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Computers make us more productive. Yeah, right. Lifehacker recommends the software downloads and web sites that actually save time. Don't live to geek; geek to live.

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Easy Poster Printer Slices and Dices Your Posters for Standard Printers [Downloads]

Windows: If you want to print a large image off your home printer and be able to reassemble it, it takes some enormous photo editing cut 'n crop patience—or a copy of Easy Poster Printer.

Photo by [Paulo Barcellos Jr.](#).

Easy Poster Printer works on a simple principle: your image is divided into sections and fed to your printer chunk by chunk so the end result is a stack of segments that can be reassembled into the large image. The process is commonly known as tiled-printing or rasterbation. You can use online services to create tiled images such as previously reviewed [The Rasterbator](#) and [Block Posters](#). Both are great services but they don't allow you the level of customization afforded by Easy Poster Printer and they require you to upload your image and thus have less control over it and less privacy.

Easy Poster Printer lets you tweak the size of the final image, the orientation of the image, the paper used, the print quality, and how much overlap there will be between images for clean border-free alignment. The default set of page sizes is all metric but you can easily add in your own imperial paper sizes—and since you'll likely not be using anything other than 8.5x11 and 11x17, it's not much of a chore to manually enter the sizes.

Easy Poster Printer is freeware, Windows only. Have a favorite tool for getting more out of your printer? Let's hear about it in the comments.

[Easy Poster Printer](#) [via [gHacks](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/CdzaGgOpDW0/easy-poster-printer-slices-and-dices-your-posters-for-standard-printers>

AIM Integrates Facebook Chat, Status Updates [Facebook]

Not to be left out of the [Let's Connect Everything Social party](#), Facebook and AOL's Instant Messenger announced a [beta release of AIM](#), for Windows, Mac, and in a web client, that can operate on Facebook's chat system, pull and post to and from Facebook status updates, and otherwise integrate your instant messaging with your profile. [via [TechCrunch](#)]

Opera Will Submit Mini Browser to iPhone App Store Next Week [Opera]

Browser maker Opera plans to introduce an iPhone version of its [Mini browser](#) to the App Store next week, promising "six times faster download speeds" and "10 times smaller data traffic" than with mobile Safari. Now all that remains is, well, approval.

Those speed and bandwidth boosts most likely come from the server-side compression that Mini incorporates, though that could be a blessing for international travelers faced with monstrous roaming data fees. No word yet on which way Apple will go on Opera Mini—they've [previously let a few in before](#), but mostly from smaller-name firms that piggyback off Safari's own rendering engine.

Mini, on the other hand, has its own full-page rendering engine, and features like tabbed browsing, Speed Dial, desktop syncing, and [much more](#). It would be great to see Apple allow some browser innovation into the iPhone, but we can't say we'd bet on it.

Norway's Opera to introduce browser for iPhone [Yahoo! News]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/-6UfE1TZbVc/opera-will-submit-mini-browser-to-iphone-app-store-next-week>

Set Up and Keep Using a Home Recycling Station [Recycling]

We've all got the best of intentions when it comes to recycling, but your home's recycling spot can quickly become cluttered and underutilized. The Re-Nest blog offers advice and inspiration on crafting a recycling station that really works, and actually fits.

Like so many things related to organization, a recycling station only makes sense if it fits into how you use, toss, and recycle your goods. If it's too far from where you generate the majority of your reusable containers (the kitchen, most likely), it will see as much use as the StairMaster in your parents' garage. If you pick the right containers, and tuck them in the right places—or create a stylish open-air home for them—you're on your way.

Decide on a place for your recycling station. Do you want it hidden away, or easily accessible? The kitchen tends to make the most sense for a recycling station, as many of the things you'll be tossing in (cans, food packaging, and glass bottles) will originate there. If you have a kitchen pantry, try reorganizing so that you can fit bins on the floor. Or, if you have the space, you can keep your recycling station out in the open.

How does the trash and recyclables get separated in your home? Share your setup in the comments. [How To Set Up a Home Recycling Station That Works Home Hacks](#) [Apartment Therapy Re-Nest]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/iqM3dLc3mQw/set-up-and-keep-using-a-home-recycling-station>

Effective Organization Sometimes Means Filing Your Napkins [Organization]

It's often said that the best organization and filing systems are the ones you use. If you need help figuring out what to do with an avalanche of paper scraps and jotted notes, then here's a simple solution.

