

Newsletter

Do you use the Chrome Browser?

Google has issued a fix to resolve a critical Chrome bug that could allow attackers to take control of the user's systems simply by visiting a malicious website. Ensure Chrome is updated.

Reference: eSecurity Planet



Messenger app being axed on Mac & Windows

December 15th is when Meta will close down the Messenger apps for Mac and Windows.

The App has already been removed from the Mac web store with users being redirected to use Facebook website messaging. iOS and Android apps still work.

Reference: Techradar



Recovery Contacts

Have you ever lost access to your email account? You purchase a new device and don't remember your password or you have lost your phone that is your recovery option.

Google has introduced **Recovery Contacts**—an option that allows trusted friends and family to help unlock your Google Account.

Simple and Secure when other recovery options are not available.

To set up Recovery Contacts go g.co/recovery-contacts In your Google account

← Recovery contacts

By adding people you trust as recovery contacts, we'll be able to send them an email or notification to help you if you're having trouble signing in. You can also be a recovery contact for others.

[Learn more about signing in with a recovery contact](#)



+ Add recovery contact

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Managing your emails

Gmail

Adding periods or dots before @ in your Gmail address doesn't affect the email address. For example if your email address is jackberry@gmail.com and someone sends an email to *jack.Berry@gmail.com* or *j.a.c.k.berry@gmail.com* all the emails will arrive in your inbox.

To improve management and save time with your emails

Step 1 Provide different email addresses

For family and friends i.e.

jackberry@gmail.com

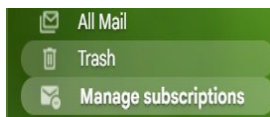
For companies—electricity/gas company, phone provider, doctor, lawyer, myGov, etc.

i.e. jack.berry@gmail.com

Step 2 Set up filters

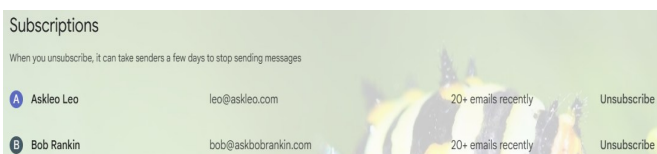
Gmail allows you to create a filter so when an email arrives that matches the email address in the filter the email skips the inbox and goes into the folder nominated in the filter.

Manage Subscriptions



Click *manage subscriptions* in the menu on the left and all your subscriptions will be displayed allowing you

to unsubscribe.



<https://shorturl.at/iQQIh>

I

his article was inspired by the article of Jill Duffy "Is Your Gmail box a Mess?"

Reference: PCMag

Microsoft's Emergency Fix Restores Windows 11 Recovery

Microsoft pushed emergency patches after its October security update broke Windows 11 recovery functions, disabling USB keyboards and mice when users needed repair access most.



GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP)

First released to the public in 1996 it is considered the free alternative to Adobe Photoshop.

It is a cross platform FREE & OPEN SOURCE Image Editor

- GIMP 3.0.6 has just been released.
- Platforms—Windows, macOS, Linux
- App in the Windows store
- Sophisticated tools.
- Community Tutorials—Beginner/Photo Editing/Painting
- Third Party plugins

This program is used by graphic designers, photographers, scientists, and as its free is worth a try for editing your photos.

<https://www.gimp.org/>

Reference: APC Mag

Managing your emails

Microsoft

Hotmail.com and Outlook.com email addresses

Step 1 Set up a rule

A rule can be created to direct emails from a sender's email address to a nominated folder skipping the inbox. Different to Gmail because you use the sender's email address in the rule.



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Hi readers and welcome to another edition of the STG newsletter.

If you find any articles you think would be of interest to other readers please let me know.

Happy Computing

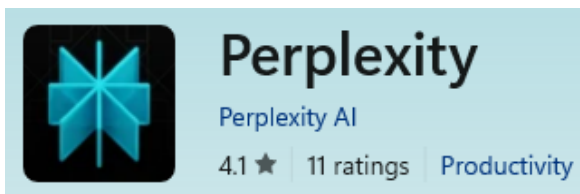
Lindsay



Mozilla adds Perplexity to Firefox search choices

Perplexity is an AI powered conversational search engine that provides answers to user queries.

Mobile support, browser profiles and Google Lens visual search are also rolling out to users.



Perplexity 1.1.2

Perplexity is an AI search tool that has launched its own Windows program that can be downloaded at the link below.

