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KIT OUT YOUR COMPUTER
WITHOUT PAYING A PENNY

SPECIAL ISSUE
Everything you need to
create your dream PC



Windows Help & Advice

57

PAGES OF
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WINDOWS
GUIDES!

DREAM

CREATE YOUR PERFECT PC – TOP TIPS FOR ANY WINDOWS COMPUTER

- GET STARTED WITH WINDOWS 10 •
- MAKE YOUR PC WORK LIKE NEW •
- PC HARDWARE SHOPPING TIPS •

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- ✓ Recover missing files
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Future



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Windows 10 Home

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16GB DDR4 3000mhz Corsair Vengeance LPX Memory
500GB Samsung 850 EVO SSD
2TB SATA III 6.0Gb/s 64MB HDD
8GB MSI Nvidia® GeForce® GTX 1080 Video Card
16X LG® Blu Ray BH16NS40 Writer Black
CoolerMaster Maker 5 Gaming Case
Corsair CX 600W Power Supply
Corsair H100 V2
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LCD monitor is not included but optional
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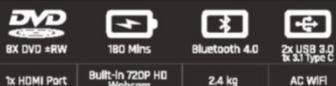


Windows 10 Home

Intel® Core™ i7-6700HQ Processor

17.3" Full HD 1920 x 1080 Display
Intel HM170 Express Chipset
Nvidia® GeForce® GTX 960M 2GB Video Card
8GB DDR4 2133MHz HyperX Impact Black Memory
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Windows 10 Home

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Intel HM170 Express Chipset
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1TB 5400RPM SATA HDD
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4GB MSI NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1050Ti Video Card
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Thermaltake Litepower 350W Power Supply
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HD 7.1



Infinity X77



Windows 10 Home

Intel® Core™ i7-7700K Processor

Gigabyte Z270P-D3 Mainboard
8GB DDR4 2400Mhz HyperX Fury Memory
240GB Kingston UV400 SSD
1TB 7200rpm SATA III 6.0Gb/s 64MB HDD
6GB MSI Nvidia® GeForce® GTX 1060 Video Card
NZXT 410 Phantom White Gaming Case
Cooler Master 500W Power Supply
Corsair H45 Cooling System
LCD monitor is not included but optional
Mouse and keyboard are not included

FROM
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HD 7.1



Infinity Xtreme



Windows 10 Home

Intel® Core™ i7-6800K Processor

Asus X99-E Mainboard
16GB DDR4 3000Mhz Corsair Vengeance LPX Memory
256GB Intel 600P SSD
2TB 7200rpm SATA III 6.0Gb/s 64MB HDD
8GB MSI Nvidia® GeForce® GTX 1070 Video Card
CoolerMaster MasterBox 5 Gaming Case
Corsair CX 600W Power Supply
Corsair H45 Cooling System
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HD 7.1



Infinity X55



Windows 10 Home

Intel® Core™ i5-7600K Processor

MSI Z270-A PRO Mainboard
8GB DDR4 2400Mhz HyperX Fury Memory
2TB 7200rpm SATA III 6.0Gb/s 64MB HDD
3GB MSI Nvidia® GeForce® GTX 1060 Video Card
Syber M
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Corsair H45 Cooling System
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Welcome

Whether you're thinking of buying a new PC or just want to make the most of the machine you already have, this issue of Windows Help & Advice has everything you need.

In our lead feature starting on page 14, we'll show you how to create your dream desktop PC for less than £400. We'll explain how to choose the right components – from case to monitor, processor to graphics card – and take you through each step of the building process, so you know exactly what to do.

Rob

Rob Mead-Green Editor
www.facebook.com/windowsmag

Of course, once you've built your PC, you'll need some decent apps to fill it with – and on page 69 we pick seven of the best that you can get completely free!

Elsewhere, you'll discover how to stop Windows from installing automatic updates (page 46), how to make any PC more secure (page 42), and how to recover missing files (page 60). And that's just the start!

Enjoy the issue and join us again on 28 April for much, much more!



SUBSCRIBE TO THE MAG TODAY AND SAVE – JUST TURN TO PAGE 24!

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, smartphone or tablet.

NEXT ISSUE
ON SALE
28 April
2017

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- Reinstall/rollback Windows → Colour code your files and folders
- Partition your PC's hard drive → Master Windows' Photos app

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Windows Help & Advice

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The perfect PC is within your grasp – and we're going to show you exactly how to build it with this in-depth guide

60 Recover your data

Lost your files? Don't worry. Follow these experts tips and tricks to get them back

69 Best free apps for your new PC

You don't have to spend a penny to kit out your PC with great software. Just look here

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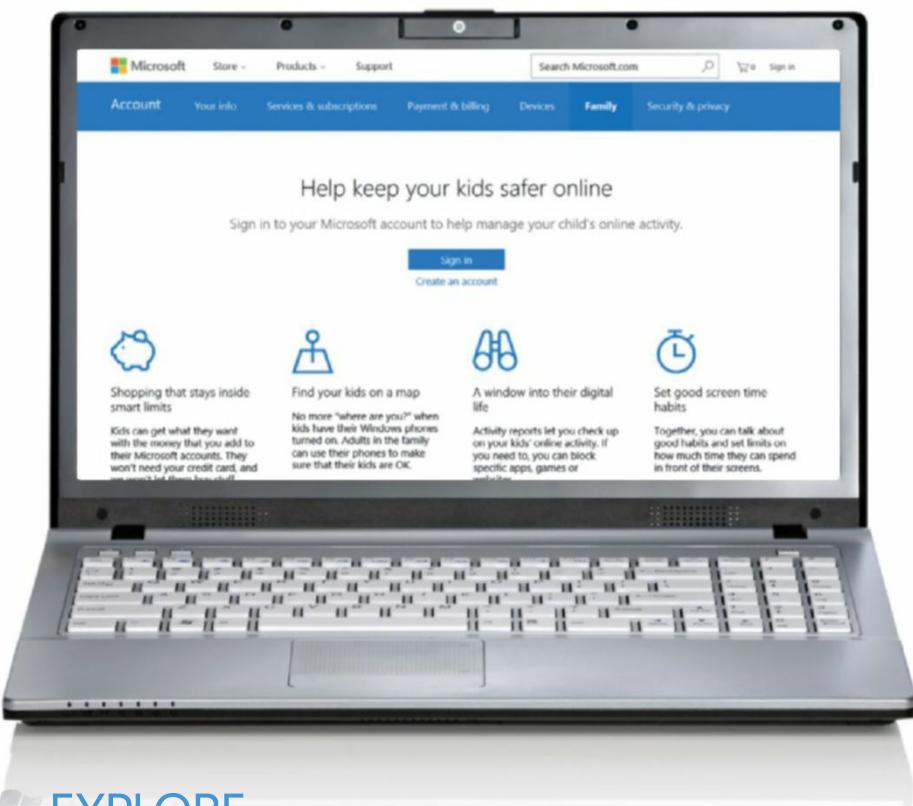
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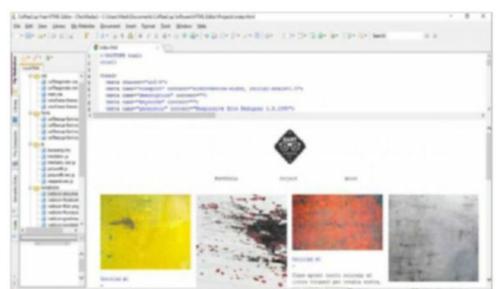
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95 Web builders group test



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The world is more connected than it's ever been. We carry our phones everywhere we go, announce our every move on social media, and stay in touch with more people more regularly. But we've barely even started; there are emerging technologies and services that will make communicating both more universal and easier than before.

We have the gaming community, and corporate sponsors, to thank for Discord (www.discord.com), which offers mobile and PC-based voice and text chat. It's

based around a concept of private rooms – you'll only get access to a conversation when you're given a direct link to it – but once you're in, and there's no software to download, you'll find some of the clearest voice chat that's out there. It's too good to be saved for just gamers.

Although Discord is being a little slack on adding video communication, you have plenty of other options when it

comes to being seen. Microsoft's own Skype (www.skype.com) is a great choice, although not everyone has a Skype account. You may be more likely to find someone with Google credentials to use Hangouts (hangouts.google.com), which covers you for text, voice and video chatting either in a pair or in groups. Google does have a tendency to release new chat applications – it probably has around 6 at last count – but Google

Hangouts would be our suggestion.

We've found that more suggestible friends may be amenable to getting

on board with some of the hot new mobile apps – the likes of Viber, for example, which also includes a Windows Store app and a desktop app – but your mileage will no doubt vary. Even if you can't convince anyone, apps such as Skype also offer cost-effective ways to call actual phone numbers, making it a breeze to keep in touch, both locally and even internationally.

Try Discord and you'll find some of the clearest voice chat in the world

NOKIA RETURNS The 3310 is back... at last?

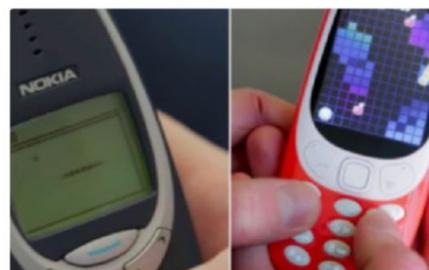
Phones have come a long way since the heyday of the near-indestructible and ubiquitous Nokia 3310. They're a whole lot more complex, but there's a big downside – smartphones drain battery like there's no tomorrow. Enter Nokia's revitalised 3310, a brand new handset with a cut-down feature set, a bargain €49 (around £42) asking price, and a battery that'll last a whole month of standby time. For many people, this could be just the phone they're looking for.



PICTURE THIS The 2-megapixel camera is not at all good, but this isn't meant to be a smartphone.



CLASSIC CASE There's a bigger screen, but the lineage of the new Nokia 3310 is absolutely clear.



SNAKES ALIVE The classic Nokia game returns, with an updated look and simplified controls.

The Knowledge...



Nintendo Switch

What's this then?

The Switch is Nintendo's hot new games console, the follow-up to the not-entirely-successful Wii U. It's caused quite a stir – as new Nintendo tech tends to do – thanks to an exciting lineup of games and what looks like a big power leap over the previous generation.

What's so exciting about it?

It wouldn't be a Nintendo device without a serious gimmick, and the Switch has plenty of innovations going for it. Primary amongst these is its flexibility – the whole console is essentially contained within the 6.2-inch screen portion, which can slide into and out of a dock for play on and off of your home TV.

So it's a portable?

It is – the Switch is based on some of the most powerful tablet tech going. But don't think it's a replacement for the likes of the 3DS; it's much bigger for a start, and its detachable side controllers, known as Joy Cons, offer further flexibility. You can easily prop the screen up on a stand and get comfortable, or even use one controller each for multiplayer gaming.

Is it a tablet, then?

That's one thing the Nintendo Switch is not. It has Wi-Fi connectivity, yes, and you'd certainly be forgiven for mistaking it for one physically. But there's not even a web browser on board by default – Nintendo is positioning this entirely as a gaming machine, and even distributing games on cartridges.

Where can I get one?

We're writing this right before launch, with a little prior knowledge of the way Nintendo does these things, and the news isn't likely to be brilliant. The pre-orders have been sold out for some time, and it's very likely that if you want to pick up a Switch any time soon you'll need to buy from an unscrupulous third party and pay way more than the £279.99 asking price.

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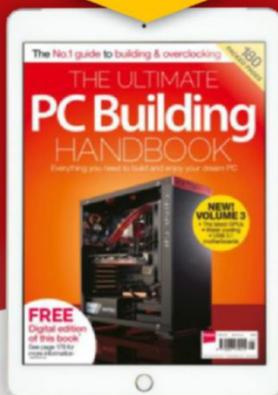
Everything you need to build and enjoy your dream PC



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Everyone's talking about...

AMD's Ryzen processor

The company's brand new CPU is cheaper, faster, and a serious contender to Intel's market dominance at last

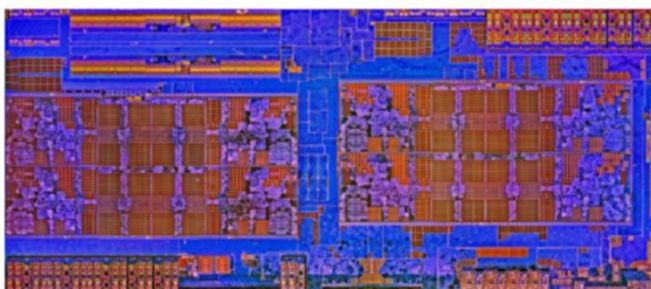
Plenty of time has passed since AMD was last a big name in the processor world. There was certainly some (reasonably) friendly competition with CPU giant Intel in the early 2000s, but hostilities faded as Intel's range of Core processors set about defeating AMD's chips in every single test. Just as the battle for your computer's core looked to have ended in something of a monopoly, AMD's counter-assault on the CPU market has hit: its newly-released Ryzen range – one-third of which has been revealed as of press time for this issue – offers up more processing cores, what appears to be superior speed in like-for-like tests, and a vast cost reduction against Intel's chips.

This might not mean a lot to you, and that's understandable. We're not all inclined to tinker with the internal parts of our PCs. But the fact that the high-end Ryzen 7 line (the mid-range 5 and low-end 3 will be revealed later this year) competes directly with Intel's premium Core i7 processor line at around half the cost means big things for the price and power of your next PC. There's likely to be a lot of jostling in the marketplace; we foresee some very powerful enthusiast hardware suddenly

becoming more affordable, particularly if AMD's next innovation – its Radeon Vega graphics solution, due for release later this year – offers up a similar cost comparison with Nvidia's range of graphics cards. Lower-end computers will almost certainly drop in price, too; competing in the lucrative corporate contract market is surely one of AMD's key aims.

Watch and wait

Don't go throwing out your laptop just yet, though. For a start, these are high-powered desktop processors – there's no word on any



new mobile technology. We won't likely see the full range of Ryzen chips for a good half a year, and we're still waiting for real world tests to prove the AMD processors' worth. What's more, we're yet to see what Intel's response will be – it might be worth saving your next upgrade for when the firefight really gets going...

THE 60-SECOND QUIZ

Pens at the ready, your time starts now!

1 In which year did Intel release its first processor, the 4004?
 A 1961
 B 1971
 C 1981

2 Which of the below was the Intel 4004 NOT used for?
 A Calculators
 B Pinball machines
 C Toasters

3 Which element is most commonly used in CPUs?
 A Silicon
 B Americium
 C Livermorium

4 What does the 'C' in CPU stand for?
 A Confusing
 B Central
 C Computational

5 Which of these is a real variety of CPU?
 A Intel Core i6
 B Intel Core i7
 C Intel Core i8

6 What does 'AMD' stand for?
 A Advanced Micro Devices
 B Amplified Metal Division
 C It's not an acronym

Answers: 1b 2c 3a 4b 5b 6a

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SPAM FILTER You can create a temporary email for untrusted sites with Guerilla Mail.

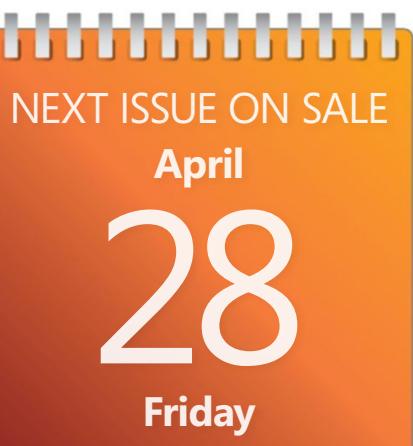
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Facts & figures

Rob Mead-Green reveals a host of fascinating digital facts

1 BILLION

Number of hours YouTube users spend watching video each and every day. That's equivalent to 100,000 years of footage watched back to back.



400,000

Estimated distance, in miles, of the first commercial space flight due in 2018. Two lucky fee-paying passengers will make the trip around the moon and back onboard the Falcon Heavy rocket, built by Elon Musk's SpaceX.



126 MILLION

Total number of 3310 feature phones Nokia has sold since it launched in 2000. A new version of the classic 'dumb' phone was announced at Mobile World Congress in February – see page 9.



Number of people who currently pay to use the Spotify streaming music service, a jump of over 10 million in a year. The rest of the company's 100 million customers listen in for free.

2.2 MILLION

Number of voice recordings made by children and parents that have allegedly been exposed online – thanks to lax security by CloudPets, which makes internet-connected cuddly toys. Email addresses, passwords and profile pictures for up to 800,000 users are also believed to have been compromised.



>> Incoming

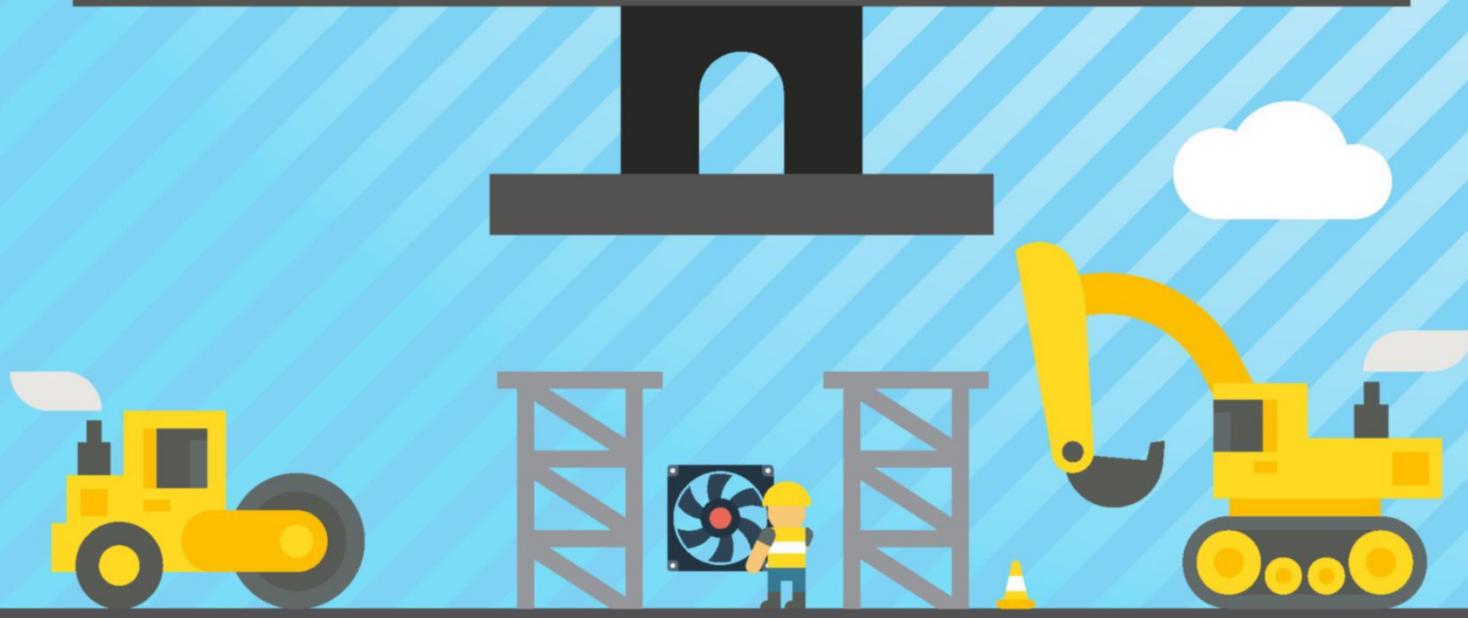
The hottest new Windows hardware on the horizon



Porsche Design Book One

From £2,395, www.porsche-design-computing.com

Unveiled at Mobile World Congress (MWC) in February, the Book One is one seriously classy 2-in-1 hybrid. Fashioned from a block of milled aluminium with a 13.3-inch QHD+ multi-touch display, it's been designed by Porsche to "enable the best of Windows 10 Pro". And it shows. The single spec model sports a 3.5GHz Intel Core i7-7500U (Kaby Lake) processor, 16GB of RAM, a 512GB solid state drive, 802.11ac Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 4.1, plus a complement of Thunderbolt 3, USB-C and USB 3.0 ports. The Book One also features a unique hinge design that enables the fully detachable display to rotate 360-degrees. Oh, and battery life? An incredible 14 hours. Available from April.





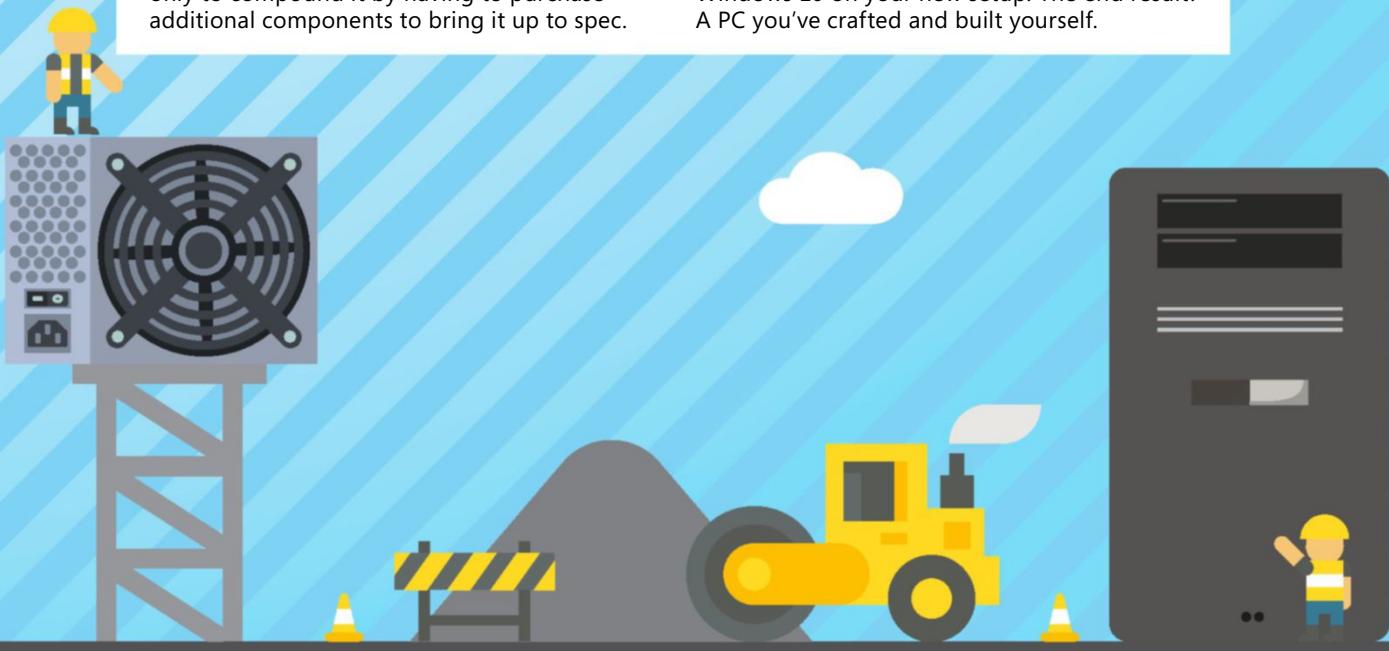
Creating the perfect PC is easier and cheaper than you might think. Our in-depth guide will show you how...

They may no longer be the "in thing", but a home without a desktop PC is somehow bereft. They're typically more powerful than their laptop cousins, and provide a central point for everything from word processing to gaming.

Desktop PCs are more affordable than ever, but the problem is that you can't always guarantee you'll get the right model for your needs. Of course, desktops are infinitely customisable – unlike laptops, you can easily swap out any component for repair or upgrading purposes. But if you're in the market for a new desktop, you'll be missing a trick if you incur the expense of an off-the-shelf model only to compound it by having to purchase additional components to bring it up to spec.

Here's another thought: why not build your own desktop PC from scratch? It's not as tricky as it sounds – most of the PC components you need will simply click into place, and there are no heart-stopping techniques like soldering to worry about. In fact, the only tools you're likely to need are a Philips screwdriver or two, plus an anti-static wristband or some other means of earthing yourself.

Don't believe us? In this feature we're going to step you through the entire process of deciding what you need, sourcing the right components to do the job, and taking you through the entire process of building your PC. We'll also reveal some troubleshooting tips, and guide you through the steps needed to install Windows 10 on your new setup. The end result? A PC you've crafted and built yourself.



What you'll need

The first step is to pick the case and power supply for your new PC

One of the fun bits of building your own PC is in setting yourself a budget and then getting to choose exactly which components will make up your new desktop. It's possible to build a PC for around £350 (including a copy of Windows), but if you can stretch to £600 you'll find you're able to build a

desktop that will hold its own for years to come. In this first section, we'll look at putting together the shell that your PC will reside in, namely its case, and the power supply that will drive it.

Choose the right case

You might think the case should be the last thing on your shopping list, but it's worth remembering that the size and shape of the case will ultimately determine what you can fit inside it. To make things easier, manufacturers adhere to specific standards when designing cases, ensuring all your components should fit inside.

At the bottom end of the scale are mini-ITX cases, designed with low power and a small footprint in mind. You'll often find these are offered as a 'barebones' PC, with motherboard and processor already fitted, leaving you with the task of adding in storage (typically there's only space for a single 2.5-inch drive, or maybe one 2.5-inch and one 3.5-inch drive) and RAM. While you can buy these micro PCs with the latest, fastest processors on board, there's usually a premium to pay – an Intel model (the NUC6i3SYH, based on the previous generation Core i3



Small PCs ITX is the standard for small form factor PCs – barebones kits are the best choice here.

processor), will set you back around £275, for example, and that's before you factor in the cost of memory, storage, input devices, Windows and a display.

Your best bet for squeezing the maximum possible value from your build is to go for a standard ATX case – either a tower or a desktop. Desktop cases sit on your desktop with your monitor typically perched on top of them, while tower cases are placed at your feet underneath a desk and come in three basic sizes: mini, midi and full-sized. The larger the case, the more room you have to work with, and the more components you can fit inside it. The key thing linking ATX cases together is the position of the screw holes that fix them to the motherboard – they're standardised so you can fit any kind of ATX motherboard – including a micro-

"Your best bet for squeezing the maximum possible value from your build is to go for a standard ATX case"



CANNIBALISE YOUR OLD PC

One way to reduce the cost of your new PC is to reuse items from your old one – obviously if you're selling it or keeping it on this isn't practical, but if it's died a death there may be some parts that you can reuse, such as the keyboard, mouse and monitor, for example. If your old desktop has a built-in DVD drive or spare hard drive, you may also be able to reuse these, although make sure that they're of the newer SATA variety and not IDE for compatibility purposes.

You might have an older graphics card to recycle as well, but visit a site such as <http://gpuboss.com/compare-gpus-to>

see how it compares with the graphics on your new CPU before assuming it'll be better. If you plan to keep your old PC and are thinking of buying a separate monitor, keyboard and mouse for your new desktop, consider a KVM switch instead. This enables you to share a single monitor, keyboard and other USB peripherals with two or more computers. A compact two-port switch supporting HDMI (including audio) and USB costs around £63 on Amazon.co.uk, but if you can live with the inferior VGA signal, you can source models on eBay for as little as £15.



Share resources Use a KVM switch to share mouse, keyboard and monitor between PCs.

ATX motherboard – in a larger case (obviously the reverse isn't true).

What should you look for in your case? First, make a note of how many drive bays it has – and what size the drive bays are. Even micro ATX cases should provide enough space for a decent number of internal drives (3.5-inch bays for platter-based hard drives, and 2.5-inch bays for SSD drives), as well as at least one external drive bay for fitting an optical drive, such as a DVD or Blu-ray unit.

Also make a note of how many expansion slots are provided at the rear, and make sure this tallies with the number of PCIe and PCI slots on your motherboard. Cases also ship with front-mounted USB and audio ports – these should come with the required cables for plugging them into your motherboard. You should also double-check the dimensions of the case and ensure it fits where you plan to keep your PC.

Finally, most cases should provide multiple grilles for allowing heat to transfer out of your PC. Some may even have space for additional fans should you need them, although in most cases the fan that ships with your processor – plus the fan that's included with your power supply (PSU) – should be sufficient.

Some other things to consider: if you're planning to push your PC through gaming, HD video editing or some other processor-intensive tasks, we recommend looking for a larger case – this improves the ventilation flow, ensuring your CPU doesn't overheat as easily, and has the added bonus of being less cramped to work inside while you're building your computer.



Power up Your chosen PSU needs to supply enough power and provide the right connectors.

Power it up

Next on your to-do list is to source a power supply. Some budget cases come with power supplies included – the CiT range from Ebuyer.com, for example, features a selection of micro ATX cases, with different designs, each of which comes with a built-in 500W power supply for under £30. Most cases, however, provide you with a standard space into which you slot your choice of ATX-compliant power supply.

These days, 500W is very much an entry level requirement for desktop PCs. Your PC won't draw anywhere near that amount of power in normal everyday use. However, be prepared to source a

PSU with even more wattage – 600–750W, say, – if you plan to use your PC for gaming, given all the additional power-hungry components such as a discrete graphics card, that one requires.

Another key consideration when picking out your PSU are the number of power connectors it provides. Cheap, low-end PSUs may only provide three SATA power connectors, for example, limiting you to just two storage drives and a single optical drive. More expensive models are also modular, which means individual power cables can be detached from the supply if they're not needed, freeing up space inside the case.



UPGRADE YOUR MONITOR

This is typically one of those components you'll be reusing from your old machine – see 'Cannibalise your old PC' (left) – but if you're in the market for a new display, you can buy a 24-inch Full HD monitor for as little as £80. Things to look out for are the display's resolution (1920 x 1080 is Full HD) and connections – most monitors give you VGA and one HDMI or DVI port. The latter are digital, so offer a superior signal, but make sure your motherboard supports them (some cheaper models don't).

Fancy taking advantage of Windows 10's touchscreen support? Touch-friendly

models are thin on the ground, but they do exist – one worth checking out is HannsG's 21.5-inch HT225HPB (£180, Ebuyer.com/751120), which comes with full 10-point multi-touch, built-in speakers and HDMI output.

If you're after for a gamer-friendly monitor, buy one that has a response time of 1ms – prices start from around £120 for a 24-inch model. You can also get ultra-wide displays with a 21:9 aspect ratio, but by the time you start factoring in other wishlist items – curved displays, 4K Ultra HD, etc. – you'll be spending the same as on your entire PC build.



Touchy-feely Embrace Windows 10's interface with a touchscreen display.

The core components

You've picked up a case and power supply, now it's time to populate your dream machine with the parts that make up an actual PC

Motherboard and CPU

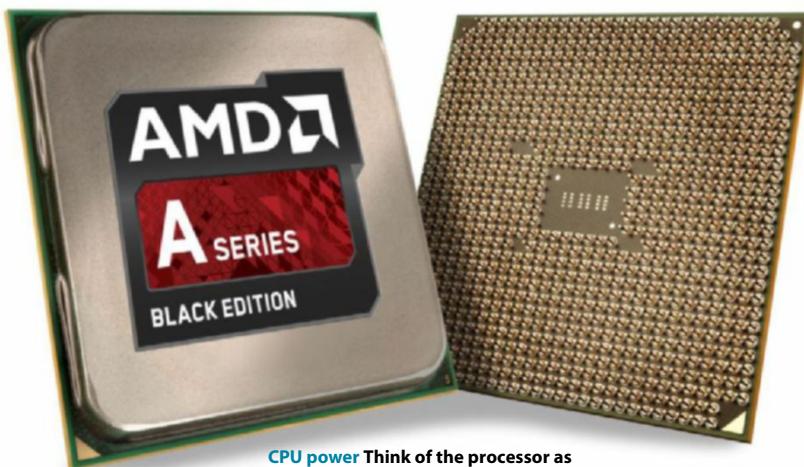
The motherboard (or 'mobo') is the most critical component inside your PC. It determines your PC's power in terms of the processor and memory it supports, as well as its connectivity. If you plan to connect lots of external peripherals, for example, you'll need to ensure that you have plenty of USB ports. Another thing to consider are the number of internal expansion ports (PCI-Express typically) – a key factor if you're intending to buy a separate graphics card. See the annotation on the facing page for a breakdown of motherboard features.

In many ways, your choice boils down to whether you plan to go down the AMD or Intel route. AMD offers more bang for your buck, so our budget dream machine pairs a Gigabyte motherboard with an AMD A8 7600 quad-core processor and integrated graphics. The motherboard offers two memory sockets supporting DDR3 RAM chips, a HDMI port, 7.1-channel audio, Gigabit LAN port and four SATA III connectors. There are two PCI-Express slots (one 16x and one 1x) and a PCI slot for legacy devices, plus two USB 3.0 ports and up to eight USB 2.0 ports.

When it comes to buying your CPU, make sure you choose a retail boxed version, which comes with the required heatsink and cooling fan. You should also make sure that the processor is supported by your motherboard – check its support page for confirmation.

Memory (RAM)

If you like to have lots of applications and services running at once, then you need plenty of memory. Today's PCs support up to 64GB of RAM, but that can cost hundreds of pounds and is overkill – a better starting point is 8GB (or 4GB if you're really strapped for cash, although remember some of that memory will be shared with your processor's onboard graphics). When shopping for memory for your new PC,



CPU power Think of the processor as the brains inside your new PC.

use a tool such as www.crucial.com/uk to source the RAM you need for your motherboard. You can always upgrade or – if you have four slots on your motherboard – add more RAM later.

Choose your hard drive(s)

If you've not already experienced the blistering pace of solid-state storage, now is the time to embrace it. You don't need to splash out on a large capacity SSD either – we recommend keeping Windows and your programs on a separate drive to your data, so why not buy a smaller SSD (120GB, or 250GB if you're a gamer and can afford it) and pair it with a traditional hard drive?

All modern drives use the SATA interface, but not all SATA interfaces are equal. Make sure your chosen drive is a SATA-III drive for maximum performance (up to 6GB/s), and if you go down the mini-ITX route, look out for the newer M.2 drives that resemble memory sticks if your chosen barebones PC supports it.

Manufacturers to look out for include Hynix, Crucial, Kingston and SanDisk with prices starting around £50 for a 120GB model. SSD drives are 2.5 inches in size, but we suggest you use a single 2.5-inch bay, no adapter required.

We also recommend pairing the SSD with a traditional internal 3.5-inch hard drive for storing your data on (as well as backing up your Windows installation to). Expect to pay around £45 for a 1TB drive, and £60-65 for a 2TB model, which should give you ample storage.

DVD or Blu-ray?

While optical drives are no longer an essential purchase, you may have some old install discs lying around, or want to play audio CDs, DVD videos or Blu-rays. Optical drives also provide you with a convenient back-up or archiving device, and with internal DVD writers costing as little as £15 online, they're worth having. Blu-ray drives are more expensive – expect to pay £60 for an internal Blu-ray writer, but the upside is you can store up to 50GB on a single disc.

Discrete graphics card

You don't need to add a third-party graphics card to your new desktop PC unless you're desperate to play the latest games. Even then, you may find the built-in graphics in both AMD and Intel CPUs are up to the task – they're both able to display and play 4K video after all. Key things to consider are the fact they share memory with your RAM and are usually clocked at lower speeds than discrete cards. That said, integrated graphics chips are still better than cards and chips from a few years ago.

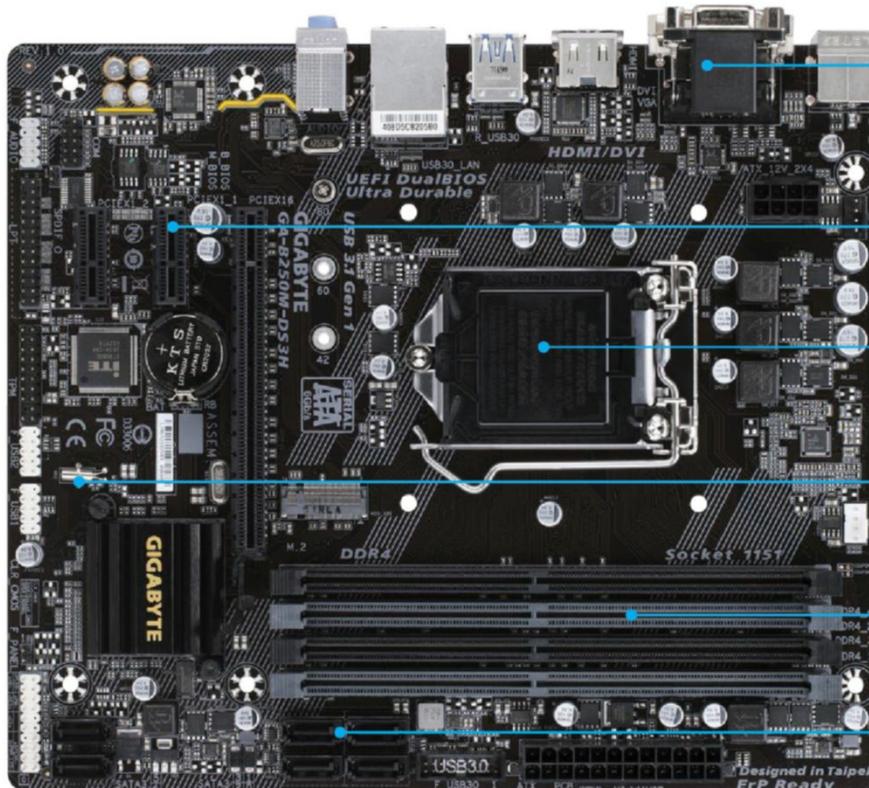
If you do need a more powerful graphics card, we suggest you choose NVIDIA over AMD for the simple reason that NVIDIA cards are supported for much longer. For a guide to the best cards available right now, check out <http://bit.ly/2mIDjD4>.



Game on If you want to play the latest titles, you may need an external graphics card.

Know your mobo

Your guide to the key components on your PC's motherboard



REAR CONNECTORS

Where you'll find connectors for graphics (VGA, DVI and/or HDMI), USB, sound, network and more.

PCIe SLOTS

Use these slots to plug in internal boards, such as discrete graphics cards or extra networking ports.

PROCESSOR

AMD and Intel motherboards are not cross-compatible. Some mobos only support a single processor family.

ONBOARD CONNECTORS

These are where you plug in the case connectors – for example, front-mounted audio and USB ports.

RAM

You'll typically find two or four slots for memory – add RAM in pairs for maximum performance and stability.

SATA

These L-shaped connectors are where you plug in your PC's internal drives: one drive to each connector.

PRICE UP YOUR PC

The following prices are correct at time of press and have been taken from eBuyer.com except for RAM, which is from Crucial (www.crucial.com/uk). We encourage you to shop around for the best deals. You'll also need to factor in the cost of display, mouse and keyboard, if required.



BUDGET BUILD

| COMPONENT | MODEL | £ |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Case | CiT Quartz Micro Black | £28.50 |
| Power Supply | 500W (included with case) | £0 |
| Motherboard | Gigabyte GA-F2A68HM-HD2 | £42 |
| Processor | AMD A8 7600 | £73 |
| Memory | 4GB (2x 2GB) | £36 |
| Graphics | Integrated AMD Radeon R7 APU | £0 |
| Windows Hard Drive | Hyinx 120GB SSD | £47 |
| Secondary Hard Drive | Toshiba P300 1TB | £42 |
| Optical drive | LiteOn iHAS124 24x DVD-RW | £15 |
| Windows | Windows 10 Home | £85 |
| TOTAL COST | | £368.50 |

MID-RANGE BUILD

| COMPONENT | MODEL | £ |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Case | CiT Mesh Gaming Case | £21 |
| Power Supply | Aerocool Integrator 700W | £37 |
| Motherboard | Gigabyte Intel GA-B250M-D3H | £75 |
| Processor | Intel Core i3-7100 | £126 |
| Memory | 8GB (2x 4GB) | £68 |
| Graphics | Integrated Intel HD Graphics 630 | £0 |
| Windows Hard Drive | Hyinx 250GB SSD | £76 |
| Secondary Hard Drive | WD Blue 2TB | £69 |
| Optical drive | LG BH16NS40 14x Blu-ray RW | £57.50 |
| Windows | Windows 10 Home | £85 |
| TOTAL COST | | £614.50 |

Build your desktop PC

Now it's time to put all of the components of your dream machine together – and then make sure they're all working correctly

You've picked out your perfect components (our suggestions on pages 18 and 19 are simply a guide – you should take the time to pick and choose exactly what you want) and they're now sitting in your dining room, ready to be unpacked and put together. Before you begin, unpack everything to see what cables and screws are supplied, and whether or not you'll need to buy any extras. Note your processor will come with its own fan and a one-time thermal paste or pad already applied to its heatsink. Should

you ever upgrade the fan to a larger or quieter model, be sure to purchase a tube of thermal paste (Antec and Arctic Silver are reputable brands) to apply to the processor before fitting it.

