop – browse to it, right-click and choose 'Share with'. If 'Stop sharing' is listed, the folder is already shared; otherwise choose 'Specific people' to set it up. Click Share to complete the job.

### Jargon buster!

#### ► File conflict

A rare issue that occurs when a file has been opened in two separate locations and changes made to both versions before a sync is made.

#### ► Homegroup

Windows' own proprietary system for sharing files and printers over a network. It requires Windows 7 or later to work, and is not compatible with Macs, Linux or other operating systems.

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GREAT  
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# T3

The Gadget Magazine



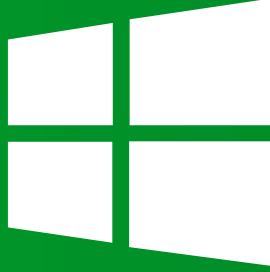
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# Welcome to... Windows 10

► WINDOWS 10 TIPS ► FEATURES EXPLAINED ► NEW TIPS AND TRICKS

## Welcome



In each issue of *Windows Help & Advice* we show you how to get to grips with

Windows 10, and master the basics. This month we look at how to recover files and avoid viruses and malware.

File recovery in Windows 10 is handled by File History. You'll need an external hard drive to back up to, but once you have that enabled, your files will be safe and secure.

It's always a threat knowing a virus or malware could attack your PC, but there are ways to avoid this without having to pay. Let us know how you get on by emailing us on windowsmagazine@futurenet.com.

**Matt Hanson**  
Associate Editor  
[www.facebook.com/windowsmag](http://www.facebook.com/windowsmag)

## Featuring...

**80** Recover your files using Files History

**83** Avoid malware and viruses for free

**TURN TO PAGE 16 FOR MORE WINDOWS 10 HELP!**

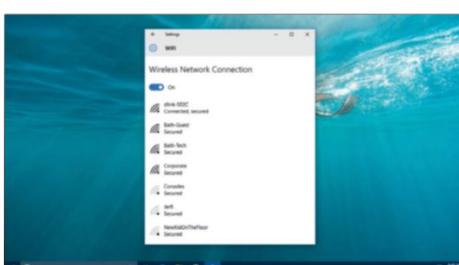


### Windows 10 tip of the month

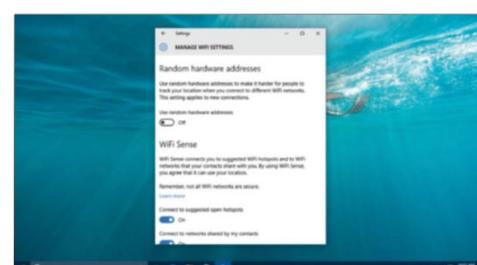
Turn on WiFi Sense

## Automatically connect to WiFi networks

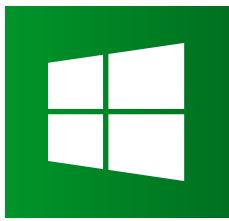
Sometimes it's nice if your PC just automatically connects to networks you trust. And that's what WiFi Sense is for. It automatically connects you to hotspots that it knows about through crowdsourcing, or that your contacts have told you about through WiFi Sense. You can turn WiFi Sense on or off in the Settings app. But remember, if you use it then you agree to give away your location data.



**OPEN SETTINGS** Open the Start menu and right-click on a tile to bring up a menu. Choose 'Resize'



**WIFI SETTINGS** Scroll down to find 'Manage WiFi Settings' and you can turn WiFi Sense on or off



Learn how to...

# Recover files using File History

Deleted an important file? File History can help restore what you've lost

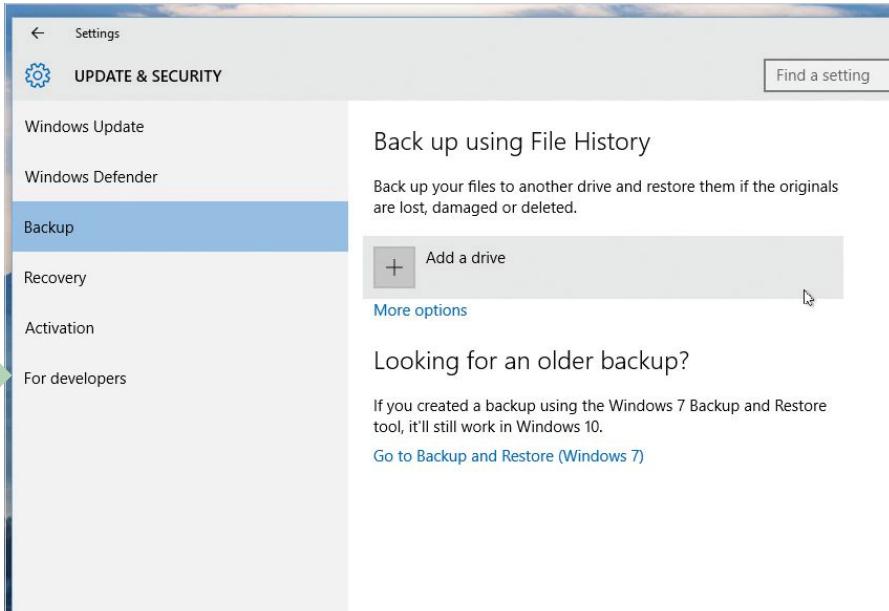
**TIME TAKEN**

30 minutes

## Enable File History

By default, File History is turned off, so open the Start menu and click 'Settings'. Select 'Update & security' and choose 'Backup'. Now click 'Add a drive' to choose which external drive to store your backups on – this can include NAS drives or USB drives plugged into your router (just click 'Show all network locations' when the link appears).

You'll also see a reference to 'Go to Backup and Restore (Windows 7)' – if you've upgraded from Window 7 and want to continue using the old backup tool from that version of Windows, click this link and jump to 'Set up Backup', on page 82.



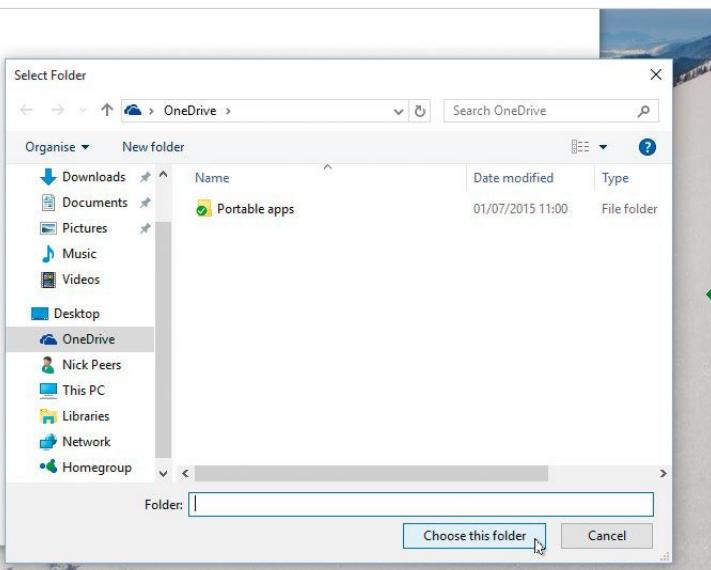
**Back up using File History**

Back up your files to another drive and restore them if the originals are lost, damaged or deleted.

Add a drive  More options 

Looking for an older backup?