Photo by [redjar](#).

Office productivity blog Work Awesome says a decluttered desk is key to getting your work done, so finding a filing system that you'll keep up is really important. For some workers, the more steps a system has, the more likely they are to ditch it and let papers pile up in an overflowing inbox.

One solution is to keep a very simple system going—one that doesn't rely on micro-managing every last slip of paper. In fact, if you've got a perfectly readable napkin with a sketch of your Next Big Idea, file the napkin itself rather than figuring out how to transfer the info into yet another data management system.

I'm serious about filing the napkin. If the options are firing up Photoshop to redraw the sketch into something "worthy" of filing, leaving it on the desk, or putting it away for quick retrieval when it's actually needed (but not before), I'd always choose the latter. Sometimes it's faster to put a single business card in its own folder and file it than to enter the contact information into Outlook, especially for short-term contacts that don't need to go in a permanent record.

Hit up the post for more suggestions on creating a filing system you'll actually use—including why hanging folders aren't always all they're cracked up to be. Of course, if you have a method that's been working for you, there's no reason to change. Check out our previous tips for [getting—and keeping—your current filing system under control](#).

Got a great filing system that works for you? We want to hear about it in the comments. [Declutter Your Desk with a General Reference Filing System](#) [via Work Awesome]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/jmLW7fSQq-E/effective-organization-sometimes-means-filing-your-napkins>

Remains of the Day: Street View and the Olympic Slopes Edition [For What It's Worth]

Wave is coming to Google Apps later this year, Street View takes you on a tour of the Olympic slopes at Whistler, and book publishers might want to learn a pricing lesson from music labels.

[Google Wave Coming to Google Apps this Year](#)

Google Wave may have the most potential in the workplace, so it's great to hear that Wave will come to Google Apps within the year. [Read Write Web][The App Store: Quality control without the quality](#)
Creator of my favorite web framework and all-around opinionated loudmouth David Heinemeier Hansson discusses what he sees as the problem with the App Store, offering some interesting points. [37Signals]

[Google Buzz API](#)

Anybody interested in developing for Buzz? This is the place to start. [Google Code][Street View hits the slopes at Whistler](#)

Check out Street-View-style images for the Olympic hosts at Whistler. [Google LatLong][Safer Internet Day 2010 Today: Think B4 U post!](#)

This one's for the kids and coworkers who post every party picture they've ever taken to public spaces online.

[Quick Online Tips][Google Finally Provides Limited Nexus One Phone Support](#)

Nexus One users now have a support number [(888) 48NEXUS] to call for a little help with their gear.

[Gizmodo][Book Publishers Beware! At iTunes, Expensive Music Equals Slower Sales.](#)

When music labels raised prices, sales went down, and print publications might want to take note. Believe it!

[All Things D]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/en2UDuP37pw/remains-of-the-day-street-view-and-the-olympic-slopes-edition>

Hide/Remove Google Buzz Updates from Your Gmail Inbox [Distractions]

If you just don't have the bandwidth to manage one more set of social notifications automatically hitting your Gmail inbox, you may not be all that excited about [this morning's Google Buzz announcement](#). Luckily banishing Buzz from your inbox is easy.

Any Buzz notification automatically matches the Gmail query label:buzz, so all you've got to do is set up a quick filter to keep those Buzz notifications out of your inbox. Here's how it works:

Filter Buzz Notifications Out of Your Inbox

First, click the Create a filter link in Gmail up next to the search box.

Then, in the Has words text box in the filter tool, enter label:buzz. You can test the search to make sure it matches what you want, but it should—the Buzz label is reserved. Click the Next Step button; Gmail will warn you that Filter searches containing label and a few other search operators won't work, but don't worry—our testing shows that for Buzz messages, they seem to work just fine, so click OK and move on.

Finally, tick the checkbox next to Skip the Inbox (Archive it) and the click the Create Filter button. From here on out, your Gmail inbox should be Buzz-free. You can optionally add a special label to your Buzz items at this point, or you could just search label:buzz whenever you want to check out your Buzz notifications.

Turn Off Buzz Completely

If, on the other hand, you want to turn off Buzz altogether, just find the tiny turn off buzz link at the very bottom of your Gmail window:

Thanks [Kossio](#) and [mrinaldesai](#)!