Constructing the PC is relatively straightforward as you'll see when we step you through the process. The key is to take your time, ensuring that everything lines up correctly before attempting to push or screw it into place, and make sure that you're in a dust-free environment with good lighting – the dining room table (with suitable protective covering) is a good choice if you have nowhere else.

We also recommend you take steps to earth the case to prevent any static build-up. You can do this by plugging in the case to your power supply (with the power switched off at the socket), or you can hop down to your local Maplin store and purchase an Anti-Static Wristband for around £6.

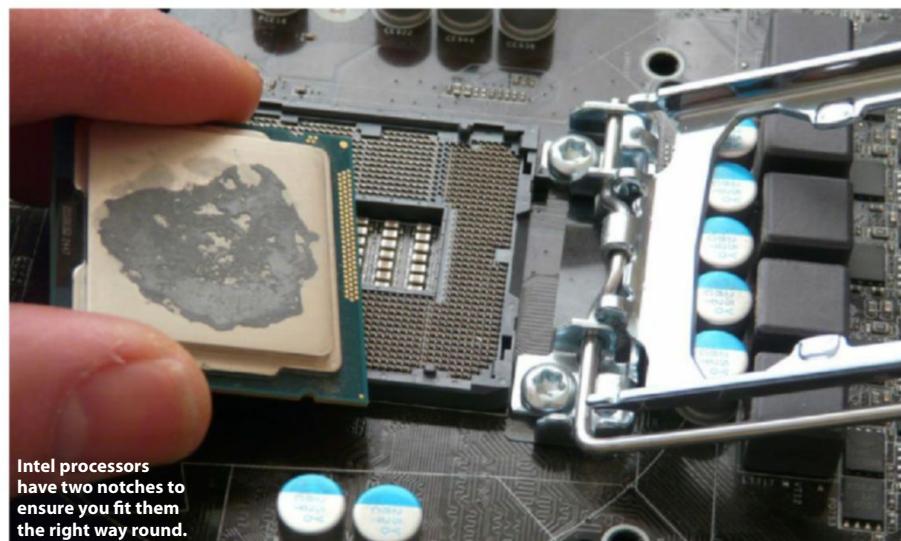
You'll also need a variety of smaller Philips screwdrivers, for securing the motherboard to the case and your drives to the storage bays. Consider digging out some tweezers too – for those moments when screws go scuttling away to some dark recess from where you'll have to fish them out.

Step 1 FIT THE PROCESSOR

First, remove the motherboard from its protective wrap, but leave it on its cushioned surface. Then remove the CPU from its box – you'll see it has a thin coating on top. Leave this alone – it's thermal paste that will bind it to the fan's heatsink and help dissipate heat.

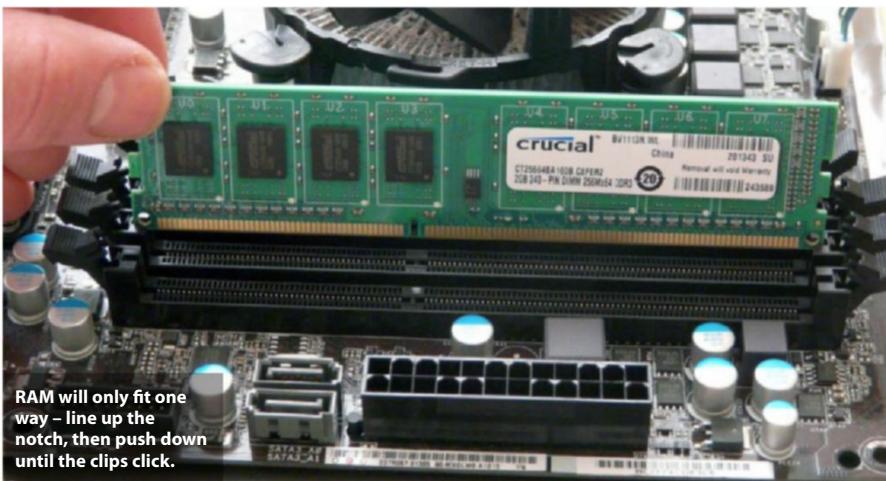
Now switch your attention to the motherboard and locate the CPU socket, which is probably protected by a cover. There's a clip on the side of the socket. Gently push it to the right and it should pop up, freeing the cover (which should be removed), revealing a metal frame. Pull the frame up to expose the socket.

Although the processor is square, it can only go into the socket one way. Intel processors come with notches on either side, which correspond to alignment keys on the motherboard. Make sure the pin side of your CPU is facing down and gently place it into the socket, where it should sit snugly. AMD



processors don't have notches, so turn the CPU over and look for a triangular mark on one corner. Line this up with a matching triangle on the motherboard's

CPU socket and gently slot it into place. Finally, close the frame using the clip (it should slot underneath a holding screw) and then hook the clip back into place.



Step 2 FIT THE RAM

Now remove your two strips of RAM and locate the long, horizontal RAM sockets on the motherboard. You'll see some notches in the RAM that will line up with alignment keys on the RAM sockets. Make sure the retaining clips are pulled back before you align the sticks with the sockets and gently – but firmly – push down until the clips pop back into place.

If your motherboard has four RAM sockets, you won't fit them in two adjoining sockets – instead consult your manual for the correct sockets to use if the sockets aren't colour coded (basically you'd drop them into sockets one and three, or two and four).



Step 3 Fit power supply unit

If you've purchased a tower case, we recommend you put it on its side so that you can access it from the top.

Firstly, the power supply unit (PSU) fits in a dedicated compartment next to the motherboard, and in most cases it pays to fit this before you attempt to install the motherboard, particularly in a smaller case. The PSU should only slot in one way – use the built-in rails as a guide, with the power socket closest to the top of the case. Now secure the power supply to the case using the screws provided with your PSU's kit.

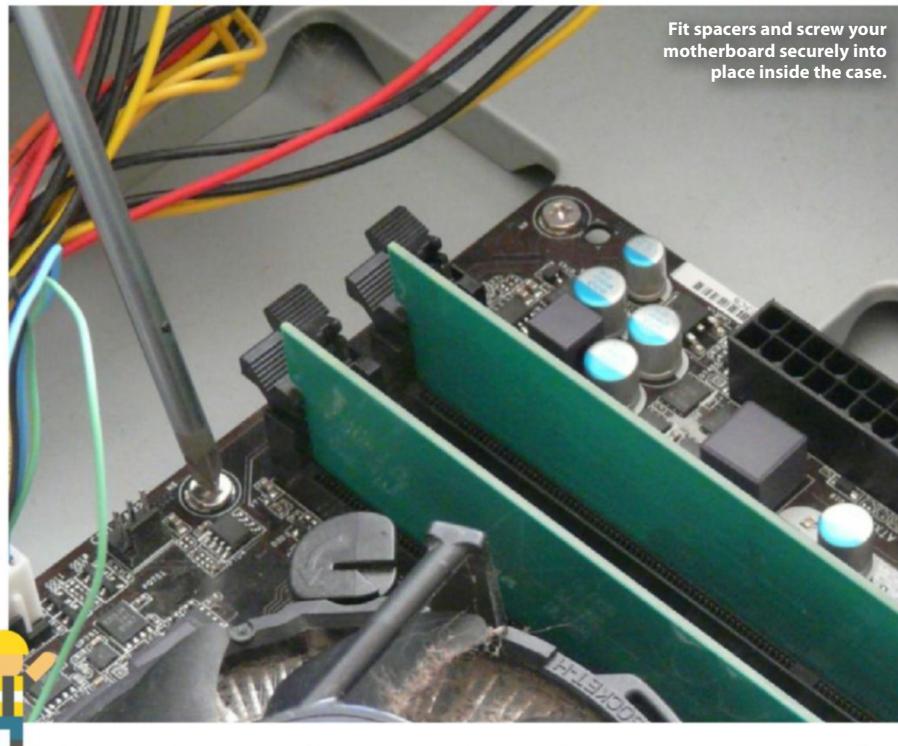
Step 4

Install the motherboard

Next, place the motherboard's I/O shield – the one containing holes for all its connectors – in the correct rectangular space at the back of your case, below the case fan if there is one. (You may need to pop out a metal cover on the case first by pushing it from the inside out with a screwdriver or blunt object).

Now, if they're not already in place, screw the motherboard spacing posts to the bottom of the case (you should see markings indicating which ones you need; otherwise compare with the holes in the motherboard itself) until they're finger tight – under no circumstances must the bottom of your motherboard touch the bottom of your case.

Finally, carefully introduce the motherboard to your case – you should find its rear connectors poke through the I/O shield in the correct place, while the motherboard's screw holes should also line up with the spacers on the motherboard. Make sure you secure them using the screws provided.



Fit spacers and screw your motherboard securely into place inside the case.

TROUBLESHOOT YOUR BUILD

You've followed our guide to the letter, pressed the power button and then – nothing. Or, if nothing, a series of beeps which suggest something's not well. If the power doesn't come on, switch off, then check your connections – particularly the front panel ones and the ATX plugs on the power supply.

If your PC powers up, but emits a series of beeps before shutting down, go to www.bioscentral.com/beepcodes/awardbeep.htm to search for clues. Most codes refer to incorrectly seated RAM or the CPU, so check these. Also check that the CPU fan is plugged in.

If you get persistent RAM errors, try removing one stick and trying again. If it works, reseat the second stick of RAM and you may find that all is now well, or it may indicate that you have a faulty memory module. If it fails again, try the other memory stick.

Also check the board carefully for potential short circuits – is the motherboard resting securely? Has a stray screw somehow found its way on to the board (or underneath it)? Also make use of the web – search for keywords relevant to your problem (both with and without the model of your



motherboard) to see if any other clues can be found.

If you have no joy, strip down your PC and put it back together again, taking extra care with each step to make sure that everything's firmly in

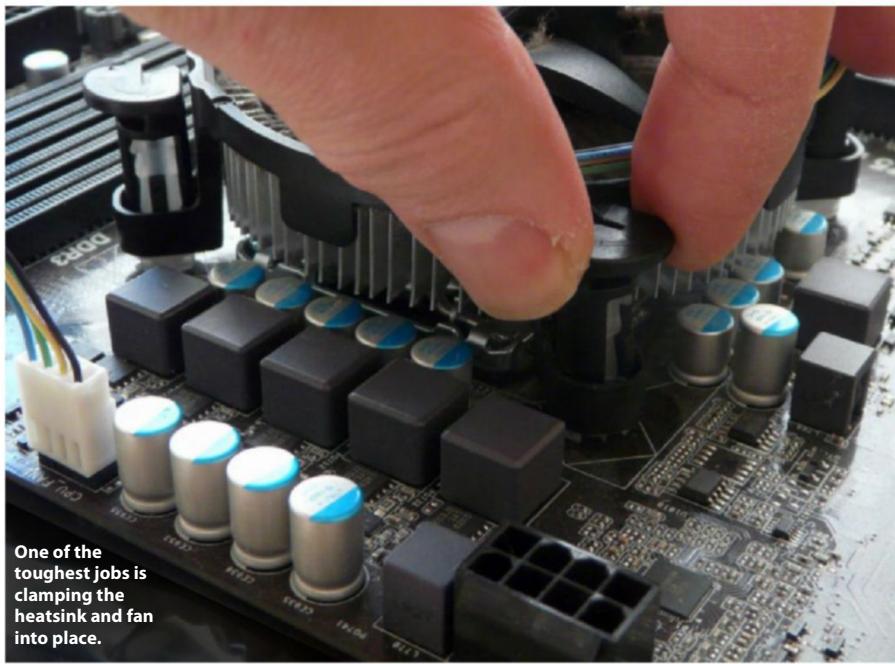
place. If you're still unable to get things working, you may need to check the components more carefully for signs of damage and be prepared to return some – or all of them – so that they can be replaced.

Step 5

Attach heatsink and fan

Your processor comes with a stock heatsink and fan, which will fit over the top of the processor socket to draw heat away from it. Look for four large round holes surrounding the socket at a distance of 1-2cm. You'll need to align the four legs on the fan with these – there's no hard and fast rule about which leg goes where, but it's a good idea to locate the motherboard connector where the fan will be plugged into (it's marked CPU_FAN) and align it so the cable can easily reach.

Once done, push down on each leg in turn until you hear it click into place, then turn the header anti-clockwise to lock it. It can take a few goes to do this, so be patient. Once done, connect the fan wire to the CPU_FAN connector – it should only be able to go one way. Don't skip this step – if your fan doesn't come on when your PC does, you risk frying your processor.



Step 6

Connect internal cables

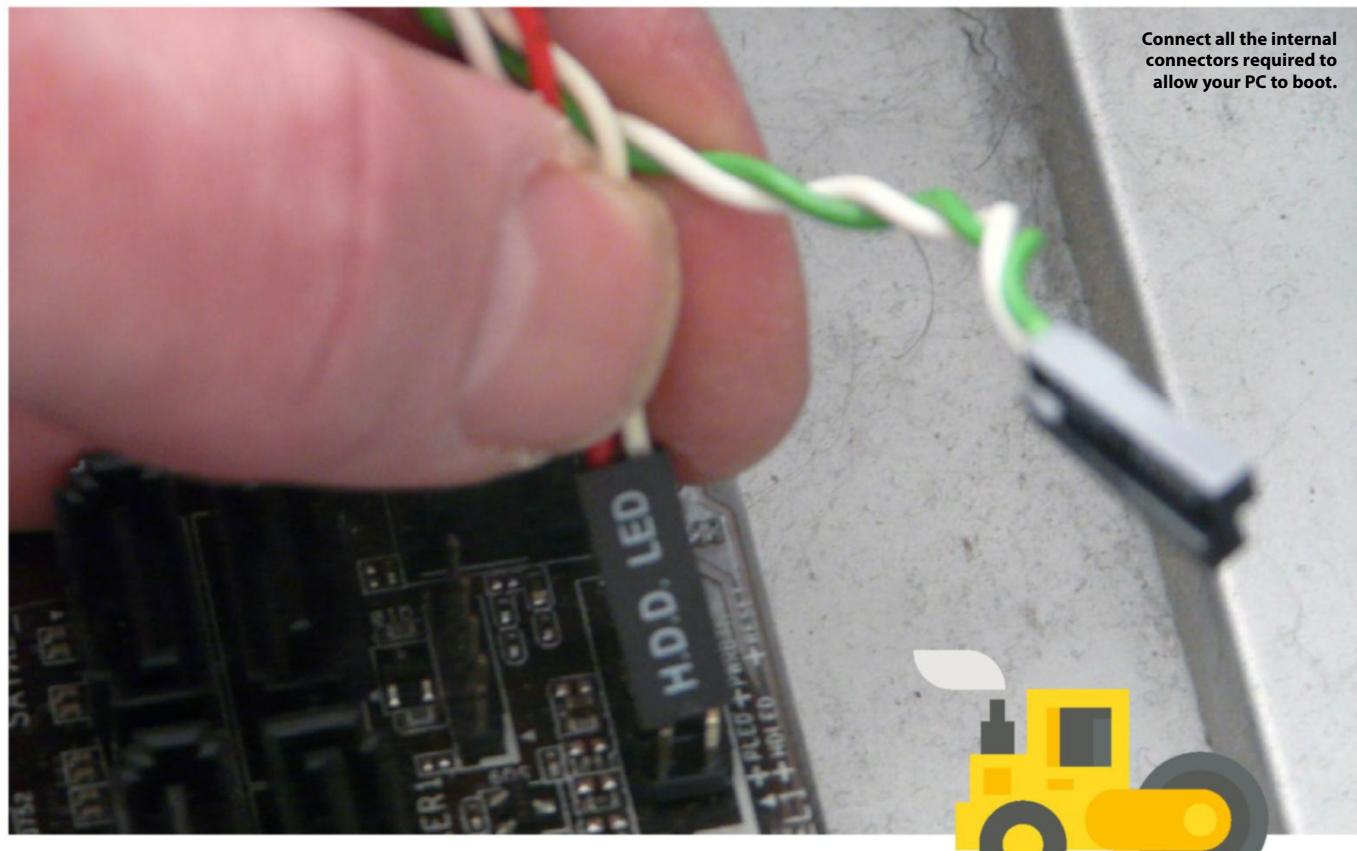
First, locate the cables coming out of the front of the case that hook up to the speaker, activity LED lights and power/reset switches. These need to be plugged into a series of pins typically found in the bottom corner near the SATA ports, marked F_PANEL. You'll see '+' and '-' pins are indicated, which aren't always clearly indicated on the cables. Look for a raised downward

arrow on one of the cables, which indicates it should go in the '+' pin.

You'll also find an F_AUDIO header for attaching any front-mounted audio ports, and look for a reference to an F_USB30 and F_USB2 for any front-mounted USB ports. The former is typically a thick blue connector.

If there's a case fan provided, plug this into the SYS_FAN connector, while also using this opportunity to verify you've plugged the CPU fan into CPU_FAN.

Finally, it's time to connect the power supply unit (PSU). For now, you only need to plug in two cables, the main ATX cable (the widest socket with 2x12 holes) and its little brother, the ATX_12V (2x4 holes). Again, you'll find that these can only fit one way – look for the ATX pins below the RAM sockets, and the ATX_12V pins on the right of the motherboard. If your PSU only supplies a 2x2 ATX_12V socket, plug it into the bottom set of pins.



**Step 7****Test your build**

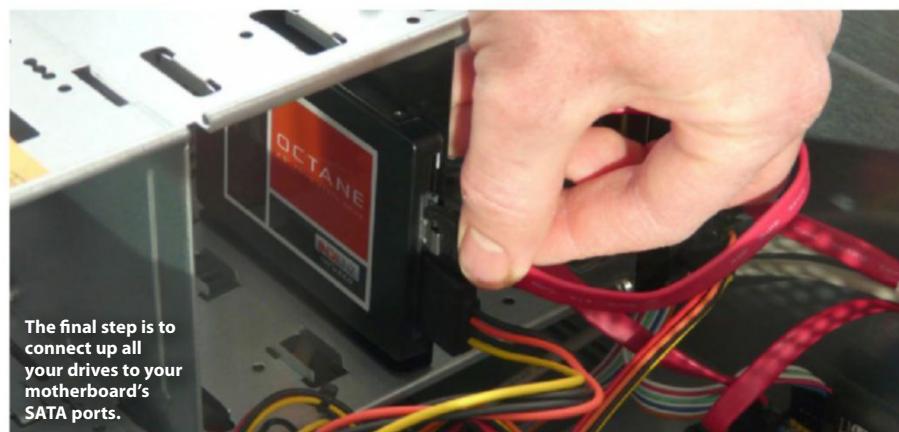
It's time to see if your PC is working. Connect a monitor to one of the rear video connectors, and plug in a keyboard and mouse. Attach the power cable to the power supply, plug it in and switch on the power. Check the CPU fan is plugged into the right set of pins. Finally, check the PSU for its own power switch – flick this to On if it exists. Press the power button.

If everything is connected properly, you should see the CPU fan whirr into life, the activity lights flash and hear a single beep. After a short pause the monitor will spring into action and show you the main start screen before telling you it can't find any media to boot from (this is normal). Click 'reset' and press [Delete] to go into the system setup tool to verify your processor and RAM have been identified correctly. Shut down your PC and move on to the next stage.

Step 8**Install drives**

Power off the PC and unplug it. Fit each drive into a suitable drive bay, then use the supplied cables to connect the drives to suitable SATA ports on the motherboard (while it doesn't matter which drive goes where, we recommend your SSD drive goes in SATA port 0, which may be coloured differently to the other ports to help identify it; or consult the motherboard manual).

You'll need to connect up each drive to the power supply via a power cable – look for those with long L-shaped connectors, which should only connect one way to your drive. Some cables share multiple connectors, so you'll need to gauge which ones to use based on the distance the drive is from PSU.



Once the drives have been successfully installed, you can reboot and use your motherboard manual's to

enter the BIOS again to verify all the drives have been recognised. You're now ready to install Windows!

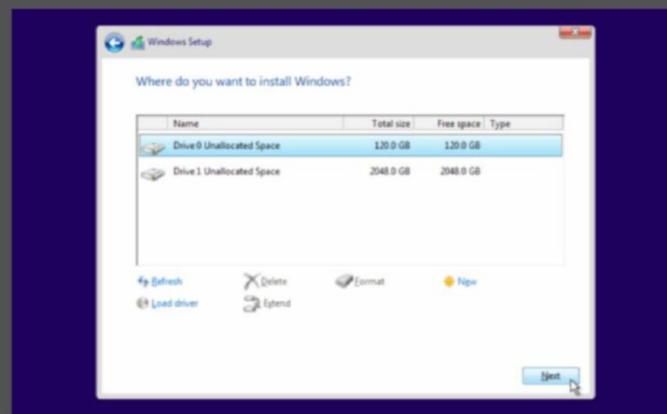
INSTALL WINDOWS

You're ready for the final stage: Insert the flash drive containing the Windows installation files and start your PC. If your PC doesn't automatically detect the drive and start the Windows installation process, look for an option to access the boot menu, then select the flash drive – if two entries appear, choose the UEFI version.

Now follow the installation prompts – choose the Custom option when asked. You'll be asked to choose which drive to install to – make sure you select your SSD drive from the two choices given (use its Total Size to guide you), even if it's listed as Drive 1.

After this, Windows 10 should install and activate itself. Once you've logged in for the first time, you're ready to begin setting up Windows the way you want it. Start by right-clicking the Start button and choosing Disk Management. Locate your data drive and follow the prompts to initialise and format it – it'll be allocated drive E or F by default; if you want to change it to drive D, right-click the existing D drive and choose 'Change Drive Letters and Paths' to give it a different letter, then allocate drive D to the data drive.

Finally, don't forget to move your personal data folders over



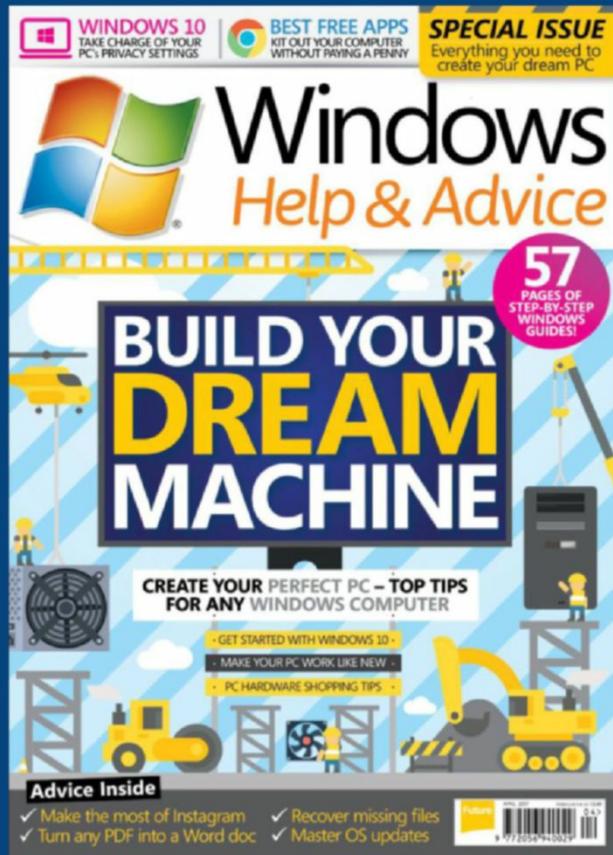
to the new drive – open File Explorer, select 'This PC' in the left pane if applicable, then right-click Documents under Folders and choose Properties > Location tab. Click Move... then

browse to your data drive, create a suitable folder structure (say D:\Yourname\Documents) and click Apply. Once done, click OK and repeat for your other user folders.



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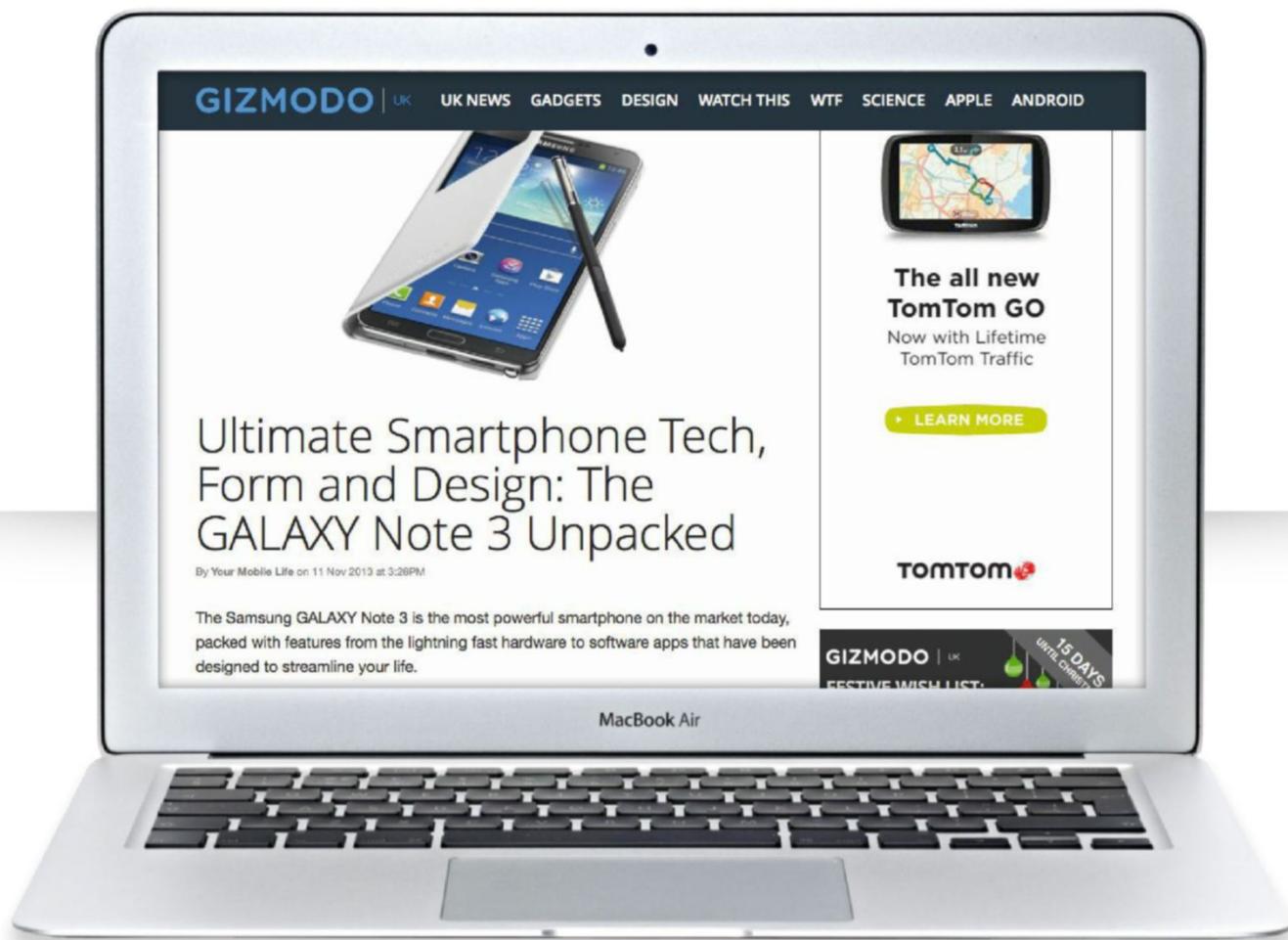
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Explore

► WINDOWS TIPS ► INTERNET ADVICE ► EXCITING NEW PROJECTS

Welcome



In this month's Explore section we're going to show you how to get more out of any PC – whether it's brand new or you've owned it for a while.

On page 32 we'll tempt you Mozilla Thunderbird, an excellent and extensible alternative to Windows Mail, while on page 46 we'll show you how to take control of your PC and stop Windows 10 from updating automatically.

On page 42 we'll also show you how to make your PC more secure by making changes to its settings; and on page 52 we'll also explain how you can avoid unwanted adverts.

Rob Mead-Green

Editor

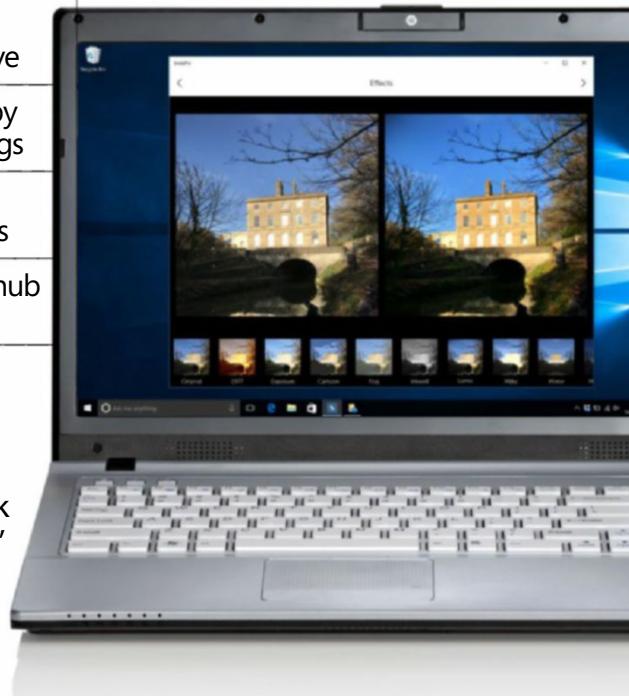
rob.mead-green@futurenet.com

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54 Take a tour of the Windows Store with our in-depth guide



Your guide
Nick Odantzis says...

"Looking for awesome apps for your PC? Check out the Windows Store"

*Turn to page 54
to find out more*

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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.

Customise Windows to work your way

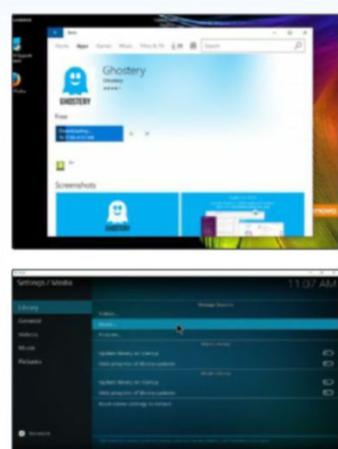
We all know how to do the basics but getting the most from Windows isn't always easy. Our dedication to the operating system means you get the very best tips and tricks for all versions of Windows.

Get more from your favourite websites

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.

Discover new programs with our help

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... Get started with Instagram



Your guide **Rob Mead-Green** says...

"See what your friends and family are up to with this social photo sharing app for Windows 10"

At a glance

Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

Suitable for...

Windows 10

Windows 8.1

Windows 7

Ever wondered what to do with all those smartphone snaps you take? Free them from your mobile and share them with the wider world using the wildly popular Instagram. It's what all the cool kids use!

Instagram, in case you don't know, is a social media service, owned by Facebook, that makes it a breeze to upload and share photos and videos you've shot and show them off to just about anyone – using dedicated apps for Android and iOS, as well as touchscreen Windows 10 tablets, laptops and 2-in-1s.

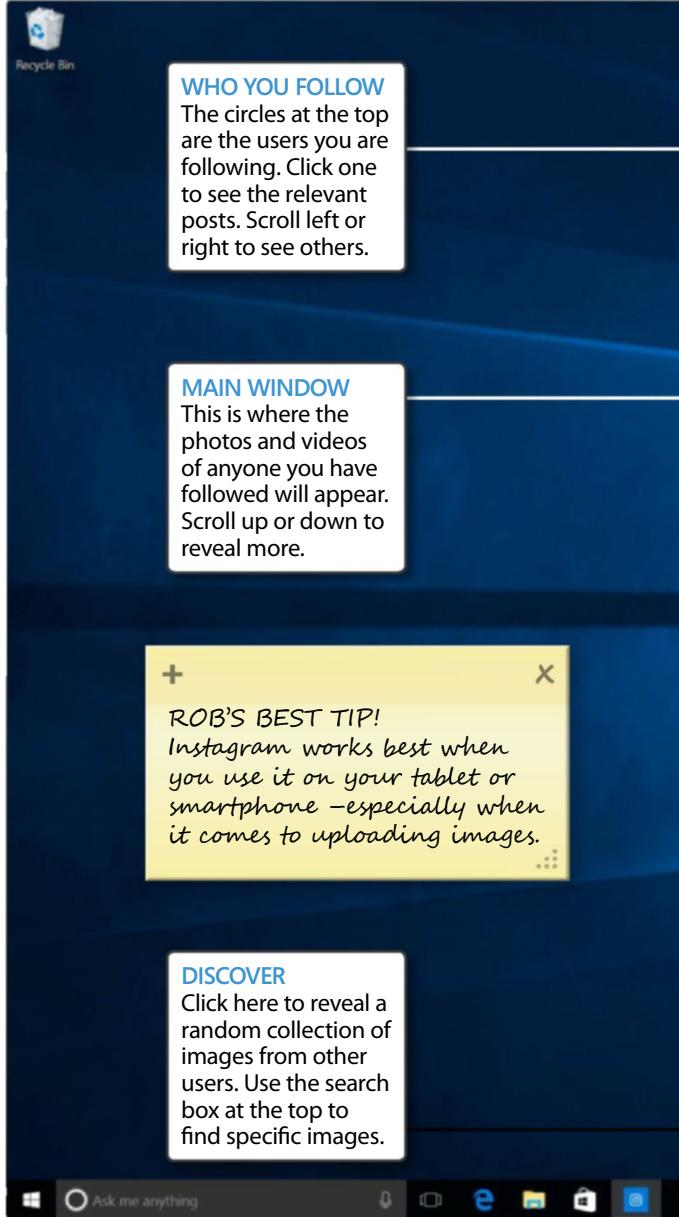
Why the caveat? The Instagram app for Windows 10 doesn't enable you to upload images – save for selfies taken using your PC's webcam – using non-touchscreen devices, but we have a workaround for that using the third-party InstaPic app, which is also available from the Windows Store. So let's find out how it all works...

Step-by-step How to get started with Instagram



1 Download and install

The first thing you should do is head down to the taskbar and click on the Windows Store app to open it. Once there, head to the search box in the top right and type 'instagram'. Within short order a list of matching apps will appear – including the one we want: the official Instagram app. Click the Get button to download and install it on your PC.



WHO YOU FOLLOW

The circles at the top are the users you are following. Click one to see the relevant posts. Scroll left or right to see others.

MAIN WINDOW

This is where the photos and videos of anyone you have followed will appear. Scroll up or down to reveal more.

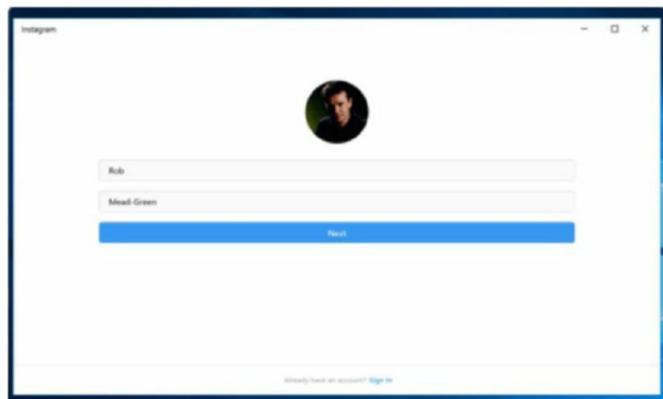


ROB'S BEST TIP!

Instagram works best when you use it on your tablet or smartphone –especially when it comes to uploading images.

DISCOVER

Click here to reveal a random collection of images from other users. Use the search box at the top to find specific images.

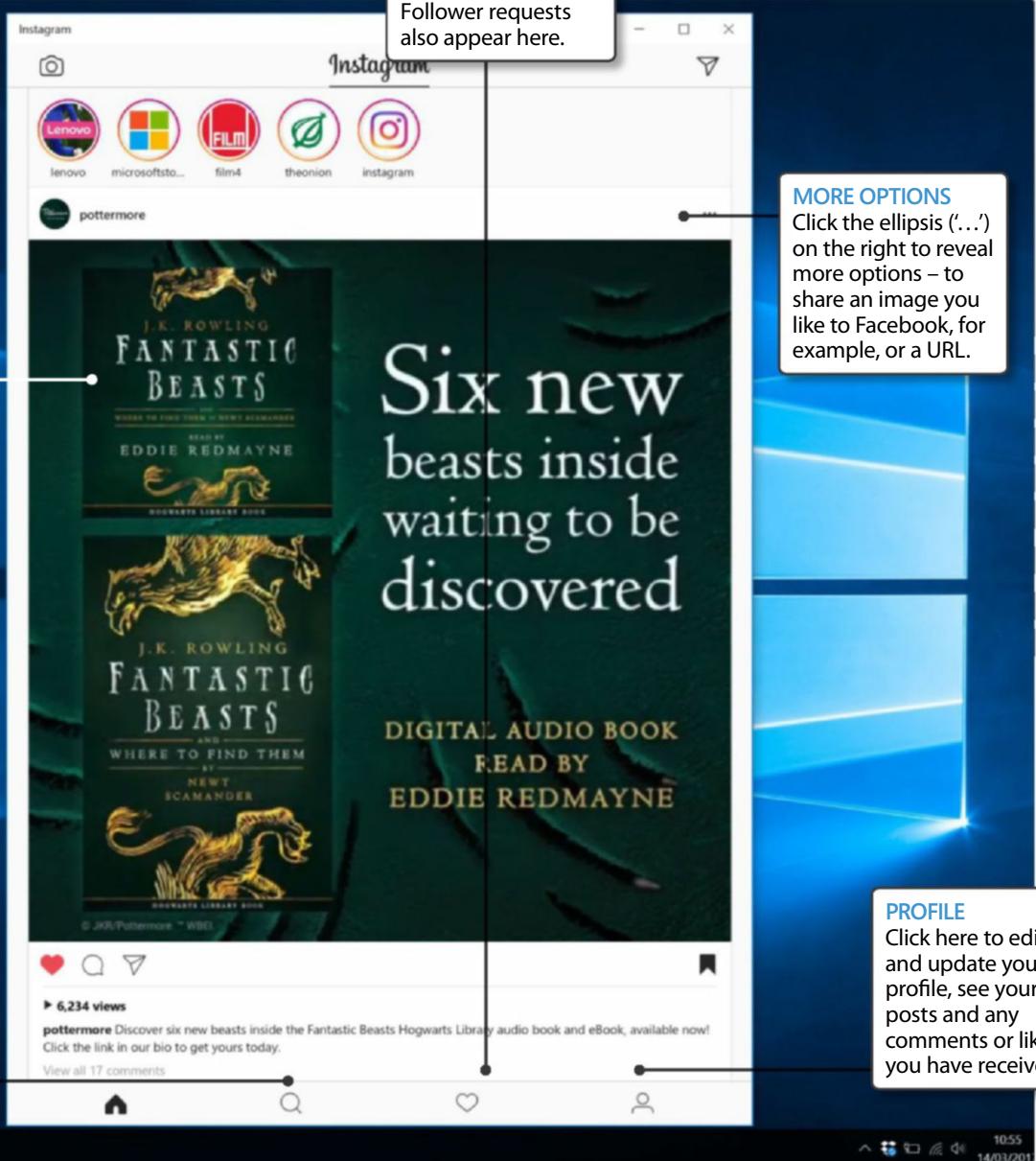


2 Sign up or sign in to Instagram

Now open the Instagram app and you'll be presented with a login screen. If you've used Instagram or Facebook before, you'll be able to log in using your existing credentials, otherwise choose 'Sign up with Phone or Email'. In the next window that appears type in your mobile number, if you wish to use that, then click Next. Instagram will send you a six-digit PIN for you to type in.

Explore

Get started with Instagram

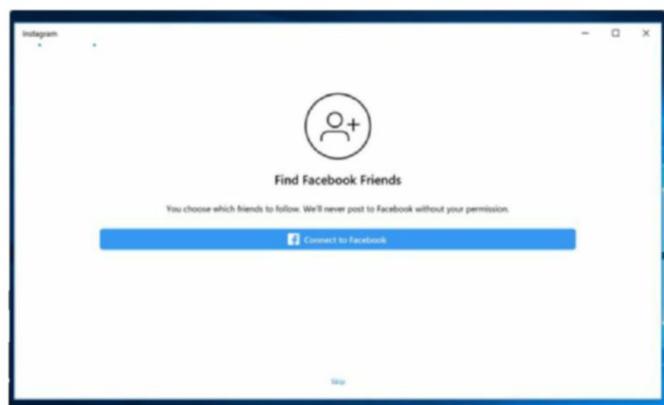
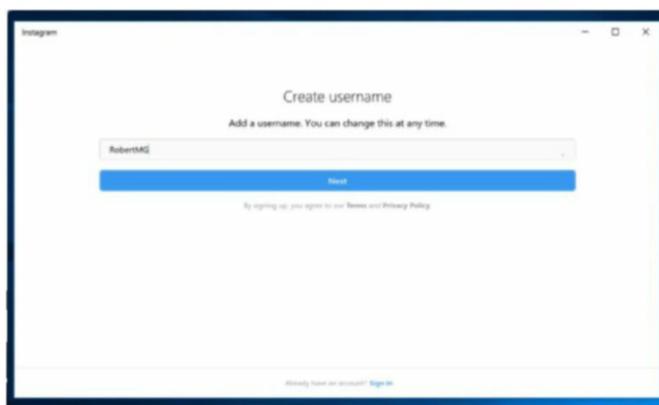


Jargon buster!