If you created a backup using the Windows 7 Backup and Restore tool, it'll still work in Windows 10.  
[Go to Backup and Restore \(Windows 7\)](#)



Select Folder

Organise ▾ New folder

	Name	Date modified	Type
	Portable apps	01/07/2015 11:00	File folder

Downloads Documents Pictures Music Videos Desktop OneDrive Nick Peers This PC Libraries Network Homegroup

Folder:  Choose this folder Cancel

## Set backup options

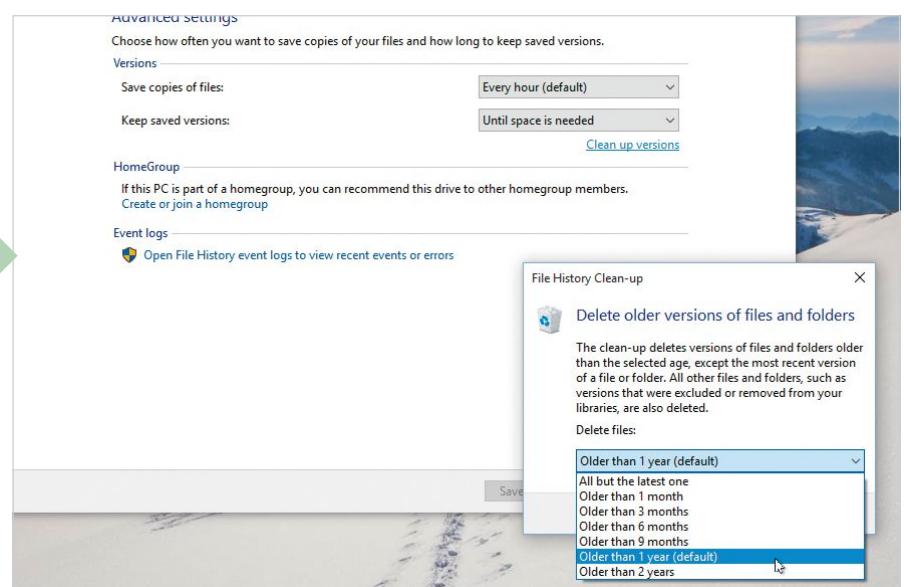
Click the 'More options' link to review the default settings. File History takes a fresh backup of files (including changes) every hour, but you can set this to as little as 10 minutes or restrict it to once daily. By default, backups are kept forever, but click this and change it to 'Until space is needed' if you're happy to lose the eldest versions of backed up files should space run low. Review which folders are included in the backup and then click 'Add a folder' to add others. Click an existing folder followed by 'Remove' to exclude it from your backup. If you want to keep all your old backups, when space runs out, switch to a new drive using the 'Stop using drive' button (your existing backups are protected).

# Welcome to Windows 10

## Recover files using File History

### Access more advanced options

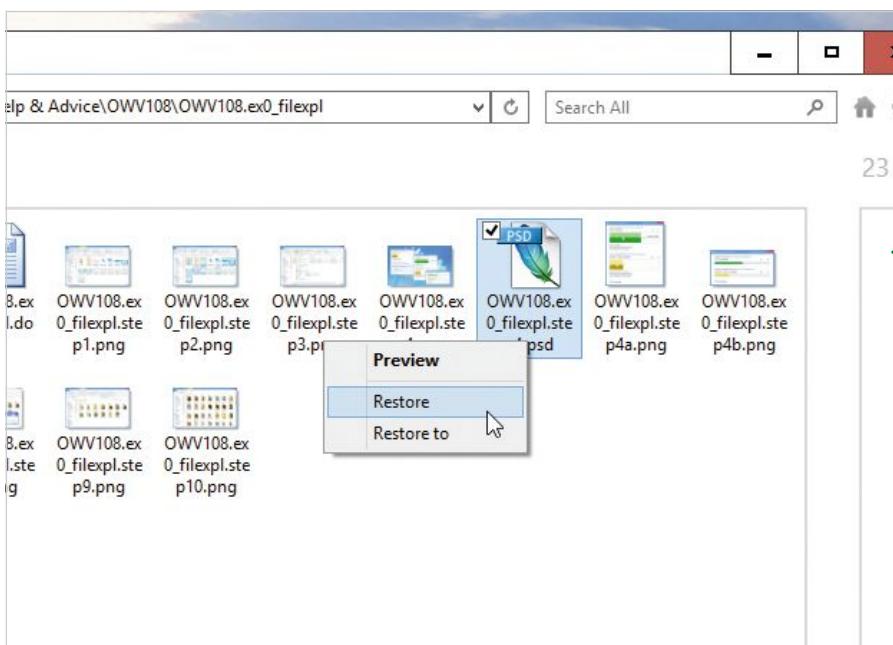
At the bottom of the screen is a 'See advanced settings' option – click this to access the File History Control Panel, which will be familiar to Windows 8 and Windows 8.1 users. When this appears, click 'Advanced settings' to access more options. Pay particular attention to 'Clean up versions' – this option allows you to free space by automatically deleting backups (and versions of backups) that are older than a certain date (one month to two years). There's also an 'All but the latest one' option that deletes all previous versions of files – use with care.



### Restore files

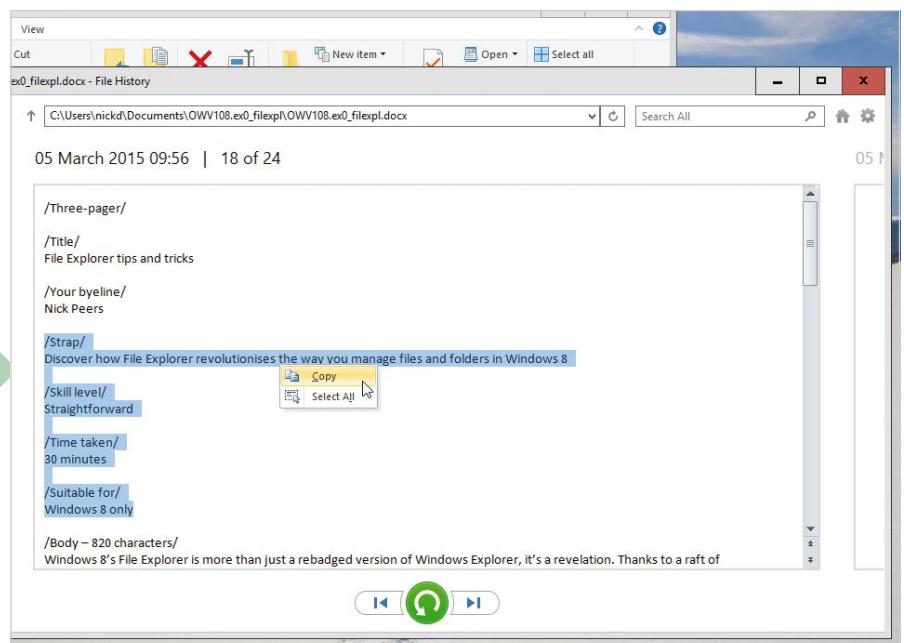
File History allows you to recover accidentally lost and deleted files, plus earlier versions of files (should you make changes you subsequently want to undo). The simplest way to restore missing files is to browse to the folder containing those files in File Explorer, then click the 'History' button on the Home tab of the ribbon.

Now use the playback controls at the bottom of the screen to go back in time until you find the file you're looking for. Right-click the file, choose 'Preview' to confirm its identity, 'Restore' to replace it to this folder, or 'Restore to' if you want to save it somewhere else.



### Preview and restore older versions

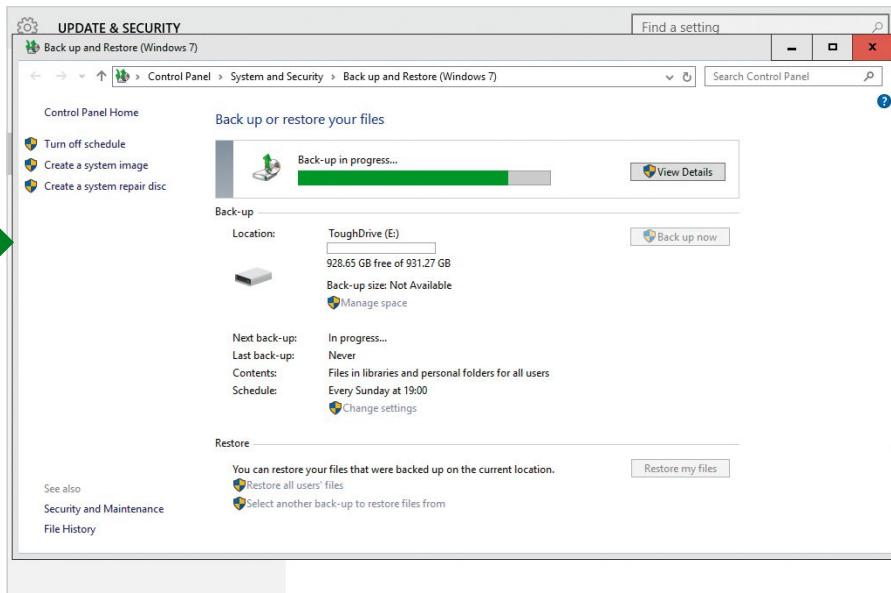
To restore an older version of a single file, first select the file in File Explorer before clicking the 'History' button. A preview of that file will appear – this time use the playback controls to find the version you wish to restore. You can copy and paste text out of documents, or click the green restore button to replace the current version with this one; if you'd prefer to restore a copy, click the 'Settings' button in the top right-hand corner and choose 'Restore to', then choose the folder where you'd like to save the copy to. Once complete, a File Explorer window will open pointing to your recovered file.