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/Y5xslUWeRaE/hideremove-google-buzz-updates-from-your-gmail-inbox>

Best Podcast Manager: iTunes [Hive Five Followup]

Last week we [asked you to share your favorite podcast manager](#) and then we [rounded up the top five contenders for a vote](#). Now we're back to crown the winner and highlight the runners up.

In a landslide victory that shouldn't be surprising to anyone, [iTunes](#) beat down the competition with a majority vote of 51%. Following iTunes was the [Zune](#) software with 17% of the vote. Being tied to the two major players in the portable music player game definitely helps boost the popularity of the top two—try loading podcasts on an iPod without iTunes, it can be done but it's quite an exercise in patience and your desire to live an iTunes-free existence.

Following the stranglehold iTunes and Zune had on the top of the chart, [Miro](#) and [gPodder](#) nearly tied with roughly 9% of the vote—367 votes and 349 votes respectively. Rounding out the bottom was [Juice](#) with 7% of the vote. Keep in mind that despite getting single-digit percentages these runners up are all great tools that merited inclusion in the Hive Five—facing off against iTunes is no easy task. Check out the full [Hive Five](#) for additional information and great reader comments.

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/wV9I1cnZOtA/best-podcast-manager-itunes>

Route4Me Maps the Optimal Route for Multi-Stop Trips [Downloads]

To save time and gas money while running errands or long trips, it makes sense to map out the best route so you can hit all the places you need to go without doubling back. Have Route4Me do the planning for you.

Before heading out the door, jump on the internet and enter the addresses of all the places you need to stop or fire up the iPhone app (more on that below). Route4Me plots your whole route for maximum efficiency. It will also map out a round trip so you can get back to where you started, without trying to backtrack using the initial directions. For a more global approach to navigation—if you're traveling between cities, for instance—furnish airport codes, landmarks, cities, or even zip codes, to find optimal routes.

The free web-based service is pretty slick, but its iPhone app really shines. It uses Google Maps to plot out your stops for you and is a great way to access Route4Me when you don't have an internet connection (like in the car).

Route4Me figures out where you are using your iPhone's geo-location feature. If you want to skip that step and enter your own starting location, you can do that, too. Then simply add the addresses of everywhere you want to go and the app does the rest. You'll get estimated trip time and mileage to help you plan ahead, and turn-by-turn navigation so you won't get lost along the way.

Route4Me stores your favorite locations so you can return to them quickly in the future. It also snags addresses from your phone's contact book and tracks places you've visited recently to make adding destinations really easy.

The app runs \$1.99 in iTunes but it's a handy tool to have on-hand when you need it. It's perfect for getting organized before you run errands, but it's also a terrific way to plot out impromptu carpooling situations, and great for sightseeing while traveling.

What tips do you have for optimizing your errands and multi-destination car trips? Share them in the comments.

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/X7A6dcYm8F8/route4me-maps-the-optimal-route-for-multi+stop-trips>

Pinta Brings Paint.NET's Just-Enough Image Editing to Every Computer [Downloads]

Windows/Mac/Linux: If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the coders of Pinta love the heck out of the Windows-only image editor [Paint.NET](#). Luckily, they also want to make it available on every OS, and are faithful to its just-enough interface methodology.

If you've read Lifehacker for a bit, you know we're [admirers of Paint.NET](#). It's lightweight, free, and does most of what the average home user would want out of a photo editing and painting application, without making them learn an entire realm of commands and advanced photography terminology. It opens Photoshop files, it touches up images nicely, and it doesn't cost \$500, so we dig it.

Pinta is an open-source, multi-platform attempt to recreate the Paint.NET experience. It's described as "early in development," but for a 0.1 release, feels majorly on its way. It supports multi-layer editing, runs on Linux, Mac, and Windows (with some [additional support installed](#)), and a lot of the interface is already in place. I tried it out to edit, crop, and tone some images for this morning's Lifehacker posts, and I could see working it into my rotation, as it's a bit lighter and easier to get around than the [GIMP](#), the other cross-platform image editor of note.

Pinta is a free download for Windows, Mac, and Linux systems. Ubuntu and Fedora readers should hit the via link for a quick tip on making installation easier than compiling from source.