► Filters
Colour and other effects that you can add to Instagram images to enhance their looks. The free InstaPic includes many of these.

► Likes
If a friend has shared a pic you're a fan off you can 'like' it by clicking the Heart icon to show your appreciation. Do it!

► Bookmark
A way of marking any images you see on Instagram so that you can return to them again. Handy if you want to add a comment later.

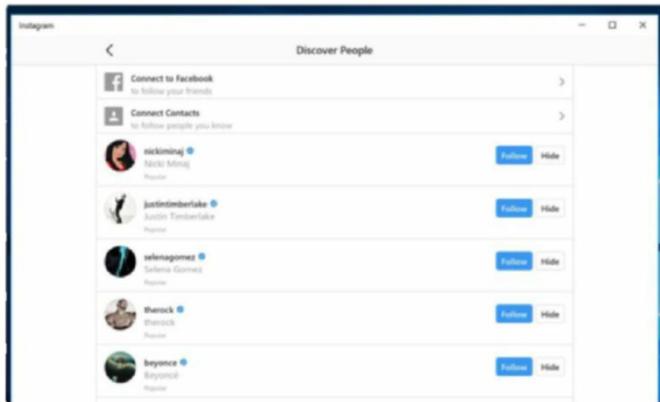


3 Create a username

Otherwise choose the Email sign-up option, type in an email address you wish to use. You'll now be asked to type in your first and given names, and upload a photo – these are used so friends and family can find you on Instagram – and to suggest a username you may wish to use. You'll also be asked to create a password which you'll need when you log in.

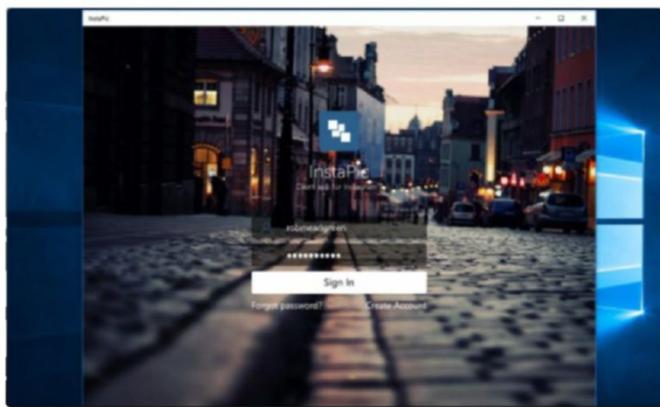
4 Find your Facebook friends

If you already use Facebook – or even if you don't – the Instagram app will now ask you to log in to Facebook using your web browser. This is so it can find people you know who are already on Instagram, enabling you to follow them and see which photos and videos they have posted. And vice-versa, of course.



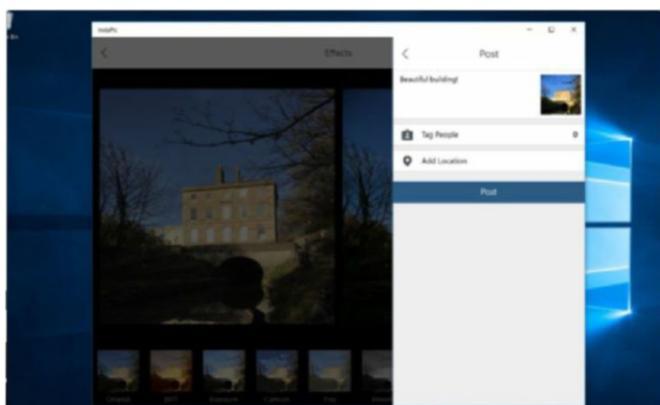
5 Discovery mode

Whether you choose to log in to Facebook at this stage or skip it, the Instagram app will now suggest a list of fellow users you might like to follow – some of these may be people you know; while others might be users whose interests coincide with yours. It's a great way to discover people who share your passions. And you're sure to make some new discoveries along the way.



7 Download and install InstaPic

One of the limitations of using Instagram on a regular laptop or desktop PC (one that doesn't have a touchscreen) is that you can't upload any photos from your Pictures folder – only selfies taken using the app. To upload your other photos to Instagram, you'll need to head back to the Windows Store and download a third-party app called InstaPic instead.



9 Upload a picture

Once you've finished editing a pic using InstaPic using select the '>' button at the top right of the window to upload it to Instagram. In the pop-up that appears you can write a caption, tag any people in the picture and add a location where the shot was taken if you wish, then click Post. You can change your privacy / sharing settings at any time in the main Instagram app.



6 Follow your lead

Besides the name of each suggested Instagram user you'll see two buttons: a blue one marked Follow; and a white one marked Hide. Click the blue button to follow that user; or the Hide button if you're not interested. The blue Follow button will turn white and change to Following if you click it. The image and videos they post will now appear in your Instagram feed.



8 Edit a photo using InstaPic

If you're already using Instagram on one of your other devices, you'll see that any photos you've previously uploaded will be there in your profile. Otherwise open the InstaPic app you've just downloaded and log into it using your Instagram or Facebook user ID. Once you've logged in you'll be able to add images and apply **Filters** as you would on Instagram's mobile apps.



10 Find and comment

Now you've shared a photo, wait and watch for the **Likes** and comments to roll in. You can also Like, Share and Comment on pictures other users have shared. To do that, click the Heart to like a picture, the Speech Bubble to make a comment or the Paper Plane icon to share it. The **Bookmark** icon on the right enables you to 'save' an image for viewing later. ■

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Learn how to...

Turbo charge your emails

Your guide *Nate Drake* says...

Do more with your mail messages using Thunderbird, a free email client with bundled calendar

At a glance

Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

Suitable for...

Windows 10

Windows 8.1

Windows 7

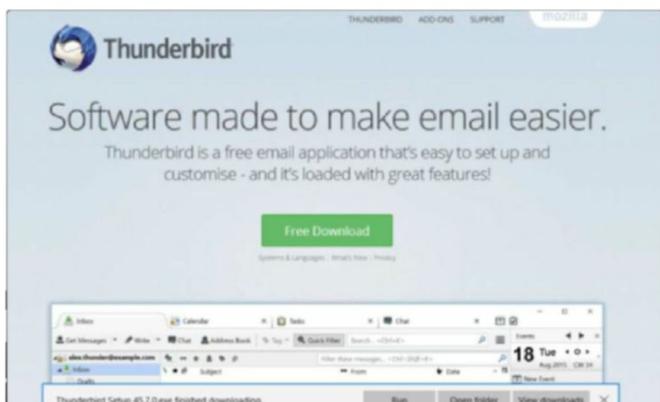
Mozilla's Thunderbird is a highly customisable [email client](#) and a great, free alternative to Windows 10's Mail app.

The setup process works like a charm, linking to your email account in a matter of minutes. That's when the real fun begins as you can then install a colourful theme, create a bespoke HTML signature and organise your emails easily.

Thunderbird comes pre-installed with the Lightning calendar, which can either work on your machine or link to any existing online calendars that you have set up. There are also thousands of other free add-ons available to change Thunderbird's appearance or enhance your mail messages even further.

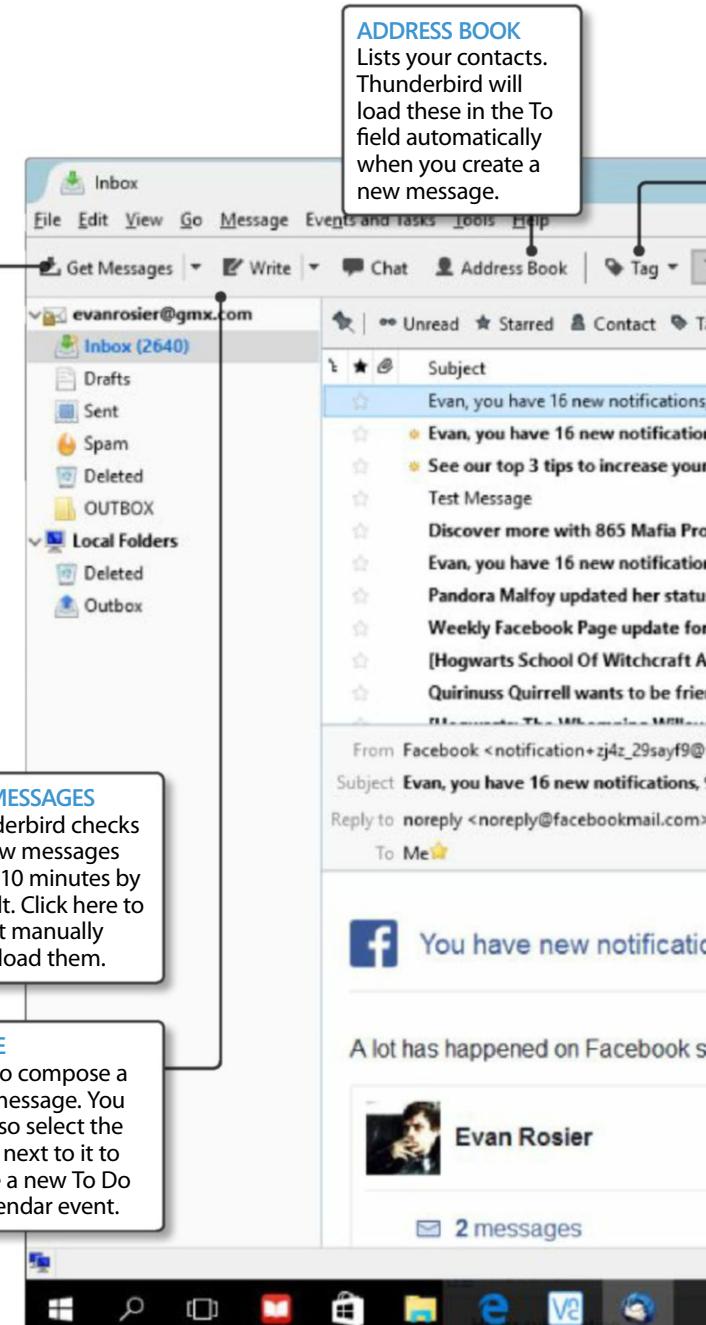
This program is particularly useful for managing multiple email accounts. You can add more email addresses at any time by clicking File > New > Existing Mail Account.

Step-by-step Thunderbird is go



1 Download Installer

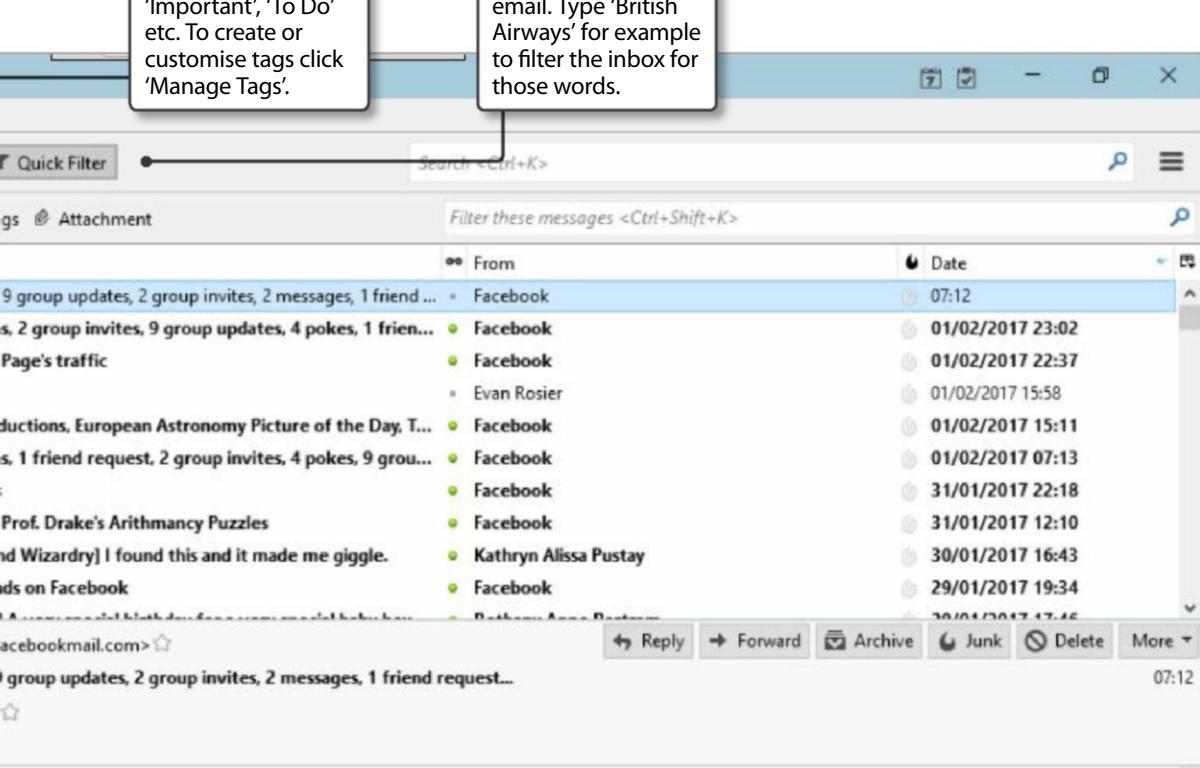
Point your browser to www.mozilla.org/en-GB/thunderbird, then click on Free Download to add the installer to your machine. Click Run when done, then Yes to allow the install to begin. When the Thunderbird setup window opens, click Next to continue. Choose a Standard Install, then leave the 'Use Thunderbird as my default mail client' option ticked.



2 Configure Installation

Click Next to proceed to the Choose Install Location screen. By default this is C:\Program Files, but you can change this if you wish. Click Next again to choose to create icons for Thunderbird both on the Desktop and in your Start Menu. The summary screen will now display. Click Install to begin copying files. Once the install is complete, leave the tick box checked then click Finish.

Explore Turbo charge your emails



Jargon buster!

► Email client

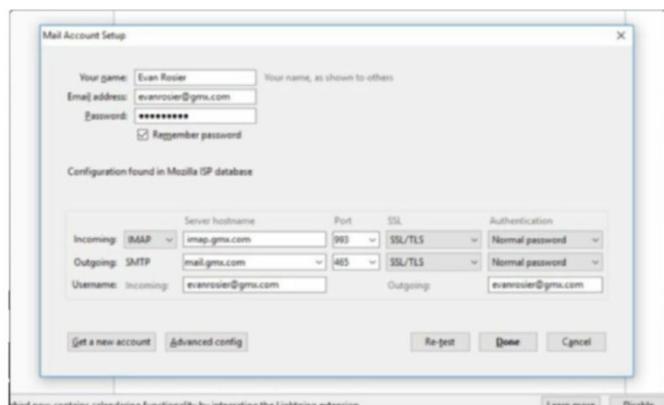
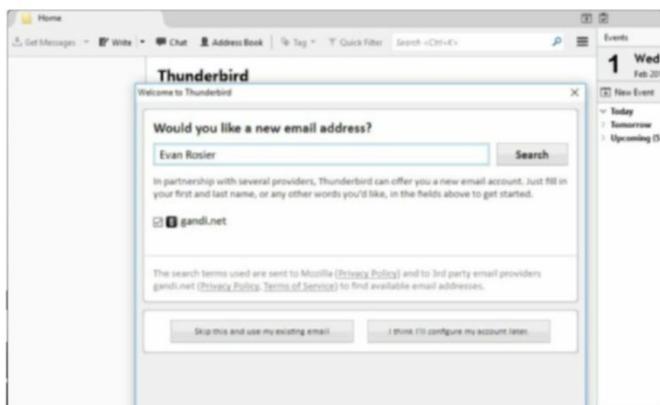
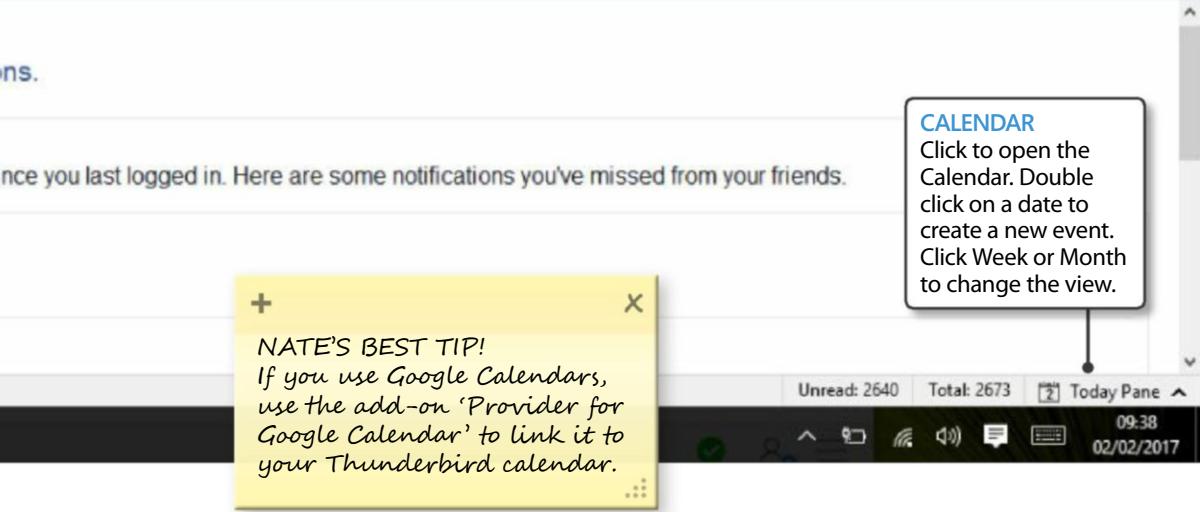
Any program that has been designed to send and receive email messages. Some clients offer extra features such as a calendar. Thunderbird does.

► IMAP/POP

Two email protocols commonly used by email providers, who will support either one or both of them. Thunderbird should select the correct option for you.

► SMTP

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. Your SMTP settings determine how your email is sent. This is set up separately to your IMAP/POP settings. Go to Account Settings to view.

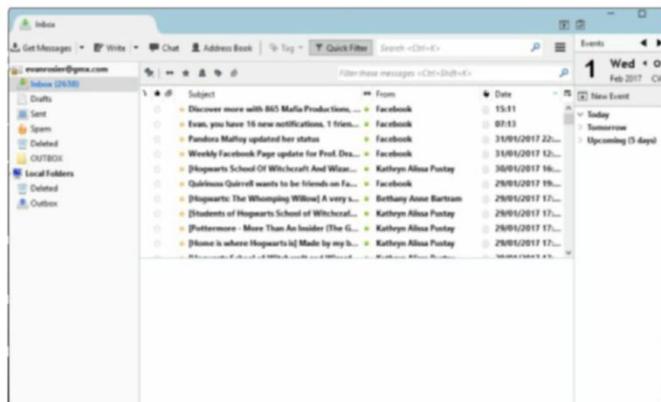


3 Set Up Mail Account

Thunderbird will now launch. Click 'Set as Default' to make sure it's your default email client. The system will display your name and ask if you want a new email address. Click 'Skip this and use my existing e-mail.' The mail account setup window will appear. Fill in your name, email address and password then click Continue. The Mozilla database will try to find the correct settings.

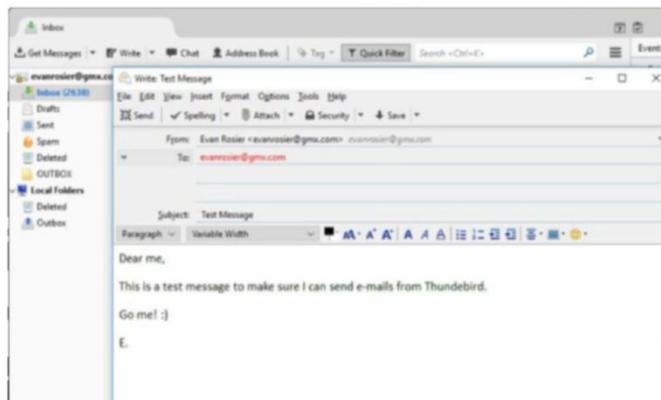
4 Fine tune email settings

If you use a common email provider most likely your mail configuration will be found in the database. Click Done to begin downloading your emails. If your configuration isn't found or is incorrect click Manual Config to configure the server names and port numbers. If you're unsure what to put here, check with your email provider. Click 'Re-test' if you think the settings are correct.



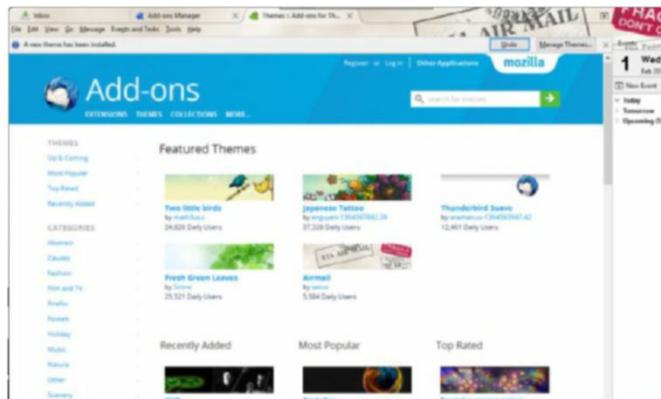
5 Customise your Inbox

Once Thunderbird loads click the Keep button at the bottom right of the screen to use the Lightning calendar extension. Click Inbox in the top left corner to see your messages as they download. By default emails are shown from oldest down to the newest. If you prefer to see the most recent messages at the top, click Date then scroll up with your mouse.



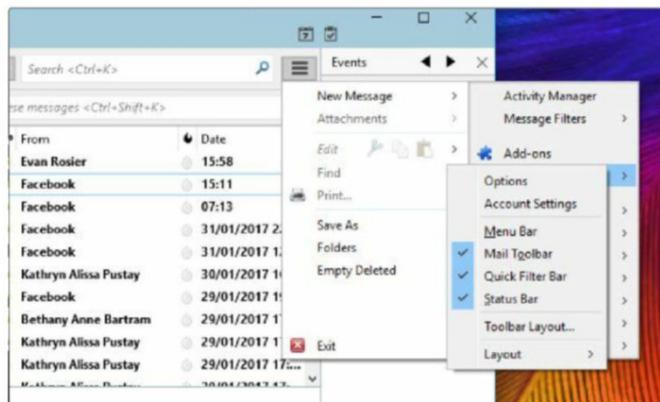
7 Send Test Message

Click Write to compose a new message. Enter your own email address and 'Test Message' as the subject. If your settings are configured correctly the message will send. If you see an error, return to Tools > Account Settings and select Outgoing Server (SMTP) to view your current configuration. Click Edit to change these if they're wrong. Your mail provider can help you with these.



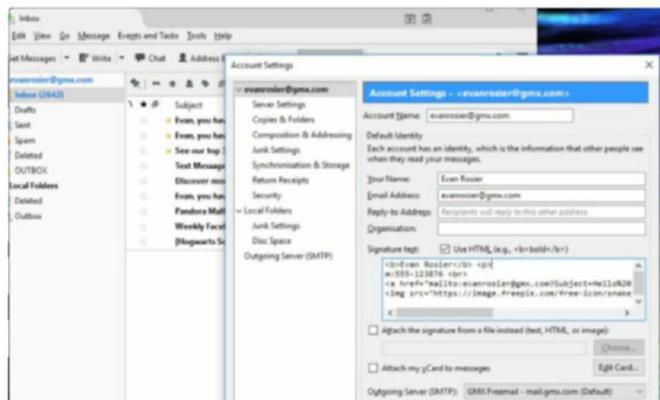
9 Use Add Ons

Thunderbird can easily be customised using add-ons. Keep things simple for now by choosing a colourful theme. Click the Tools > Add Ons menu, then on the words 'See All' by Featured Themes. Hover your mouse over a chosen theme and click the small Add button. You'll see an alert at the top of the page. Click the Allow button to install then on Inbox at the top left.



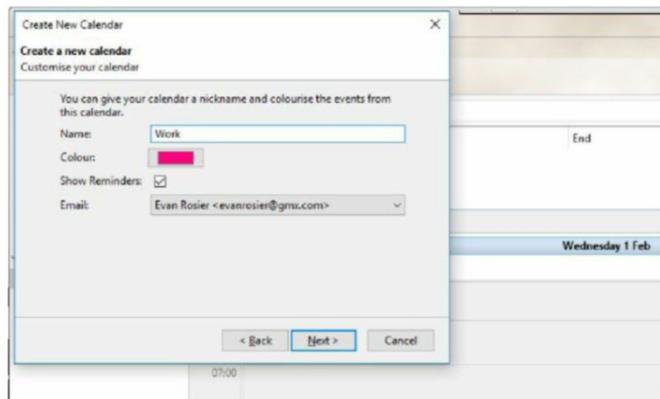
6 Enable the Menu Bar

Navigating Thunderbird is much easier with the Menu Bar. Click the three line button next to the search bar, then hover over Options. Click Menu Bar to display the Menu options at the top. Use this now to go to Tools > Account Settings. From here you can change your Mail configuration by clicking Server Settings on the left – such as deciding how often Thunderbird fetches messages.



8 Add your Signature

Return to the Tools > Account Settings menu and click on your email address at the top of the left pane. From here you can change your name and email address as it appears when you send messages as well as your signature. Feel free to be creative. Click Use HTML if you would like an extra snazzy signature. Signature creation websites can help you with these.



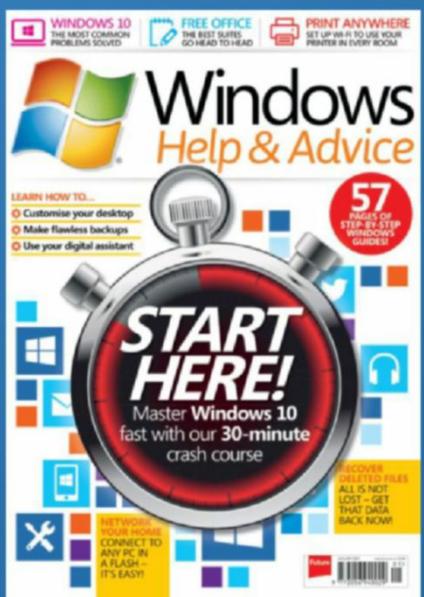
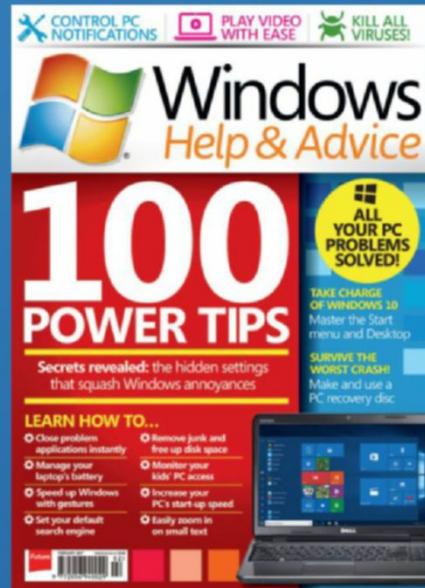
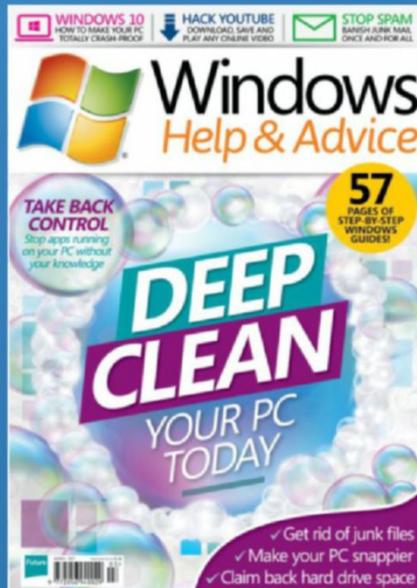
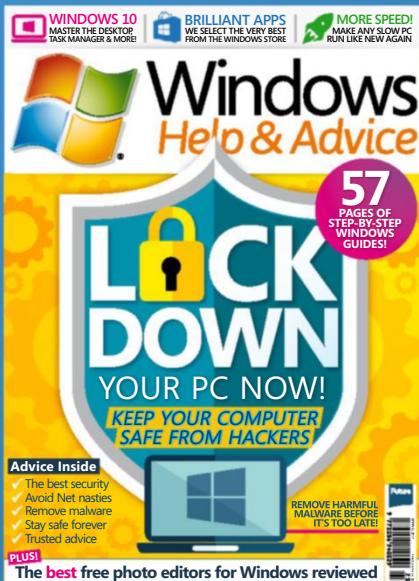
10 View Calendar

Click Events and Tasks > Calendar or press [Ctrl] + [Shift] + [C] to load the Calendar. By default you have a single Home calendar. Right click at the bottom left and choose New Calendar. You can choose to store the calendar on your PC or connect to an online one. Click the Day, Week and Month tabs to change the view. Use the Event button or click on a date to set new events. ■

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Learn how to...

Convert PDFs to Word documents



Your guide *Cat Ellis* says...

PDFs are great for sharing information, but can be tricky to edit. We're going to show you how to take control by converting them into Word files

At a glance

Skill level...

- ▶ Anyone can do it
- Straightforward
- Tricky in parts

Suitable for...

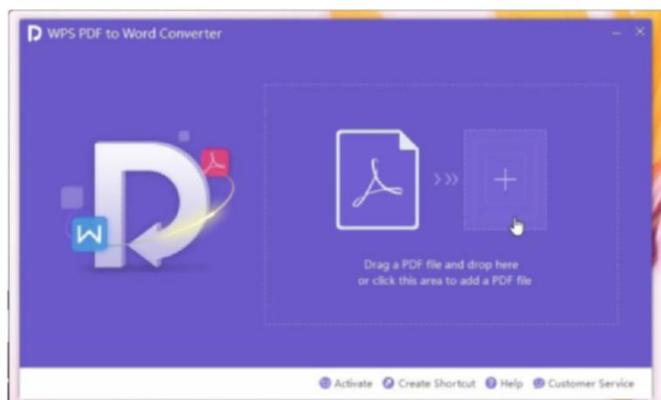
- Windows 10
- Windows 8.1
- Windows 7

Portable Data Files or PDFs were created as a way to share information so it always looks the same. Unlike other formats, which can end up looking different depending on which program or device you use to open them, PDFs will always have the same text and images, formatted and arranged in exactly the same way, no matter what you're using.

Making PDFs is easy – most office software lets you save your creations in the format – but editing them is much harder unless you have access to costly software such as Adobe Acrobat DC. Thankfully, there is a way around that problem: just convert the troublesome file to Microsoft Word format, and you can open and edit it using any word processor. We've tried lots of free software that promises to do the job, and we've found that WPS Free PDF to Word Converter delivers the best results.

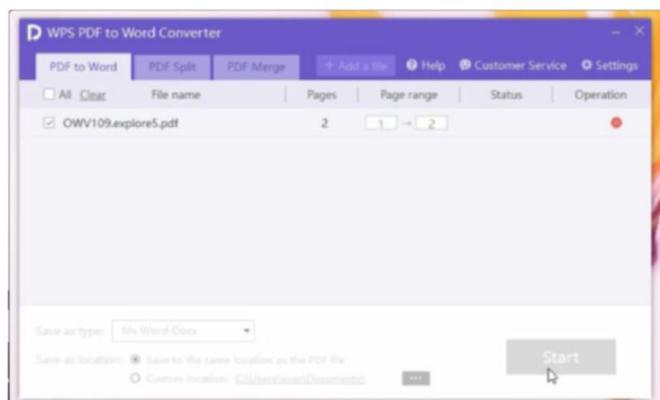


Step-by-step Take control of your PDFs



1 Get the file converter

Visit www.wps.com/pdf-to-word and click the Download button. The free version has a few limitations, but it's perfect for our purposes. Click the downloaded file to run the installer and follow the steps as they're presented. When the program opens, drag your PDF onto the blue window that appears or click the animated logo and find it using Windows 10's File Explorer.

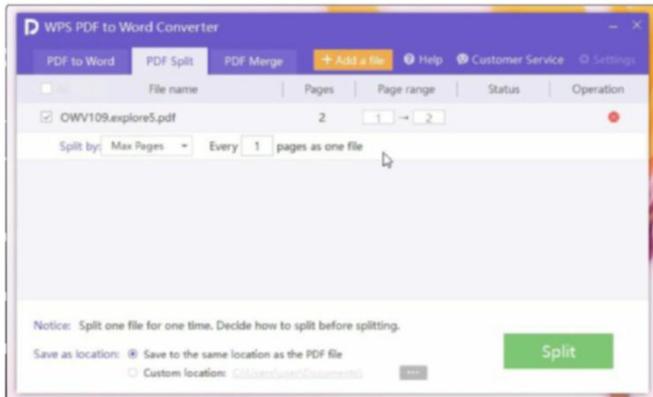


2 Select pages to convert

You don't have to convert a whole PDF at once – if you only want certain pages, you can set a custom page range. At the bottom of the window, under 'Save as type', select MS Word DocX (the current Microsoft Word format). Choose whether to save the file in a new location, then click Start. When the document is converted, it will open in your usual word processor.

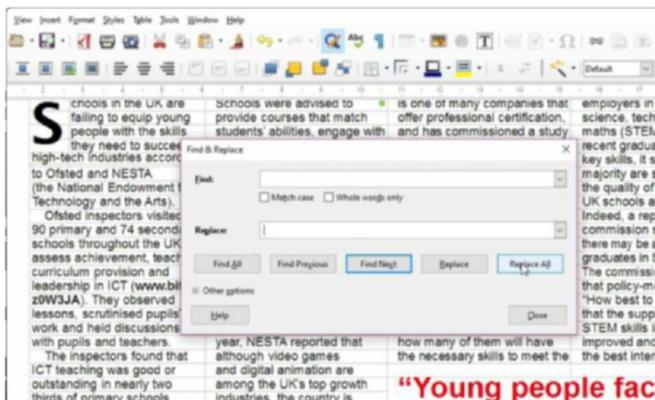
Explore

Convert PDFs to Word documents



3 Split large PDFs

You can convert several PDFs at once, but each one must be no more than five pages long. If you want to convert a larger file, you'll need to split it into sections first. Click PDF Split and choose how it should be divided – you can either split it at set points (every four pages, for example), or extract certain pages (3,4,10,12 for example). Click Split when you're ready.

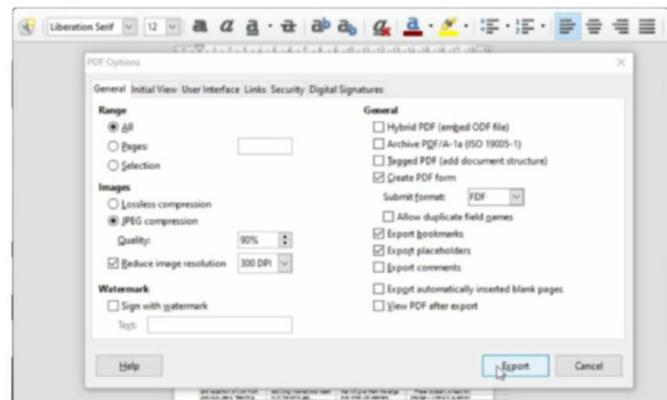


5 Check spelling and spacing

Our PDF is missing the drop cap (the large capital letter at the start), so we can replace that with a text box. When the formatings done, run a spellcheck to see if there are any typos. Spacing can sometimes be an issue with converted PDFs, so click Edit > 'Find and replace'. Type a double space into the Find box, and a single space into Replace, then click 'Replace all'.

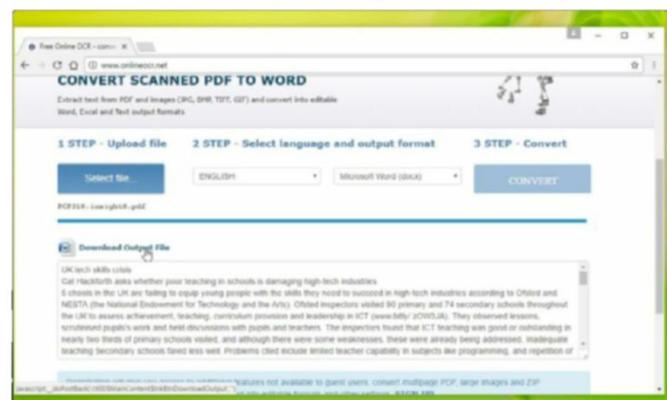
4 Fine-tune formatting

Complex PDFs rarely convert perfectly to Word format, but WPS has done an excellent job with our magazine page. The only real problem is the grey bar at the bottom, where the text boxes are inconsistent widths. This is easy to correct using indents and spacing, or you can draw new text boxes in the correct place, the cut and paste the words into them.



6 Re-save as PDF

You should now have a good-looking Word document that looks almost identical to the original. If you want to re-save it in PDF format once you've finished editing (to share it with other people, for example), click File > 'Export as PDF'. The exact options will depend on the word processor you're using, but be sure to choose Lossless Compression if you're planning to print it.



7 Convert printouts to Word format

If you have a printout you want to edit, but you don't have the original file, you can use the same technique. Scan the paper document and save it as a PDF (your scanner's software should explain how to do this), then visit www.onlineocr.net. This site uses optical character recognition (OCR) to 'read' the words in the scanned document, and turns them into an editable Word file.

8 Save and archive

Click 'Select file' and choose your PDF, leave the language and output formats as they are, type in the Captcha code and click Convert. The web app will convert the file and give you a link that you can click to download it. This technique is great if you've attended a lecture and want to digitise a handout you were given, or you want to archive printed receipts or bank statements. ■

Learn how to...

Stop websites tracking you



Your guide *Nate Drake* says...

Discover how to use the Ghostery browser extension and protect your privacy when surfing online

At a glance

Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

Suitable for...

Windows 10

Windows 8.1

Windows 7

Many websites you visit are tracking you through placing small files named 'cookies' on your computer. This helps them gather information about your browsing habits and target you with adverts. Data collection tools (known as 'trackers') can be very intrusive. If you wanted a quote for life assurance for instance, would you want an insurance website to know that you'd been browsing books on Amazon about quitting smoking?

Luckily, a Microsoft Edge **browser extension** called Ghostery can help stop you from being tracked online, blocking communications with such companies while still enabling you to surf the web. Better yet, it displays a handy purple list of companies that have tried to track you, as well as what information they're after. Install it today to make sure your web history stays private and keep monitoring it regularly.

Step-by-step Install Ghostery



1 Update Windows 10

Ghostery needs the most recent version of Windows to work. Save and close any open files and back up your data if possible. Next, click the search button at the bottom left of your desktop then enter Windows 10 Upgrade Assistant. Click on the desktop app to open. Click Yes to confirm that you wish to open the app, then Update Now to begin upgrading your system.

NATE'S BEST TIP!
If you use a browser other than Edge, download and install its Ghostery extension from www.ghostery.org.

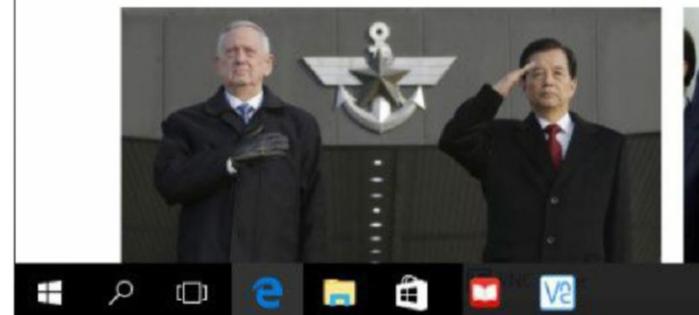
Welcome to BBC.com

French soldier shoots attacker

The machete-wielding man shouted "Allahu Akbar" and attacked entrance, police say.

EUROPE

News



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GHOSTERY

Why Ghostery Our Solutions Try Us Intelligence Support About Us

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Safari 5.4.10 | Internet Explorer 5.4.9 | Edge 7.0 |
| Add to Safari | Add to Internet Explorer | Add to Edge |

2 Visit the Ghostery website

Once the update is complete, open Microsoft Edge and visit www.ghostery.org. Hover your mouse over Our Solutions and click on Ghostery Browser Extension. A new screen will appear listing various web browsers. Scroll down until you see Microsoft Edge. Click Add to Edge and the Windows Store will open. Quit Microsoft Edge, then click the button marked Free to install.