- Type a query and receive a speedy response from trusted resources
- Speak by clicking *Dictate* button
- Free plan has daily limits
- Perplexity Discovery feed is biased towards US news
- An app is also available in the Windows store.

<https://www.perplexity.ai/platforms>



Desktop users September 2025
 Windows 10 40.84%
 Windows 11 49.05%
 Windows 7 9.15%

Free



Windows 10 free support has finished so many users will face the challenge of purchasing a new laptop and installing programs to manage their data i.e. photos, music. Etc.

Finding and installing the programs you need isn't always as easy as you may think. It's a new computer and a good opportunity to consider some programs you haven't used but will do the job.

Tip—Allow yourself plenty of time.

Ninite can make the task easier. Select the programs you want installed and it downloads them for you.

Programs include;

Browsers—Chrome, Opera, Firefox, Edge, Brave.
Messaging—Zoom, Discord, Teams. Pidgin, Thunderbird, Trillian

Media—iTunes, VLC, AIMP, toolbar2000, Winamp, MusicBee, Audacity, K-Lite Codecs, MediaMonkey, Handbrake.

Documents—Foxit Reader, LibreOffice, SumatraPDF, CutePDF, OpenOffice

Online Storage—Dropbox, Google Drive for Desktop, OneDrive, SugarSync

Utilities—AnyDesk, teamViewer 15, ImgBurn, WinDirStat, Glary, CCleaner.

Security—Malwarebytes, AVG, Avast and more

Other—Evernote, Steam, KeePass 2, Everything.

Chrome's new feature Auto-revocation

The new feature automatically disables notifications for websites you haven't interacted with recently.

- ⇒ Chrome on Android and desktop.
- ⇒ Chrome will inform you when notification permissions are removed.
- ⇒ Websites affected are those with very low user engagement and with a high volume of notifications.
- ⇒ The feature does not revoke notifications for any installed web apps.
- ⇒ You can re grant permission to a website through Safety check or by visiting the site and enabling notifications again.
- ⇒ You will be able to turn off the auto-revocation feature.

Reference: TechCrunch

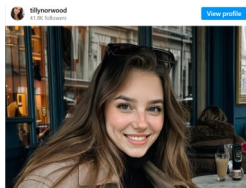
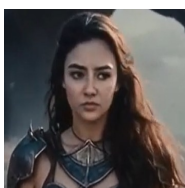
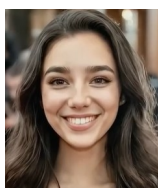
What's Trending in AI

Hollywood's newest actress,
Tilly Norwood is AI generated



This aspiring AI actress is the creation of producer Eline Van der Velden, CEO of European AI production studio Particle6. Particle6 launched Tilly on

Instagram several months ago and she has made international headlines this week after Van der Velden addressed a panel discussion on AI developments at the Zurich Summit.



IT PAYS TO BACKUP YOUR DATA
South Korean government learns it needs a backup the hard way - embarrassing fail sees fire destroy over 850TB of data

ChatGPT Is Blowing Up Marriages as Spouses Use AI to Attack Their Partners

Topic: **Passkey**
Presenter: **Lindsay Chuck**
Date & Time: **Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 7.30pm**
Where:

**St Mary's Catholic Church Hall,
Cnr South and Bains Roads,
Morphett Vale**

Entry is \$3 per person, includes Tea, Coffee & Supper.

 **ONLYOFFICE Docs 9.1**

This version brings many new features and has over 500 bug fixes.
Enhanced PDF Editor including Redact and New annotation tools.
Powerful Spreadsheet Editor updates
Refer to my June 2025 newsletter for more on this free Office suite.
Give it a try.

German state replaces Microsoft Exchange and Outlook with open source email



- The German state of Schleswig-Holstein has moved to Open-Xchange and Mozilla Thunderbird for email. The political move involved more than 40,000 mailboxes, over 100 million messages and calendar entries and covering around 30,000 employees. Last year the government moved to LibreOffice as their default office suite to replace Microsoft Office. Other EU government agencies have already dropped Microsoft software as they are tired of relying on American software companies.
- There's an expectation more European governments, companies and individuals are moving to Linux and open source software from Windows.

Reference: ZDNET

**Past Sands Tech Group Newsletters can be found
at this link. <https://sandslifestylebfs.wixsite.com/scgbfs>**

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this newsletter is of a general nature. Always do your own research and seek advice before acting on the information provided.