[Pinta - Simple Painting for Gtk](#) [via [OS News](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/4xvKKvQYWNY/pinta-brings-paintnets-just+enough-image-editing-to-every-computer>

Do You Prefer Hand-Writing or Typing Notes? [Reader Poll]

Note taking—whether in classrooms or boardrooms—is a highly personalized style of recording information for later review. Despite the proliferation of cheap and portable computers many people remain loyal to handwritten notes. Where do you fall on the spectrum?

The above image is a remix of photos by [DeclanTM](#) and [Daniel Morrison](#).

Over at Carolyn Blogs, the personal blog of a college student studying computer science, Carolyn highlights some of her reasons for using paper-based notes:

Call me old-fashioned, but I like to take notes with a pen and paper. As I've [discussed previously](#), the act of writing helps cement the lecture material in my mind better than passive listening does, and studies have shown that it's [not just me](#) [pdf]. Still, I know that my old-fashioned ways are quickly going out of style.

I decided at the beginning of last year that it would be nice to bring my laptop to class so that my notes would be neatly organized (and actually legible for once), and changed my mind after only one or two classes. I could never type fast enough to keep up with the professor, and every five minutes I found myself cursing at not being able to copy the diagram on the board.

In contrast to that, I'm an all-computer-or-nothing note taker—although in fairness my areas of study don't require diagrams or technical schematics of any sort so I haven't run into the wall that Carolyn has. I [take all my notes in Microsoft OneNote](#)—even [using it for GTD!](#)—and keep it [synced between my netbook and my desktop via Dropbox](#).

Where do you fall on the note-taking spectrum? Are you a heavy computer user? Can't imagine taking notes without a legal pad and pen? Take paper notes but then transcribe them? Cast your vote in the poll:

[Do You Prefer Handwriting or Typing Your Notes?\(surveys\)](#)

If you have a favorite note-taking tool or technique, analog or digital, let's hear about it in the comments. [My Classmates Are Taking Their Notes Digitally, But I Can't Fathom How They Keep Up](#) [Carolyn Blogs]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/nsnsAKT9KJE/do-you-prefer-hand+writing-or-typing-notes>

Listary Sifts Through Files with Powerful Search Hotkeys [Downloads]

Windows only: Explorer's integrated search is fine for most things, but more powerful searches or sorting through long lists of similar files isn't exactly easy—Listary gives you hotkeys, wildcards, and commands to help you quickly find anything in a folder.

In Windows Explorer, you can jump to a file by typing the first few letters of its name at any time—Listary expands on this method by adding a search box that makes this "quick search" far more powerful. It runs in the background and allows you to start typing at any time, and when you do, a search box pops up in the corner. Listary will show you items in the list that correspond to what you've typed, and you can scroll through the results with tab. You can insert wildcards with the * or ? symbol, giving you the same control you'd get with the full Windows Explorer search bar, but with much greater speed and ease. It even has a few commands, such as /cd, which will let you change directories without even taking your hands off the keyboard.

At first you may not be entirely clear on how to use it, but it just takes a few minutes to understand how useful it can be. For example, when searching through a list of files using Listary, you have to either start with the first character of the filename or use a wildcard (like you can see I've done in the screenshot above). Similarly, getting used to the one-word autocomplete using tab takes a minute—but just like many programs that keep your hands on the keyboard (such as Quicksilver or Launchy), after just a bit of initiation, you'll find that sifting through files becomes extremely fast and easy.

Listary is available as a free version. A pro version is available, but the free version has the features most of us would want to use—however, the pro version does include regular expressions and exporting list content to CSV files.

Listary is a free download, Windows only.

[Listary](#) [via [Download Squad](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/lvovow-ICTo/listary-sifts-through-files-with-powerful-search-hotkeys>

The Rotterdam Collective [Featured Workspace]

Many of our featured workspaces are featured for what they contain. The most notable thing about today's featured workspace is what it doesn't contain.

Lifehacker reader re404 gets stuff done in a work collective located in Rotterdam. His workspace is inside an almost entirely empty loft space in a commercial/industrial area. The emptiness is the most notable thing about the workspace; he and his office mates have a huge amount of license when it comes to arranging their space—the table in the second picture below is a ping-pong table created from wood they salvaged from the previous occupants remodeling of the space.