Explore

Stop websites tracking you

BLOCK ALL
This stops cookies from tracking you and is enabled by default. Do this and Ghostery will update its tracker database.

PURPLE BOX
Open Ghostery's box at any time by clicking on the '...' button in Microsoft Edge and then on Ghostery App.

RESTRICT SITE
Blocks all trackers and is enabled by default. Only use this if you've previously trusted the site or paused blocking.

PAUSE GHOSTERY
Click to temporarily disable blocking of tracking cookies across all websites. Use only if pages are loading incorrectly.

MAP THESE TRACKERS
Requires a Ghostery account. Click to see exactly who is trying to track you and where they are.

TRUST SITE
Click this button to allow all trackers on a particular website. You should only do this if a site isn't loading correctly.

Jargon buster!

► Browser extension

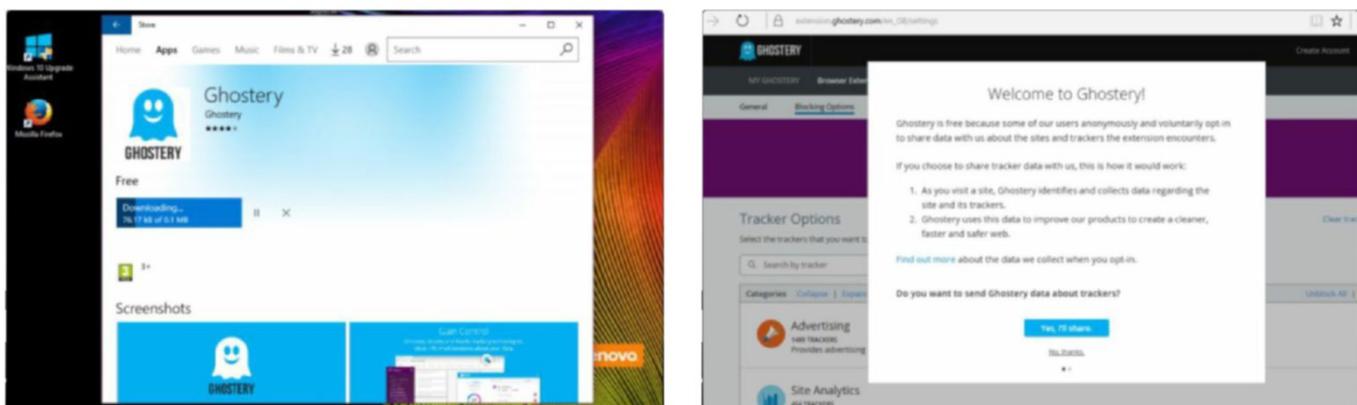
A piece of software, such as Ghostery, that is designed to extend the function of your browser. Only install from trusted sources such as the Windows Store.

► Cookies

A small piece of data used by third parties to identify you. Cookies are usually downloaded and stored by your browser. Ghostery prevents this.

► Blocking cookies

Some web browsers include an option to block cookies altogether. Some sites may not load if you do this, which is why it's better for you to use Ghostery.

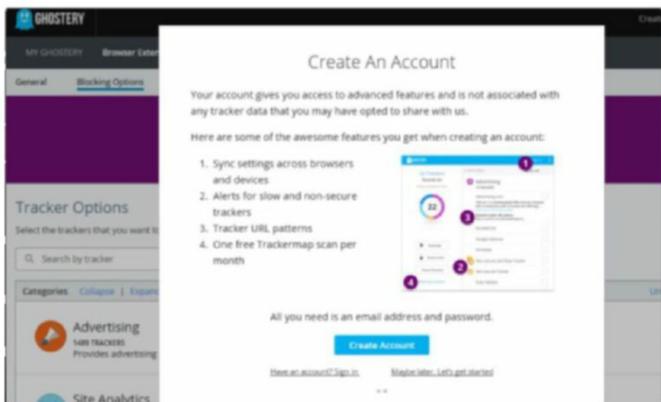


3 Begin Ghostery download

At this stage Ghostery may ask you to confirm your date of birth and region. Enter this and click Next. The Windows Store will say 'Acquiring Licence', then 'Downloading'. The Ghostery extension is small (0.1MB) so this won't take long. Finally the Store will tell you that the product has been installed. The button below the Ghostery logo will now read 'Launch'. Click this to open Edge.

4 Welcome to Ghostery

A notification will appear at the top right explaining that Ghostery has been installed. You still need to activate it, so click 'Turn it on'. You'll now see a 'Welcome to Ghostery' splash screen. At this stage Ghostery will ask you if you wish to share data about trackers you encounter while browsing. This is entirely optional but helpful to detect new threats. Choose Yes or No as you see fit.



Tracker Options

Select the trackers that you want to block, individually or by category, to customise your browsing experience.

Search by tracker

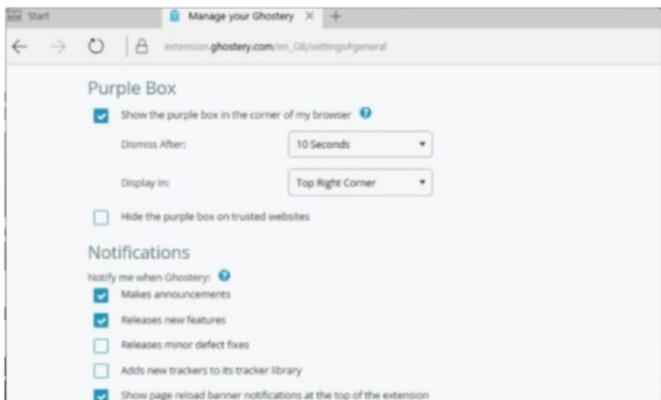
Categories [Collapse](#) | [Expand](#) [Show All Trackers](#)

We will also block new trackers as they are added to our database. This feature can be turned off in General Settings.

- Advertising** 148 TRACKERS All trackers in category blocked
Provides advertising or advertising-related services such as data collection, behavioural analysis or retargeting.
- Site Analytics** 454 TRACKERS All trackers in category blocked
Collects and analyses data related to site usage and performance.
- Customer Functionality** 213 TRACKERS All trackers in category blocked
Includes chat, email messaging, customer support and other interaction tools.

5 Create an account

Ghostery now displays the Create an Account window. You don't have to do this but it allows access to extra features, such as syncing settings across your devices. You're also allowed one free trackermap scan per month to help you locate companies that are tracking you across the internet. If you don't want to create an account right now then click 'Maybe later, let's get started'.



6 Choose your tracker options

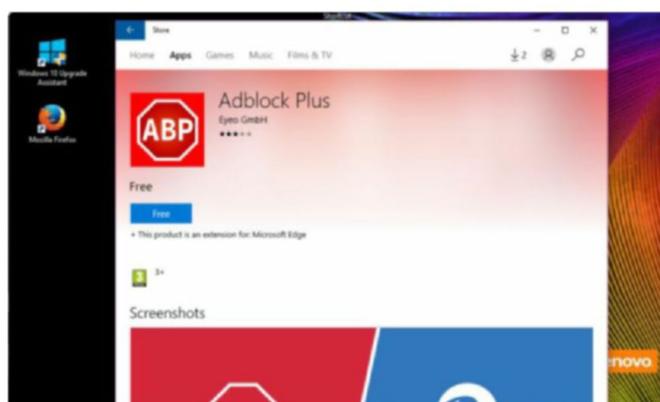
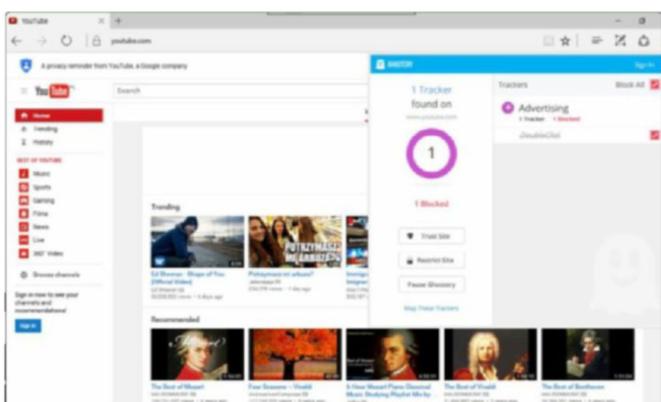
Click on the word General next to Blocking Options. Most of these options can be left ticked. However you may wish to scroll down to the Purple Box section. By default Ghostery displays a small box for a short time when you visit a new site listing all the trackers that have been blocked. You can switch this off or change the duration (default is 15 seconds) and position of the box here.

7 Choose what to block

Click on the word General next to Blocking Options. Most of these options can be left ticked. However you may wish to scroll down to the Purple Box section. By default Ghostery displays a small box for a short time when you visit a new site listing all the trackers that have been blocked. You can switch this off or change the duration (default is 15 seconds) and position of the box here.

8 Configure Trusted Sites

Although you can visit sites individually and click Ghostery's Trust Site button, it's easier to set this up here. Click the Trusted Sites option at the top of the page. Once it loads enter the name of the website in the white bar at the top, then click on the green '+' button. Repeat for any websites you fully trust. Hover over a website and click the 'X' to remove it from this list at any time.



9 Test pilot Ghostery

Once Ghostery has been set up. Click the address bar at the top and visit a social media or news site to check that everything is in order. If the purple box doesn't appear click the '...' (more) button at the top right of the Edge window then Ghostery App to view any blocked trackers. You can enable individual trackers here or choose to trust the entire site, allowing all cookies.

10 Install an ad blocker

Although Ghostery can prevent websites from tracking you, it can't stop all pop-up ads or those annoying ads that load when you're trying to watch YouTube. Fortunately Adblock Plus is also available for Microsoft Edge (see page 52). Open the Windows Store and search for its name, then install. This reduces the chance you'll accidentally click on a link and download malware. ■

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FIXING YOUR PC

Technology
Tips Guide



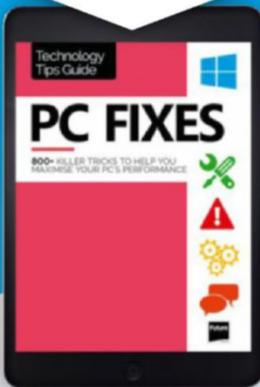
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Learn how to... Beef up your PC's security



Your guide **Matt Hanson** says...

"Make sure your privacy is protected by changing these important settings"

At a glance

Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

Suitable for...

Windows 10

Windows 8.1

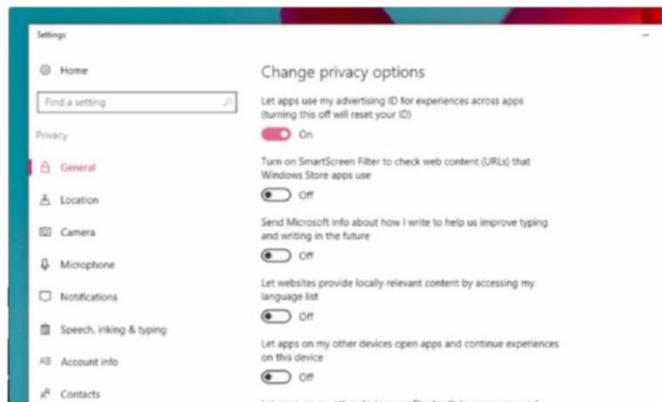
Windows 7

Keeping safe when using your PC, and making sure your privacy is maintained, is a concern we all have. While every new version of Windows ships with improved protection, there are still default settings that you should change to ensure you're secure.

Although Windows 10 is one of the most secure operating systems Microsoft has made, these settings should be reviewed. For example, Cortana is a great virtual assistant, but using it means you're sharing lots of data with Microsoft. While you might not mind this, it's worth keeping an eye on it to ensure you're only sharing data you're happy with.

Your web browser is another area where you may be giving away more information than you'd like, so in this guide we'll look at the settings you should change, as well as some of the most popular software applications that need extra protection.

Step-by-step Settings you need to change



The screenshot shows the Windows Settings app with the 'Privacy' section selected. Under 'General', the 'Let apps use my advertising ID for experiences across apps' option is turned on. Other options shown include 'Turn on SmartScreen Filter', 'Send Microsoft info about how I write', 'Let websites provide locally relevant content', 'Let apps on my other devices open apps and continue experiences', and 'Let apps on my other devices use Bluetooth to connect more easily'. Each option has a corresponding toggle switch.

1 Ditch Advertising ID

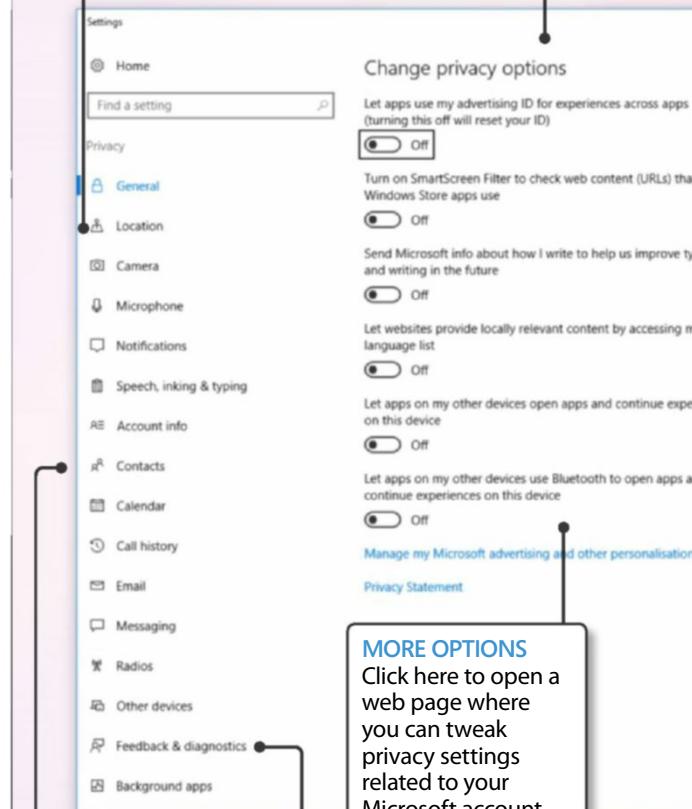
Advertising ID is a feature in Windows 10 that allows apps and websites to serve you ads based on how you use your PC. If this sounds like too much information to share, open the Start Menu and type 'privacy settings'. At the top you'll see 'Let apps use my advertising ID for experiences across apps'. Tap the switch to turn this off. You can leave the rest of the options as they are.

LOCATION

Windows uses your location for certain apps and websites, but if you don't like the thought of that, click to turn it off.

PRIVACY SETTINGS

Open this by typing in 'privacy' in the Start menu. Use it to change settings and keep your personal information private.



The screenshot shows the Windows Settings app with the 'Location' section selected under 'Privacy'. It lists various options: General, Location, Camera, Microphone, Notifications, Speech, inking & typing, Account info, Contacts, Calendar, Call history, Email, Messaging, Radios, Other devices, Feedback & diagnostics, and Background apps. To the right of each option is a small description and a toggle switch. At the bottom right is a link to 'Manage my Microsoft advertising and other personalisation'.

MORE OPTIONS

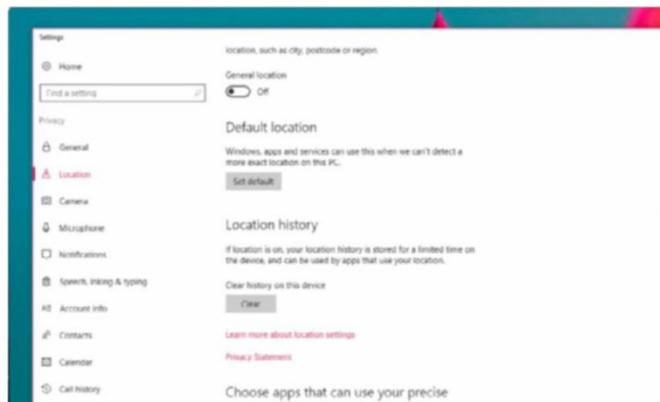
Click here to open a web page where you can tweak privacy settings related to your Microsoft account.

CONTACTS

If you store friends and family details as contacts, click here to limit what apps can access their information.

DIAGNOSTICS

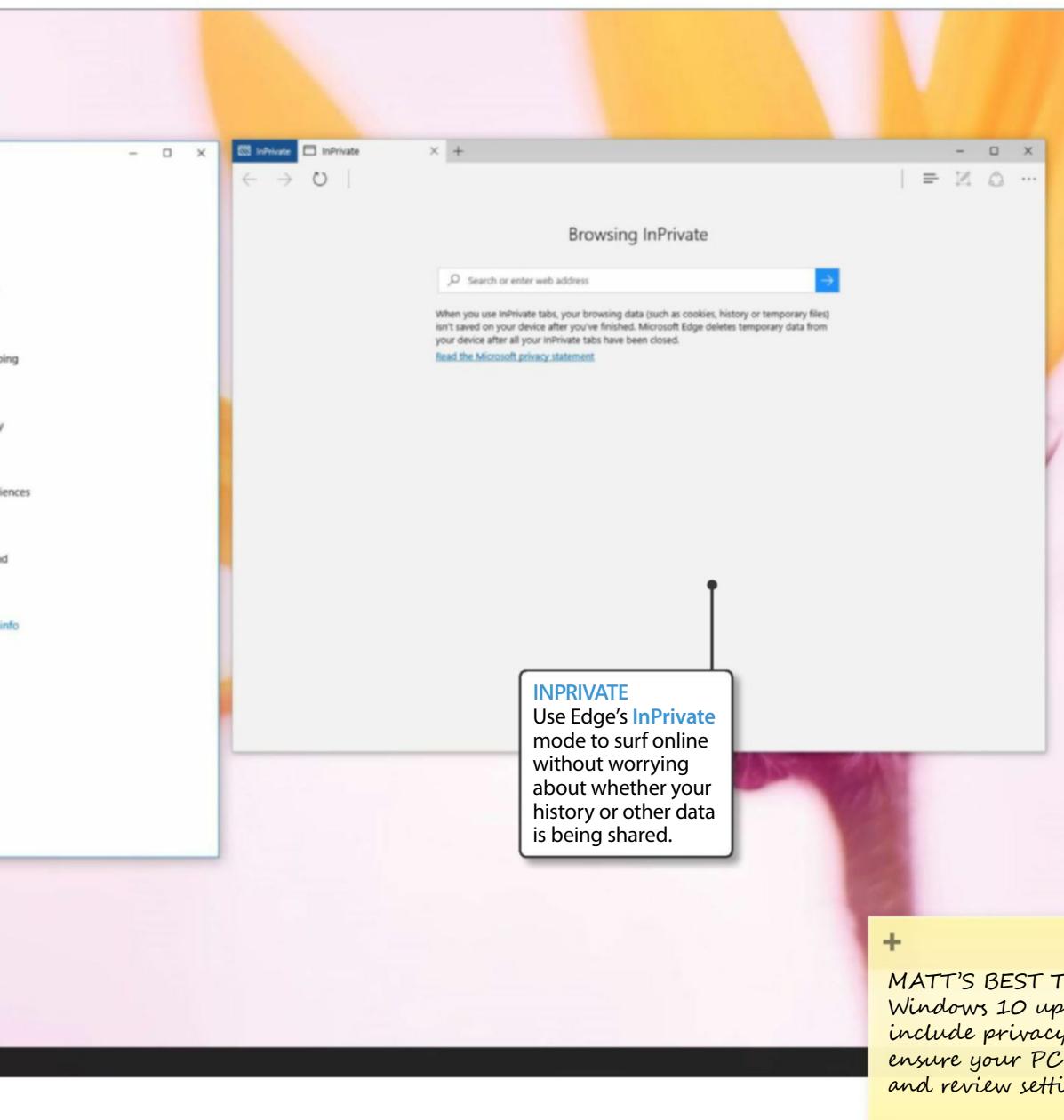
By default, Microsoft logs how your PC is being used to help fix problems. Click here to limit which details are shared.



The screenshot shows the Windows Settings app with the 'Location' section selected under 'Privacy'. It includes sections for 'Default location' (with a 'Set default' button) and 'Location history' (with a 'Clear history on this device' button). There are also links to 'Learn more about location settings' and 'Privacy Statement'. At the bottom right is a link to 'Choose apps that can use your precise location'.

2 Share location information carefully

Windows 10 uses location data for a variety of apps, such as Cortana and Maps, to help you find places and services near you. This is all well and good, but you may not want every app to be able to track your location. To review and limit what apps can access your location information, go Settings > Location. If you want to block all location information, turn off 'Location service'.

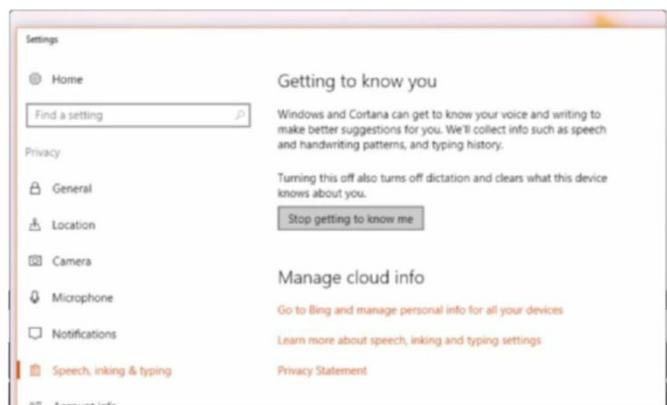
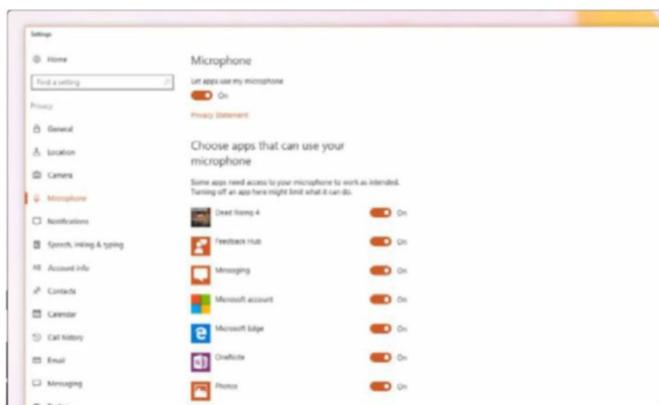


Jargon buster!

► **Advertising ID**
This is a random ID that Microsoft assigns to your account. It ties in your PC and internet browsing habits, allowing websites and apps to offer you suggestions and adverts that may be of interest to you.

► **InPrivate**
InPrivate mode is a way of browsing the internet in Microsoft Edge browsers where your history, passwords and other private data isn't recorded on the PC. This is a good mode to use if you use a public or shared PC.

MATT'S BEST TIP!
Windows 10 updates often include privacy tweaks, so ensure your PC is up to date and review settings regularly.

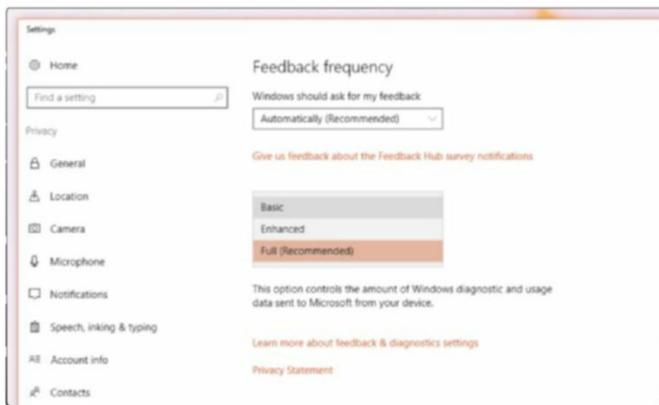


3 Limit who can watch and listen to you

If you have a webcam and microphone on your PC, then you'll want to limit who can access them. Go to Settings > Camera and go through the apps that want access. Do the same with the Microphone settings. Many laptops enable you to turn off the webcam and microphone, either through a keyboard shortcut or via a physical button. You can also put tape over your webcam!

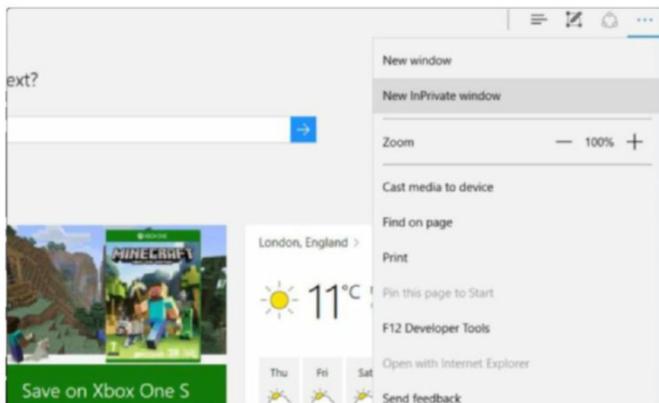
4 Limit Cortana

Cortana is incredibly useful, but it shares a lot of information with Microsoft to work well. If you don't use Cortana, then you'll probably feel more comfortable by limiting what it shares. In Settings, tap on 'Speech, inking & typing'. Cortana can monitor what you type, how you write if you use a stylus and how you speak. Click on 'Stop getting to know me' to limit what it gathers.



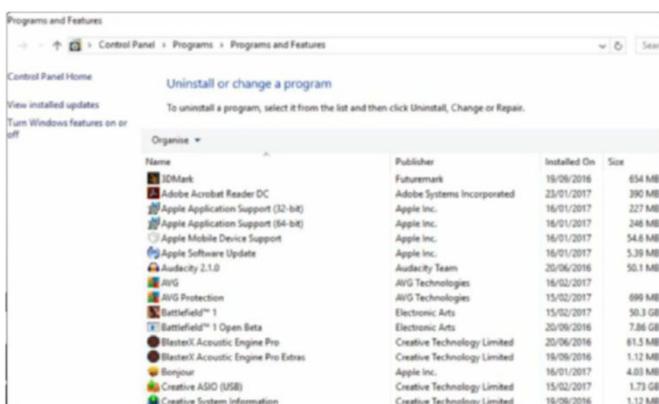
5 Stop sending data

By default, Windows 10 sends information to Microsoft about how you use your device. This helps it see how the OS is being used by its customers, and tailor updates to reflect their needs. It can also help Microsoft troubleshoot problems. If you don't want to share this data, click 'Feedback & diagnostics' and under 'Diagnostic and usage data' select Basic from the list.



7 Browse in private

When you're online, your web browser usually records and shares information about what you're doing. This may be a problem if you're searching for a present for someone, for example, as the next time they log in they may see adverts for the gift, ruining the surprise! The solution is to use private browsing mode. In Edge to go Settings > InPrivate to hide your web history.



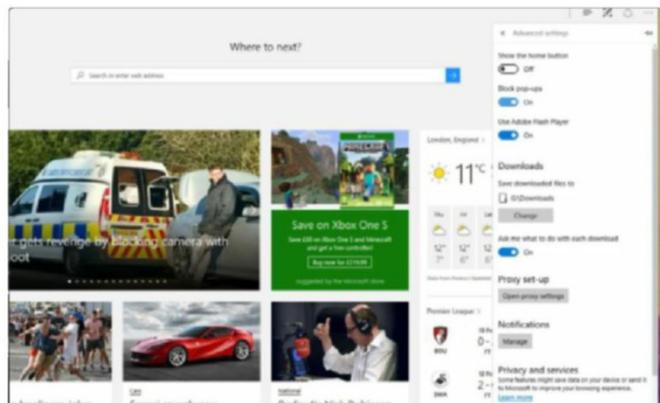
9 Keep an eye on background apps

Over time you may find that you've installed programs you no longer use, some of which may be sharing information about you without you realising. It's a good idea to periodically purge unused programs. Open the Start menu and type in 'uninstall', then press Enter. Now uninstall any apps you no longer use. You can also use the Task Manager to see all apps that are running.



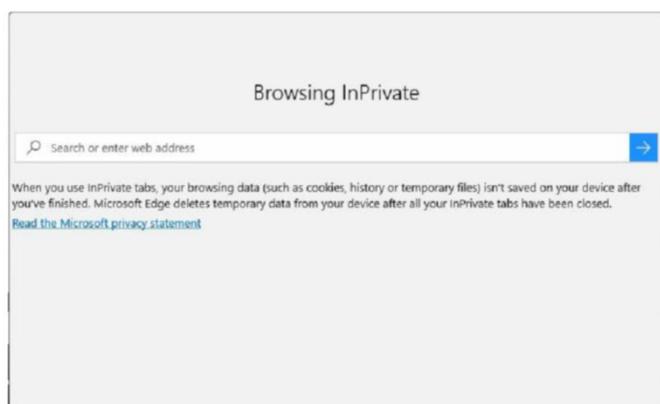
6 Tell browsers to Do Not Track

When you browse online, advertisers and analytics companies can watch what you do, and where you visit, then show adverts or articles relevant to your online activity. Most browsers have a Do Not Track option that tells advertisers not to track your online presence. In Edge, click the Tools button, then Internet Options > Advanced > 'Always send Do Not Track Header'.



8 Take a look at content settings

There are a few more browser settings you should look at. You might want to stop websites tracking you using cookies, for example, and block annoying pop-up adverts. You should also disable JavaScript, which often has security vulnerabilities. Some browsers can also stop websites from tracking your location. In Microsoft Edge these can be found under Advanced settings.



10 Enjoy your privacy!

Congratulations! You've now increased the privacy by changing just a few settings in Windows, your internet browser and your most used programs. Whenever you install a new app, take a moment to carefully read what permissions the program wants to have, or changes it wants to make. A healthy scepticism when it comes to sharing your data can help keep you safe. ■

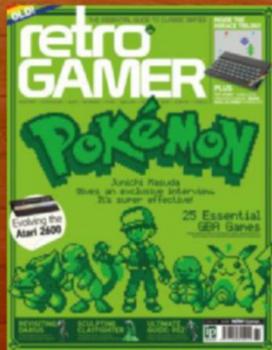


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Learn how to...

Stop Windows 10 from automatically updating



Your guide *Nick Odantzis* says...

"Take back control of your PC! In this tutorial we'll show you how you can stop Windows 10 from automatically downloading updates and forcing you to restart..."

At a glance

Skill level...

- ▶ Anyone can do it
- Straightforward
- Tricky in parts

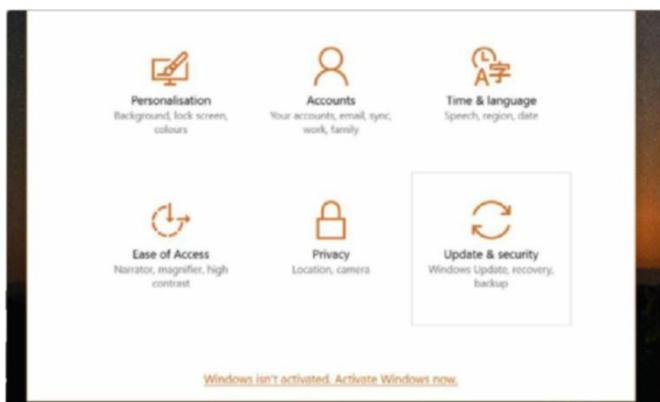
Suitable for...

- Windows 10
- Windows 8.1
- Windows 7

Microsoft regularly delivers updates to your Windows PC, improving on aspects of your machine like security, reliability and overall performance. This is, of course, a good thing and shouldn't be interfered with, but unfortunately the way in which Microsoft does this isn't particularly appealing. Every time an update is available, you don't have a choice whether you want it or not – it'll automatically be sent to your PC, installed in the background and you'll be forced to restart your machine when it's completed. Not an appealing prospect when you're in the middle of something and you have to suddenly abandon ship because you have no control over the situation. Well, if this kind of thing really annoys you, you'll be pleased to know that you can take back control. Here's how you can stop automatic updates and stop your machine from restarting of its own accord.

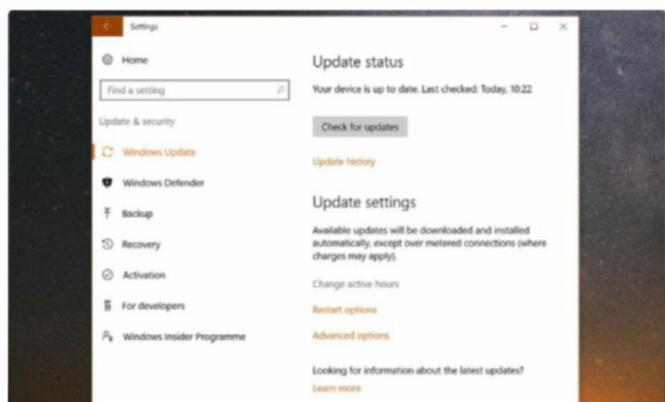


Step-by-step Control when your PC updates



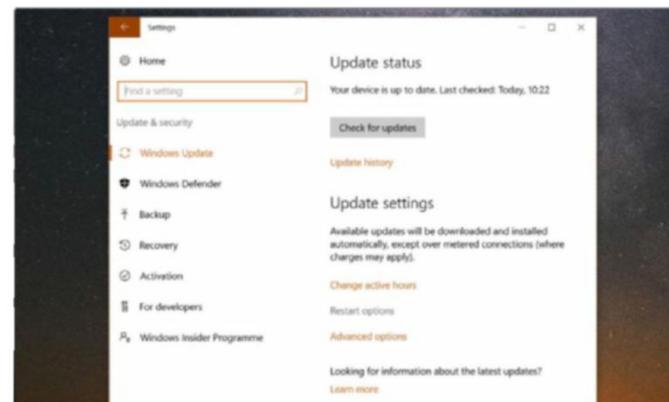
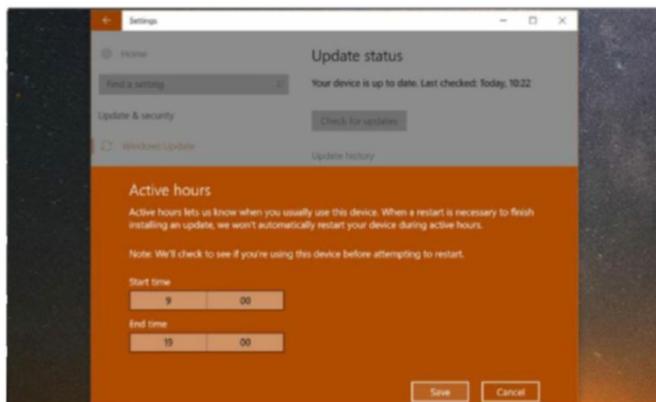
1 Stop the restart

If you want your PC to keep getting the updates you need, but want to be able to stop it from automatically restarting when it's finished the job, Windows 10 comes with a feature called Active Hours, which enables you to use your PC undisturbed. To find Active Hours, click the Start menu, select Settings and then choose Update & Security from the menu.



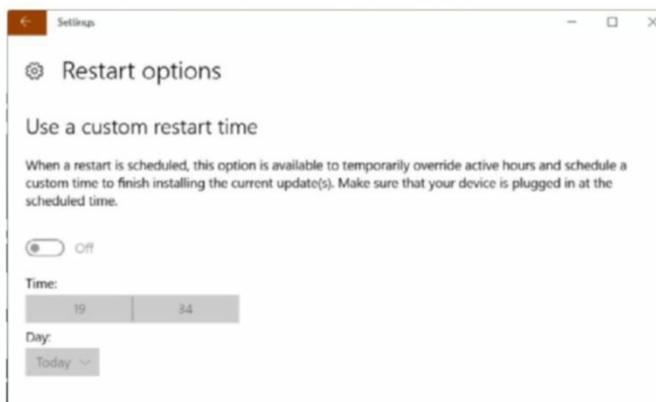
2 Find Active Hours

In the window that appears you'll see a variety of options in the left menu, with more information about each option on the right when you click on one. Make sure you're under the Windows Update – at the top you'll be able to see your current update status. Below this are the available update settings. To change your active hours, click on 'Change active hours'.



3 Choose a schedule

When you click on this setting a new window will open, enabling you to choose when you normally use your Windows PC. It's worth thinking about when you use it, so you don't get caught out outside of your Active Hours. To choose your working time, click the numbers underneath the Start time and select your starting time. Then do the same for the End time. Now click Save.



5 Set a restart time

Within the Restart options settings you can choose when your machine installs an available update and when it restarts, to complete the update. Click the toggle next to Off to turn the feature on. Then choose the time you'd like it to restart (ideally, when you think you'll be finished using your PC) by clicking the numbers underneath Time, and do exactly the same for the day.



7 Turn on metering

Choose Wi-Fi from the left menu and then click on the Wi-Fi network that you're connected to (if you're not sure, check the back of your router – it will show its unique ID). Now, if you scroll down you'll see the Metered connection option. Below you'll see a toggle switch – click this to turn it to on. Once you've activated this, Windows will stop updates being downloaded in future.

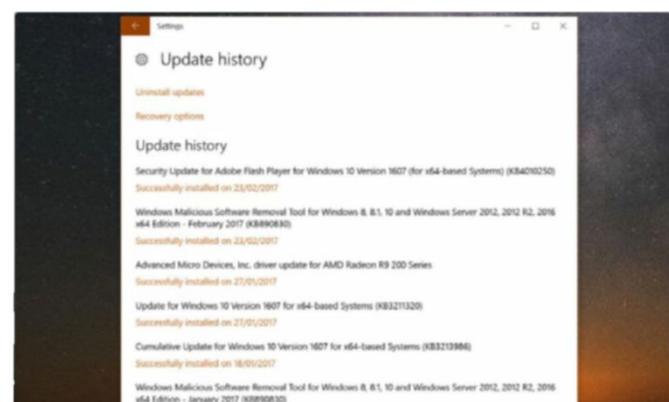
4 Choose a custom restart

When an update is available on your PC, it won't be able to install and restart your machine during your Active Hours, so it'll sit in Windows Update, waiting for a time when your PC is on, but out of Active Hours. If you want to choose when this update is installed, you can set a custom restart time. Within Windows Update, select the Restart options underneath Update settings.



6 Stop updates installing

If you want to stop Windows from downloading updates altogether, there's a neat trick that enables you to do this. By setting your internet connection to metered, you can stop updates in their tracks, but do note this only works with a PC connected via Wi-Fi, not Ethernet. First of all, go to Start, click Settings and choose Network & Internet from the menu.



8 Now you're in control

Congratulations! You've now learned how to minimise the impact that regular Windows 10 updates have on your PC – whether it's setting Active Hours to prevent interruption when you want to use your PC, or choosing to install updates that have already been downloaded, but at a specific time. You'll also be able to block Windows updates indefinitely, should you wish to. ■

Learn how to...

Turn a PC into a media hub



Your guide *Nick Peers* says...

"Bring your music, movies, live TV and other media under one roof with the exceptional Kodi player"

At a glance

Skill level...

► Anyone can do it

Straightforward

Tricky in parts

Suitable for...

Windows 10

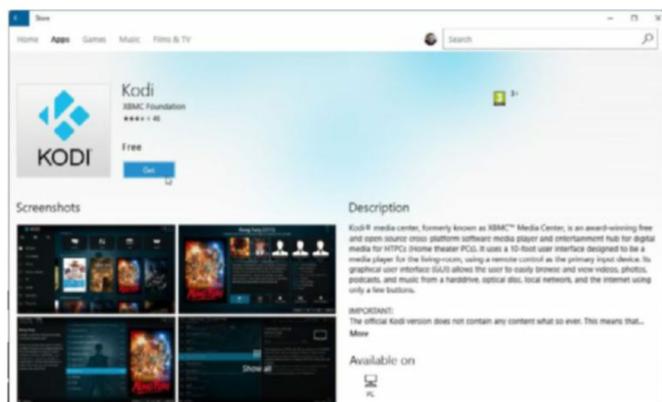
Windows 8.1

Windows 7

Looking for a one-stop shop for all your digital media? Then Kodi is your new best friend. Simply organise your music, movie, TV shows and other content into suitable folders and name them correctly (see the top tip) and Kodi will tag them with relevant metadata – including synopsis, cast, artwork and other useful information, making it much easier to find, navigate, organise and enjoy all of your favourite content.