## Set up backup

The Backup and Restore tool from Windows 7 is also present in Windows 10 for those who wish to use it. It offers the same features as File History, but also includes an option for creating a byte-for-byte copy of your Windows drive in the form of a system image.

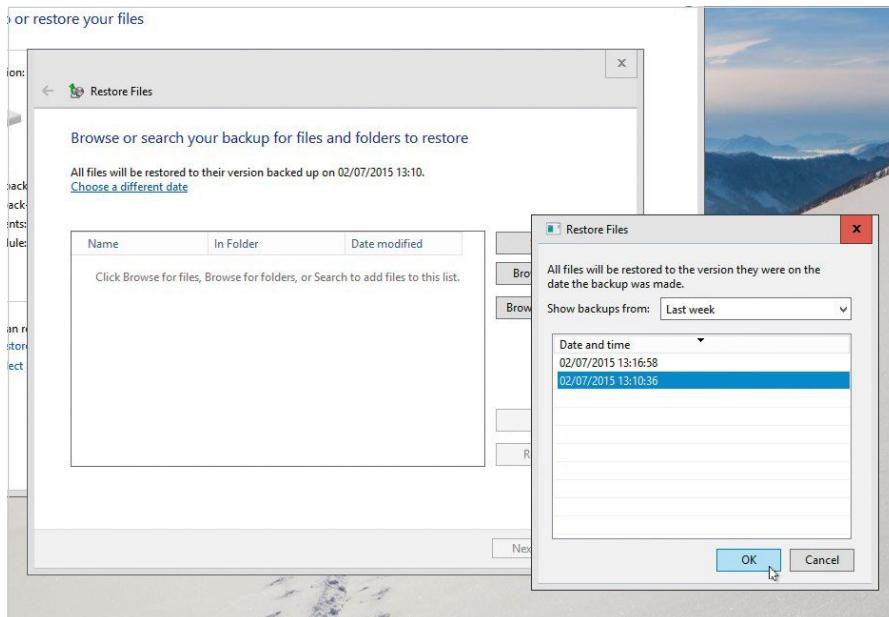
After clicking 'Go to Backup and Restore (Windows 7)', click 'Set up back-up' to choose your backup device (local or network). When prompted, select 'Let me choose' to verify exactly what Windows backs up (leave 'Include a system image of...' ticked to take a fail-safe backup of your entire system too).



## Restore previous versions of files

You'll need to restore individual files directly from the backup tool itself – open the tool and click the 'Restore my files' button to search or browse for the files you need.

To restore an older version of a backed up file, click 'Choose a different date' when searching for files. Select the date containing the version you wish to restore, then search for it.



## Advanced settings

Choose how often you want to save copies of your files and how long to keep saved versions.

### Versions

Save copies of files:

Every hour (default)

Keep saved versions:

Forever (default)

[Clean up versions](#)

### HomeGroup

If this PC is part of a homegroup, you can recommend this drive to other homegroup members.

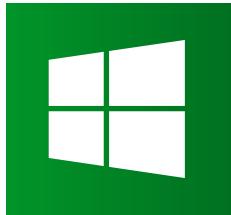
Recommend this drive

### Event logs

[Open File History event logs to view recent events or errors](#)

## Make sure you're always protected

By following these steps, you'll ensure your important files are always kept safe. If you have a number of Windows 10 devices, make sure all of them use the File History feature to protect their data. If they're all on the same HomeGroup, you can get them to share the same back-up drive by going to 'Advanced settings' and ticking 'Recommend this drive'. ■



Learn how to...

# Avoid viruses and malware for free

Viruses, spyware, hackers, phishing – the web is dangerous, so use these tools to deliver great security at zero cost

TIME TAKEN  
10 minutes

## Avast Free Antivirus

Avast Free Antivirus ([www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)) is one of the most popular security tools around. The program is simple to install and its straightforward interface makes it a pleasure to use. A first scan identifies potential threats on your PC, and it'll have a minimal impact on your system's performance. Avast Free has some useful extras, too. A Software Updater alerts you to program updates you've missed, and its Browser Cleanup tool provides a simple way to remove add-ons.

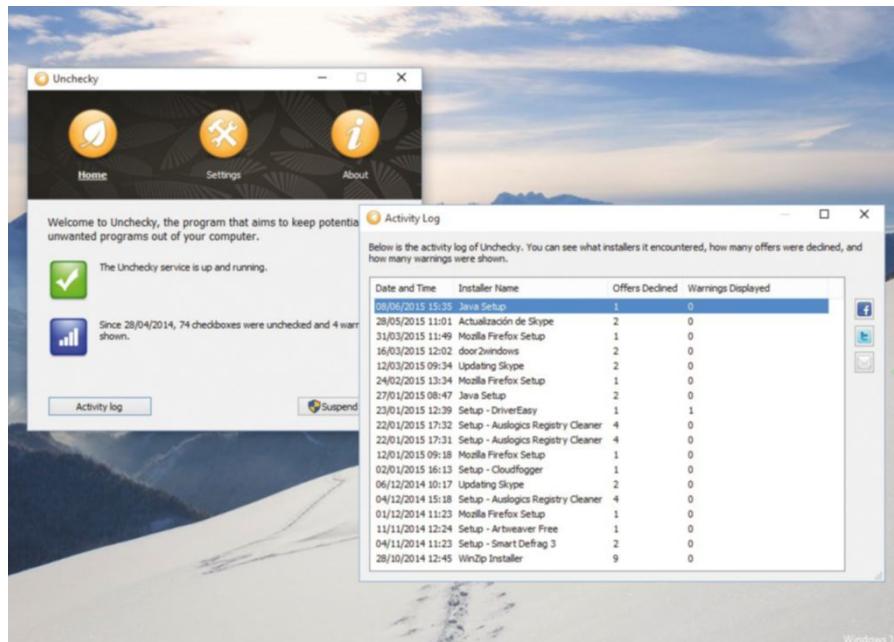
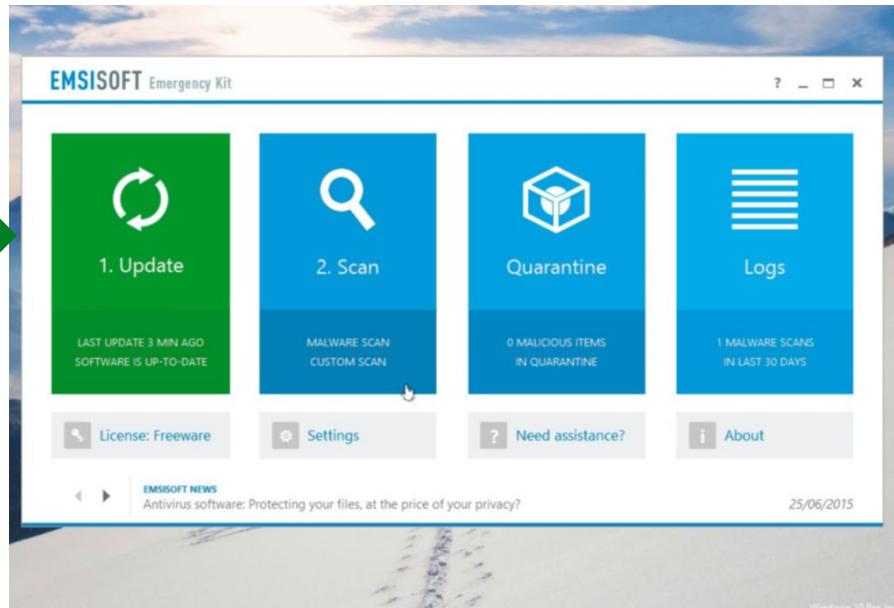


## Comodo Internet Security Premium

If you're looking for combined anti-virus and firewall protection, then Comodo Internet Security ([www.comodo.com](http://www.comodo.com)) has your back covered. It includes the expected protections against viruses and spyware, of course, but also comes with some nifty additional protections: Defense+ protects critical system files to block malware before it can get a foothold on your system, while sandboxing ensures unknown files are automatically run in an isolated environment – if they turn out malicious, they're trapped inside the virtual box. A pop-up status also helps keep you informed as to the state of your system.