If we've ever featured a workspace that begged to be used for lunch time games of Laser Tag, this is certainly it. What would you do with an "office" that was 90% open space?

If you have a workspace of your own to show off, throw the pictures on your Flickr account and add it to the [Lifehacker Workspace Show and Tell Pool](#). Include some details about your setup and why it works for you, and you just might see it featured on the front page of Lifehacker.

[The Rotterdam Collective](#) [Lifehacker Workspace Show and Tell Pool]

http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/k5X_04m8TSA/the-rotterdam-collective

The Map-as-Envelope Incorporates Directions in Your Snail Mail [Clever Uses]

In the age of email, it's not often we send mail through the regular postal service. Next time you're mailing a letter the old-fashioned way, do it up right with Google Maps and a color printer.

The idea got its start thanks to a clever idea from graphic designer [Beste Miray](#). She came up with the idea of making a mailing envelope that, when opened, shows the geographical location of where the letter came from.

These clever envelopes are a snap to make. Enter the address of your choice into Google Maps and choose "satellite view." Google Maps' print option uses only the street map view, so you'll need to take a screen shot of the satellite view for this project. Then, just print out the page using a full-color printer.

[Craftbits](#) has step-by-step instructions on how to fold an envelope out of a standard sheet of paper, including how to make an envelope pattern so you can whip up several of these bad boys at once.

If this clever use of Google Maps intrigues you, don't stop there. Make a [paper wallet](#) from a map of your office, and use it the next time you don't want to tote the entire contents of your wallet with you somewhere—like a sporting event or amusement park. If you lose your temporary wallet, some Good Samaritan just might bring it back.

[The Google Map Envelope](#) [Unplggd]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/XHpxi61dYsc/the-map+as+envelope-incorporates-directions-in-y>

Google Buzz Explained [Screenshot Tour]

Google today announced a new service, [Google Buzz](#), that automatically brings social networking into Gmail and the rest of the Google-sphere. Whether or not you're big on social networking sites like Twitter or Facebook, Buzz offers a somewhat new and intriguing approach.
What's Buzz All About?

Buzz's five key features, as laid out in the event at Google HQ today, include:

Automatic friends lists (friends are added automatically who you have emailed on Gmail)
"Rich fast sharing" combines sources like Picasa and Twitter into a single feed, and it includes full-sized photo browsing
Public and private sharing (swap between family and friends)
Inbox integration (instead of emailing you with updates, like Facebook might, Buzz features emails that update dynamically with all Buzz thread content)
"Recommended Buzz" puts friend-of-friend content into your stream, even if you're not acquainted. Recommendations learn over time with your feedback.
Buzz lets you share photos, video, links to web sites, and other content from all over the web with your closest contacts or with the public at large.

It feels a whole lot like Facebook's newsfeed—or even more like FriendFeed, though fewer people ever got to know FriendFeed all that well—but it lives inside Gmail and integrates automatically with your most frequent Gmail contacts.

Apart from working directly inside Gmail, it can pull content from Twitter, from Flickr, and from various other popular social sites from across the web. Currently social services supported include:

Flickr
Twitter
Picasa
Web
YouTube
Blogger
Any feed connected to your Google profile (like your blog)
When you publicly post something via Buzz, it automatically and instantaneously adds the post to your Google Profile page (which it creates for you if you haven't already created one). If you want to post privately, you can create and choose specific groups you want to share with—in what looks like an attempt to offer both the public aspects of Twitter and the private aspects of Facebook.

Buzz is (or will soon be) available as a new sidebar link in Gmail, but it also integrates with your Gmail inbox. If you're worried about email overload, here's the skinny—Buzz items end up in your inbox in three ways:

Someone comments on your stuff
You comment on something and other people continue the conversation.
Someone @'s you, Twitter style.

Buzz also suggests a Recommended Buzz, pulling content from users you aren't following using an algorithm based on what your friends like or are following. The idea is that they'll bring you the "good buzz" even if you're not friends with who's delivering it. If you don't agree with the recommended "good buzz", you can tell Google so and it'll tweak its algorithm, so hopefully it'll more closely match what you like next time.

When your friends post content that's not all that exciting ("ate a bagel for breakfast"), Buzz will attempt to identify it and automatically "collapse the bad buzz."

Buzz on Your Mobile Device

Google is also launching three different mobile products that integrate with Buzz.