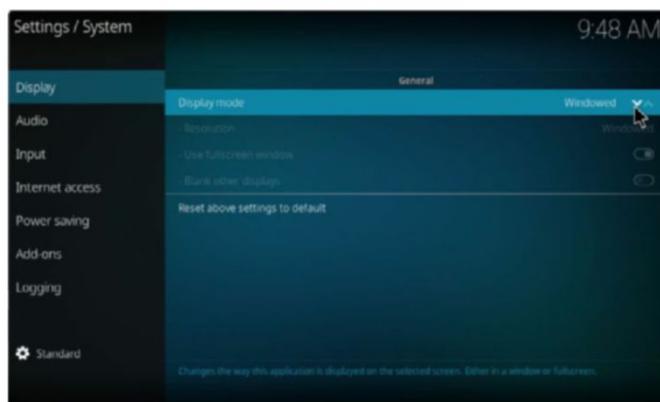
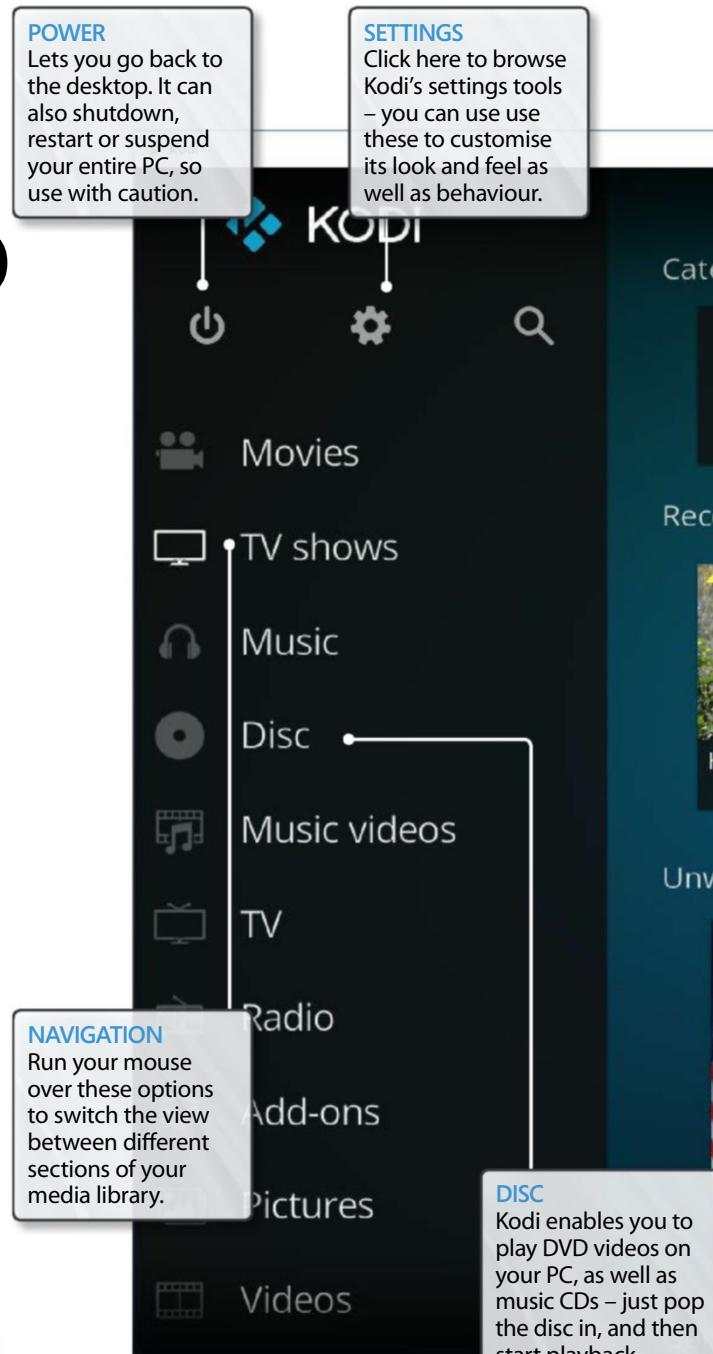
And as if that wasn't reason enough, the latest version of Kodi – 17.0 aka Krypton – has been given a major overhaul, with a new look, new features and a range of performance enhancements. The result is a media player that's slicker and quicker than before – and fully deserving of a place on anyone's PC. Read on to find out how to set Kodi up, link it with your existing PC TV setup, and put it at the heart of your digital home.

Step-by-step How to import your media into Kodi



1 Get Kodi

Go to www.kodi.tv/download and scroll down to locate the installer. Windows 10 users should click the 'Get it on Windows 10' link to install the app through the Windows Store – the benefit is that Kodi will automatically update itself going forward. Users of other versions of Windows should click the Installer link below, double-click the kodi-17.0-krypton.exe file and follow the wizard.



2 Change display mode

Launch Kodi for the first time and it'll run in full-screen mode. To change this to windowed mode, click the cog-like button at the top of the left panel to open the Settings menu. Click or tap System Settings and select Display in the left pane. Roll your mouse over 'Display mode' and click the icon next to 'Full screen' to change it to Windowed, then resize the window.

es

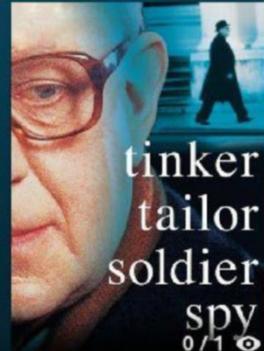


Genres

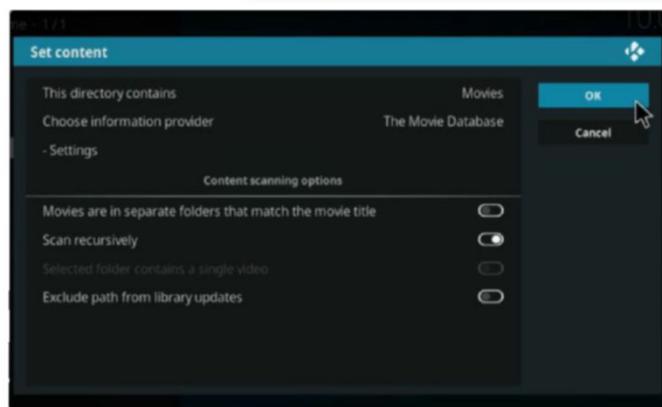
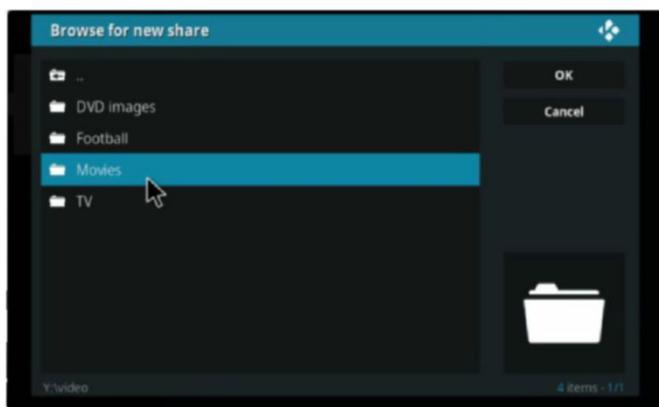
added episodes

Met Your Mot...
st Forever (2)How I Met Your Mot...
Last Forever (1)How I Met Your Mot...
The End of the AisleHow I Met Your Mot...
Gary Blauman

ended TV Shows



NICK'S BEST TIP!
 Visit http://kodi.wiki/view/Video_library for a guide to naming your movie, TV and music video files correctly.



3 Add first library

Press the [Esc] key twice to return to the main screen, then click 'Enter files section'. Select Files and click 'Add Videos...' > Browse to the parent directory containing your first batch of videos (we recommend segregating TV, movies, music videos and home videos from each other), then click Browse to locate and select the relevant folder on your PC or network. Click OK.

4 Add media scraper

Change the media source's name if you like, then click Add > Browse to add other folders containing the same media type, or OK to continue. Click 'This directory contains...' and select your media type from the list (click 'Get more...' to see if others are available). Click Settings under the information provider to tweak its settings. Once done, click OK followed by Yes.

Jargon buster!

► Media scraper

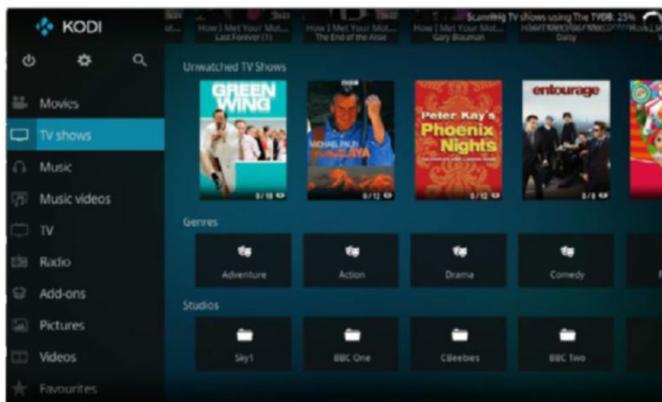
An online repository, such as The Movie Database, that provides metadata and artwork that can be downloaded into programs like Kodi.

► Metadata

Tags that have been incorporated into files that provide information about the file's contents. Examples include movie title, TV episode name and music artist.

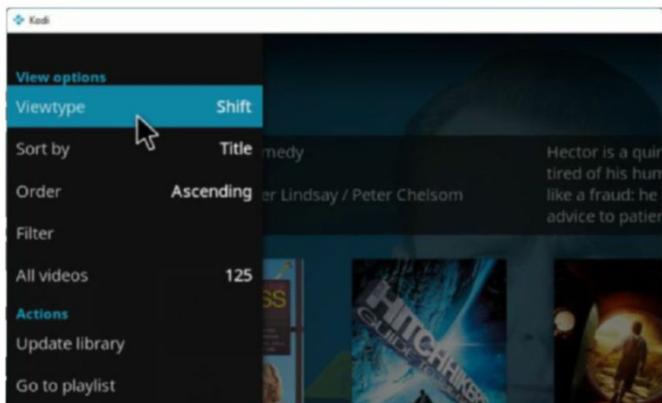
► PVR

Stands for Personal Video Recorder. Used to describe any device, including a PC, that can record video from live sources digitally.



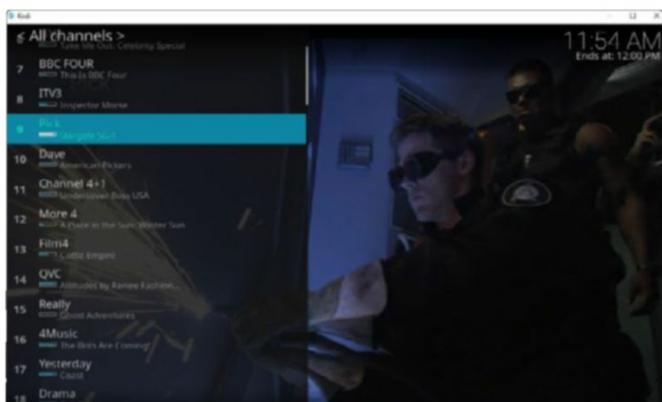
5 Add more folders

While Kodi scans, click 'Add videos...' to repeat the process for other video types in your library. When you're done, click the '...' button to go up a level and start browsing your content by media folder – click the folder and you'll see it's organised according to its type. Press [Esc] to return to the main screen and you'll see your libraries start to fill with content.



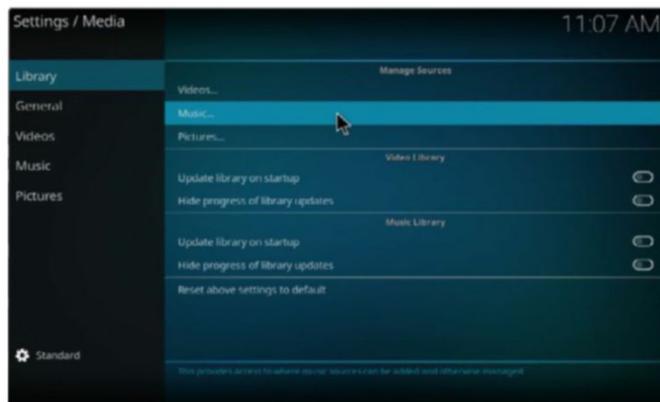
7 Customise view

Click a section header to browse its contents, clicking on an item to watch or listen to it – use the playback controls and scrubber to navigate your media. If browsing TV shows, you'll browse by series, season and episode. Don't like the default list view? Click the options button to reveal a slide-out panel – click Viewtype to choose a different view, such as 'Shift' for movies.



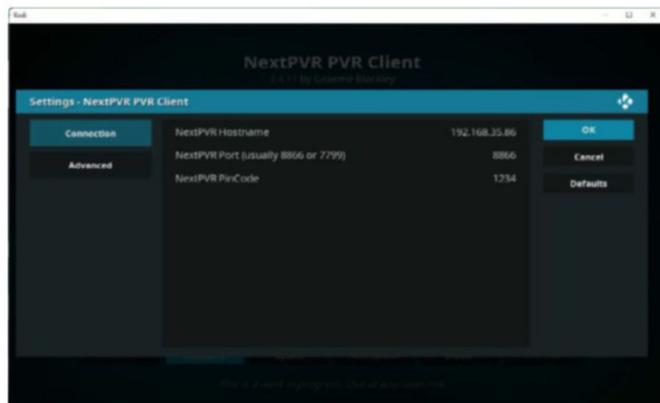
9 Access TV

Once enabled you'll see a number of widgets appear under TV, making it easy for you to access the TV guide and previous recordings as well as browse live TV (and radio) by clicking the remote and choosing which channel to watch. If you've previously found Kodi unwieldy with live TV, now's a great time to try it again – you'll find it easier and more responsive, even when streaming.



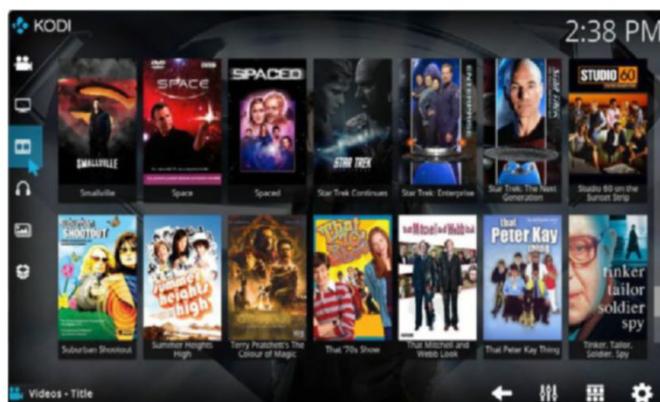
6 Add music and photos

Confusingly, you can't add music from the main menu's Music section; instead, go to Settings > Media Settings and click Music under Library > Manage Sources. Add your source(s) and they'll be added without the need for choosing a scraper. The same is true for any photos you wish to add to your Kodi library – add these via the Pictures entry in the same menu.



8 Link to TV

If you've set up live TV using NextPVR or a similar service (see issue 117), select TV from the main Kodi menu and choose 'Enter add-on browser'. Find and select your chosen PVR server, then click Configure to set up access (for example, to connect to a remote PVR server, enter its IP address and PIN access code). Click Enable and press [Esc] to go back to the main screen.



10 Customise – and enjoy!

You've got the basics set up, now explore what else Kodi can do – for example, select Add-Ons to add a variety of extra features and download skins to change its look and feel via Settings > Interface > Skins. When browsing add-ons, explore the Video section for on-demand services, such as WWW iPlayer (BBC iPlayer) and online streaming sites like YouTube and Vevo. ■

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(READ ON YOUR PC AT ZINIO.COM OR PLAY.GOOGLE.COM)



Learn how to...

Block unwanted adverts on the web



Your guide *Ian Evenden* says...

"You don't have to be distracted by intrusive advertising on the web, but remember many site owners depend on adverts for their livelihoods"

At a glance

Skill level...

- ▶ Anyone can do it
- Straightforward
- Tricky in parts

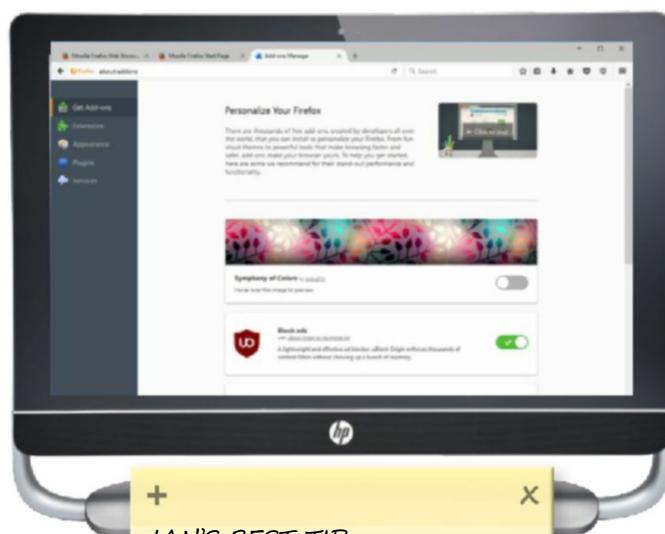
Suitable for...

- Windows 10
- Windows 8.1
- Windows 7

You're reading salacious celebrity gossip on a website you've never visited before when it happens. Something covers the screen, plays a tune, and starts a video about a product you have no interest in buying. Adverts like this can be annoying, interrupting your enjoyment of paparazzi pictures, cat videos or scholarly articles. Luckily, they can be blocked using simple browser extensions.

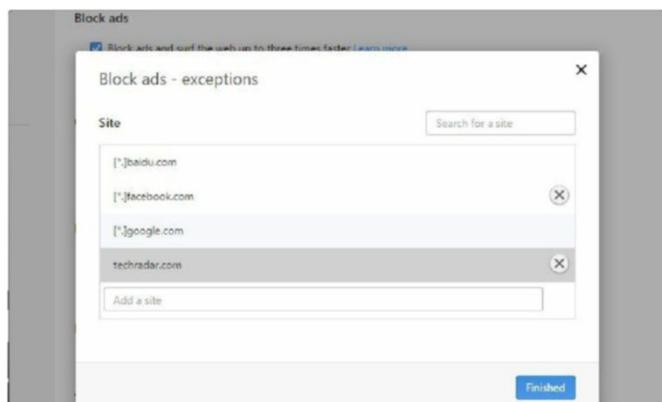
While this may sound like a simple trip to browsing heaven, there is a serious side to ad blocking. Many of the sites we visit every day rely on advertising to pay for their costs and to ensure the content is of a high enough quality to keep readers coming back. With no revenue, sites may find it hard to continue.

So while blocking adverts may be easy, there's a moral dimension to the decision over whether or not to install the ad blocking plugins.



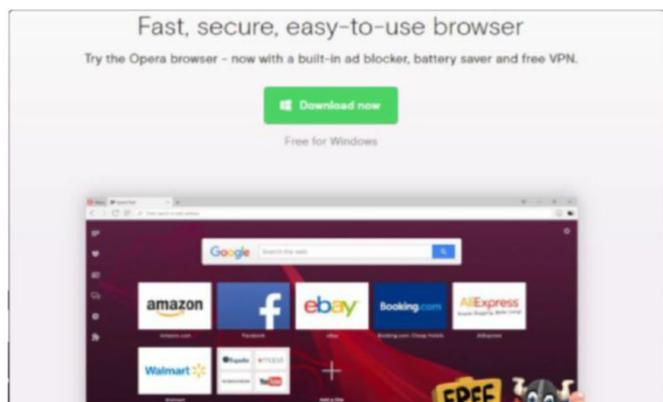
IAN'S BEST TIP
Some sites now force you to allow adverts before showing their contents. Such sites can be 'whitelisted' to show ads.

Step-by-step How to block unwanted adverts



1 Use Opera

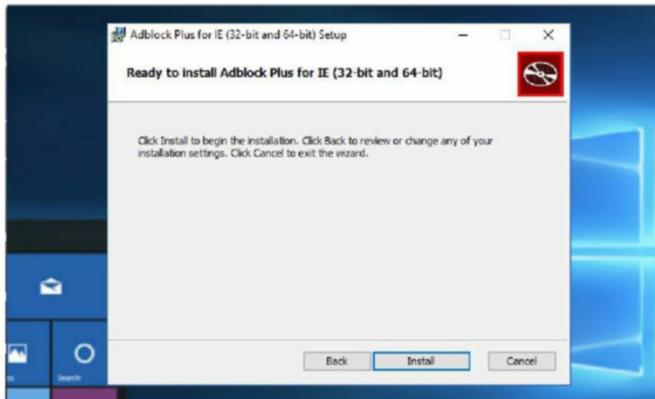
There is a way to avoid installing an ad-blocking plugin, and that's to use the Opera browser. It has one built in from the start, and while it's switched off by default, enabling it involves a quick trip to Settings (click the cog at the right of the Speed Dial page, then select Browser Settings) and ticking the 'Block ads...' box. You can also support sites by allowing ads under Exceptions too.



Fast, secure, easy-to-use browser
Try the Opera browser – now with a built-in ad blocker, battery saver and free VPN.
[Download now](#)
Free for Windows

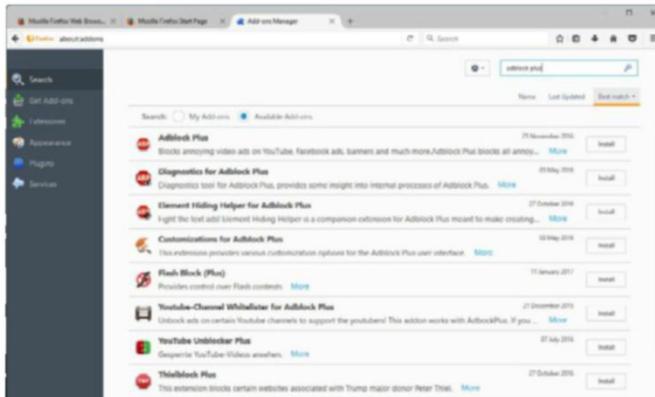
2 Get Opera

To install Opera, point another browser to www.opera.com and click the green Download Now button. Another benefit of this browser is that it comes with a free Virtual Private Network you can use to prevent websites tracking you through your IP address, as it replaces your real address with a 'fake' virtual one. This can be useful if you regularly use public Wi-Fi networks.



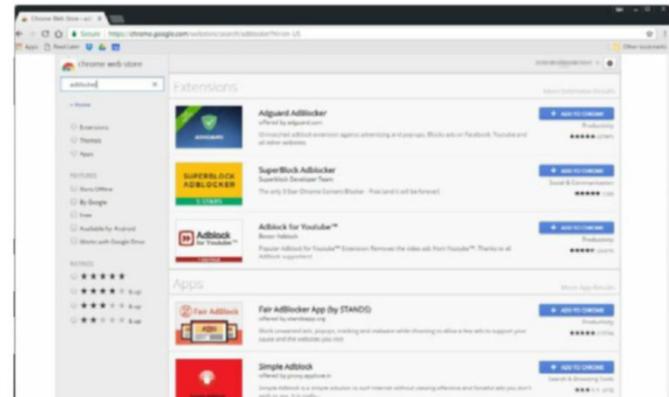
3 Install plugins

On other browsers – such as Edge, Chrome or Firefox – you'll need to install a plugin before you can start blocking adverts. As most major browsers have a store for extensions and add-ons, this is pretty straightforward. The exception to this is Internet Explorer, as the iegallery.com site no longer works. IE users will need to go to the adblocker's own website, and install an .exe file from there.



4 Block ads in Internet Explorer

One of the most common ad-blocking plugins is AdBlock Plus. To install it in Internet Explorer, point that browser to www.adblockplus.org, and click the 'Install for free...' button. A file will download, and you'll need to quit IE before you run it. Reopen the browser and you'll get a message confirming installation. Right-clicking the top of the window to see AdBlock's icon.



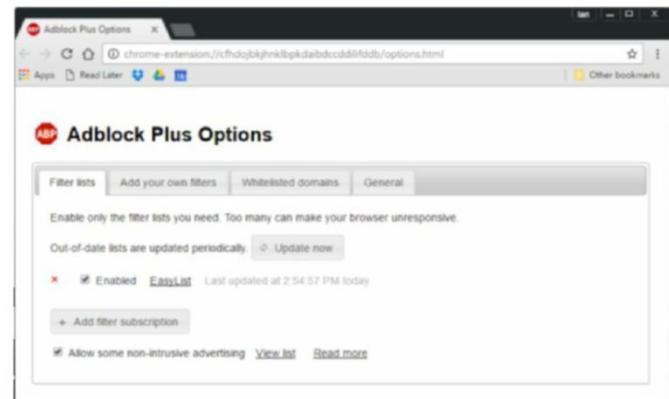
5 Block ads in Firefox

Mozilla's browser makes it easy to install extensions, which it calls Add-ons. Open Firefox and click the three-lined menu button at the right of the interface, then select Add-ons. Top of the list for us is adblocker uBlock Origin, which can be installed by clicking the button next to its name. If you want AdBlock Plus, click Extensions then use the search box to see a list of options.



6 Block ads in Google Chrome

Extensions in Chrome are easy to install and manage. Click the '...' menu button at the right of the interface, and select More Tools > Extensions from the menu that appears. At the bottom of the next screen, click 'Get more extensions' to go to the Chrome Web Store, and use the search box to find the adblocker you want. Click one and select 'Add to Chrome' in the window that pops up.



7 Edge

Extensions came quite recently to Edge, and getting them requires a trip to the Windows Store app. In Edge, click the '...' button on the right, then select Extensions. Click 'Get Extensions' from the Store and the Store app will open, allowing you to search. The selection isn't as wide as for other browsers, but includes AdBlock Plus. Click 'Get' to install the one you want.

8 Configure your ad blocker

Once the plugin is installed, there are a few options to choose from. In AdBlock Plus, click the red icon and select Options from the menu that appears. There are lists of blockable items to subscribe to, but the important option is 'Allow some non-intrusive advertising'. Rather than a blanket block, this allows ads that don't disrupt the natural flow of the page you're reading. ■

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

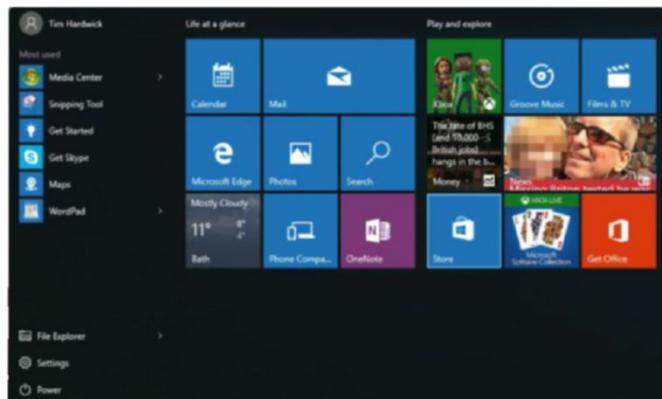
Windows 7

Windows 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, downloading and installing them can be a lottery. Many apps are of questionable quality. Worse, some installation packages sneak other executable files onto your system with dubious intent (see issue 133 for how to deal with these). How can you be sure an app is what it says it is without some sort of independent review process in place?

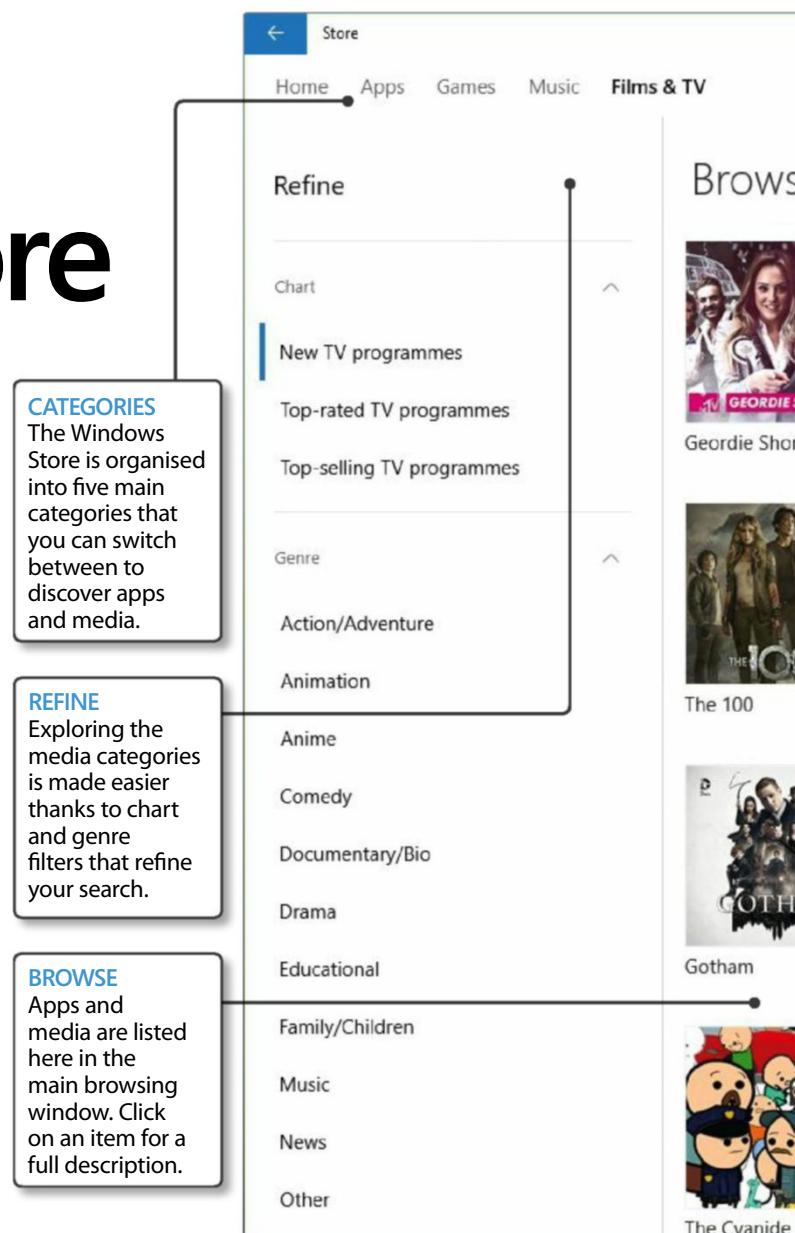
That's where the Windows Store comes in. Every app in the Store is certified by Microsoft and can be installed on your PC with confidence. It's not just apps either. The Store is packed with great games for all gamers. Here we'll show you how to use the Windows Store and point you to some apps you should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



Brows



Geordie Shore



The 100



Gotham



The Cyanide Show



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). 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



Inside Amy Schumer
Seasons 1-3 Uncensored



Game of Thrones



Family Guy



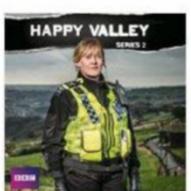
The Walking Dead



South Park



The X-Files



Happy Valley



Grimm



Brooklyn Nine-Nine



Suits



The Originals



Black Sails



American Horror Story



Ex on the Beach



MythBusters



Doctor Who



Sleepy Hollow



Teenage Mutant



Catfish: The TV Show



Deadliest Job

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.

Why can't you sign in?

I've forgotten my password
 I know my password, but can't sign in
 I think someone else is using my Microsoft account

[Cancel](#) [Next](#)

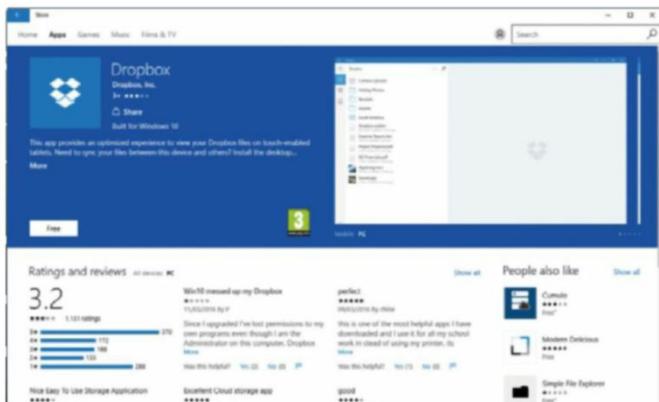
Microsoft

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 xycommand and click OK.

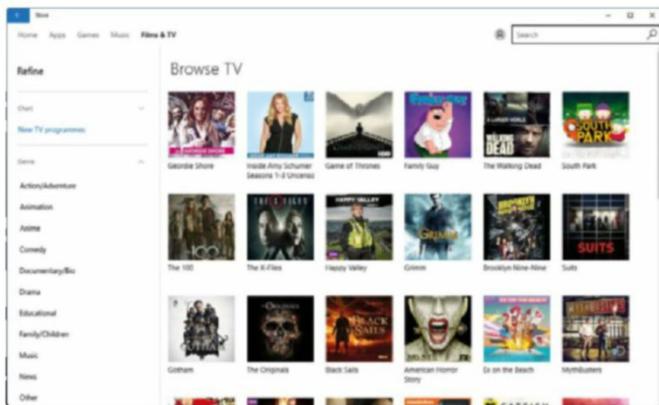
4 First shop

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.



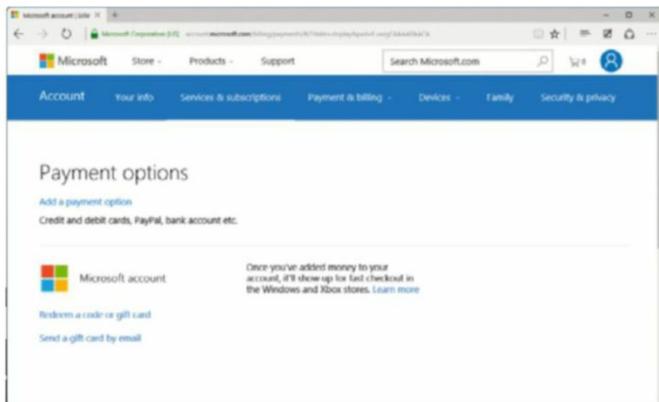
5 Best apps

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.



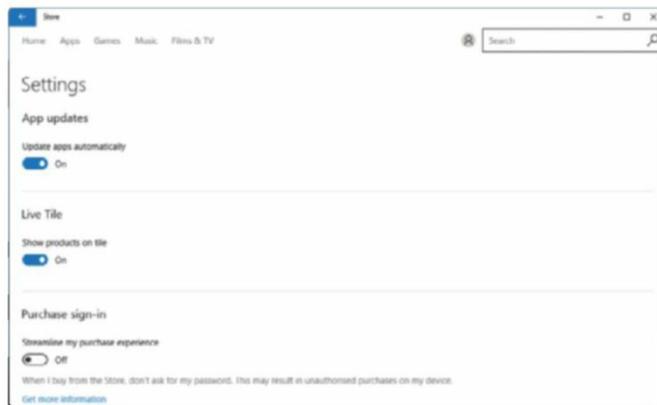
9 Payment

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.



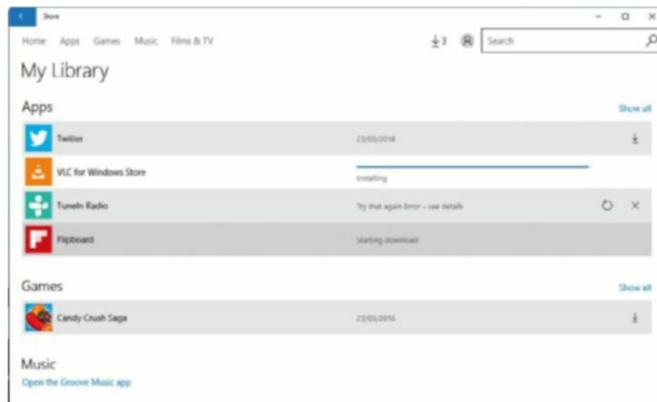
6 Best games

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, enables you to 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. ■

PHONES WEARABLES AUDIO TVs CARS HOME



The Gadget Magazine

→ IGNITE your world
with the ULTIMATE LIST
of today's TOP TECH,
GADGETS and PEOPLE



BEST
WIRELESS
SPEAKERS

HI-RES MULTI-ROOM
SYSTEMS RATED



HOT
100

4K OLED TVs • SAMSUNG GALAXY S8
NEXT-GEN GAMING • STEVE HOROWITZ
HOME ROBOTS • SMART HOME 2.0
CONNECTED CARS
ELON MUSK



↑ WHY GOPRO'S
KARMA IS THE
ULTIMATE DRONE



→ RINSPEED
REDEFINES
CONNECTED DRIVING



→ VOICE CONTROL
YOUR LIFE WITH
GOOGLE HOME



↑ HTC VIVE TAKES
VR WIRELESS



ON SALE NOW!

AVAILABLE AT WHSMITH, MYFAVOURITEMAGAZINES.CO.UK
OR SIMPLY SEARCH FOR T3 IN YOUR DEVICE'S APP STORE

SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND SAVE! SEE WWW.MYFAVOURITEMAGAZINES.CO.UK/T3



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...

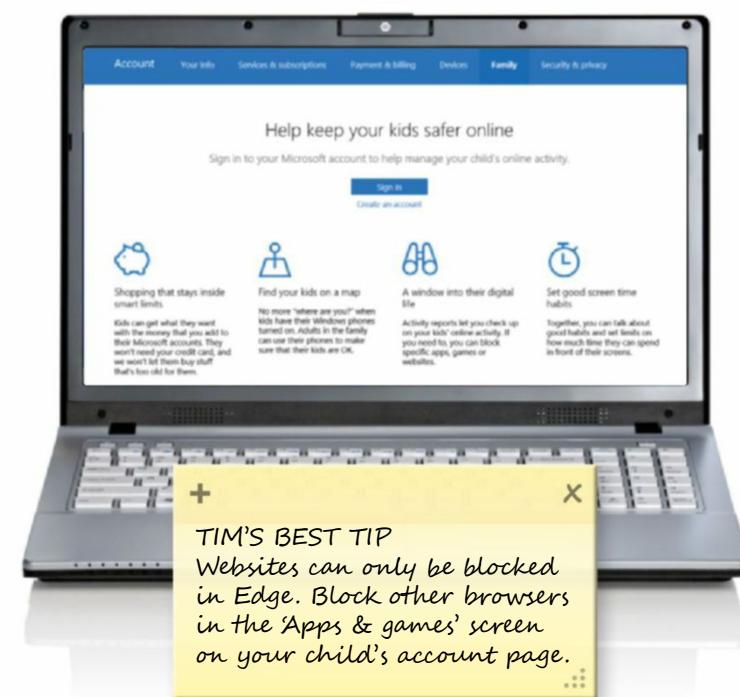
Windows 10

Windows 8.1

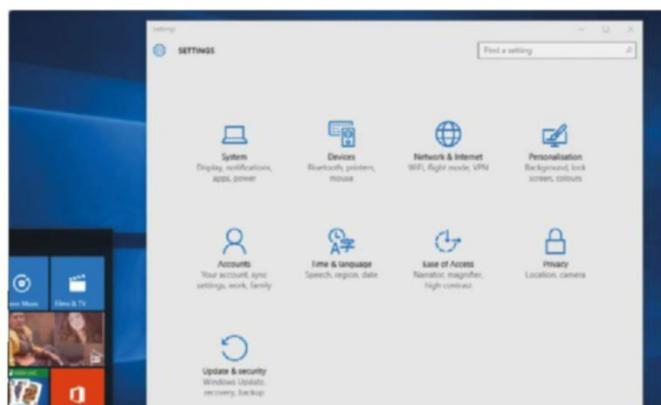
Windows 7

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 computer with your kids, giving them their own account allows them to go online safely by enabling you to set up age restrictions. That way, you can ensure that your children 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. The steps in this tutorial will 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

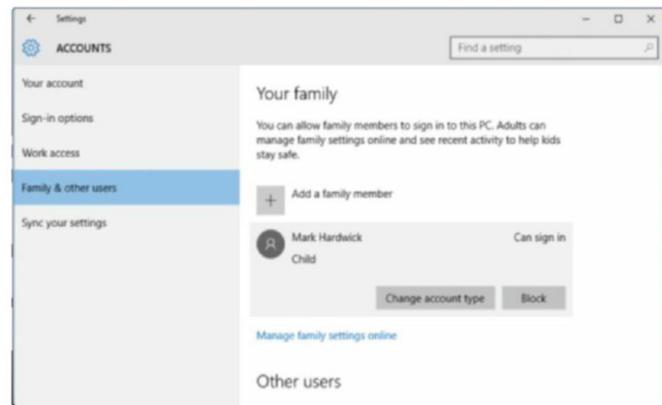
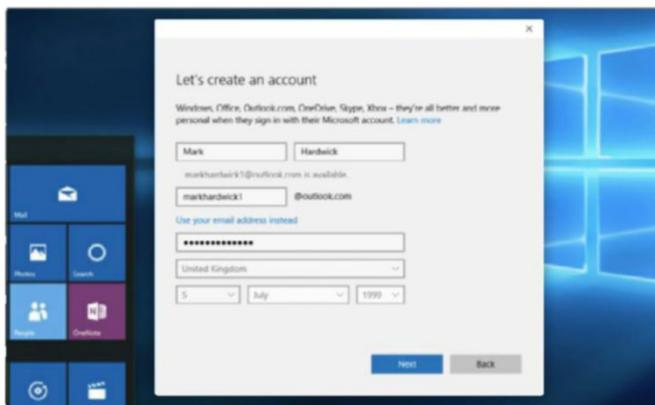
With a child account, your kids will get their own desktop layout, their own set of user folders and their own Start menu. To set them up in Windows 10, choose Settings from the desktop Start menu and click on Accounts. Next, select 'Family & other users' from the left pane, click the plus button next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



2 Add a child account

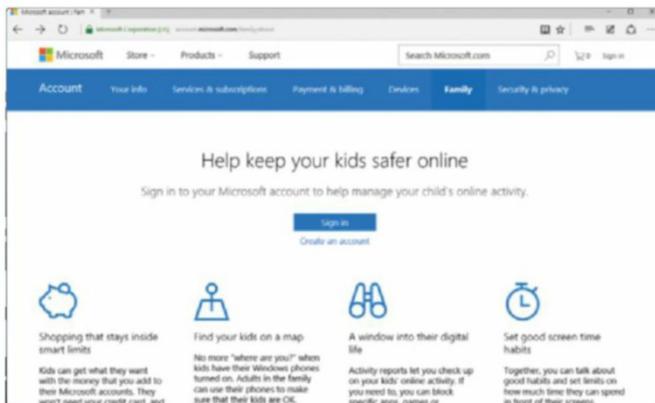
Next you'll be asked to enter an email address associated with the new account. If your child doesn't have a Microsoft account or they're too young to have an email address, that's okay. Just click 'The person I want to add doesn't have an email address', and you'll be prompted to create an account and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

Explore Childproof your Windows 10 PC



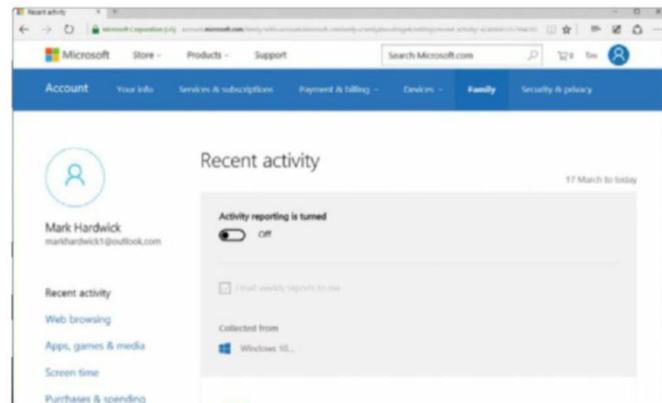
3 Accept an invite

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'.