## Emsisoft Emergency Kit

No antivirus app comes with a guaranteed 100 per cent detection rate and malware might occasionally slip through. You should always have a second tool available, then, just in case – and Emsisoft Emergency Kit (from [www.emsisoft.com/en/software/eek/](http://www.emsisoft.com/en/software/eek/)) is a great choice. The program runs without requiring installation, reducing the chance of any conflicts with your existing antivirus package. Experienced users will appreciate tools such as HiJackFree and BlitzBlank, which can help you manually detect and clean up malware.



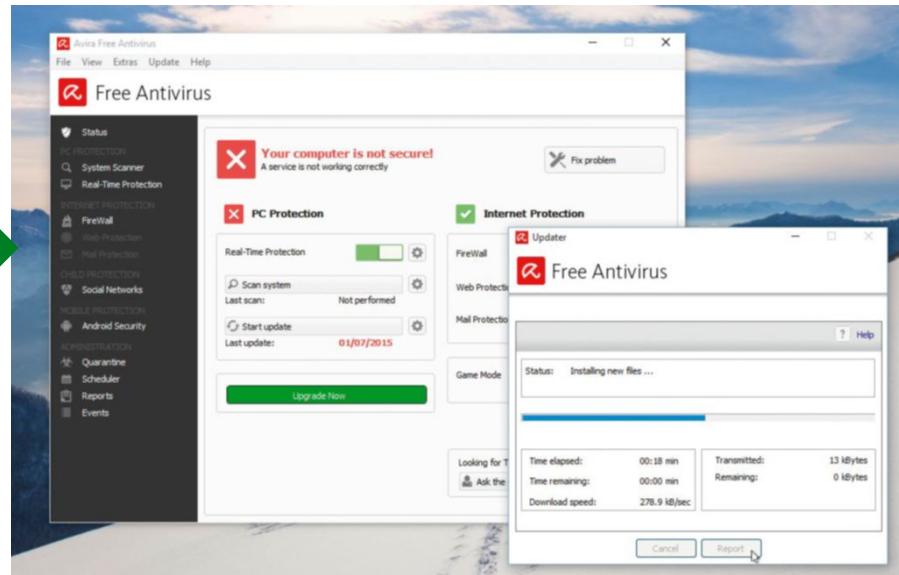
## Unchecky

Some download sites, as well as program developers, wrap their programs inside installers that “offer” (usually not in a very clear way) additional program and toolbar downloads during installation. Look out for these offers appearing during the setup process – often the wording is confusing and designed to trick you into installing the offer. Unchecky ([www.unchecky.com](http://www.unchecky.com)) is a free program that spots many potentially unwanted program installers. When it detects one, it not only alerts you to the fact, but changes the installer’s settings so that potentially unwanted software isn’t selected by default – you can still install it if you wish, but it’s your choice, not the software’s.



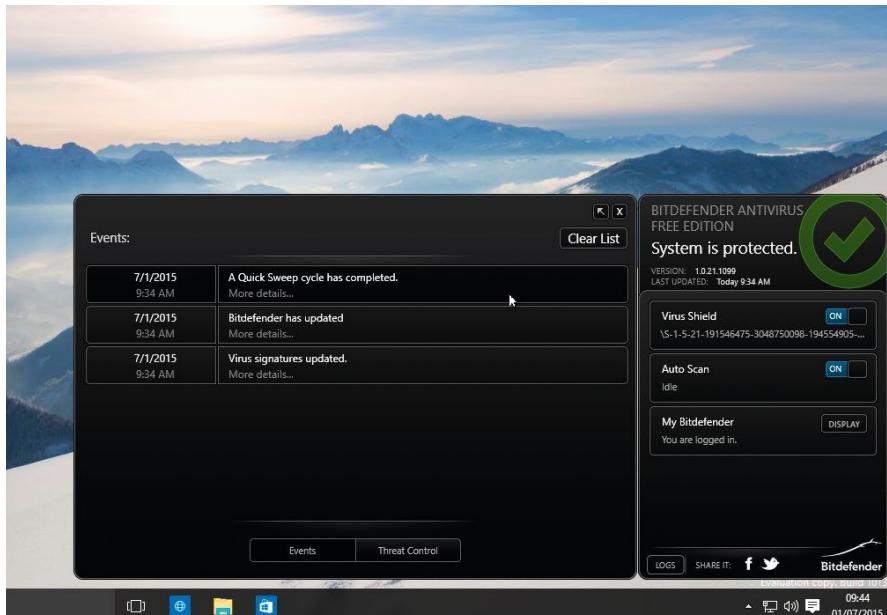
## Avira Free Antivirus

Avira Free Antivirus (downloadable from [www.avira.com/en/avira-free-antivirus](http://www.avira.com/en/avira-free-antivirus)) provides two main areas of protection. The first is a strong antivirus engine (rated highly by independent labs for its file detection rates), which constantly monitors your computer, looking for and eliminating threats. It's not without a few problems, though. The interface can seem a little complex at first, for instance, and the program has more impact on your computer's performance than some other tools do. However, on balance, Avira Free Antivirus is a capable and effective security package.



## Bitdefender Antivirus Free

Strong, silent, fast and unobtrusive. Four key words that mark out Bitdefender's free anti-virus solution from the competition. It may be a cut-down version of the full package, but you still get real-time protection from malware and scheduled scans to catch anything that might fall between the cracks. There's practically no configuration involved – just download and install it from [www.bitdefender.co.uk/solutions/free.html](http://www.bitdefender.co.uk/solutions/free.html). Note, you will need a free Bitdefender account (or connect with your Facebook or Google account) in order to use it long-term.



## AVG Free Antivirus

AVG Free Antivirus (from <http://free.avg.com>) is a solid package with a good range of features: an antivirus engine, email scanner, identity theft protection, and LinkScanner Surf-Shield to keep you safe online. At first glance, this makes the program seem more complex, as there are lots of tiles, buttons and menu entries. Its smart interface design means you can carry out most common actions in a click or two, though, so you'll soon feel at home. This program gets mixed reviews on its effectiveness but, in our opinion, it's one of the best free antivirus packages around, possibly even better than some commercial solutions. ■



# Get the UK's best-selling Linux magazine

The image shows the front cover of the May 2016 issue of Linux Format magazine. The cover features a large 'FREE DVD!' offer at the top left, followed by a CD icon and the text '13 UBUNTU DESKTOPS'. The main title 'LINUX FORMAT' is prominently displayed in large black letters. Below it, a yellow banner reads 'Get into Linux today!'. A large red headline 'HACK YOUR DESKTOP!' is centered, with the subtext 'Make and design a perfect Linux workspace for you'. To the right, there's a section titled '62 Pages of tutorials and features' with three bullet points: '» Start using Pi 3 Bluetooth', '» Secure PCs with Fedora', and '» Discover the BBC micro:bit'. A 'Coding Academy' section is also mentioned. The central image on the cover is a 3D rendering of a computer monitor built from LEGO bricks, displaying various Linux desktop icons like Xfce, Kde, and Gnome. Two small figures are shown interacting with the monitor. At the bottom right of the cover, a circular badge says 'OUT NOW!'.

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# Upgrade

► NEW HARDWARE ► ESSENTIAL ACCESSORIES ► LATEST GADGETS

## Welcome

 This month we're ready to embrace the sunshine and get going. And that means taking our tech outdoors. However, this is usually much easier when gadgets are truly portable, which is why we love the all-new Spectre x360 15 from HP. It's slim enough and light enough to take anywhere and looks great too. But how does it perform? Read the review to find out. The Galaxy S Tab Pro also promises true portability and has fast become our go-to gadget for the commute. And while we're out, we have some fun too – we test out the Yi Action Camera and put the Fitbit Blaze through its paces. Until next time!

**Nick Odantzis** deputy editor  
nick.odantzis@futurenet.com

## This issue's highlights

### 88 Galaxy S Tab Pro

Find out how this media tablet for Windows 10 really stands up...

### 90 HP Spectre x360 15

Thin-and-light styling from a 15-inch laptop, but beware the quirks

### 92 Yi Action Camera

Few have come close to the quality or price of the market-beating Yi

### 94 Fitbit Blaze

A solid wearable, but can it keep time with the rest of the smartwatch gang?