First, they've integrated Buzz into the Google.com mobile homepage. The new homepage has small UI tweaks, but the big change is that the Buzz icon now appears in the upper right corner of the screen. Click on

it and you can post to Buzz, but more importantly, when you click there, Buzz will find your location and turn it into a real place—not just an address, but an actual, meaningful place. (When demoing, Buzz asked the user "Are you at Google?") In normal use, it'll try placing you at wherever it thinks you are, whether it's a business, your home, a restaurant, or wherever.

A mobile Buzz webapp for Android and iPhone (available at buzz.google.com, screenshoted below) gives the user mobile-friendly version of Buzz, providing a stream of people you're following. You can also grab nearby buzz to see what people around you are saying (say you're at a concert and want to hear what people are saying about it).

Finally, Google Mobile Maps has added a new Buzz layer, which allows you to post to Buzz quickly from Google Maps. (We're doubting this will work on the iPhone soon because it would require Apple to update Google Maps, which it normally only does on OS updates, but it will likely be pushed out to other devices soon.) Like the webapp, you can post from the Maps app, it'll grab your location and snap you to a real place rather than just an address.

Google says they want Buzz to be the poster child for what it means to make a social tool that plays nice—one that has an open API, that respects the user's privacy decisions, and that doesn't lock up your data. (As opposed to some other popular social networks.)

Google Buzz in the Business

Last, Google explained that they'll eventually be adding Buzz to Google Apps accounts so businesses can use them internally, something that Google thinks will be a very important use in time.

Google Buzz will begin rolling out at 11am PST, and will continue slowly rolling out to users over the course of the next couple of days.

Interested? Let's hear what you think in the comments.

[Google Buzz](#)

[Google Buzz in Gmail](#) [Official Gmail Blog]

[Introducing Google Buzz](#) [Official Google Blog]

[Introducing Google Buzz for mobile: See buzz around you and tag posts with your location.](#) [Google Mobile Blog]

[Readers: Get your Buzz on](#) [Google Reader Blog]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/PaCe9UL3vDc/google-buzz-explained>

Move the Users Directory in Windows 7 [How To]

Ed. note: If you've tried moving the Windows Users directory to a location other than the default, you know it can be quite an undertaking. Reader [Roobs](#) wrote in detailing [how he moved his Windows 7 Users directory](#) without nasty registry hacks.

(Every day we keep a close eye on our [#tips](#) page to see what readers have to offer. Sometimes we get links, other times quick suggestions, and sometimes we get full-fledged how-to guides. Here's one of them.)

When scouring the net for hours on a method of relocating the entire Users directory (in Windows 7) on another partition, most of the methods were not good. They mostly involved nasty registry editing and dummy accounts, and had quirks that could cause potential issues further down the line.

Eventually, I came across a brilliant method on [tuts4tech](#) by a user named "ohdannyboy". It's utterly flawless, and makes use of symlinks. It's simple, and you can just forget about it after it's done. Everything takes care of itself. The only quirk is that accessing the Users folder from the C: drive (for example) appears as "C:" when it's actually on "D:". But this appears to be the intentional behaviour of symlinks. Several months on for me, and it's like nothing was ever changed.

Unfortunately, that post no longer seems to be there (the site crashed shortly after, and I think they had to resort to backups or something). It's too good a method to let it disappear. Just remember that this is THIS user's method and NOT mine.

It's also best to do this on a clean install of Windows, unless you don't mind waiting awhile...

I've read all I could find about this, and the information below is correct and tested:

To most easily move all user files and user program files off your boot drive (an SSD in my case), follow these instructions.

FIRST, Create a restore point (they're [better in Windows 7 than you might remember](#)):

1. Open System by clicking the Start button, right-clicking Computer, and then clicking Properties.
2. In the left pane, click System protection. If you're prompted for an administrator password or confirmation, type the password or provide confirmation.
3. Click the System Protection tab, and then click Create.
4. In the System Protection dialog box, type a description, and then click Create.

THEN: Go to System Recovery/Command Prompt:

1. Boot with the Win7 Install DVD, choose language, currency and keyboard, and hit Next.
2. At the screen with the "Install Now" choose "Repair your computer"
3. You will be asked if you want to "Repair and Restart" by the System Recovery options, choose "No".
4. Then Make sure that Windows 7 is listed as one of the installed OS's available for recovery, and that it's selected and then press next. You will be given a list of recovery tools.
5. Choose "Command Prompt".