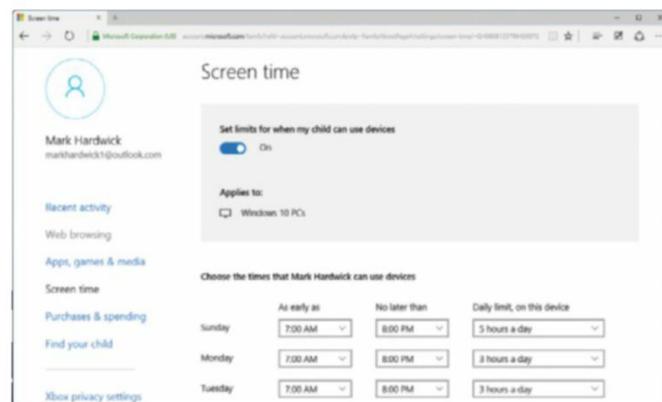
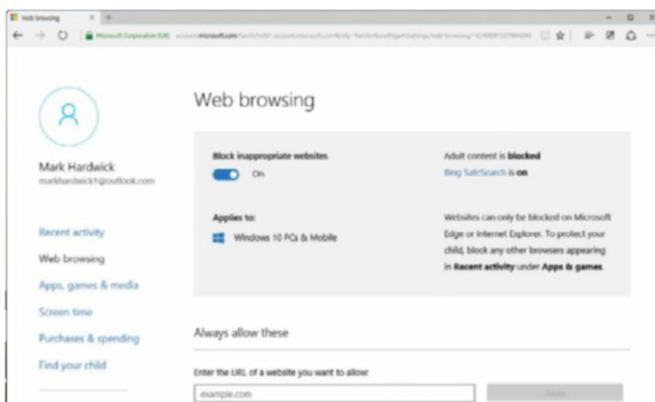


5 Set up permissions

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. ■

RECOVER YOUR DATA

Nothing is lost until you've looked for it, says Alex Cox

Picture the scene: The worst has happened. Everything you held dear is gone. You ignored the clicking of the hard drive, those error messages, that suspicious-looking file for too long. You clicked the thing you shouldn't have clicked. You emptied the Recycle Bin out of habit after letting your kids near your PC. And now? Now your photos are gone, your documents are dust, those precious family videos cast to the wind. Windows has gasped its last breath. All is lost.

Except that isn't necessarily the case. Data has a habit of hanging around.

And if you're very lucky, and very careful, you could – in this hypothetical scenario – get all, or the vast majority, of your data back. Note that we're not going to be able to help you a huge amount in the case of massive hardware failure or physical damage, so if you've inadvertently sent 120V to that SSD, or unwisely dunked your laptop in the bath, you're either going to be on the hook for specialist clean room data recovery or completely out of luck.

If you're not just imagining things, and everything does appear to have gone, stop using your PC immediately, and read on. And if everything seems fine, read on anyway. You might learn a

few things that'll save your bacon one day, and we'll help you get your hands on some tools that every home computer pro should have waiting in their back pocket for the worst of times.

And don't worry – we haven't discounted the possibility that Windows has simply collapsed under its own weight, rendering your precious data comfortably stored, but otherwise inaccessible. By accessing your drive from another operating system entirely, you'll be able to get that stuff back, too. And if you fancy doing a bit of digital forensics, but your drives are in a good state, why not delete a few old files from a USB stick and follow along?





Before we can even think about doing any kind of data recovery, it's worth knowing how data is stored on the typical drive. Every situation is slightly different, of course, and we're taking an incredibly basic look at NTFS formatting here; other filesystems work in different ways, although with the right software, you should be able to affect a recovery from just about anything.

The typical drive is broken into partitions. These aren't physical breaks, they're logical – a certain portion of the drive's bits are allocated, in a contiguous manner, to split the drive apart into individually managed sections, known as volumes. Information about these volumes – their size, location on the drive, and the like – is stored in the drive's Partition Table, which sits alongside the Master Boot Record (MBR) in the first sectors of the drive. The MBR is accessed when you boot your PC, so the BIOS knows where it's heading.

Each volume is invisibly broken into more sections. The Master File Table

Don't let Windows update if you're missing crucial files.

Restart required
We'll restart your device outside of active hours. Select this message to change active hours or restart now.

Restart now

(MFT) is the most important of these. It's a database that contains information about every file and folder on your drive, pointers to them, and, in some cases, even entire files, if they're smaller than about 512 bytes. Before the MFT is a boot sector, which holds a bit more specific information about the volume – most importantly, it points to where the MFT is located – and, if the partition is both active and designated as a primary partition, loads NTLdr to kick off

the boot process. The same sector is also duplicated at the very end of the volume, in case the first one goes bad, as is the MFT itself.

Sandwiched between these tiny sections is the filesystem data itself – the stuff the MFT points to. These are your files. When you start a fresh NTFS drive, they're stored quite neatly; a few months or years into the drive's life, they really are not. Files are placed into whatever space the MFT designates as free, and while the system makes a good stab at doing this sensibly, it often needs to break your files apart, and spread them over several areas of free space, with the references to each of the parts stored in the MFT. This is why mechanical drives tend to slow down; the read head needs to jump around the drive to hit each bit of the thing you're trying to load. SSDs don't have this problem, since they can jump

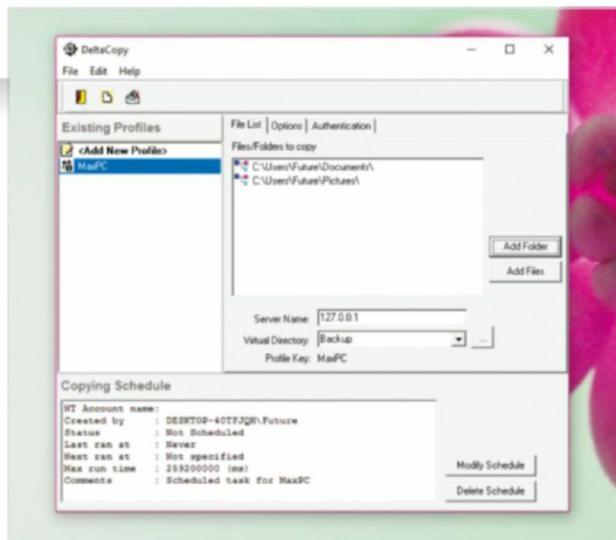
"Each volume is invisibly broken into more sections. The Master File Table (MFT) is the most important of these"

PREVENT DATA LOSS

routine. The prevailing wisdom states that you should follow the rule of three (three copies of your data, stored on at least two kinds of media, at least one of which is kept off-site), and it makes sense to get as close to this as you can. Start duplicating your critical files to a cloud backup service such as CrashPlan, and using external media to keep secondary copies of the most important items. Copying them to another partition on the same drive – or another physical drive in the same machine – is not adequate. Move your

might buy you a new PC, but it won't cover your files.

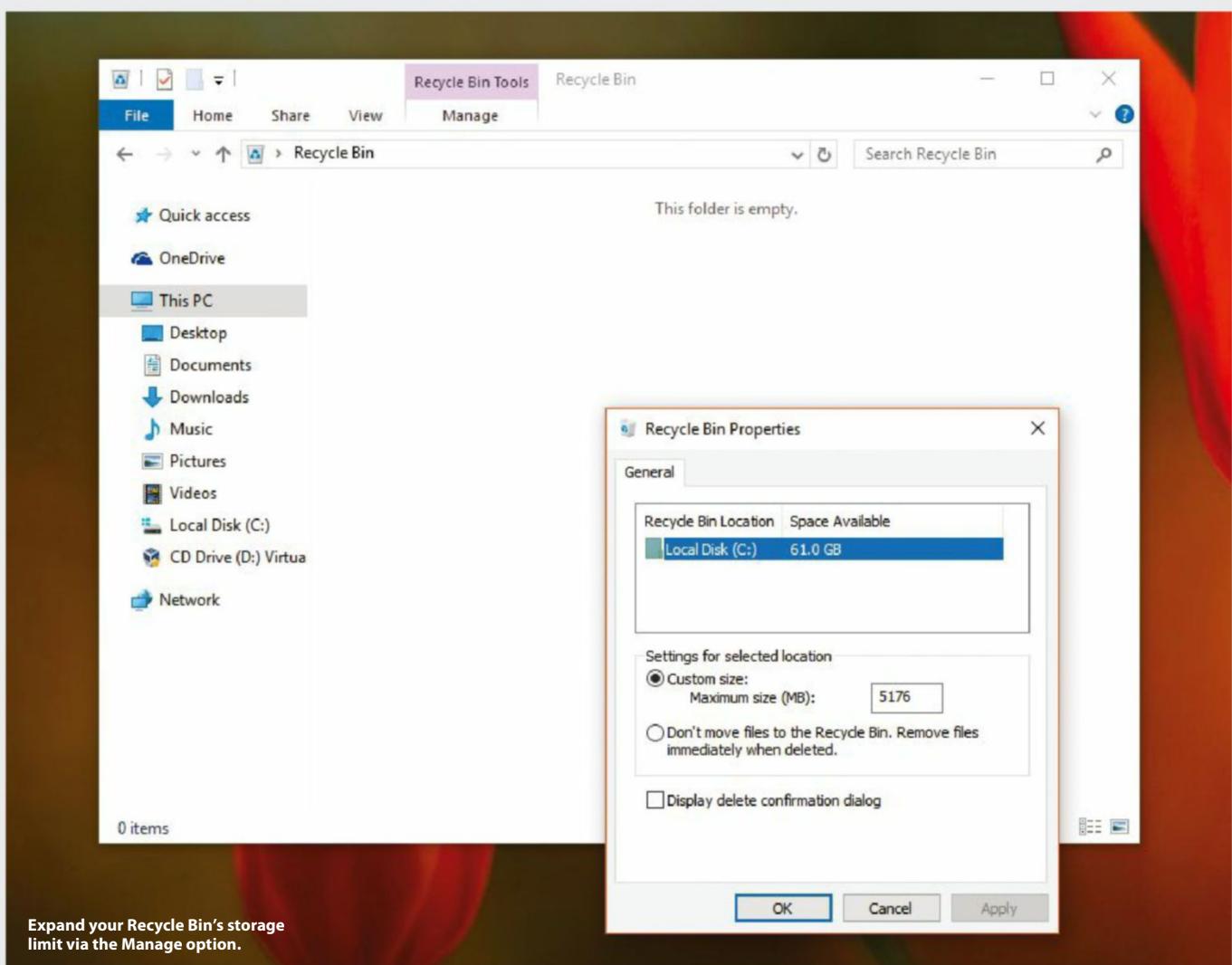
An automated process is best – again, something that CrashPlan and its ilk offer – because it pulls vital files when you're not using your machine, ensuring they're duplicated when disaster strikes. If you don't want to pay for a subscription, it's plausible to back up small pockets of files on free services such as Google Drive or Microsoft's OneDrive, but unless you're organised with your local and mirrored folders, you're one step away from a forgetful accident. If



DeltaCopy makes scheduling backups quick and easy.

you want to take it further, and customise your own backup solution, then check out a Linux app called rsync (<https://linux.die.net/man/1/rsync>), which has a Windows

wrapper called DeltaCopy (www.aboutmyip.com/AboutMyXApp/DeltaCopy.jsp) – you won't find a more versatile app when it comes to cloning data.



between sectors almost instantaneously (relatively speaking, at least).

STAYING SAFE

So what does this all mean for you? Well, consider this: When Windows deletes a file, it doesn't do anything to the filesystem data. It merely scrubs the reference from the MFT, and allocates the file's space as 'empty'. The data itself is still there, almost in its entirety. For now. If the MFT later chooses to store a new file in the same space? Some or all of that deleted file's data will be gone.

This means the first critical step of any data recovery effort (and a point we're going to keep making) is to stop what you're doing immediately, and power down the drive. Don't risk any of your data being inadvertently overwritten, because if you want it back, you want it intact. Usually, you'd shut down your machine using the regular Windows shutdown procedure, which is certainly the optimal choice if your problem is hardware failure, rather than a filesystem glitch. It means your drive's heads (if it has them) are properly and safely

"The first critical step of any data recovery effort is to stop what you're doing, and power down the drive"

disengaged, and any write operations completed properly, thus avoiding potentially corrupted files.

But there is a problem with this: If you have Windows updates waiting, shutting down in the regular way is essentially giving Microsoft license to begin overwriting swathes of your drive's precious bytes with OS and app patches that are, at least in the current circumstances, less than helpful. So if you've headed for the Start menu to shut down, and you're getting the dreaded 'and update' suffix, it's time to do something we'd ordinarily never recommend: cut the juice. Don't even hold down your power button for 10 seconds – cut the power at the wall,

flick the switch on your PSU, or pull the battery if you can. The next time we use this drive, it'll ideally be in read-only mode, which mitigates most of the risk to your data.

VITAL PREPARATION

What's gone wrong? We don't know for sure. You might, though. The structure of your drive means there are a few potential points of failure – the MBR, the partition table, the MFT, a problem with bad sectors in the file storage area – and that's not to mention mechanical issues, a problem with your motherboard's drive controllers, a malicious attack, or the ultimate destroyer of files: you. We'll come to

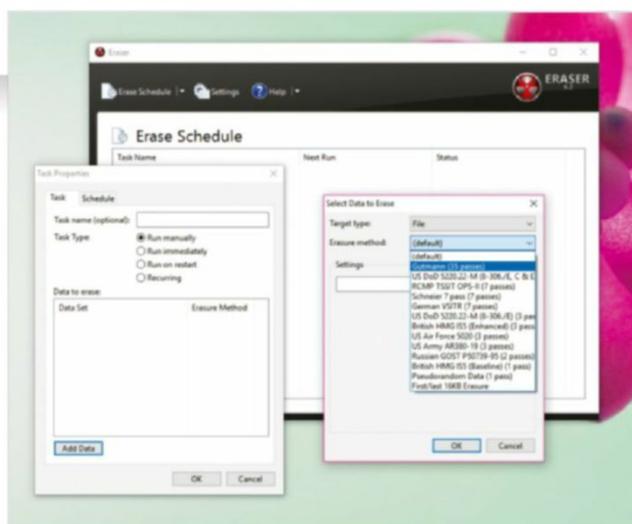
STOP RECOVERY

What if there are files on there that you really want to stay deleted, and be excluded from any recovery efforts? We can use a little of our knowledge of file storage to work out how to obliterate old data – the best way to make sure files don't rise from the dead is to ensure that 'free' space on your drive is completely overwritten. You could painstakingly write files to your drive until it's full, but that's madness. Better to use a secure deletion tool.

You have a few choices here, but we tend to favor Eraser (<https://eraser.heidi.ie>),

magnetic drives, the microscopic traces they leave behind – completely. We recommend you keep it hanging around – you can securely delete files just by dropping them on to the app, or even have it grind through any unused space on your partitions, applying its algorithms to that space to scrub it clean of any ghostly data that's in place there.

If you really want to get rid of all the data on a drive – if you're passing your hardware on or recycling it, say – System Rescue CD includes the tool Wipe (<http://wipe>.



Eraser can make up to 35 passes over your data for absolute removal.

sourceforge.net), which does an intense, thorough, repeated overwrite of every byte of data on a drive. Or if the hardware doesn't matter, and you're absolutely

desperate to get rid of it, do as one of Maximum PC's alumni once did: Take a hammer to your drive, and throw it in a lake. But think of the fish before you do it.

human error later on. For now, we need to help the people who haven't done something silly.

If you have a donor machine you can hook the drive up to (as a secondary drive), that's the ideal. If you don't have that luxury, you need to cross your fingers that your file loss isn't being caused by a malfunction on your current machine. Keep it powered down for

now. Whatever the situation, have a fresh external drive ready to transfer any recovered files to, and be aware that you may need to do a little manual cleaning up after.

Now, head to a second machine. If you're reading this and you haven't actually suffered any data loss as yet, follow this advice anyway: As any good Boy Scout knows, one must always be

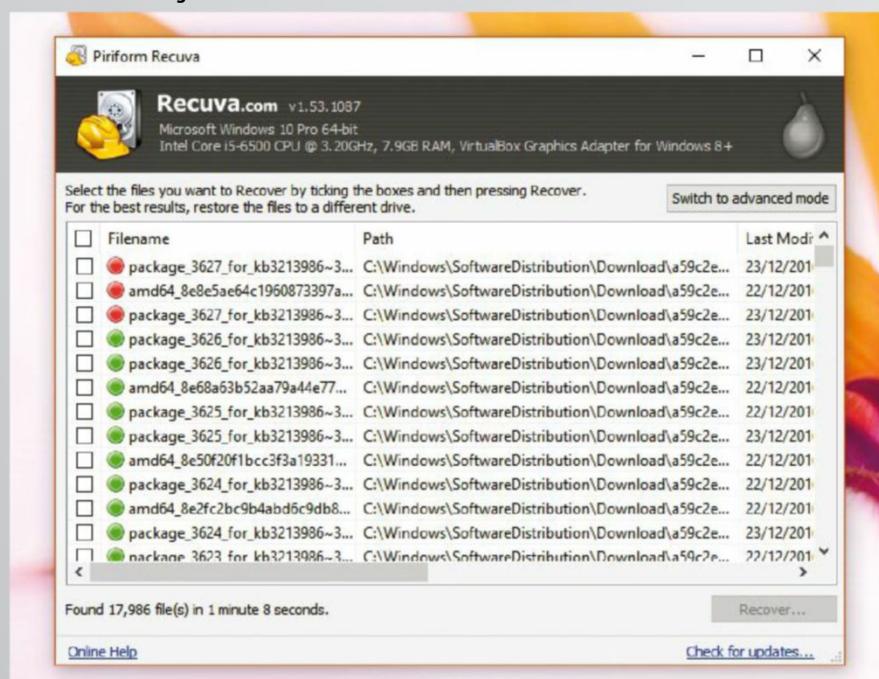
prepared. On your second machine, download the x86 version of System Rescue CD from www.system-rescue-cd.org, and write it to a CD or USB stick. There are many rescue-focused distros of Linux, but this one – ugly text-based interface and all – is ours.

PARTITION RECOVERY

Time to get some stuff back. Plug in your large external drive, and boot your affected machine from your System Rescue CD media. You may have to head into your UEFI menu and disable Secure Boot before it works. Hit Return to boot with the default options, and you're thrown straight to a command prompt. OK, not the most welcoming introduction, but we don't need graphical finery for these tasks. You may see a suggestion to mount your drive at this point – don't do it. This is a trap for young players; if your partition table is hosed, you're going to want to work on the raw disk first of all. So type 'testdisk' and you can begin taking a look at your connected hardware. Don't worry about creating a log file at this point.

You're first given a list of all the connected storage devices – with luck, you'll see the affected drive. If you don't, you can safely diagnose your problem as physical: Meaning there's a cable loose, a power failure, or your drive controller has gone up in smoke. Presuming you do see the drive, take a note of its designation (sda, sdb, and so

Piriform Recuva is a good low-effort solution for deleted data.





on) as we'll need this a little later. Ensure it's selected, and hit [Return], selecting the Intel partition type unless you're working on a particularly odd drive. Now choose Analyse. One of two things is going to happen now: If your drive is properly structured, it finds the partition table, and lists the partitions – again, take note of these, and those of the external drive you've plugged in for your recovered files. If the partition table of the rogue drive is missing or damaged (TestDisk looks for a particular byte at a particular point on the drive to discover this), you can select Quick Search to have it scan your drive, cylinder by

"With any luck, it will find something and you'll be given the option to restore the partition table"

cylinder, for the telltale signs of partition divisions. With any luck, it will find something, and you'll be given the option to restore the partition table. If not, you can choose to do a deeper scan, which is a last-ditch effort; it takes a long time, and stresses a failing drive,

but if you have no other option, it's definitely worth a try.

CONNECTING DRIVES

With a healthy partition table, your drive should be in good enough shape to work with – you can now start hunting for your files. TestDisk usefully comes with a companion program, Photorec, the name of which is somewhat out of date – it doesn't just recover photos, but a host of known file types from a selection of over 480. But before we can use it, we need to mount your secondary drive to give it a location to send the files to. Mounting, essentially, is the process of linking a partition of your drive to a Linux file – absolutely everything in Linux is a file – and telling Linux exactly how it should be accessing that drive.

Presuming your backup drive is NTFS formatted, we can use a program called ntfs-3g to do the mounting. First, create a mount point – the folder location that'll represent your drive – by typing mkdir /mnt/ntfs at the prompt. Then (replacing 'sdb' with the partition designation that you made a note of

If you see this ominous message in TestDisk, your partition table is hosed.

```
TestDisk 7.0, Data Recovery Utility, April 2015
Christophe GRENIER <grenier@cgsecurity.org>
http://www.cgsecurity.org

Disk /dev/sda - 8589 MB / 8192 MiB - CHS 1044 255 63
Current partition structure:
 Partition          Start          End    Size in sectors

Partition sector doesn't have the endmark 0x8055

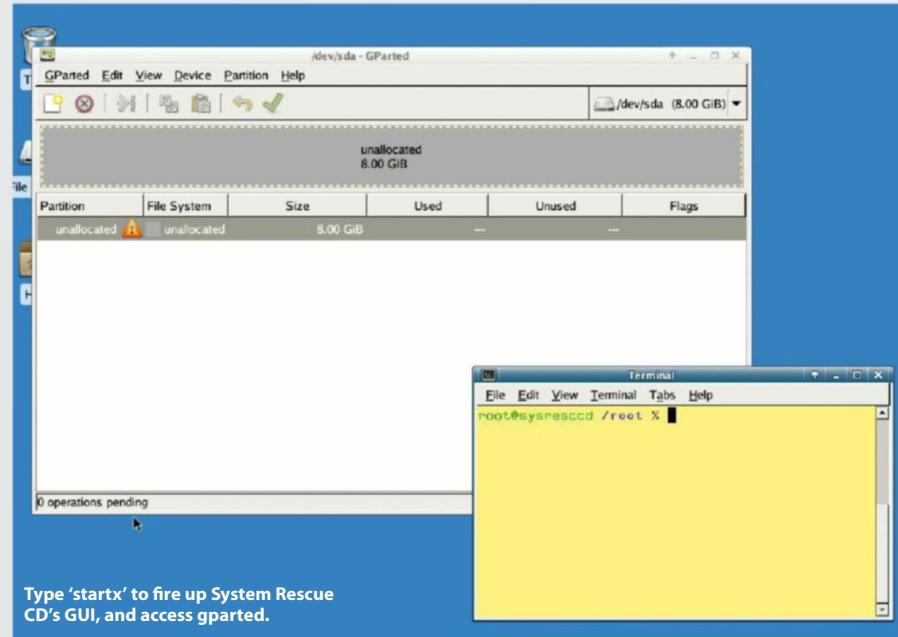
*=Primary bootable  P=Primary  L=Logical  E=Extended  D=Deleted
>[Quick Search]
Try to locate partition
```

earlier) type 'ntfs-3g /dev/sdb1 /mnt/ntfs' to solidify the link between the two locations, and bear in mind that you will need the backup drive to be in good working order, too – if ntfs-3g detects bad sectors or NTFS errors, it forces it into read-only mode. Now it's time to fire up Photorec. Do that by typing 'photorec' at the prompt.

FILE RECOVERY

This is the real meat of file recovery. Photorec uses technical knowledge of partition anatomy and the exact bytes that make up certain file types to skim through your drives and automatically pull off corrupted or lost files. And while its interface is incredibly ugly, it's the most effective tool going. Once you've started it up, pick your affected drive (Photorec only works in read-only mode, so it's safe), choose the partition that you noted earlier, and select Search. Photorec asks for a location to save its restored files to – navigate through the Linux file tree to find the mount point we made earlier, and pick a folder on your drive if you have one prepared. Hit [C] when you're done. Photorec now sifts through your drive looking for broken, deleted, or incomplete files, and does its best to recover them fully – grab a cold one, because this is going to take a while. All being well, you should have the majority, if not all, of your stuff back at this point.

There are simpler ways to get the job done. You're welcome to stick within Windows and try running the portable version of Piriform's Recuva from a USB stick (www.piriform.com/recuva/builds), which offers a pretty interface and the option to select precisely what you've lost, rather than just batch-copying everything, but it's more limited to inadvertently deleted files, and isn't particularly helpful if you have an



"Photorec uses technical knowledge of partition anatomy and the exact bytes that make up certain file types"

ongoing malware issue. There are also overkill methods – for instance, you could, at the other end of the spectrum, use partimage (included with System Rescue CD) to pull off a full bit-for-bit copy of your affected drive, preserving it for later forensic analysis. Check the guide at www.partimage.org/Main_Page to see how it's done – you can compress the image as it goes, fitting it on to a smaller drive than the source, and later restore it if you suspect hardware failure.

System Rescue CD has one more niche use, too. If Windows itself has given up the ghost, and is blocking your access to your otherwise perfectly stored files, you can mount both your original and backup drives, and copy them off directly.

Alternatively, and this may be a slightly more comfortable option, you could boot up another Linux live distro – the likes of Ubuntu, for example – and manually back up your drives using a graphical interface instead.





WHAT ABOUT RAID DRIVES?

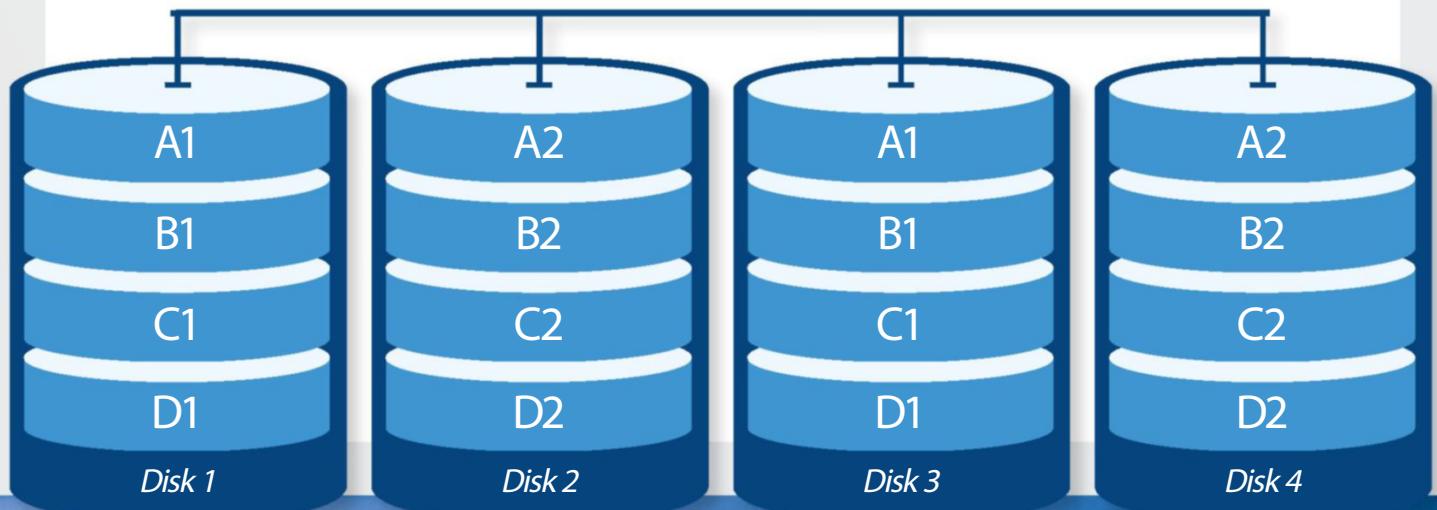
formation, for example, and you're asking for trouble – yes, you'll have some of the fastest storage going, but if one of your drives goes down, you're stuck. There are various options that claim to be able to recover files from RAIDs 0,

RAID 1 and similar mirrored configurations positively aid in data recovery; if one of your drives goes down, you may need to invest time and money in remirroring with a new drive, but failure is going to come from your own hand

introduces is the controller itself. If whatever's managing your RAID configuration – your NAS, your main computer, or specialist RAID hardware – goes bad, it could throw your drives into a position where recovering

no guarantee of success.

We don't have an answer for the irony of RAID being safer *and* more dangerous than storing on a single drive, other than to suggest you keep stringent backups away from your regular hardware.



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THE BEST **FREE SOFTWARE** FOR YOUR NEW PC

Save your cash by kitting out your new Windows PC with all the essential software it needs completely free



When you buy or build a new PC, your initial delight may be replaced by nagging anxiety as you mentally tot up the cost of equipping it with all the software that you need – from office and productivity programs, to anti-virus and photo apps.

New PCs don't come cheap, and you might find yourself having to re-feed your exhausted credit card and await a bank statement that runs to five extra pages, but don't worry – over the next three pages you'll find a list of essential software that will fulfil your every need completely free.

EASEUS TODO BACKUP FREE

Backup

Hopefully your new PC won't fall victim to an accident or hard drive failure any time soon, but it only takes one carelessly placed cup of mulled wine to cause irreparable damage. Viruses and malware can also destroy your files, or render them irretrievable unless you open your wallet in the case of ransomware.

The only defence against such misfortune, of course, is a good backup routine, and EaseUS Todo Backup Free is a brilliant free program that makes the potentially dreary – but essential – task of backing up your files incredibly straightforward.

It lets you back up your entire system or a selection of your most important files, and its clever scheduling makes sure backups happen at times that won't inconvenience you.

EaseUS Todo Backup Free even includes compensatory measures if a backup is missed for any reason (if your PC is switched off, for example), and can shut it down automatically once it's finished. Get into good habits and install this free backup software on your new PC now.

<http://bit.ly/2mmk808>

Disk/Partition Clone

Source: Disk 0 (C; H; I; D; E)

Hard disk 0 (465.76 GB, Basic, MBR)

C: (NTFS)

49.62 GB free of 100.01 GB

I: (NTFS)

47.79 GB free of 98.11 GB

E: (NTFS)

67.36 GB free of 93.07 GB



CHROME

General web browser

New Windows PCs come with Microsoft Edge installed as the default browser. It's fast, integrates fully with Windows 10 (including Cortana), and is pleasant to use. It also supports extensions, but if flexibility is your main priority then you'll want to consider an alternative.

Google Chrome supports hundreds of plug-ins, and is the natural choice if you're already invested in the Google ecosystem through its web apps or

an Android smartphone. If you've been using Chrome on your old machine, all your bookmarks, cached logins, extensions and browser history will be synced automatically when you log in on your new one.

It's incredibly convenient, and a great browser for your new PC if you don't mind the search giant having so much control over your online life.

<http://bit.ly/2mJyaLK>

WPS OFFICE FREE

Office suite

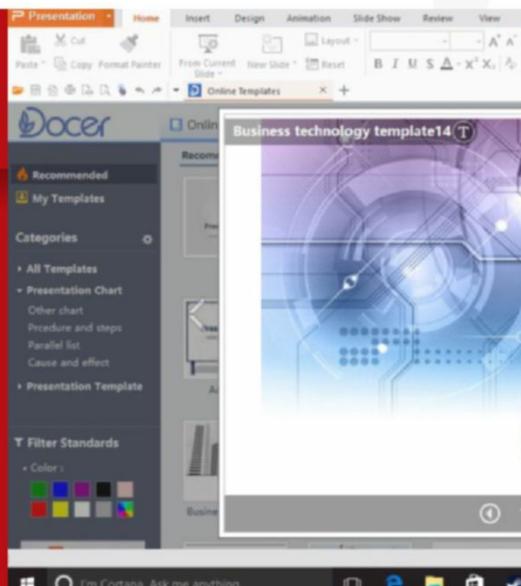
If your new Windows PC comes with Microsoft Office (or an Office 360 subscription) then you're off to a flying start, but don't worry if not – there are lots of free alternatives.

WPS Office Free has overtaken LibreOffice as our pick for the best free office software thanks to a recent change in its revenue model – it's no longer packaged with potentially unwanted extra software – and the 2016 version has a user interface that bears a comforting similarity to the

latest versions of Microsoft Office, even down to the way the toolbars are arranged in its Presentation, Writer and Spreadsheet apps.

As well as superb tools for creating and editing almost any kind of document, WPS Office Free includes a PDF to Word converter. You can find out how this works in our tutorial on page 36. The suite is also compatible with a wide range of file formats.

<http://bit.ly/2mJTssH>



TOR BROWSER

Secure web browser

If security is the name of the game, consider installing the Tor Browser on your new PC. This is a modified version of Firefox that helps protect your identity and personal details by redirecting web traffic through a series of encrypted nodes scattered around different locations throughout the world. This stops your activity being monitored, prevents information like bank details being intercepted, and conceals your location.

<http://bit.ly/2mJOGls>



GIMP

Photo editor

Whether it's something as simple as resizing a picture ready to share on social media, or a complex task – such as restoring a creased and faded photo – GIMP (or GNU Image Manipulation Program) is the best free image-editing software for your PC.

GIMP's slightly unusual interface takes a little getting used to, but it's

AVIRA FREE ANTIVIRUS

Anti-virus

Windows 10 comes with its own security software in the form of Windows Defender. It's a capable program, but not without a few limitations. Perhaps the most important of these is its sheer popularity; if nobody opts for a third-party program and Windows Defender gains a monopoly on the anti-virus market, it will become the number one target for criminals, putting millions of people at increased risk. It's also lighter on features than many other free

anti-virus suites, including our preferred option – Avira Free Antivirus.

Avira Free Antivirus achieves superb results in independent tests, it's unobtrusive, makes modest use of your new PC's RAM and processor time, and comes with optional extras – such as a secure browser – if you want them. It's the best free software for securing your new PC from the latest threats.

<http://bit.ly/2mJle7K>

Free Antivirus



VLC MEDIA PLAYER

Media player

easily as powerful as many paid-for photo editors. It includes advanced tools for editing curves, white balance and colour temperature, a healing brush, various filters that enhance pictures with a single click, and an array of user-created plug-ins.

<http://bit.ly/2mJDzT2>

VLC MEDIA PLAYER

Media player

Windows 10's media software is perfectly serviceable, but why settle for that when you can have superb?

VLC Media Player is most powerful and flexible free program of its type. It can handle media from just about any source, and any format without additional codecs, and can convert between formats with a few clicks.

VLC Media Player also gives you granular control over video and audio playback, with customisable settings and filters. It supports plug-ins too, and integrates flawlessly with your web browser and operating system. Once you've tried it, you'll never go back.

<http://bit.ly/dqn7vT>



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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

Applications

CAN'T CONNECT BLOG TO OPEN LIVE WRITER

I've been looking for a decent blogging tool and was initially thrilled to read your tutorial on Open Live Writer. The problem is, I can't connect it to my WordPress blog – even though I've entered the correct user credentials it refuses to grant me access. Do you have any ideas on what's going on?

John Purdey



Nick P's solution

It sounds like you have two-step verification enabled on your blog – this is a great security measure to take, but can cause issues with third-party apps, including Open Live Writer. Thankfully the solution is relatively straightforward: create a one-time app password in your blog account and use that to sign into it in Open Live Writer. WordPress users should log into

their blog online, select Users > 2-Step Verification in the navigation menu and click None next to App passwords. Type 'Open Live Writer' into the box and click Generate, then use the password generated to log into your account.

ReadyBoost

FLASH DRIVE QUERIES

My laptop is currently running Windows 7 Home Premium 32-bit, and I plan to buy two USB flash drives to provide ReadyBoost capabilities. Is it true that I can add up to 256GB of flash memory over eight different devices, and when prompted should I choose 'dedicate' or 'use' this device for ReadyBoost to work?

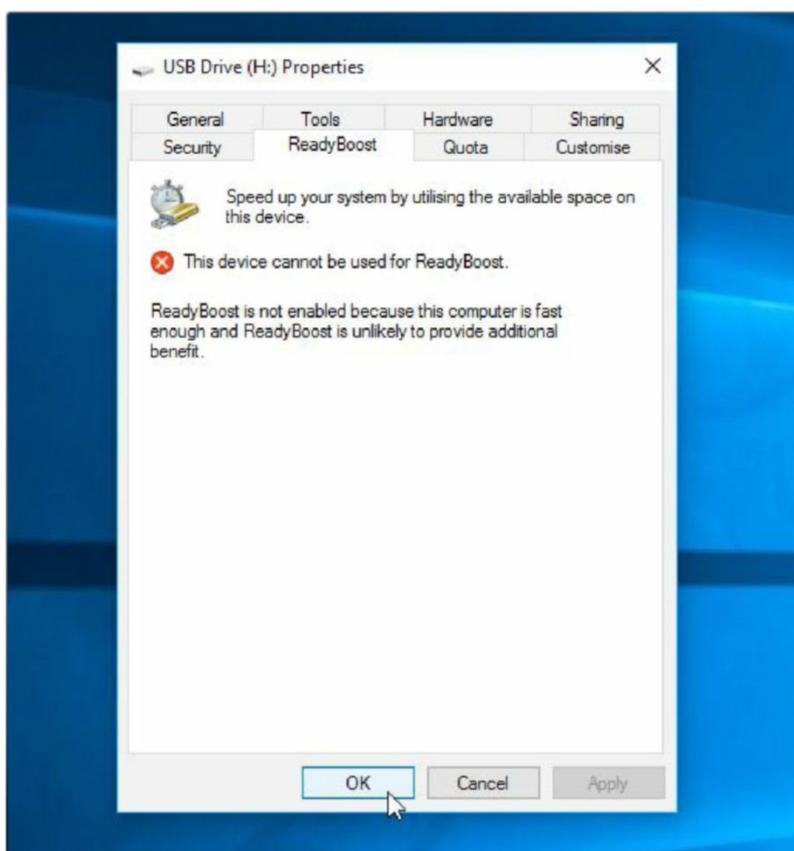
Peter Claxton

Alex's solution

ReadyBoost is a good choice for a 32-bit laptop such as yours, Peter – you'll notice it may help to reduce loading times for larger applications. Note, however, that you can't assign more than 4GB of

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the 'Wordpress 2-step verification' page from the URL www.nickpeers.com/wp-admin/users.php. The page shows a sidebar with various WordPress menu items like Dashboard, Posts, Media, etc. The main content area has a heading 'Wordpress 2-step verification' and a sub-section 'App passwords'. It explains that app passwords are used for apps like WordPress on mobile devices. Below this, there's a message 'You have no app passwords.' followed by a text input field containing 'Open Live Writer' and a blue 'GENERATE' button.