**96 Mini-test** Home security cameras

## Our promise to you...

The Upgrade section is your key to finding out about the latest products, all designed to help you get more from your PC

### You can trust our reviews

 Our reviewers are 100 per cent independent, with years of experience in the world of computing. Our rigorous testing procedures mean that only genuine, high-quality products are awarded high star ratings. If you see an item of hardware bearing a high score, you can be confident that it is an excellent product.

### We choose the best products

 Thousands of new PC products are released every year and choosing between them can be an impossible task. Our experts select only the best hardware and software to feature in this magazine. Even better, our star rating system makes it simple to find the best products, giving you a fast, trustworthy guide.

### How we review

 Our expert reviewers guarantee to test every piece of hardware rigorously and thoroughly, using only acknowledged experts to establish the worth of a product. We always review from the viewpoint of our readers; the day-to-day practicality and quality of a product is paramount.

**RATING EXPLAINED** ★★★★★ Superb ★★★★★ Very good ★★★★★ Good ★★★★★ Disappointing ★★★★★ Poor



# Samsung Galaxy TabPro S

£849 | \$899 [www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)

The ultimate media tablet for Windows 10 fans

With the Galaxy TabPro S, Samsung has introduced a Surface Pro 4 rival that could also take down the iPad Pro with the power of Windows 10.

The 12-inch slate is thin and features a vibrant, Super AMOLED display that beats almost every Windows device before it. That said, with only an Intel Core m series processor and limited memory, it lags behind some other Windows tablets on the market.

## Design

Measuring just 6.3mm thick, it would be easy to mistake the TabPro S for an Android tablet, as it's almost as thin as the Samsung Galaxy Tab S2. It bears more than a striking resemblance, too, with a similar shape and minimalist design, down to the small camera hump on the back.

Of course, the difference is the TabPro S is running with a header CPU and Windows 10.

However, this Windows tablet is not built with the same magnesium unibody design as the Tab S2. Instead, the TabPro S features a magnesium frame and plastic back. Materials aside, the 12-inch slate feels sturdy and light enough to hold upright for hours on end.

The bezels are a little large by today's standards, especially with those on the side being nearly an inch thick. However, it's forgivable, since these little areas help to actually hold the tablet without triggering the touchscreen.

## Weak bonds

While the TabPro S is a beautifully constructed Windows tablet, the included keyboard base is too flimsy to keep it standing.

Like most tablet covers, this folding keyboard folio sticks onto the Samsung's tablet using magnets built into both the case's sides, as well as a magnetic anchor above the keyboard.

On one end, a pliable, segmented panel covers the back portion of the tablet and kicks out to extend the base. The bottom of the tablet, meanwhile, clips into a tilting, magnetic strip above the keyboard to hold it either a 115- or 155-degree standing position.

Tilting the screen between these two angles is annoying, as you need to separate the tablet from parts of the magnetic case while preventing the whole thing from coming apart.

While these magnets are strong enough to support 10-inch Android tablets, with a larger 12-inch device that's not necessarily the case.

The downfall is you can't just flip the keyboard behind the screen to use it as a Windows tablet. Doing so will cause the device to fall asleep, thanks to a magnet built into the lowest panel segment covering the back of the tablet.

While you can flick the device back on, the NFC tag built into the



## KEY FEATURES

### Samsung Galaxy TabPro S

**Operating system** Windows 10  
**Processor** 900MHz Intel Core M3-6Y30 (dual-core, 4MB cache, 2.2GHz with Turbo Boost)

**Storage** 128GB SSD

**RAM** 4GB

**Graphics** Intel HD Graphics 515

**Ports** USB-C 3.1, headset jack

**Connectivity** 802.11ac Wi-Fi (2.4 & 5GHz), VHT80 MIMO, Bluetooth v4.1

**Weight** 2.4 pounds

**Size** 11.43 x 7.83 x 0.64 inches

**Screen size** 12-inch Super AMOLED Full HD+ (2,160 x 1,440 resolution) multi-touch

**Camera** 5MP front-facing webcam; 5MP rear camera

left side of the keyboard rubs against the back of the slate. This ends up introducing another problem of triggering a constant stream of connection requests.

It seems like a mistake in design, and it means you'll have to detach and toss the keyboard base aside whenever you want to use the TabPro S as a tablet.

The keyboard feels spacious both in the size of the individual keys and how they span towards the edges of the device. Ultimately though, the keyboard feels behind the times, as it lays completely flat on whatever surface you put it on.

Also great is the Super AMOLED screen. The panel is bright enough to show the sun and glare who's boss while rendering gorgeously deep colours.

The high contrast helps everything pop and makes text look sharper. Like most other 12-inch devices, Samsung also made the jump to 2K resolution. It's a few ticks above 1080p, and the added resolution is a welcome addition that doesn't seem to put a dent in battery life or performance.

This slate's speakers are also a treat. Though they're oriented to

### "It easily handles the day managing documents, web research and chat windows filled with cat GIFs"

The plastic trackpad is surprisingly decent, offering precise mouse movements and scrolling, though you'll have to be wary of oily prints rubbing onto the keys and imprints of your wrists appearing on the rubber rests.

#### Power punch

Although the TabPro S is one incredibly thin tablet, it also packs a punch, thanks to its Intel Core m3 processor. It easily handles the stress of a full working day of managing Google and Microsoft Word documents, snappy web research and, of course, chat windows filled with cat GIFs.

the sides, rather than being forward firing, they still project clear and loud audio for both music and videos. There isn't any pronounced bass, but the stereo speakers were punchy enough to convey brawling action scenes.

#### Battery life

The TabPro S lasted for an impressive 4 hours and 40 minutes while running down the PCMark 8 battery test and 6 hours and 6 minutes on our standard movie test – a continuous loop of *Guardians of the Galaxy* at 50% screen brightness and volume. With streaming media, you can

expect even longer run times. During a long Netflix binge, the TabPro S nearly lasted for its projected 10.5 hours of battery life. And thanks to Samsung's fast charging technology, you'll also be up and running in just under 2 hours and 30 minutes, too.

#### Final verdict

The Samsung TabPro S is an ambitious tablet that aims to dethrone the Surface Pro 4 as the world's best Windows 10 tablet, while showing up the iPad Pro with a full build of Windows 10. And, we have to say, Samsung has accomplished this in some regards.

This is easily one of the thinnest and most premium Windows 10 tablets we've used. Couple that with an affordable price, and it's sure to draw plenty of attention. But, while this device is great as a standalone tablet, we hope Samsung or third-party accessory makers can come up with a better keyboard base that's so essential to the experience.

The Samsung TabPro S is one of the best Windows 10 tablet for watching video and reading online. As it stands – or attempts to – the TabPro S only works perfectly if you use it in the exact way Samsung has envisioned. But, it's still one slick Windows 10 tablet. ■

A knockout Windows 10 tablet with a vibrant screen, but it's in need of a stronger keyboard base.

 Windows  
Help & Advice  
Verdict





## HP Spectre x360 15

£806 | \$1,149 [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)

Thin-and-light styling from a 15-inch laptop

The ultra-light and thin craze has changed the landscape of Ultrabooks. And now it's transforming the world of 15-inch laptops with HP's Spectre x360 15, being one of the thinnest 15-inch, 2-in-1 machines.

Measuring just 16mm thin, it comes at the same thickness as its 13-inch Ultrabook sibling. What's more, the starting weight is just four pounds, also making it one of lightest 15.6-inch laptops of this year so far.

### Design

However, this convertible has oddly wide dimensions, making it one long slab of metal. Meanwhile, the edges are blunt, nicely rounded and feature a mirrored finish, a classy touch some might remember from HP's original 13-inch hybrid.

HP has stuck with the same number pad and focused on improving the sound system by

adding a pair of speaker grilles instead of bolting on a number pad. The keyboard layout has been changed up with a new side row of shortcut keys, such as a Home and Delete key. While they're meant to be helpful, they often get in the way. For example, when we reach for the Enter key normally found on the edge of the keyboard, we end up hitting Page Down and go flying down webpages instead.