Find your virtual Windows drive loaded from the Win7 media (probably either C or X), find your actual Windows/SSD drive (D or E) and find your HDD (regular hard drive) (D or E).

In my system normally, C=SSD with Windows on it, D=HDD data drive

Using Win7 Update media, the drives in Recovery mode were set up differently, thusly:

X: virtual/temp Windows drive,

E: actual Windows/SSD drive,

D: HDD, hard drive I wanted to put \Users on.

Some report that System Recovery mode will set up their drives like this:

C: virtual/temp Windows drive
D: Actual Windows/SSD drive
E: HDD, they want to put \Users on.

In the command prompt you will be using Robocopy (NOT xcopy!) to copy c:\Users to d:\Users, then delete the old c:\Users, then make a symlink from c:\Users to D:\Users. Note that you must do these things in order, and you must not have a d:\Users dir before you do this.

NOTE: in the System Recovery command prompt window, your drives are not the same as they will be after you leave recovery mode! So adjust the commands below for how the drives are in Recovery Mode, and then they'll turn out correct later.

I used:
robocopy /mir /xj E:\Users D:\Users

To move \Users from Windows/SSD to HDD.
/mir tells robocopy to mirror the directories, this will copy all files and permissions.
/xj is very important, this tells robocopy not to follow junction points. If you forget this, you will have a lot of trouble.
Make sure no files failed to copy (FAILED column = 0).

Then you must remove the old Users Folder from the Windows/SSD (c:) drive, before you can create the symlink:

I used:
rmdir /S /Q E:\Users

Create a NTFS Junction/symlink that points to the new Users folder:

I used:
mklink /J E:\Users D:\Users

Use the /J switch to create a junction that's a hard symlink. (If you use the /D switch, you'll also have to edit the registry, cuz it won't be a hard link.) Using /J, when Windows looks for the C:\Users dir, it will find it! But it will be on the HDD instead of the SSD. Tricky!

To see the proof of what you've created, still in the command prompt window, go into the actual Windows/SSD and do the "dir" command, and you'll see:

```
" Users [D:\Users]"
```

Now restart and you'll see \Users on your HDD, and there you go. No further configuration or fiddling required. New user profiles will all be stored on the D: drive, as will any user specific data. And it is achievable without any messing about in the registry, searching and replacing values, or having to mess with new profiles in any way. Totally set and forget.

If you give the method above a try, make sure you set your System Restore point just in case something goes wrong. If you've tried this or other methods, let's hear about it in the comments. Thanks Roobs!

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/9bgjWgfykt4/move-the-users-directory-in-windows-7>

Whether you're looking for a new HDTV, laptop, camcorder or even a boot dryer, we've got you covered with today's Dealhacker roundup. If you're here for the freebies we didn't neglect you, you'll find free music, games, and more.

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Add Universal Keyword Control to All of Your Browsers with Quix [Saving Time]

Imagine typing the same few keystrokes from any browser to email or clip a page, or start any kind of search. [Quix](#) is a universal browser commander, on your desktop or mobile, and it's my favorite new timesaver. Here's how it works.

We've [previously taken a peek at Quix](#), but having played with it quite a bit since then, it's turned out to be far more helpful, adaptive, and just plain cool than we'd initially thought. It does everything that a whole fleet of bookmarklets do, but it does them all from a single button—or, if you're of a keyboard shortcut type, one quick command. Quix may appear to score a bit high on the geek scale at first blush, but once you dive in and see what it can do, you'll never want to give it up.

What does that mean in real day-to-day use? You spend less time configuring your browsers to do things like search Flickr's reusable photos, because Quix already does it—type in fc granny smith, and you're awash in Creative-Commons-licensed apple photos from Flickr. Need directions? map 123 Spooner St., Whateverville, OH, and it's pinpointed in Google Maps. Email a link to the page you're on with e, search only this site's domain with gs search terms, submit it to Twitter with tn, and prove your coworker's assumptions about the star of the 80's series Hunter wrong with imdb fred dryer.

Check out the [full list of Quix commands](#)—you'll find that many of the things you manually type in, or have saved bookmarklets for, are covered. If they're not, well, we'll get to putting them in there, with your own choice of keyword shortcuts, a bit further down.