APP PASSWORDS
Some apps require
special passwords
in order to bypass
2-step verification.



flash drive storage to ReadyBoost in 32-bit versions of Windows. The 256GB figure you mention refers to 64-bit versions of Windows, where it can be spread across eight devices (each carrying a maximum of 32GB for ReadyBoost). Therefore, unless the flash drive is 4GB or less, we'd suggest that you select the 'use' option when prompted, so you can continue to use the spare capacity for other purposes. Finally, while ReadyBoost can help boost performance even on laptops with 4GB of RAM installed, it's no substitution for doubling your RAM if possible. We'd also suggest that you swap your laptop's existing hard disk for a solid state drive (SSD). This will boost your laptop's performance far more than ReadyBoost can, rendering the feature obsolete.

Applications **WINDOWS 10'S CAMERA APP WON'T OPEN**

Q I have a Microsoft Surface Pro 3 running Windows 10. My problem is that whenever I attempt to take a photo using the tablet's Camera app, I receive the following error message: 'Sorry we weren't able to save the photo. If you need it, here's the error code: 0XA00F424F (0X8004001)'. Can you help identify and solve this problem for me please?
D Ogletree



Cat's solution

This sounds like there's a permissions issue with the folder that you're trying to save the photos to.

The Camera app saves to a Camera Roll folder inside your personal Pictures folder, so start by opening File Explorer and clicking the Pictures link in the left pane. It should open to reveal the Camera Roll folder inside (if it's not present, create a new folder and name it Camera Roll, which should resolve the problem). If it is there, right-click the folder, choose Properties and then switch to the Security tab.

Select your username from the list of users and you should see it doesn't currently have full control of the folder. Click Edit, select your username again and then tick the Full Control box. Click Apply followed by OK twice, then try the Camera app again – you should now find that it will work correctly.

Windows

UNINSTALL A STUBBORN WINDOWS 10 PROGRAM

Q I recently installed a program and now I find that my Windows 10 PC has slowed to a crawl. The app is obviously to blame, but how am I supposed to remove it when everything keeps hanging and crashing all the time? Can you help?
Eddie Oswald

READYBOOST
SSD drives are fast enough to deal with all of your virtual memory needs
– ReadyBoost not required.

Quickfire questions

What free software should I use to check my PC's hard disk drive and rectify any problems?
Paul Cornell

Use the built-in Chkdsk tool via the Command prompt. To check your drive's physical health, use Speccy (www.piriform.com/speccy).

I've been told that I can use my PC's DVD drive to install software on my Mac mini. What do I need to do that?
Nick Linnell

Go to <https://support.apple.com/kb/DL113> and download and install the DVD Sharing software on your Windows PC. It'll work with any Mac over your network.

"Click Edit, select your username again and tick the Full Control box"

Jargon buster!

► ReadyBoost

A special cache stored on USB flash drives that enables Windows to speed up random disk reads of smaller files.

► Cache

A folder where frequently read data is stored – to provide offline access or speed up access to the data, for example.

Startup Settings

Press a number to choose from the options below:

Use number keys or functions keys F1-F9.

- 1) Enable debugging
- 2) Enable boot logging
- 3) Enable low-resolution video
- 4) Enable Safe Mode
- 5) Enable Safe Mode with Networking
- 6) Enable Safe Mode with Command Prompt
- 7) Disable driver signature enforcement
- 8) Disable early launch anti-malware protection
- 9) Disable automatic restart after failure

Press F10 for more options

Press Enter to return to your operating system

Quickfire questions

I accidentally mistyped my administrator password three times, and now I've been told that 'the referenced account is currently locked out and may not be logged on to.' How do I make the account available, so I can log in again?

Sally Fraser

The default lock-out time is around 15-30 minutes. If you wait long enough, you should get another opportunity to enter the password.

I want to follow issue 131's tutorial on creating portable programs using the Cameyo app, but when I visit www.cameyo.com the website is blocked by Norton.

Lou Sturgeon

It's a false positive – click the 'visit this web page anyway' link to bypass Norton's misdiagnosis. Ironically, once you download the program to your computer, Norton will rate it as completely safe.

Is there a way for me to convert a 64GB NTFS flash drive to FAT32 without losing all of the data on it?

Emile Perogni

Easy. You need to download and install the AOMEI Partition Assistant Standard Edition (www.disk-partition.com/free-partition-manager.html). Once done, open AOMEI and click the NTFS to FAT32 Converter. Now follow the steps in the wizard that appears to convert your NTFS flash drive back to FAT32.

THE MICROSOFT MAPS APP WON'T LAUNCH

Q My Microsoft Maps app has stopped working. I ran a troubleshooter that indicates the Maps' cache is corrupt. Please help!

Alan Orrell

Nick O's solution

The Offline Maps cache is the culprit here, and there are three main areas you can investigate in order to try and resolve the problem: Settings, the cache folder and finally the Registry. Read on to find out how to investigate further.



Mayank's solution

If you can get into Windows 10, click Start and hold [Shift] as you select Restart. When the 'Choose an option' screen appears, choose Troubleshoot > Advanced Options > Startup Settings and click Restart. When the boot menu appears, press [5] to launch Windows in Safe mode, then remove the troublesome program in the usual way via Start > Settings > System > 'Apps & features'. Once removed, restart your PC and it'll boot back into normal mode, with your problem hopefully rectified.

Windows

PERFORM A CLEAN INSTALL OF WINDOWS ON A LENOVO LAPTOP

Q My Lenovo laptop came with Windows 8 pre-installed, and while I've upgraded to Windows 10, the OEM diagnostic software operates as if Windows 8 is still

VERIFY EMAIL CERTIFICATE
If you're happy with the certificate in eM Client, tick the 'Don't ask me again' box to stop it popping up.

installed. I want to perform a clean install of Windows 10, but it's my understanding that because the laptop has UEFI rather than a standard BIOS, it requires the OEM partitions to boot. Is there a way around this restriction?

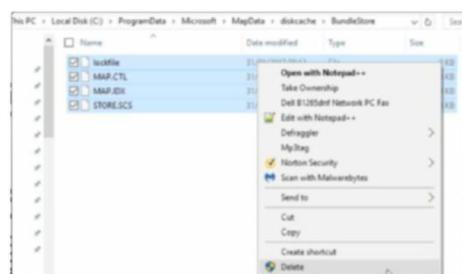
Gerald Gibson



Matt's solution

Gerald had read a couple of forum posts that intimated that the UEFI resides on the hard disk drive, but the good news is that this isn't true – like older BIOSes, the UEFI (or Unified Extensible Firmware Interface) resides on a chip on the laptop's motherboard. There's no need to worry about preserving the OEM partition, so you can happily wipe it without rendering your laptop unusable.

To give yourself a fall-back in case anything goes wrong, we strongly advise taking a full system image of the drive before you begin. We recommend Macrium Reflect Free



1 Check offline maps

Click Start > Settings > System and then select 'Offline maps' from the left pane. If you're able to, try clicking the 'Delete all maps' option or changing the storage location to see if that is able to resolve the problem with Maps.

2 Empty cache manually

If that doesn't work (or the 'Offline maps' page loading gets stuck), browse to the following folder and delete all of its contents: C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\MapData\diskcache\BundleStore. Try Maps again. With a little luck it should work this time.



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
Or write to the support team via snail mail. The postal address is:
Support Squad,
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Future Publishing Ltd,
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(www.macrium.com/reflectfree.aspx) – don't forget to create bootable recovery media too.

Once done, boot from your Windows 10 installation media, skip the prompt for a product key and choose Custom. When you come to select the drive to install Windows 10 on, delete all existing partitions to leave a completely empty drive, click Next and Windows should automatically create three partitions as part of the install process, including partitions for boot and recovery.

Email **VERIFY CERTIFICATE PROMPT IN eM CLIENT**

Q I followed your advice about switching my email to eM Client, and while I can both send and receive email through it, I get a message about eM Client not being able to verify the identity of imap.lineone.net. It says that it doesn't match the name specified in the certificate. If I click Connect all is fine, but the certificate pops up again the next time I send mail. Colin Travis



Alex's solution

The certificate pointed to Talk Talk, and listed imap.tiscali.co.uk as the host (Lineone folded into Tiscali, which folded into Talk Talk in turn, so it's legitimate). Colin tried the Tiscali settings as the outgoing mail server, and while it worked fine, the Verify Certificate pop-up continued to appear. Clicking Show Certificate provided a prompt to install the certificate, but clicking this made no difference. However, there was a 'Don't ask me again' box too – Colin duly ticked this followed by Connect, and now the prompt to verify the Lineone certificate no longer appears.

Applications **EXPAND CCLEANER'S CAPABILITIES**

Q I've been using CCleaner to keep my program settings clean following your advice in issue 132's lead feature, but there are lots of applications it doesn't support. I've discovered it's possible to add in new rules and definitions for the program via something called winapp2.ini, but don't understand how it works. Can you help, please? Shirley Canham



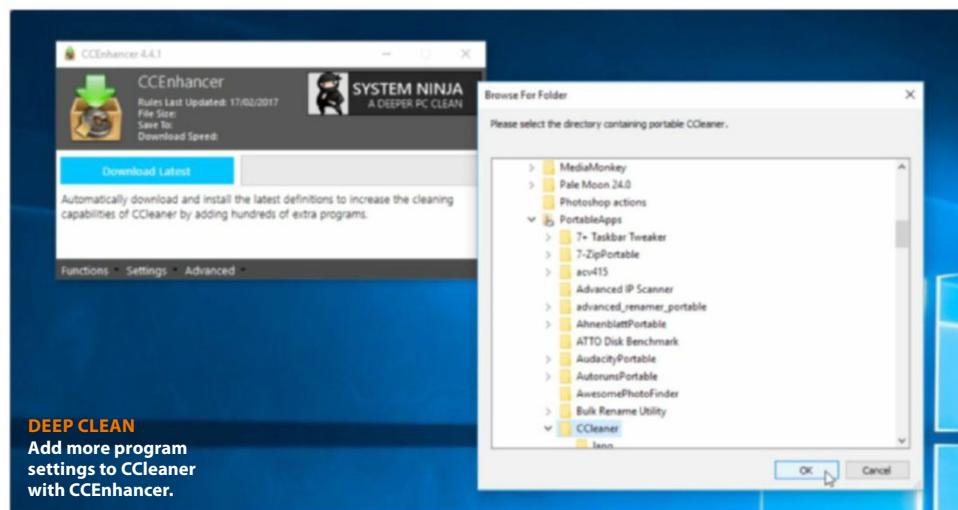
Cat's solution

If you go to <https://singularlabs.com/software/ccenhancer/> you'll find a program called CCEnhancer, which makes it easy to add in support for over 1,000 additional programs as added by

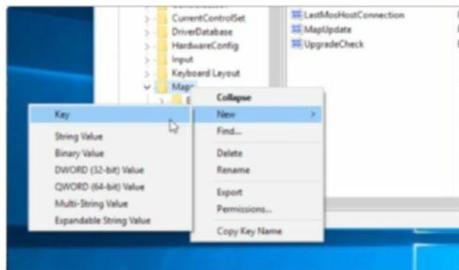
the CCleaner community of users. They're not supported, so you use them at your own risk, but if you follow the precautions in the lead feature from issue 132, you'll be able to see exactly what gets cleaned before committing to it.

Simply download and run CCEnhancer – start by choosing Settings > 'Trim definition file to improve performance' and clicking Save. If you've installed CCleaner then simply click Download Latest to download and add the latest definitions to CCleaner, where they will appear in the Cleaner section of the application, and marked with an asterisk to show they're new.

If you've set up a portable CCleaner installation, use Functions > Add Portable Location to point to its parent folder before clicking Download Latest. ■

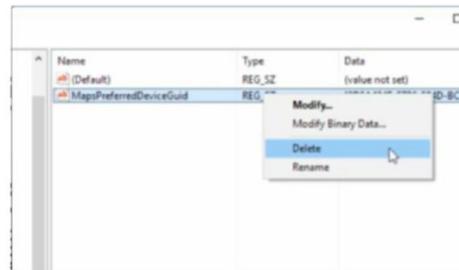


"If you set up a portable CCleaner installation, use Functions > Add Portable Location to point to its parent folder"



3 Check Registry

Still no joy? Press [Win] + [R], type 'regedit' and hit [Enter]. Browse to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Maps. Look for a Storage key – if it doesn't exist then right-click Maps and choose New > Key. Name it 'Storage' to create it.



4 Reset default storage

If the key already exists, look for a MapsPreferredDeviceGuid value in the right pane. Right-click this and then choose Delete to remove it and reset the offline maps cache back to its default location on your C drive. The Maps app should now work correctly.

Jargon buster!

► False positive

The term used to describe a piece of software or a website that has been incorrectly identified as a threat by security software.

► Safe mode

A cut-down version of Windows that can be used for troubleshooting purposes – it essentially bypasses all start-up programs and only loads a basic set of drivers to avoid system conflicts.

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Welcome to... Windows 10

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

Welcome



Just starting your Windows journey? Confused by the changes Microsoft has made to the

Anniversary update? Or maybe you just want to learn something new about Windows 10. Well, this is the section for you!

There's not enough space to tell you absolutely everything you need to know here, but *Windows Help & Advice* always has your back. In this month's Basics section, we'll show you how to make the most of the Anniversary Update changes in Windows 10 and pick the best anti-virus software to help you stay safe, both online and off.

Matt Hanson
Associate Editor

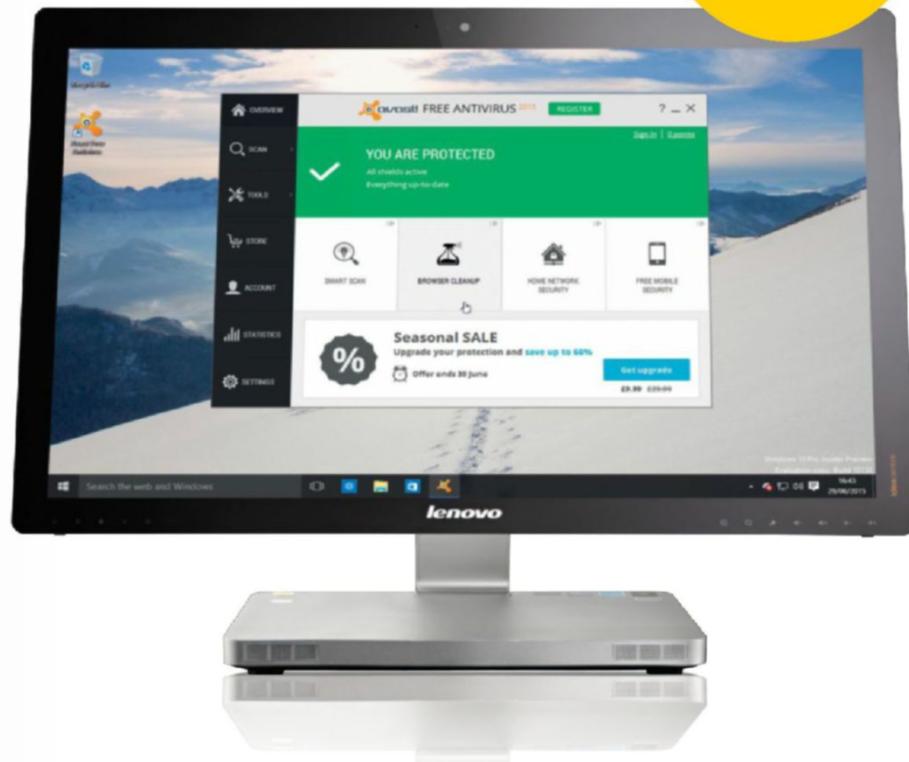
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Featuring...

78 How to get started with Windows 10

81 Avoid viruses and malware for free

TURN TO
PAGE 46 TO
FIND OUT HOW
TO MASTER
WINDOWS
UPDATES



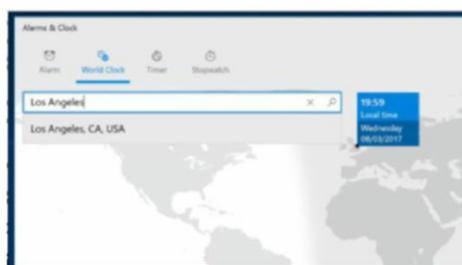
Windows 10 tip of the month

Tell the time using Windows' World Clock

Check the time using Alarms & Clock

If you have friends and family overseas, using your PC to stay in touch with them by email, social media or Skype is easy – but how can you be sure that you're contacting them at the right time? After all, no-one wants a Skype call when they're trying to catch some zeds.

You can quickly see what the time is anywhere on the planet by clicking on Alarms & Clocks from the Start Menu, then heading to the World Clock tab.



ADD A LOCATION Click the '+' at the bottom right of the window, then type a location to add it to the map.



TELL THE TIME Every place you add will display its local time. The 'dark' part of the map shows where it's night.



Learn how to...

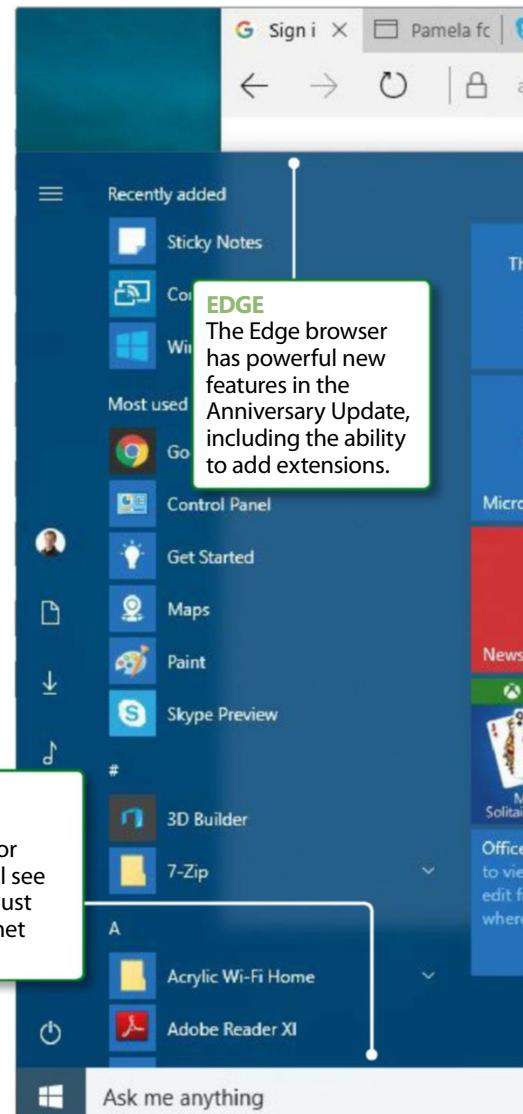
Get started with Windows 10

Now you have the Windows 10 Anniversary Update installed, let's see what it can do

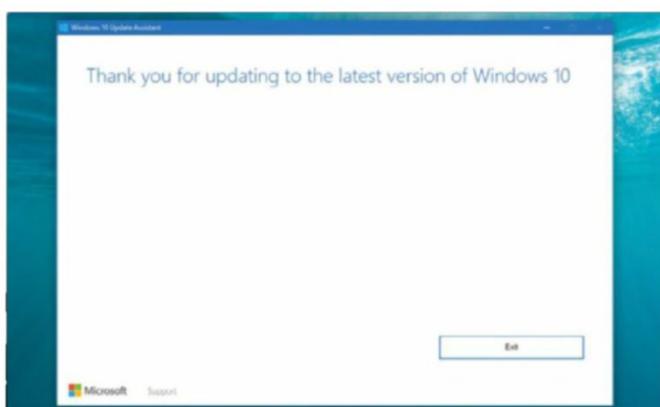
TIME TAKEN
20 minutes

When getting to grips with a new computer or operating system, the best approach is to dive right into as many of the settings as you can – personalising the system, desktop and programs for the tasks you perform the most. And here, we'll show you how to do just that with the amazing Windows 10 Anniversary Update.

There have been a lot of little changes to Windows, especially in the Settings app, and we're going to show you how to do the most common things you'll want to do in this latest update. So, without further ado, let's get started!

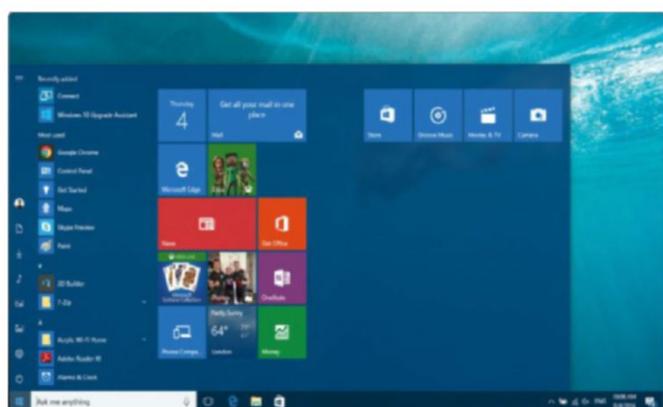


Get started with Windows 10



1 The Anniversary Update

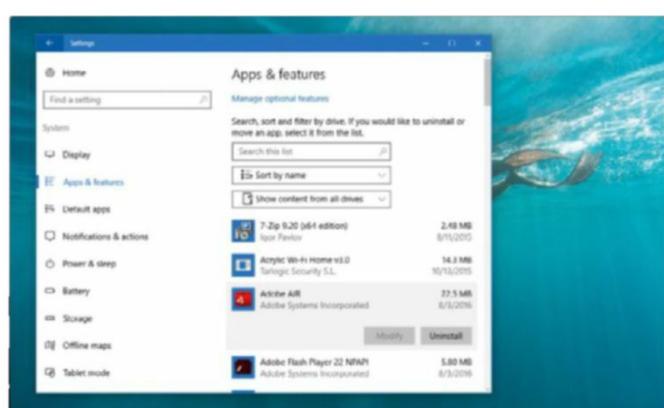
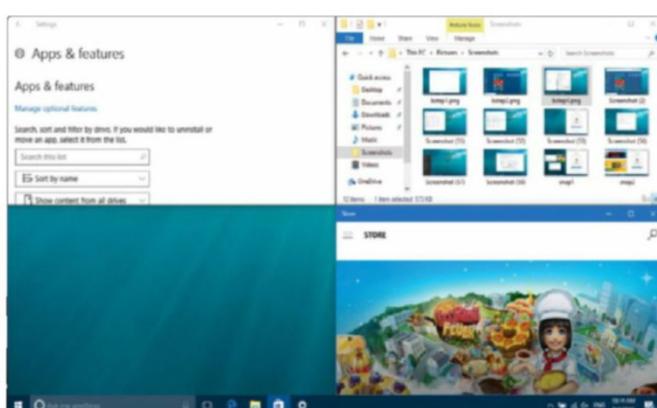
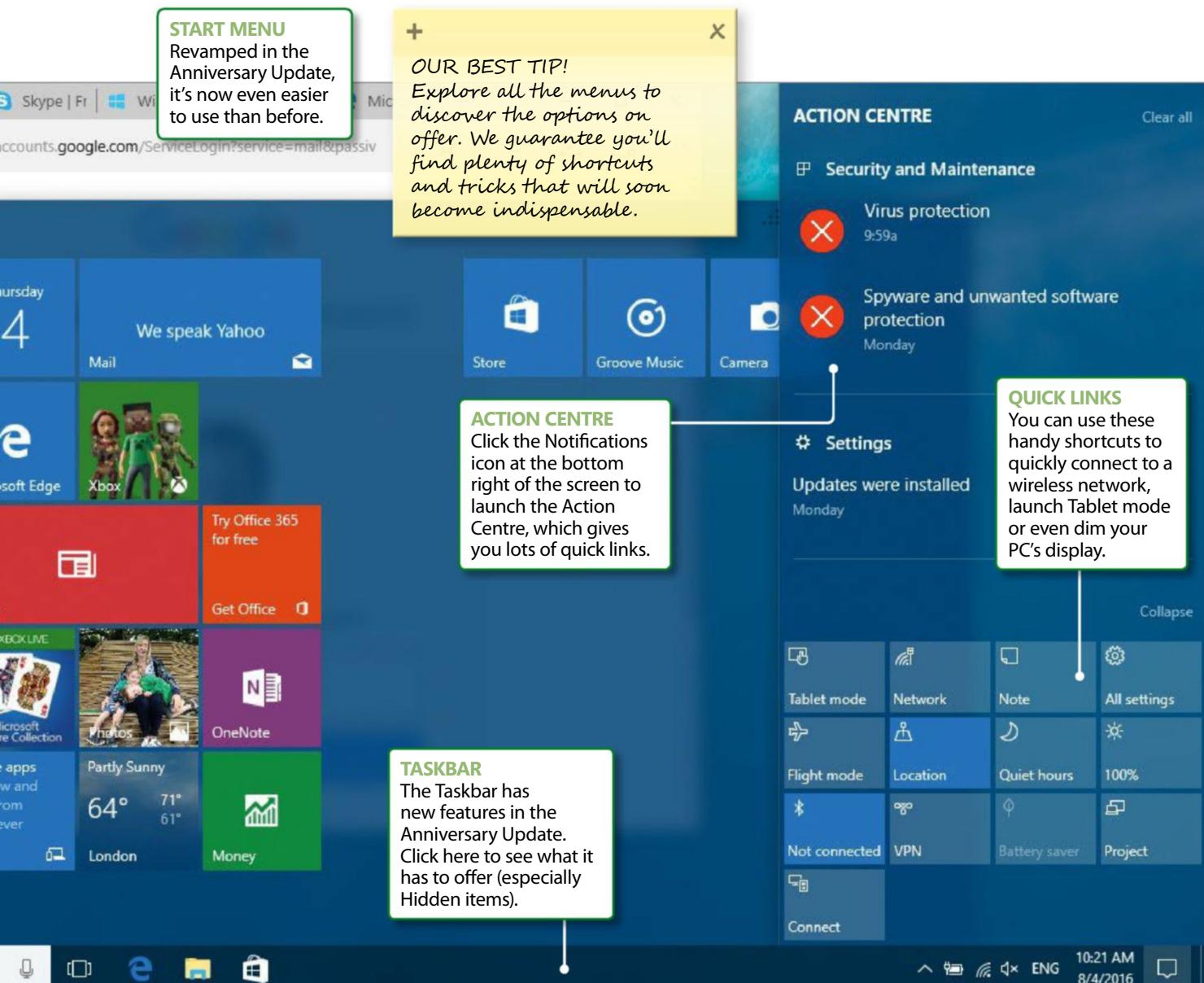
Get the Anniversary Update via the standard 'Check for Updates' box in the Settings app. The quickest way to get here is to just click in the Cortana search box and type 'Updates'. The installation takes a long time to download, but, once it has, there are only a few simple questions to answer and you're good to go. Don't worry, all your settings and data will be preserved.



2 New Start menu

Open the Start menu and you'll notice that it has a different layout to the previous one in Windows 10. On the left the 'Recently added', 'Most used' and alphabetical list of apps now dominate the menu, while the right side contains the tiles that you're used to. Hopefully, this new layout will make it easier to get to whatever app you want to use.

Welcome to Windows Anniversary Update

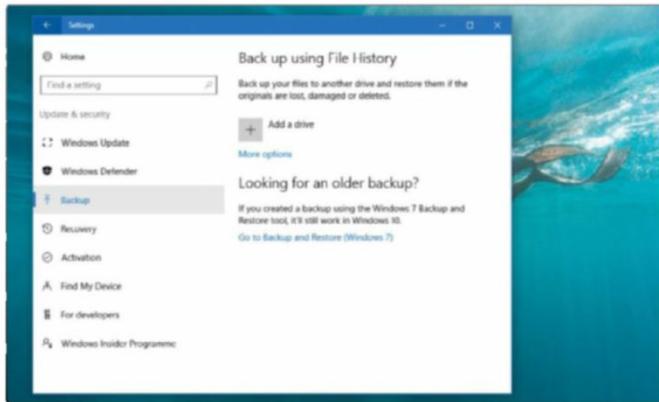


3 Aero Snap in Windows 10

Snapping programs to the sides of the screen was a feature introduced in Windows 7. In Windows 10 you can now snap applications to each corner, as well as to the sides, by left clicking and dragging the top bar directly into a corner. You will also see a visual representation of how much screen space the app will take up. This makes it much easier to multitask.

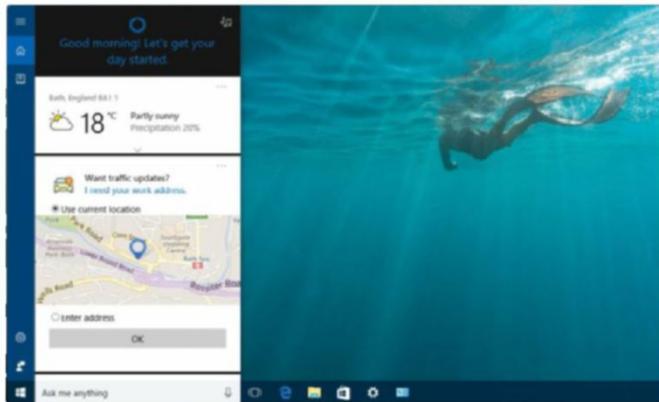
4 Uninstall programs

Uninstalling old and unused programs can be useful for freeing up storage space on your PC. You'll also notice your start-up times become speedier if you declutter. To do this, click Settings in the Start Menu, select System then on the left tab select 'Apps & features'. Here you can remove apps by selecting them and then selecting Uninstall.



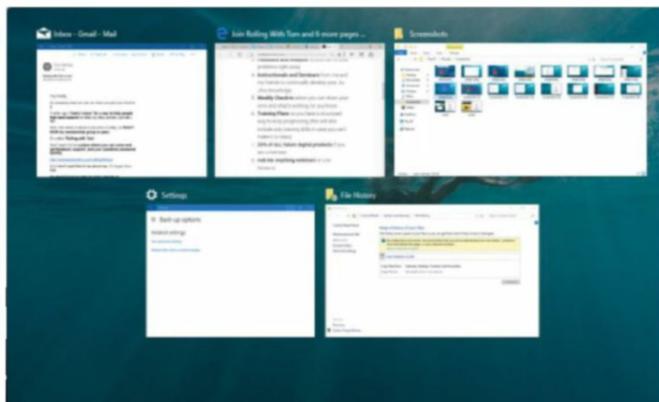
5 Create a secure backup

You'll need around 120GB of excess storage in a separate partition or drive to create a secure backup of your PC's OS and documents every week. Go to Settings > Update & Security, then click on Backup in the left window. Click on the '+' button and select the partition or drive you wish to use. Once done select 'more options', then 'See advanced settings'.



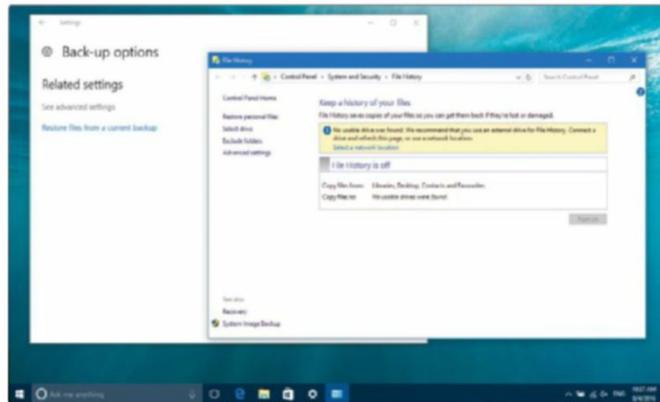
7 Cortana on call

If you're signed into your Microsoft account you can use Windows' virtual personal assistant, Cortana, for many things from searching the internet, to setting calendar reminders or getting traffic alerts. To get going, make sure your computer's microphone is enabled and then just say "Hey Cortana" or type into the search bar at the bottom left of your screen.



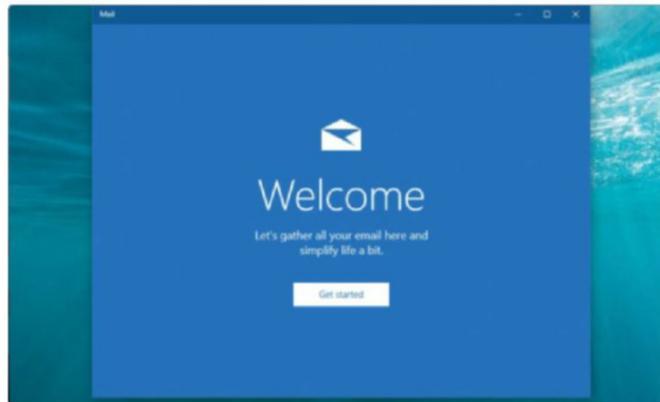
9 Multi-App view

Another neat feature is the ability to swap between many apps at any time. Just press 'Task view', the button to the right of the Cortana bar near the Start menu. This enables you to quickly switch between open applications (including minimised ones) without having to trawl through the icons on your task bar, making it much easier to find programs.



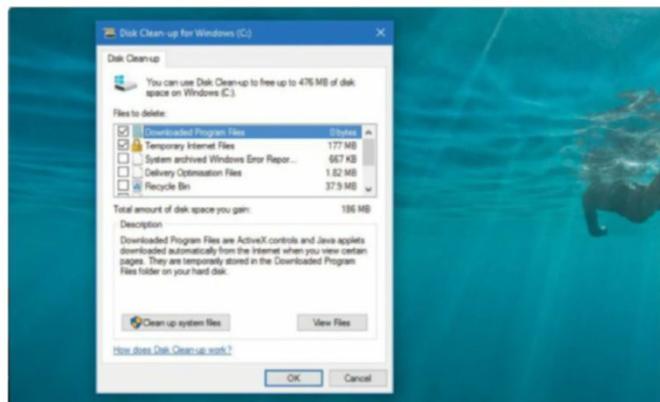
6 Finish the backup

Now click System Image Backup in the bottom left corner of the screen, and click 'Set up Back-up' on the right side of the screen. Highlight the drive you want to use for your backup and click Next, then Let Windows Choose. Hit Next again. You can now set up the schedule for when Windows performs the backup and press 'Save settings and run backup'.



8 Organise mail accounts into one

Keeping all email accounts in one place was a handy feature introduced in older versions of Windows 8. However, the Mail app that replaced Outlook has much increased functionality. Click on the Mail icon in your Start menu, select 'Add account', select your email service and fill in the details. You can now select Done and all your emails will be in one place.



10 Free up space

Windows actually has a built-in method for freeing up disk space, using an app called Disk Clean-up. Type 'Disk Clean-up' into the Cortana search bar and you'll find it. Once the app has looked at your system it shows you how many files you can safely delete and how much space that will save you. Try it today, and free up some space! ■



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) 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 will identify 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.

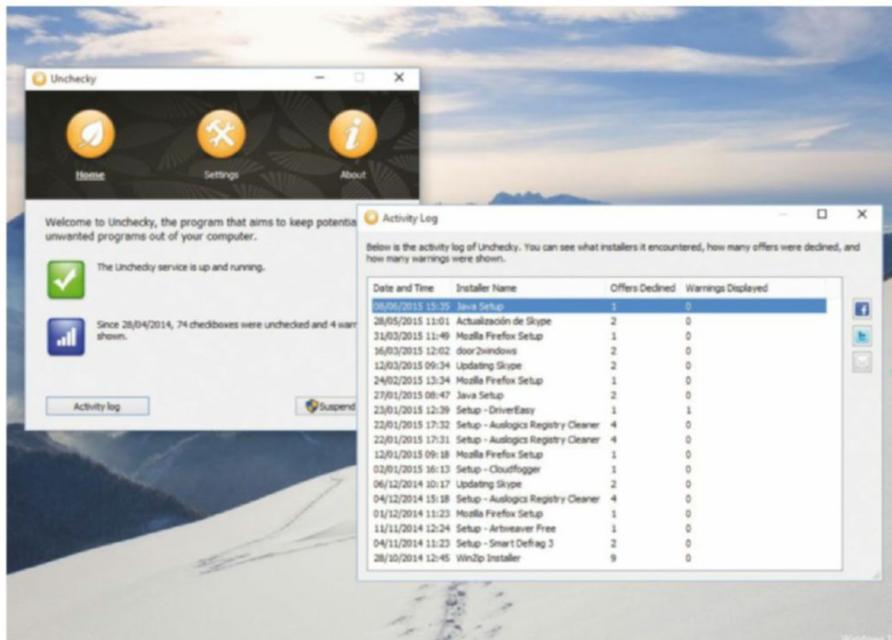
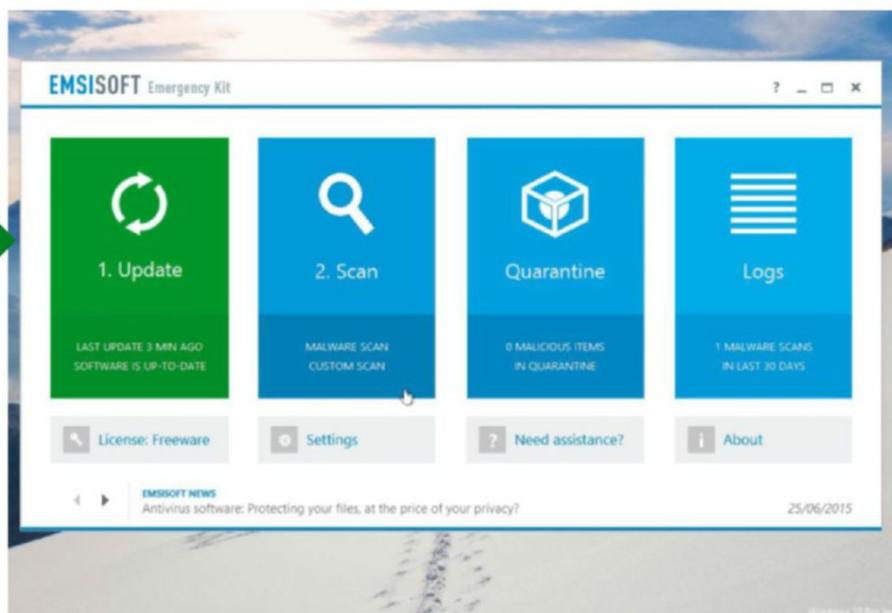


Comodo Internet Security Premium

If you're looking for combined anti-virus and firewall protection, then Comodo Internet Security (www.comodo.com) 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 – so if they turn out to be 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/) 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.

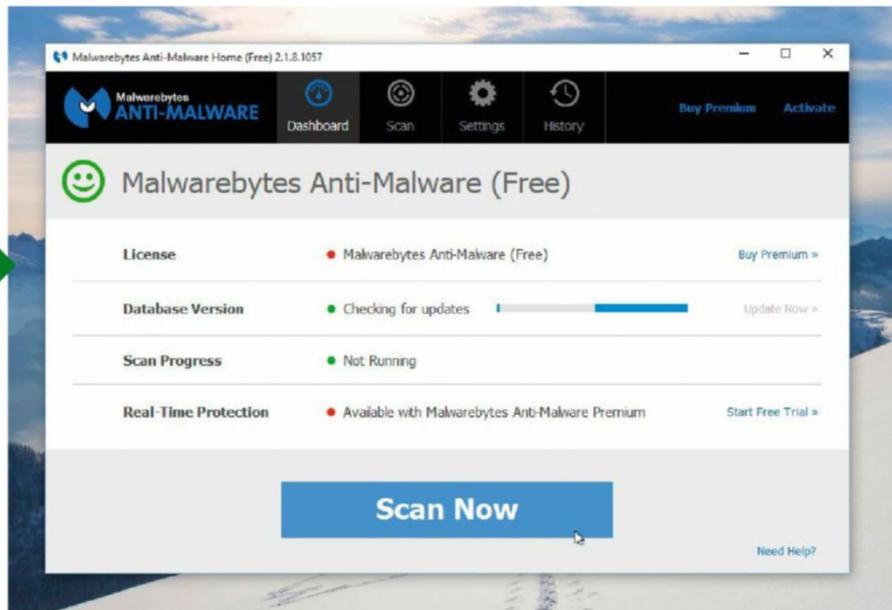


Unchecky

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) 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.