As it stands, the keyboard is like a tightly knit set of island keys floating in a sea of aluminum. HP's extra wide trackpad makes a return on this 2-in-1 laptop. The pointing device's broad proportions make more sense here than with a 13-inch model, but it's still positioned askew in the middle. If your hands are on the home row, some of your palm will sit on the trackpad at all times, causing all manner of accidental mouse tapping and zoom gestures.

You can avoid this by turning off some of the gesture controls, but that will eliminate some of the functionality of Windows 10. Thankfully, when you're not rubbing against it while typing, the trackpad feels almost as smooth as glass and delivers a decent click.

This machine may have a number of quirks, but it's an undoubtedly premium device. Its all-metal body is still a rarity in the Windows laptop world, and, on a 15-inch system, it's almost unheard of.

You also get a larger selection of ports, including three USB 3.0 ports with an SD card reader. HP has included a USB Type-C port, but it only supports data and charging devices. Luckily, you won't find yourself up the creek without a video connection, as the Spectre also has built-in HDMI and mini DisplayPort options for you.



## KEY FEATURES

### HP Spectre x360 15

**Operating system** Windows 10  
**Processor** 2.3GHz Intel Core i5-6200U (dual-core, 3MB cache, up to 2.8GHz with Turbo Boost)  
**Storage** 256GB Flash SSD  
**RAM** 8GB  
**Graphics** Intel HD Graphics 520  
**Ports** 1 x USB 3.0 Type-C, 3 x USB 3.0, HDMI, mini DisplayPort, headset jack  
**Connectivity**: Intel 802.11ac WLAN and Bluetooth  
**Weight** 4.02 pounds  
**Size** 14.8 x 9.75 x 0.63 inches  
**Screen** 15.6-inch, 1,920 x 1,080 Full HD, WLED-backlit, IPS touchscreen  
**Camera** HP TrueVision Full HD webcam with dual digital microphones

## Sound off

One of the Spectre's more notable features is its four speakers spread across the top and bottom of the base. While it might seem this quad-speaker setup was designed to amplify the sound space by firing off at the same time, only two tweeters activate at a time, depending on whether you're using the machine as a notebook or holding it as a tablet.

By being forward facing, the 15-inch hybrid's speakers sound better than the usual bottom or side-firing tweeters typically found in notebooks. At lower volumes, the speakers produce a balanced listening experience with audible

The hybrid's broad shape is exaggerated by the rest of the modest dimensions.

No matter how you slice it, though, there's no denying this hybrid is lighter than your typical 15-inch laptop.

The Spectre is a premium device with an all-aluminum shell, and the price tag reflects this. It's also the lightest and thinnest system out of several competitors, but whether paying more for the extra portability is worth it is up to you.

## Performance

Thanks to Intel's latest line of Skylake processors, the Spectre flies admirably, even with the

**"Thanks to Intel's latest Skylake processors, the Spectre flies, even with the lowest-end Core i5"**

lows and softened highs. However, when you start to turn it up the audio experience falls apart into a tinny mess.

Similarly, the 2-in-1's 15-inch screen renders deep colours and distinct levels of contrast, but it's not very bright. Even in a well-lit office, we often find you have to increase the screen brightness past 50%. You'll also have to max out the display's backlight, if you plan on using the machine next to a sunlit window. And even then you're still dealing with a considerable amount of glare.

As mentioned before, it looks like an outlandishly wide laptop, but in reality it's actually narrower than other 15-inch laptops.

lowest-end Core i5 processor. The 15-inch hybrid easily tackles everyday tasks from web browsing to image editing, as well as some light gaming.

But the laptop's most impressive figures come from its long battery life. Thanks to packing a denser 64.5WHR battery, the Spectre lasted for 5 hours and 23 minutes on the PCMark 8 battery test. In our own standard battery test, we play *Guardians of the Galaxy* on a continuous loop with screen brightness and volume set at 50%. You can expect this laptop to easily get you through six hours of usage, and seven if you crank down the screen brightness, which is always a great tip.

## Final verdict

The HP Spectre x360 15 is a thin and light hybrid notebook with plenty of features to make it stand out. It's a sleek machine that packs an overall smaller footprint than most 15-inch machines – all while integrating one of the best hinges for a 2-in-1 notebook ever made.

Ultimately, it's an excellent 15-inch, 2-in-1 laptop that stands out with its thin, metal body, strong performance and long battery life. However, the same elegant engineering also raises the price and profile of this 15-inch hybrid into the realm of the 15-inch MacBook Pro and Dell XPS 15. But it has no hopes of keeping up with either when it's limited to just integrated graphics.

Meanwhile, the HP has other, more affordable rivals with the Dell Inspiron 15 7000 2-in-1 and Toshiba Satellite Radius 15. Dell's hybrid comes at a better value and with stronger ergonomics, while Toshiba's convertible offers one of the best displays on a laptop today.

Still, you'll get through a longer day with the Spectre x360 15, thanks to its portability and longer battery life. If have no qualms with the higher price, this is a fine machine for students and light office work. ■

While there are some annoying quirks, you'll love its style and long battery life.

 Windows  
Help & Advice  
Verdict





## Xiaoyi Yi Action Camera

£60 | \$80 [www.xiaoyi.com/en/](http://www.xiaoyi.com/en/)

Few have come close to the quality or price of the market-beating Yi

The Yi has made quite an impact on the action camera market. This small camera is comparable to the GoPro Hero3 Silver when it comes to video options, yet it can be purchased for a fraction of the price.

However, Xiaoyi's approach is different from the majority of budget action cameras as it is sold by itself and all the extras including the waterproof housing, memory card and mounts need to be bought separately. Even taking the extra purchases into account, the outlay for a fully equipped Yi is still less than the majority of other budget action-cam kits. And, to be honest, when it comes to quality, you get a lot more.

### Splashing out

The Yi comes in two colour varieties of white or green and yellow. Although sold as a body only, the camera can also be bought as a kit that includes a few accessories to

help you make the most from it. The Yi Action Camera Kit includes the camera, a selfie stick and a bluetooth remote. The kit is almost double the price of the base unit, but it's worth it for those few extras. The only other essential, if you want to use the camera to capture extreme sports, is the waterproof housing. This will set you back around £20.

The design is really simple, consisting of a small box body with a 155 degree angle of view lens positioned on the front, a power/mode button to the left of the lens and a Wi-Fi button on the side. The top of the camera features the shutter button and, on the back, is a cover that can be removed to gain access to the battery compartment. A cover next to this protects the MicroSD slot and USB and HDMI ports. On the base is a standard 1/4-inch thread so the selfie stick from the kit, or a tripod base plate, can be attached.

### The size of it

The size and shape of the Yi is similar to the GoPro Hero, it's just fractionally larger and with a slightly different configuration of buttons and ports. The Yi gains the tripod mount on the base but loses the small screen of the GoPro, so this means that almost all settings and adjustments for the camera need to be made through the app on a connected smartphone.

The only direct controls on the camera are the shutter button to start and stop recording, a Mode button to switch on and off and between stills and video, and a small Wi-Fi activation button. When switching between video and stills you can tell which mode you're in by the small red light that illuminates next to the shutter button – in video mode it's on, in stills mode it's off.

All other modes such as time-lapse are accessed through the app. This app can be downloaded for



iOS and Android devices. Set-up and connection through Wi-Fi is easy and Xiaomi has taken the time to add some handy guides within the app to explain the Wi-Fi connection process. Once mobile device and camera are connected, the app launches straight into shooting mode with a large red button in the centre of the screen to enable you to start recording.

There's a noticeable delay of about two seconds before the main area of the app shows a clear live view of the scene. On the left of the

## "Colours are well-balanced without over-saturation and excess contrast found in many budget cameras"

record button are the video options – one tap and you have direct access to the Resolution and Frames Per Second (FPS) options. The camera's top resolution is 2k at 30fps and the lowest is 480p at 240fps. There are of course many more usable options including full 1080p at 60fps and 720p at 120fps.

To the right of the shutter button on the app display, a small icon highlights which mode you're in and tapping gives access to all the different options. In addition to stills and video you have Timer, Time-lapse and Burst options. If you use the Mode button on the camera to switch between stills and video then the icon in the app's interface automatically switches to highlight the change.

Further settings can be accessed by clicking the cog icon in the top right of the interface. These options include adjusting the video quality, switching from NTSC to PAL, changing the device name and more baseline camera options such as date and time, time stamp etc.

### Video virtues

Video quality is where the Yi really stands out, and it's exceptionally close to that of the GoPro range of cameras. Colours are well balanced without the over-saturation and

excess contrast that is a common issue with many of the most recent budget cameras. Switching between resolutions and frame rates shows the camera doesn't just perform well in its base setting but has the potential to shoot decent footage at both 2k and even 480p if you feel the need.

Motion reproduction is an important factor for any action camera, especially if you want to create slow-motion videos. On this front the camera again provides smooth, clean footage that, like the footage from the GoPro range of cameras, can be slowed down easily to create good quality slow-motion clips.

Low-light performance is an issue, but then that's a common

## KEY FEATURES

### Xiaoyi Yi Action Camera

<b>Storage</b>	Compatible with Micro SD card
<b>Connectivity</b>	Built-in Wi-Fi, 100m signal
<b>Bluetooth</b>	10m with remote
<b>Ports</b>	USB charging port, HDMI port, Micro SD card slot
<b>Image processor</b>	Ambarella A7LS high-performance processor
<b>Video Format</b>	MP4
<b>Dimensions</b>	60.4 x 42 x 21.2mm
<b>Weight</b>	76.6g

problem with all action cameras. Yet again the Yi just manages to control the noise, and footage shot indoors and in low light (within reason) is perfectly usable.

Changes in exposure are handled well and the camera quickly balances exposures without too much of an issue.

The small lens manages to capture a good sharp image across the frame, although if you look closely at the edges you will inevitably see slight signs of softening and chromatic aberration, though not enough to worry about. The 155 degree field of view also gives the fish-eye distortion, which is pronounced and part of this genre's style.

### Final verdict

Amongst other budget action cameras, the Yi singles itself out as something different, with a wealth of video options that are backed by exceptional video quality and frame rates. When compared directly to the market leaders, the feature set and build quality might lag behind slightly but considering the price and quality of video, the Yi is GoPro's most dangerous rival.

Video quality is excellent and unlike many of its rivals the quality of footage at all resolutions and frame rates is perfectly usable and closely rivals that of the GoPro, something no other budget camera can do.

If you're looking for a cheap but decent action camera, then you won't go wrong with the Yi. ■

With an affordable price and excellent video quality, the Yi Offers a great GoPro alternative.

 Windows  
Help & Advice  
Verdict





## Fitbit Blaze

£159.99 | \$199 [www.fitbit.com](http://www.fitbit.com)

A solid wearable, but it won't set the world alight

**F**itbit, the company behind some of the earliest fitness trackers has consistently released well-received products. And now they've hit the smartwatch market with a Blaze...

Unlike other Fitbit devices, the Blaze includes a display, so it blurs the line between smartwatch and fitness tracker. Everything is clear and it feels the right size to be a smartwatch. But, from a distance, it looks a lot more like a traditional watch than some other smartwatches out there.

### What a display

Fitbit has decided to go for a square screen for a display that isn't going to give you that much information, giving just basic fitness stats such as your heart rate and steps.

The display also has large bezels around the sides, so there's a lot of wasted space – the screen could have been a lot bigger, or the device could have been smaller. That said, the screen does the job. It's colourful and bright, and you don't really need a high resolution

on this device, as it's only displaying the occasional notification.

There's a button on the left side that serves as a home and back command, with two on the right that can be used for volume controls for music.

The right-side buttons also provide an alternative way for you to select exercise options, in case your hands are wet or gloved and aren't registering on the screen. Those are the only buttons on the device, and everything else is controlled via the screen.

The watch body of the Blaze can be popped out and placed into another band and frame easily enough. We liked the flatness against the wrist, and it fits nicely. Incidentally, the strap is the only option you really have for personalising your Fitbit Blaze.

You can buy a number of different bands from Fitbit directly. For 'formal' occasions Fitbit has created the Luxe band, which comes in black, camel or mist grey leather. There's also a stainless steel version for an equally smart look.

Customising your Fitbit doesn't come cheap, though. The leather bands will cost you £59.99 (\$99.95) while the stainless steel option will cost a little extra at £89.99 (\$129.95).

Fitbit is also offering the 'classic' elastomer bands, which come in black, blue and plum for £19.95 (\$29.95). We found that these are all comfortable to wear.

### Software

The Blaze runs Fitbit's own software, rather than Android Wear or Tizen, and that means it's pretty limited in what it can actually do. When you turn on the device you'll be greeted with the watch face. There are four to choose from, all with simple and uncluttered designs – our favourite includes a monitor for your heart rate, step count and steps climbed.

The other options are even simpler, showing just the time, and sometimes the date with a different little animation. If you swipe left on the screen it'll take you through your pre-loaded apps. First up is a feature called



Today, which will show your steps, heart rate and your resting beat throughout the day, miles walked, calories burnt and flights of stairs climbed. If you want more you can boot up the app on your phone to see how your stats compare with past days.

The next app choice is Exercise, and most Fitbit users will find this section the most useful. Here's where you monitor the exercises you're doing, and you have the choice of run, bike, weights, treadmill, elliptical and workout.

When you start one of these it's simple to keep track of the time you've been working out, and you'll get your heart rate on the

watch, as well as calendar notifications. But third-party apps, such as WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger, can't send notifications through to your wrist. If you're looking for a smartwatch that will enable you to keep in touch wherever you are and whatever you're doing, this probably isn't it.

The Blaze is all about the fitness – after all, Fitbit does call this a 'smart fitness watch'.

One other thing to mention is that the battery performance is surprising – and in a good way. Fitbit claims the Blaze has a five-day battery life, which for a smartwatch with a colour screen would be pretty impressive.

## "We found a full charge would keep the Fitbit Blaze going for between four and six days"

screen as well. Everything here is simple, which is what you need when you're focused on completing that last mile of a run.

One of the most interesting features on the Blaze is something called Fitstar, which gives you workout suggestions and tests how well you've done at a particular exercise. It includes options such as Warm It Up, 7 Minute Workout and 10 Minute Abs.

Other useful features on the watch include alarms, a timer and the settings menu. You can also control the music on your phone by pulling down on the main menu.

Texts and notifications of phone calls will come through to your

And, indeed, we found a full charge would keep the Blaze going for four to six days.

### Appy talk

If you've used a Fitbit product before, you know the app is one of the best things about owning one of its devices. The app makes the process of setting up the Blaze simple, and presents you with a guide on how the watch works as soon as you download it.

When it's all set up, the app will give you a huge variety of information. The main menu covers steps, heart rate, miles, calories, floors climbed and active minutes. You can compare past and present performances using daily, weekly or monthly charts.

## KEY FEATURES

### Fitbit Blaze

**Compatible platforms** iOS, Android, Windows Phone, OS X, Windows

**Operating system** Mobile Syncing

**Options** Bluetooth 4.0 (Smart)

**Computer syncing options** Automatic USB Sync

**Automatic syncing** Yes

**Size** Small, 170 mm Large, 206 mm ExtraLarge, 236 mm

**Weather Resistance** Water Resistant

**Maximum Altitude** 28,000 feet

**Temperature Range** 14°F - 140°F

The app will also set you a number of challenges to keep you motivated, and you'll receive medals for each milestone you achieve. You can tackle these challenges on your own, or compete against friends who also use the Fitbit app.

These range from simple races to the amount of steps you take over a weekend. It can add that extra element of competition to your workouts, helping to keep you engaged with your regime.

### The final verdict

The Blaze raises expectations, and then dashes them somewhat. The idea of a smartwatch designed by one of the biggest wearable manufacturers in the world was an exciting one, and the fact that Fitbit didn't go the whole way might be a disappointment to some.

After quite a bit of time with the Blaze, we can see why Fitbit is being a vague about how they categorise it. It isn't a smartwatch, although it's smarter than your fitness tracker.

If you're looking for something to track your fitness and help you achieve your goals in that area, by all means go for the Fitbit Blaze. But if you want a genuine smartwatch that puts a lot of the functionality of your phone on your wrist, look elsewhere. ■

One step above its fitness trackers rivals, but it's still half a step behind the smartwatch crowd.

 **Windows Help & Advice Verdict**



# SECURITY CAMERAS

Keep a watchful eye over your castle with the latest smart, connected security cameras. They're more than just cat cams...