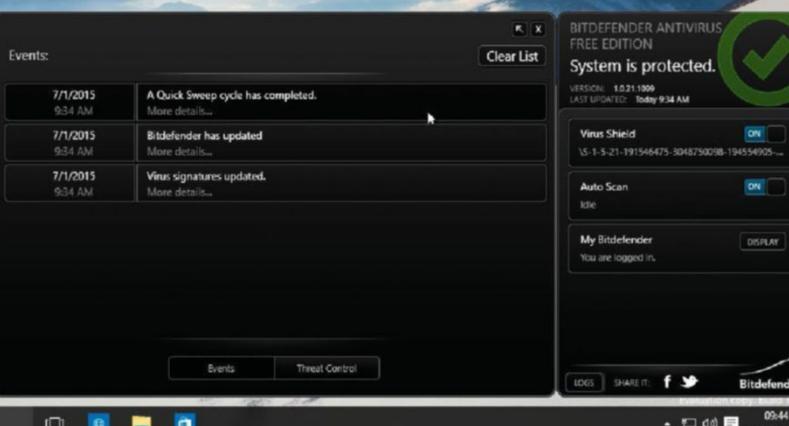
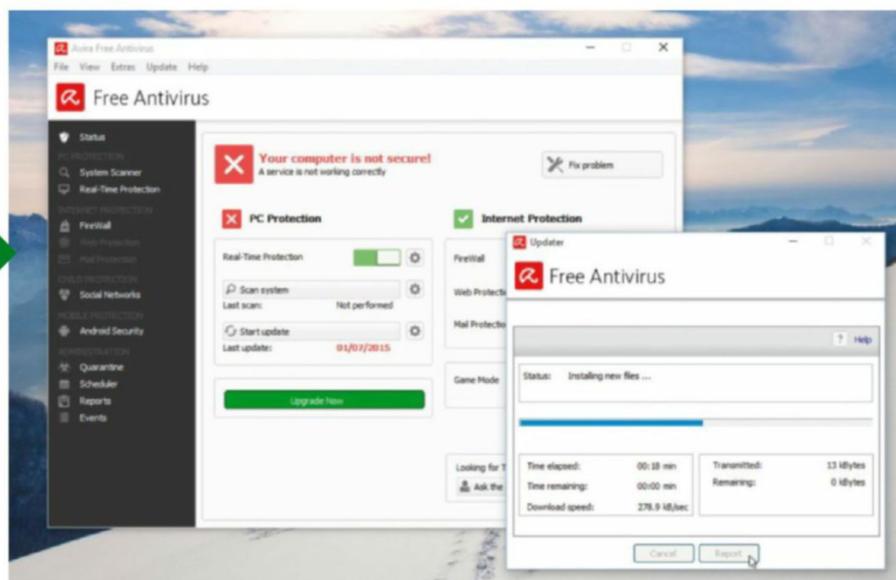
Malwarebytes Anti-Malware Free

If you think your PC might have been infected but your regular antivirus tool seems oblivious to the fact, grab Malwarebytes Anti-Malware Free from www.malwarebytes.com. It's an excellent on-demand scanner, which can quickly find and remove all kinds of threats, including Potentially Unwanted Programs (or PUPs). It's ideal for any PC user: beginners won't have trouble using it – simply launch the program, click Scan and it immediately checks your system. Experienced users will appreciate additional tools, which help you launch Malwarebytes on an infected PC to delete locked files.



Avira Free Antivirus

Avira Free Antivirus (downloadable from www.avira.com/en/avira-free-antivirus) provides two main areas of protection. The first is a strong anti-virus 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. 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 (<http://free.avg.com>) is a solid package with a good range of features: an anti-virus 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. ■



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Upgrade

► NEW HARDWARE ► ESSENTIAL ACCESSORIES ► LATEST GADGETS

Welcome



Whether you want to express yourself with a blog, show off your photos or create a portal for your business, building your own website is a very satisfying thing to do.

In this issue we're going to look at four different web building apps that can help you achieve that goal – and see which one is the easiest and most powerful to use. We also take a look at HP's big and beautiful Spectre x360 15 4-in-1 laptop; listen into the BeatsX wireless earphones; and see if a tiny short-throw projector from LG can satisfy your home cinema cravings.

Nick Odantzis Deputy Editor
windowsmagazine@futurenet.com

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.

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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.

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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

This issue's highlights



86 HP Spectre x360 15

Find out why this big, bold and beautiful laptop should be your PC wish list



88 BeatsX Wireless Earphones

Are these the best-sounding Beats by Dre has ever made? On this evidence, yes...



90 LG Minibeam PH450UG

An ultra-compact short-throw projector that's ideal for your home – and wallet



95 Free web builders on test

Create a website the easy way with our pick of the best CMS and HTML editors



HP Spectre x360 15

£1,499 | \$1,499 www.hp.com

Big and beautiful premium laptop with specs to match

The HP Spectre x360 15 may be an upgrade to last year's laptop of the same name, but don't confuse iteration with apathy. This is a full-on overhaul to the Spectre x360 15 of yesteryear. From its sleek, modern design – replete with gold trimmings galore – to its perfectly spaced keyboard, the 2017 HP Spectre x360 15 has an awful lot to offer.

It isn't as slim as the previous model, measuring in at 17.8mm thick instead of a mere 16mm, but the HP Spectre x360 maintains a boney form factor despite the inclusion of full-size ports and a traditional membrane keyboard. And that's without mentioning its ability to fold four ways, making it not only a top-of-the-line laptop, but a cutting-edge tablet as well.

Price and availability

The UK version is available in just two different models. One priced at £1,499 and armed with 8GB of RAM

and a 512GB PCIe solid-state drive; and a £1,799 model with 16GB of RAM and a 1TB PCIe SSD. In other respects, both models are the same with a 7th gen Intel Core i7-7500U processors and 15.6-inch Ultra HD display on board.

Design

Given its price tag, you'd expect the HP Spectre X360 15 to look the part – and it doesn't disappoint. Yes, it's huge compared to the Ultrabooks we're used to seeing these days, but it's the attention to detail in its design that sets this laptop apart – from its tapered profile, which ranges from 17.8mm at the rear to 5mm up front, to the jagged triangular shapes that enclose its onboard Bang & Olufsen speakers, this laptop is one class act.

On the right side of the laptop, you'll discover two USB 3.1 Type-C ports, one of which is equipped with Thunderbolt 3. There's also an HDMI port crammed between the

USB-C twins and a vent that still somehow manages to be stylish. Further down, there's a physical volume switch in case the function keys, F6 through F8, aren't enough.

The left side of the HP Spectre x360 15 is inhabited by a single USB 3.1 port, a headphone jack and an SD card slot. Along with a second vent, the power button is caught between all three. Like many of the areas surrounding them, both sides of the HP Spectre x360 15 are gold-encrusted beauties.

The HP Spectre x360 15 sports a matte black, all-aluminium finish that feels natural to the touch. And, speaking of touch, the 360-degree hinge means you can flip it every which way to fit your computing needs. Like the majority of 2-in-1s of this nature, the Spectre x360 15 sports four different modes: laptop, tent, tablet and stand.

Regardless of how you have the HP Spectre x360 15 sit, it's going to look damn good doing it, not only



because of HP's craftsmanship, but also because of the sheen delivered by its colossal Ultra HD display.

You don't even have to worry about the speakers getting muffled in the process of switching modes since there's a third speaker on the back specifically to prevent this.

Despite recent exceptions, Bang & Olufsen is generally renowned for the quality of its sounds and the speakers in the HP Spectre x360 15 do nothing to change that. They're no AudioTechnica, but for laptop speakers, they exceed expectations.

mid-range Sky Diver and Fire Strike tests, it struggled with the newly-added Time Spy stressor. In the Sky Diver test, we saw a 6,648-point score as opposed to the 3,452-point score experienced by the HP Spectre x360 15 of yesteryear. In the Fire Strike test, the laptop garnered 1,925 points compared to its predecessor's 848. These are substantial gains over what we saw before, and while we didn't put the 13.3-inch HP Spectre x360 through the Time Spy challenge, you can compare its Sky Diver results of

"Its power is geared more towards creative types looking to take advantage of GPU-intensive tasks"

The HP Spectre x360 15 certainly sets a high standard for the way a 2-in-1 should look and sound. Irrespective of whether you use it as a tent or a tablet, its screen is flush with bright, vibrant colours and deep blacks while the audio is reassuringly resounding.

Performance

The HP Spectre x360 15 may pack an Intel Core i7 processor and 2GB of discrete Nvidia GeForce 940MX graphics, but it's by no means meant for gaming. Its power is geared more towards creative types looking to take advantage of GPU-intensive tasks. For that purpose, this laptop soars.

As expected, even though the HP Spectre x360 15 fared well in the

3,993 and its Fire Strike outcome of 875 to that of the HP's. Not only did the laptop manage to beat out last year's Skylake version as expected, but it also seriously contested the HP Spectre x360 13 as well.

Although that's only taking into consideration GPU performance, the CPU featured in the HP Spectre x360 15 managed about the same performance as its 13.3-inch sibling, which makes sense considering they use the same processor.

One thing we did notice was that the laptop doesn't get incredibly loud under pressure. Rather, it's stealthy enough to stay quiet even with a bunch of programs running at the same time - and that makes it ideal for use in offices or other public spaces.

KEY FEATURES

HP Spectre x360 15

Supplier www.hp.com

Operating system Windows 10 Home

Processor 2.7GHz Intel Core i7-7500U

Storage 512GB PCIe SSD

RAM 8GB of DDR4-2133 SDRAM

Graphics Nvidia GeForce 940MX

Connectivity 802.11ac Wi-Fi; Bluetooth 4.2; 2x USB-C ports (1x with Thunderbolt 3); 1x HDMI; 1x USB 3.1; SD card slot

Weight 2.01kg

Screen size 15.6-inch

Display resolution 3840 x 2160 Ultra HD

Battery life

Give that the Intel Core i7-7500U in the HP Spectre x360 15 is designed for Ultrabooks, it's clearly not going to blow you away in terms of performance. Instead it's battery life where we expect this laptop to shine. Only its results are rather disappointing. That's because it came up a full hour shorter in our PCMark 8 test than the 13.3-inch HP Spectre x360; and a full three hours short in our movie test, which consists of putting a 1080p Full HD movie on repeat until the battery drains completely.

Coming from a 79.2Whr battery, this is surprising. We're also not sure about the supplied charger. While it supports HP Fast Charge, which promises a 50 percent charge in 30 minutes, it's bulky and a hassle to lug around, especially when it's been teamed with a hefty laptop.

Of course, these shortcomings could be due to the addition of a dedicated graphics chip pushing nearly four times as many pixels as a Full HD laptop, such as the 13.3-inch Spectre x360, neither of which were present in the smaller Spectre x360 model.

Summary

For the price, the HP Spectre x360 15 boasts premium specs as well as a lavish design and extensive functionality that's tough to beat. While it could use some work when it comes to battery longevity and trackpad placement, this laptop is a fine choice for media creators and consumers alike. ■

HP's Spectre x360 15 is a brilliantly executed and stylish laptop, only its limited battery life lets it down.

 Windows Help & Advice
Verdict





BeatsX Wireless Earphones

£129.95 | \$149.95 www.beatsbydre.com

Meet some good-sounding earbuds that can charge in five minutes

The BeatsX by Beats by Dre is a bold new product for what has become a traditional headphone maker. Instead of sticking to bass-heavy earbuds or expensive over-ears, the company has crafted a new pair of musically inclined in-ears. That said, the BeatsX borrows much from its predecessors – including but not limited to the flat, no-tangle cable – while carving out its own niche as one of the first evenly-balanced pair of headphones from the low-end loving company.

But the BeatsX has two tricks up its sleeve that few headsets from Beats by Dre have had before: the first is Fast Fuel, a feature that enables the earbuds to last up to two hours off a single five-minute charge; and the second is Apple's W1 wireless chip. We'll talk about the latter later, but we'll preface it by saying that it vastly improves the headphone's performance and battery life over Bluetooth.

One carry-over from previous generations, however, is pricing. At £129.95 (\$149.95), the BeatsX is certainly more expensive than other similar-sounding wireless headphones, but less expensive than others made by Beats.

Design

As of late, in-ear headphones have taken one of three designs. They're either wired in-ears that connect the drivers to a 3.5mm jack; two wireless earbuds that connect to one another through Bluetooth; or two earbuds connected via a cable that wraps behind your neck. The BeatsX falls into the last category.

Having the two earbuds connected via a cable might not sound like the ideal solution to some – after all, a cable has the tendency to weigh the earbuds down – but it's not without its advantages. First is the fact that they're harder to lose than fully wireless earbuds. Second is that the

wire between the two buds can provide a home to in-line controls and a battery, enabling the headphones to last longer.

The in-line controls here are just the way we like them: basic but effective. You can use them to raise and lower the volume, pause the music, skip tracks and rewind. There's also a built-in microphone that you can use for phone calls.

If you're afraid the cable might feel uncomfortable, let us allay your fears: the BeatsX is one of the most comfortable pair of wireless in-ears we've ever worn. That's largely because most of the weight is carried in the thickest part of the cable that sits around your neck, leaving two smaller cables with earbuds attached to run up to your ears. This technique helps the BeatsX sit snugly in the ear without giving you the feeling that they're about to fall out. As for the in-ear fit, Apple ships each package with four different eartips and two sets



of wings that hold the headphones in place while you're working out.

Speaking of workouts, the BeatsX is water-resistant, but not fully waterproof. This means you can take the BeatsX with you to the gym without fearing for their safety...as long as you avoid taking them into the pool. When they're outside of your ear and loosely hanging on your chest, the earbuds snap together thanks to built-in magnets that help keep the wires from getting tangled – a neat, novel feature if we've ever seen one.

"The earbuds snap together thanks to built-in magnets that stop the wires from getting tangled"

If you want to match your BeatsX to your gym bag, the headphones come in four different colours: Black, White, Grey and Blue.

Design-wise the BeatsX have three advantages over Apple's AirPods. First, they're harder to lose. Second, they have a longer battery life – about eight hours on the BeatsX compared to the AirPods' six. And, third, the four sets of eartips give you a greater chance of finding the right fit compared to the AirPods' single-size approach.

Performance

You'd be right to expect a lot in terms of sound quality from a £130 pair of headphones. And while the BeatsX hits a few of the right notes, it's not pitch-perfect for the price.

But before we hammer home where BeatsX goes off-key, let's focus on the high notes. The sound quality is relatively clear for a pair of in-ear drivers. You won't find shimmering highs and sparkling mid-ranges here, but the sound is far from flat or hissy. What's more surprising is that the overall balance – mids, highs and lows – is on an even keel. Highs and lows could have been more pronounced than they are, but we didn't think we'd ever see a pair of Beats headphones taking the middle ground.

However the 'phones do falter when it comes to sealing sound out. Even with a seemingly airtight seal, we could still hear people's conversations going on around us. We weren't expecting a Bose QC 30-level of noise-cancellation, but some would have been welcome.

That said, the BeatsX doesn't leak sound. Despite playing music at an ear-damagingly high level, no one in the car was any wiser to the music we were listening to.

If you're looking for a ton of bass, though, you won't find it on this pair of Beats – *Levels* by Avicii was tame, while *Little Black Submarine* by The Black Keys lacked that punch and panache we've heard while using other pairs of cans. If you're an audiophile, this news

KEY FEATURES

BeatsX Wireless Earphones

Supplier www.beatsbydre.com

Headphone type In-ear

Connectivity Bluetooth, Wireless,

Lightning to USB-A cable (for charging)

Battery life Up to 8 hours; 2 hours of

battery life on a 5-minute charge

In-line remote Volume, calls and music

controls; built-in microphone

Eartips Four different size options,

optional secure-fit wingtips

Compatibility iOS and Android

won't upset you. But if you're used to a pair of Beats sounding like the inside of a woofer, you might be disappointed. What we would've liked though was more clarity. Nothing sounded dull or drab, but there was a distinct lack of energy.

As we've already mentioned, the BeatsX can be used to field calls. Using the BeatsX as a Bluetooth headset is surprisingly easy with one click on the remote to answer calls and two to hang up. In terms of call clarity, everyone we spoke to said we sounded clearer using the BeatsX headphones than we did using our phone's microphone.

While we're not fans of Apple's use of proprietary tech, we do like its W1 chip, which acts as the brains behind the wireless operation in the BeatsX. The W1 chip helps the headset sync with compatible devices and preserve battery life, with the BeatsX lasting for about eight hours between recharges.

Summary

The BeatsX caters to two different camps. First is the workout crowd who are looking for a solid-fitting pair of in-ears that won't weigh them down. Second are regular music listeners – the kind of people who want in-ears for their daily commute. There are issues with sealing out noise, but these are forgivable given the battery life. If you're looking for a no-fuss pair of earbuds and don't mind dropping some cash on them, the BeatsX is for you. If you're a thrifty audiophile, then higher quality options are out there for less. ■

The BeatsX in-ears are surprisingly evenly balanced, but poor noise isolation lets them down slightly.

 **Windows Help & Advice**
Verdict





LG Minibeam PH450UG

£529 | \$650 www.lge.com

LG's compact Ultra Short Throw LED Projector can turn any room into a cinema

Fancy big screen entertainment at home, but don't have the space, or funds for a large flat panel TV or home cinema projector? The LG DLP LED Minibeam PH450UG Ultra Short Throw (UST) could be the answer.

It needs only a dozen centimetres or so to cast a huge image onto a white wall or screen and it's also ridiculously compact and relatively affordable at £529 (\$650).

There is a catch. The PH450UG has a resolution of just 720p. If you need more, LG has the PF1000U, a slightly larger 1080p UST model, that sells for £999 (\$1,399). There are other projectors in this price range capable of 1080p – such as the class-leading BenQ HT670 – but if you're committed to the small form factor, the PH450UG is it.

Design

The LG PH450UG measures just 132 x 200 x 80.5mm (W x H x D), and weighs only 1.1kg. It's more

compact than most projectors in its weight class, but is also one of the brightest as well at 1,450 ANSI lumens. None of this compromises its contrast, which is rated at 10,000:1. Its small stature makes sense because it's also fully portable, thanks to a built-in battery which runs for around 2.5 hours when fully charged.

Connections include a single HDMI, which is also MHL enabled for smartphone use, and a USB port. Focus is manual, via a thumbwheel. There's also a mini headphone jack if you want privacy while watching your favourite flick.

You're not limited to hardwiring sources. You can also mirror a compatible device using Screen Share (Miracast or WiDi). Screen casting from a mobile is a great way to share stills, but you can also mirror video apps. However, we experienced a sync issue between video and audio which rules out using it for a Luke Cage catch-up.

The LG PH450UG also boasts an integrated sound system, but with just two 1-watt speakers it's not going to attract anyone's attention. That said its less-than-formidable speaker configuration really doesn't matter, as the projector also has Bluetooth. You can pair it with Bluetooth speakers or headphones.

The projector is also 3D-ready, although no 3D glasses are supplied in the box.

Setup

Setting up the projector is easy. Just position it in front of a white wall and sharpen up the image. You can change the size of the picture by moving the projector back and forth. From a mere 7.5cm you'll get a 40-inch image. Move back to 16cm or so and you'll have a 50-inch display. If you have the space, you can push this much further. At 60cm or thereabouts you'll get a massive 132-inch cinema image.



KEY FEATURES

LG Minibeam PH450UG

Supplier www.lge.com
Display resolution 1280 x 720 (720p)
Panel size 7.93mm
Projection distance 274mm to 531mm
Screen size 1016mm to 2032mm
Audio output 2x 1W speakers; 3.5mm headphone socket
Connectivity 1x HDMI port; 1x USB port; wireless via Bluetooth
Dimensions 132x200x85mm
Weight 1.1kg

becomes important. It also proved tricky to eliminate minor keystone errors. This is a problem on other projectors but felt more acute here.

That said, single chip DLP projectors have a reputation for colour fringing, but as this DLP LED doesn't use a colour wheel that's not an issue. The LED light engine has an estimated life of 30,000 hours, which translates to the lifetime of the product.

The integrated USB media player proves useful. It had no problem playing all the usual file types, including AVI, MPEG, MKV, WMV and MOVs. Plus, operational noise is moderate to low, measuring in at a relatively quiet 23dB in Eco Mode and 30dB in full brightness.

Summary

The LG PH450UG is extremely versatile. Compact enough to take anywhere, with the option to run off the wall and the ability to throw big images in the smallest of rooms, it scratches an AV itch that normal TVs and conventional projectors can't reach. Moreover, picture quality is surprisingly punchy here, and Bluetooth connectivity a major boon.

However, there's no getting away from the fact that 720p resolution doesn't scale that well. So while you can fill a wall with the PH450UG, it likely won't look that great when maxed out. To be honest, serious cinephiles will grimace over some of the PH450UG's presets, but then this projector isn't aimed at them. This is unashamedly a gizmo for gadget lovers.

A compact and affordable portable projector, only let down by its limited 720p HD resolution.


Windows Help & Advice
Verdict



Although you can stretch the image out to this extreme, you might not want to as clarity begins to suffer when you fill up that wall.

The only on-body control is a fiddly joystick D-pad. Given that you get an IR remote in the box, which is almost as big as the projector itself, you probably won't need to use this much thankfully.

The PH450UG sports a tile-based user interface, comparable with what you might expect to find on an LG Blu-ray player. To simplify navigation and menu access there's

Performance

Image quality warrants a cautious thumbs up. The LED colour palette looks great with animation, from anime to kids channels. Reds are deep and greens rich, making it perfect for flat-colour scenes. It can look gritty with live action, though. The PH450UG struggled to distinguish noise from film grain on *The Walking Dead* (via Fox HD), resulting in a rather dirty-looking picture. Live studio fare works better, which is good news for late-night TV fans.

"The screen doesn't do a deep black, but in a darkened room there's shadow detail and depth"

a Quick Menu, which presents a wheel for key parameters.

While this UI works fine on a smaller screen, it doesn't look too elegant when upsized. The larger you make the picture, the more overbearing it becomes.

Image presets include Standard, Vivid, Cinema, Sport, Game and two Expert modes. Standard is probably the best all-rounder, as oversaturation seems endemic elsewhere. There are individual controls for contrast, brightness, sharpness and colour – you can even tweak dynamic contrast, as well as skin, sky and grass 'colours'. In addition to gamma adjustment, there's black level control and colour temperature, all standards but nice to see here too.

The screen doesn't do a deep black, but in a darkened room there's shadow detail and depth to its pictures. Motion resolution is predictably limited, which could undermine its appeal to gamers. Expect some screen blur with fast moving action titles – for that you'll still want a standard flatscreen.

The projector offers three energy saving modes, which directly affect the brightness of the image. If you're running off a wall outlet, it pays to keep the projector on full juice. That said you'll want to avoid using this in an area with high ambient light, as the image will wash out. One quirk of using a UST projector on a white wall is that it'll highlight any irregularities in the surface itself, meaning smoothness

Wi-Fi CAMERAS

Be king of your castle and never miss a delivery, thanks to the latest in all-weather, app-controlled outdoor security cameras



1 Nest Cam Outdoor

£159, nest.com

Nest's IP65-rated all-weather camera delivers superb wide-angle 1080p image quality, reliable noise and motion detection, plus seamless integration with the excellent app. Build quality is also beautiful. Our only gripe is with installation: screws, cable tidies and mounting plates are included, but the wall-mounted power adapter and cable are hard to hide. There's three hours of free cloud storage a day, but you get better image quality and enhanced motion detection if you subscribe to Nest Aware (from £8 per month).



2 Netatmo Presence

£250, netatmo.com

This is the first Wi-Fi security camera with the capacity to distinguish between people, cars and animals, so false alarms are minimised and the built-in floodlight won't waste effort on feral foxes. Yes it's expensive, and the camera's 100-degree angle isn't brilliant, but the 1080p Full HD video is, while the built-in microSD slot negates the need for subscription services. The app is slick, time-lapse footage is addictive and, even on a busy street, once we customised the viewing zone the security light only came on when a real person approached.



3 Arlo wire-free

£280, arlo.com/uk

This smart home monitoring kit is, as its name suggests, wire-free, with each Arlo by Netgear camera boasting a quoted six-month battery life. What's more, these 1080 x 720p HD motion detection weatherproof cameras are happy working in temperatures ranging from -9 to 50°C. Two cameras are supplied (the system can handle up to 15) and each one has a powerful magnet and concave back with ball-mounting plate for effortless adjustment. Video quality at night is excellent, and the two-way mic is handy for chatting to delivery drivers and other visitors. The offer of free cloud storage for seven days is generous.



Off-licenses, corner shops, and security-minded folks have all been using simple, multi-camera DIY home monitoring systems for years. In the world of smart home control, these wired systems – with questionable

video quality, recorded direct to DVR – now seem decidedly old school. If you use one of those, it's time to welcome in the new generation...

Following the success of indoor Wi-Fi cameras such as Netatmo Welcome, Nest Cam and Canary, the

smart camera is venturing outside for some all-weather home control. But when it comes to keeping the baddies at bay, can you really rely on a wireless motion detector and app? We installed the latest smart security cameras to find out.



4 Swann Smart-Series HD

£530, swannone.com

This hybrid security system comprises four wired Full HD, weather resistant cameras with night-vision and motion detection. There's also an 8-channel DVR hub with 2TB hard drive. It's ZigBee compatible, so you can control Nest, Philips Hue and Yale devices, as well as the SwannOne series of motion sensors, alarms and indoor cameras, from one app. Sadly, the kit – complete with 80m of thick white cabling – is irritating to install. The hub is bulky and the app, while comprehensive, verges on the abject. At least the image quality is good.



5 Ring Stick Up Cam

£159, ring.com

At 720p the Stick Up Cam isn't pin-sharp. However, there are other reasons to rate it: the rechargeable 5,200mAh battery (offering six to 12 months of use), the two-way communication function, extensive IFTTT smart compatibility and cheap (£24.95 a year) cloud services. It's easy to adjust the sensitivity and range of motion detection, but we struggled to capture a clear image of a passing face. As such, it's best used as a superb front door camera, especially if you buy the plug-in Ring Chime (£24), turning it into an automatic doorbell and camera.



6 Motorola Focus 73

£130, motorola.com

With its metal design and motorised pan/tilt camera, the Focus 73 wouldn't look out of place in a casino, but don't bet your house on its ability to spot the bad guy. Wi-Fi stability was so patchy we had to switch to an Ethernet cable to test all of the features. Plus, any video clip recording requires a subscription (from £2.99 a month), as without it you have to manually record if you want to capture evidence. The 180-degree pan view is fun but slow to operate via the app, and motion detection is too slow – especially at night – to capture detail unless the subject is standing still.



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THE BEST FREE WEBSITE BUILDER 2017

Build your own stunning site – even if you can't code – with the best free website builder for Windows

Creating a website used to be the domain of professional designers and coders, but these days it is something anyone can tackle. The problem is there are so many website creation applications and services vying for attention it can be difficult to know which one to opt for – this is where we can help.

We've collated the four best free website builders available, including a mixture of offline software and online tools. It's

usually quicker, easier and more efficient to create and edit a site entirely online with a WYSIWYG editor, but if you want complete control over every aspect of your site's design and hosting, then you'll need a desktop-based free website builder.

So whether you're looking to create a site for your business, or you just fancy creating an online presence for yourself, presented here are the best tools to help you out.



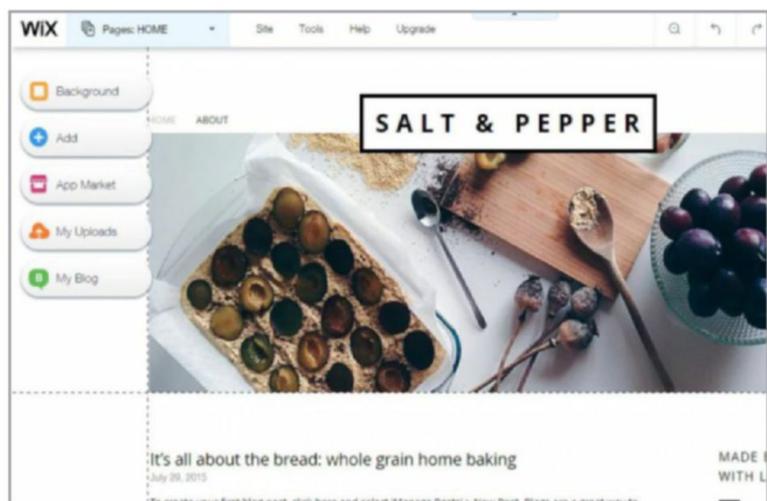
1 Wix

www.wix.com

Wix gives you two different ways to build a personal or business website. Both involve creating it online, and both are as quick and painless as possible.

The simplest option is to use the Wix ADI (Artificial Design Intelligence) website builder,

which will guide you through a series of questions before automatically creating a site for you. Some customisation is possible, but the focus here is really on fast results for anyone who is terrified by the idea of designing websites on their own.



A more hands-on approach is available if you decide to use the standard Wix Editor. There are hundreds of stylish templates to choose from – and, they are genuinely impressive – which you can tweak and tailor to your needs using a beautiful WYSIWYG editor.

Despite being cloud-based, Wix gives you a high level of control over the look of your site and placement of page elements. You can also liven it up using the App Market to add features such as a newsletter and live chat. This power and flexibility make Wix the best free website builder around for creating your own site.



RATING



2 Wordpress

www.wordpress.org

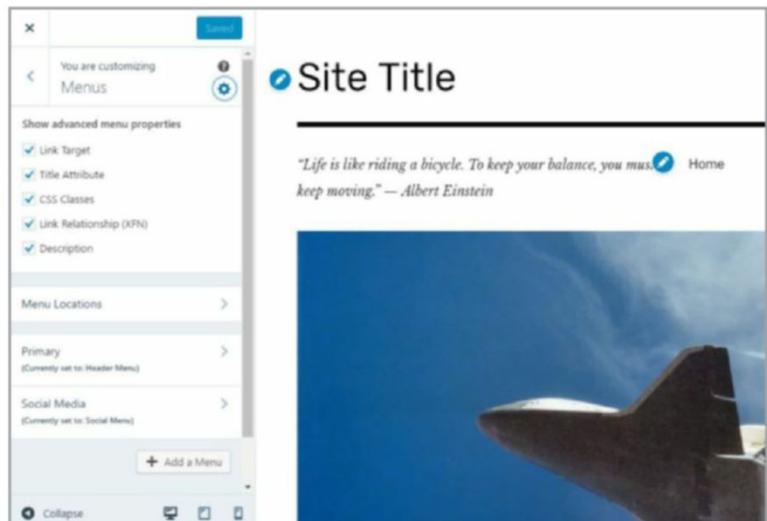
There are two different versions of WordPress. The more complex version can be downloaded from wordpress.org, and you will need to upload it to your own web space and install it using the automated online installer. You

can then customise the templates and use add-ons (many of which are available at low cost or for free) to make the site your own. This is the route many bloggers go down, but there is a simpler option if don't want the hassle of

scripts and getting dirty with hardcore editing.

The second option is to create your site on wordpress.com. You can do everything from a blog or photo site, to a fully fledged online store, and there are lots of templates to choose from.

Whether you're creating a static site, or a blog-style site with regularly updated content, the online editor is a joy to use and allows anyone to create an impressive, professional-looking site. With the only downside being the limited range of plug-ins and templates compared with the desktop website builder.



Wordpress gives you two different ways to build a site: either using its web app; or by downloading a desktop program.



RATING



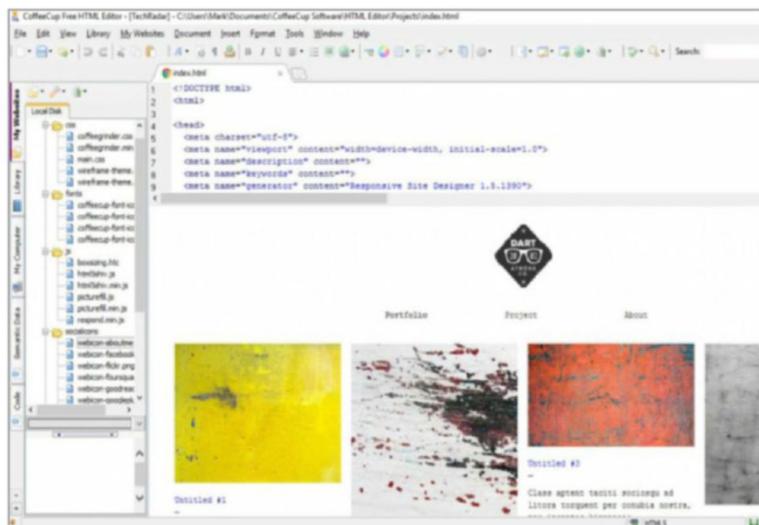
3 CoffeeCup Free HTML Editor

www.coffeecup.com/free-editor/

CoffeeCup Free HTML Editor is one of a dying breed of web building programs that don't use a CMS (Content Management System). While not in the same league as the likes of Adobe Dreamweaver, Free HTML Editor packs quite a

professional punch. With split screen code/preview views, it's possible to see the effect the changes you make straight away.

To help you get started quickly, there are a number of templates built into the program, and there



are some very nice features, such as tag and code suggestions as you type. For absolute beginners Free HTML Editor might seem a little overwhelming to start with, but it's worth sticking with it – assuming that you have some HTML knowledge.

There is one slight issue, however; a number of features, such as spell-checking and code optimisation, are only included in the paid-for version, named The HTML Editor, which is available for \$29 (£24). If you're serious about building your website using the app, though, it's a small price to pay for all this extra functionality.



RATING



Free HTML Editor isn't a WYSIWYG website builder, but it offers a live preview of your site as you write it.

4 Joomla

www.joomla.org

Joomla is a well-known name in the Content Management System world. It may not be as popular as WordPress, but it offers the same two options: the ability to build a website using the web app at joomla.com and having it hosted on the company's servers; or to download its Windows 10

compatible software and host it using your own domain or web server instead.

If you choose the second option, you'll notice that the Joomla interface is much less approachable than WordPress. It's not completely impenetrable, but there are lots of menus and

options to work through and, as a consequence, it doesn't feel quite as polished as WordPress is.

The Joomla online website builder is nearly as complex, but doesn't involve the same setup process, making it a much better option for beginners. Its key selling point is its huge collection of themes and extensions, which provide endless ways to customise the way your site looks and works.

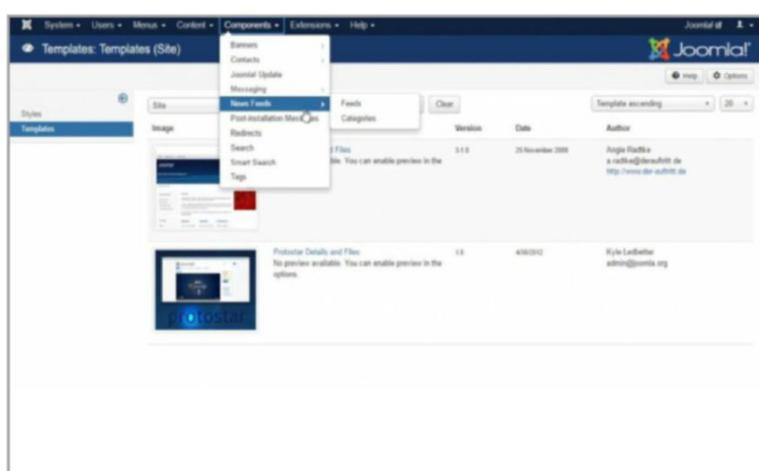
If you're looking for inspiration, pop along to the Joomla Showcase Directory at showcase.joomla.org to see some real-world examples of websites that have been built using the CMS.



RATING



Joomla has a great range of templates and extensions that enable you to customise the way your website looks and works.



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Future Plc, Quay House, The Ambury Bath BA1 1UA
Tel: 01225 442244 Fax: 01225 732275
Email: windowsmagazine@futurenet.com
Web: www.facebook.com/windowsmag

EDITORIAL

Editor-in-chief Graham Barlow
Editor Rob Mead-Green
Deputy editor Nick Odantzis

ART/PRODUCTION

Art editor Jamie Schildhauer

CONTRIBUTORS

Editorial Gabe Carey, Alex Cox, Nate Drake, Cat Ellis, Ian Evenden, Matt Hanson, Chris Haslam, Tim Hardwick, Steve May, Nick Peers, Nick Pino, Mark Wilson
Photography Future Photo Studio, Thinkstock.com

ADVERTISING

Commercial sales director Clare Dove (clare.dove@futurenet.com)

Senior advertising manager Lara Jaggon
Advertising manager Michael Pyatt
Director of Agency Sales Matt Downs
Ad Director - Technology John Burke
Head of Strategic Partnerships Clare Jonik

MARKETING

Marketing manager Kristianne Stanton

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION

Production controller Nola Cokely
Production manager UK & US Mark Constance
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Overseas distribution by Seymour International

CIRCULATION

Newstrade Channel Manager Andy Williams

SUBSCRIPTIONS

UK reader order line & enquiries 0844 848 2852
Overseas reader order line & enquiries +44 (0)1604 251045
Online enquiries www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk
Email windowsmag@myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

LICENSING

Senior Licensing & Syndication Manager Matt Ellis
matt.ellis@futurenet.com
+44 (0)1225 442244

MANAGEMENT

Editorial Director Paul Newman
Art and Design Director Ross Andrews



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Chief executive Zillah Byng-Thorne
Non-executive chairman Peter Allen
Chief financial officer Penny Lakin-Brand
Managing director, Magazines Aaron Asadi
Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244 (Bath)



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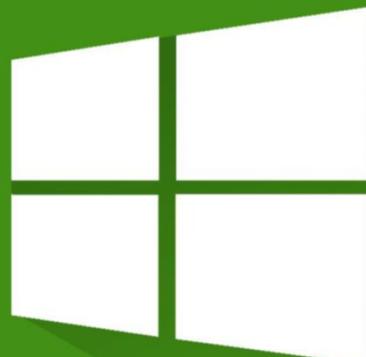


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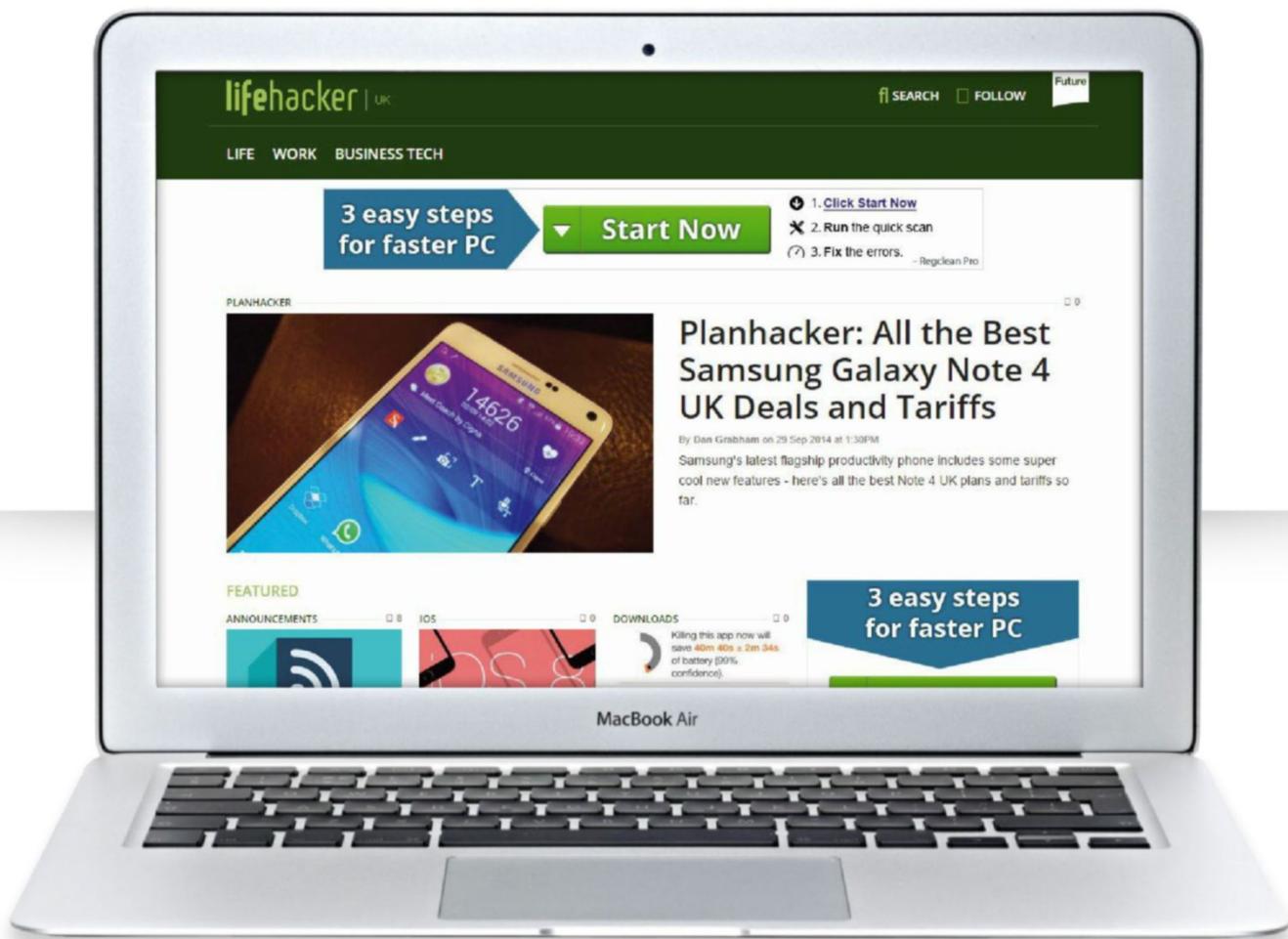


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