**Y**our home is under attack! OK, so that's a bit of an exaggeration – it might not be now, but one day it could be. So if you value the contents of your abode and want to keep an eye on it, a security cam is a must.

Unlike security cameras of old, these devices are designed to sit indoors and monitor your home's interior. So there's no complicated install and, because they all have Wi-Fi built in, there are no wires to route either – just place it wherever you get a decent wireless signal.

You can check your video any time via a mobile app, while smart features such as face detection and air monitoring give you 24/7 security (and endless footage of your cat).



## 1 Canary

£160 [www.canary.is](http://www.canary.is)

The Canary is feature-packed, with wide-angle 1080p video (live feed and recordings), superb night vision, clear audio, a user-activated ear-shredding alarm, and air monitoring to keep watch on quality levels. Set-up is easy, and the menu is simple and intuitive. Motion-triggered events are auto-sent to your device, but you can adjust sensitivity if you're getting too many. Using geolocation, the Canary auto arms itself when you go out, disarming on your return. You get 12 hours of video history free, but there's a monthly fee if you want more. However, the nine-second live video delay is irksome.



## 2 Logi circle

£160 [www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com)

Logitech's offering not only looks the part, it has a unique feature too, with twelve hours of battery power that lets you take it anywhere around the home, for ease of use. It's great for communication with friends or family, thanks to crisp two-way audio. Video quality is clear, it's super-wide for maximum in-frame action, and the live feed only has a three-second delay. You also get free 24-hour cloud storage for videos. The simple app makes it a cinch to use. Motion-activated events are sent to your device, while the Circle will also create a neat timelapse of the day's events.



## 3 Nest cam

£159 [www.nest.com](http://www.nest.com)

If you've already got a Nest Learning Thermostat or Protect, the Nest Cam is a top choice – connected to those, it can do more, such as record if the Protect senses smoke. Fiddly set-up aside, it's easy to use, with decent 1080p video and night vision (and the shortest live delay). You also get two-way audio, while the clever stand allows for a variety of installs. Sadly, there's no geolocation – instead, a Home and Away setting enables you to set where you are, to control when it records. To record videos (and access extras), you'll need to subscribe to Nest Aware, but it costs a hefty £8 per month.





## 4 D-link Home Monitor hd

£90 [www.dlink.com](http://www.dlink.com)

The least costly cam here, D-Link's HD looks cheap and cheerful. Video isn't great – the low(ish) resolution of 720p looks inadequate on high-res screens, and the low frame rate won't pick up fast motion. The camera angle is narrow, too. Night vision isn't much better – it's too bright near the camera, and a bit too dark at a distance. But, motion notifications only give you a link to a live feed. You can hook it up to other D-Link smart products to trigger IFTTT-style actions, such as using the smart plug to turn on a light when cam motion is detected.



## 5 Withings Home

£130 [www.withings.com](http://www.withings.com)

If looks could win, the Withings Home would have this sewn up. Its appealing, wood-shrouded exterior and exotic features make it stand out in this test. The 1080p video is excellent, both in day and night modes, plus you get air-quality and baby monitoring. You can keep an eye on little one, talk via the two-way audio feature, and employ one of several soothing lullabies with colour-changing ambient lighting. Sadly, the Android app is, at present, buggy over Wi-Fi, with frequent freezes and choppiness. Hook it up to Ethernet, though, and it's (mostly) all good.



## 6 Netatmo Welcome

£199 [www.netatmo.com](http://www.netatmo.com)

The Welcome's minimalist design will suit any space. Its trump card, though, is face-recognition. This makes alerts smarter, as the Welcome can discern between trusted and untrusted faces. You can also change what the camera does when it sees certain people, thanks to the superb app. This works for animals, too. Video is crisp and smooth with a big frame, though it's a tad dark. Night vision is excellent, but there's an 11-second live delay and no two-way audio. Also a Micro SD card enables you to store as much video as you need.



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**Printed in the UK by** William Gibbons & Sons Ltd on behalf of Future

**Distributed by** Seymour Distribution Ltd, 2 East Poultry Avenue, London EC1A 9PT, Tel: 0207 429 4000

**Overseas distribution by** Seymour International

#### CIRCULATION

**Trade marketing manager** Juliette Winyard (07551 150 984)

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## REINSTALL WINDOWS

Your complete guide to reinstalling Windows 7, 8.1 and 10

## ADVANCED WINDOWS TWEAKS

Learn to hack the Windows registry

## HOW TO...

- Fix sound problems
- Dim your screen at will
- Be even more productive with Windows 10



\* Contents subject to change

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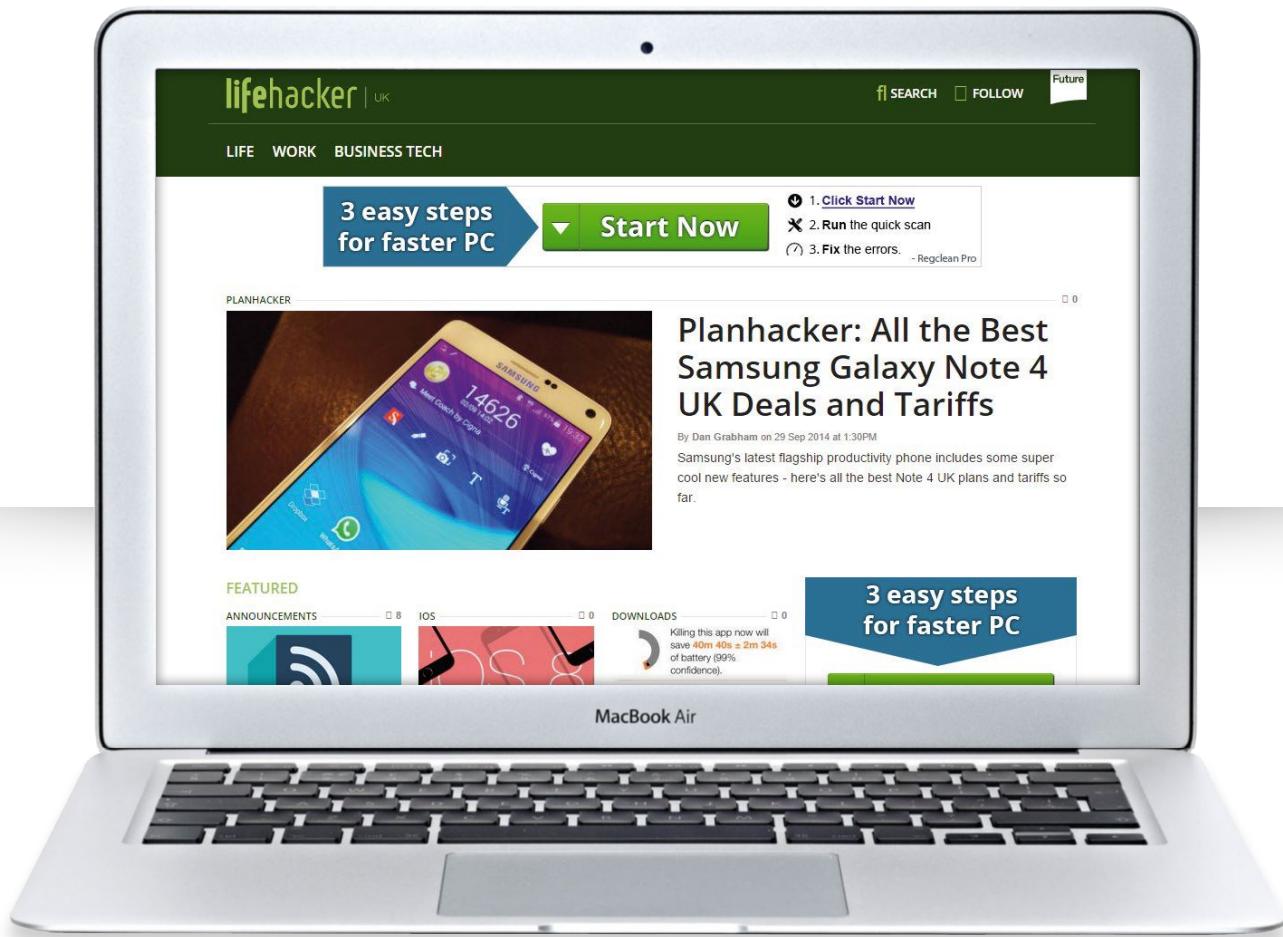
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