For iPhone users, it's nearly indispensable. For desktop users, it's far more convenient than trying to set up and remember the shortcut codes to a whole fleet of bookmarklets you have to hunt down and install. For those who have never gotten down with bookmarklets because they just seemed too, well, wonky, it's a great introduction to their time-saving power.

Enough yakkity-yak. Here's an overview of how Quix works, as described by developer Joost de Valk.

Installing Quix

Beyond that basic setup example, Quix has [detailed installation tips for most browsers](#), along with details on how to make Quix a single-letter shortcut (usually "q") from the address bar. Those tutorials show you how to make Quix a shortcut you activate with a combo like [Ctrl+Q in Chrome](#), or any key or keyword you want in [Firefox](#). Internet Explorer, Opera, and the iPhone's mobile Safari are [also covered](#).

Note on Android and Pre use: While we'd discovered the [bookmarklet-friendly MyBookmarks app for Android](#) while researching this post, we weren't able to activate Quix from a bookmark on a G1 running Android 1.6. There is a kind-of/sort-of work-around, as [offered](#) and [proven](#) by helpful Android user [Nick Ortiz](#), but it involves embedding Qix's JavaScript code into an HTML page, then saving that somewhere on the web and bookmarking it, and you lose a good number of Quix's on-page commands by doing so.

As for the Palm Pre, we don't have such a phone to test Quix with. If you do, and get it working, do tell us about it in the comments.

One thing Quix doesn't mention, though, is Chrome's "Edit Search Engines" trick, which, while intended for creating search-able shortcuts—"w iPad" to search Wikipedia for Apple's new device—can be used to create Firefox-like keyword shortcuts to any URL, including the Quix bookmarklet. Add Quix to your bookmark bar or any other bookmark spot, then right-click on it and choose "Copy" to grab a really long line of JavaScript. Now right-click on Chrome's address bar, choose "Edit Search Engines," hit "Add," and then fill out the three fields with a name, a single-letter shortcut (most likely "q", no?), and paste that lengthy JavaScript into the URL field. Now you can hit Alt+D (Apple+D on a Mac) to access Chrome's OmniBar, then type q and Enter to bring up the Quix prompt.

Upgrade Mobile Safari

Quix saves you time in a desktop browser, but on the iPhone, it's a game-changer. [Install it on your iPhone](#), keep it near the top or top-middle of your bookmarks so it's always accessible, and it lets you navigate the web as if it were your personal command prompt, rather than shuffling between windows and searching for search bars on tiny mobile-ized web pages.

Say you're suddenly asked to remember who played [Hannibal Lecter](#) in his first appearance on film, [Manhunter](#). It's a good opportunity to show off a few of Quix's browser-extending powers.

Open your bookmarks and hit up Quix. You'll get a prompt, where you can type in "imdb manhunter" to pull up that movie's full page.

Boom, there's the page. Want to skip right to the answer? Hit Quix again to do an on-page search, which isn't offered by default in the iPhone browser.

Typing in "Find" by itself would bring up another prompt to find items on the page, which is better if you're performing multiple text searches. In this case, we're just looking for the people-eater himself—and, hey, the iPhone happens to be a Thomas Harris fan!

After a quick refresh, Quix tells you how many instances of your word were found, highlights them all in yellow on the page, and jumps you down to the first occurrence. Turns out it's that dude who played Julia Roberts' boss in Erin Brockovich.

Customize and extend your Quix app

Quix does a lot on its own, but it doesn't do everything. Chances are, your favorite web apps and services offer their own bookmarklets for browser integration. We've [covered a good number of them](#), too. Let's take one example, the simple but uber-helpful [PDFmyURL](#), and create a customized Quix bookmarklet that does everything Quix already does, but also creates well-formatted PDFs of any web page when you type in "pdf."

The gist of extending Quix is that you need to create a simple text file containing your custom commands, put it somewhere on the web where it can be publicly accessed, and then roll up a custom Quix bookmarklet that knows where it is.

That's not as hard as you might think. Productivity writer Merlin Mann has [shown how its done](#). If you like his list of commands, which includes Google Calendar, Gmail search, and OmniFocus functionality, you can simply head to Quix's [extend page](#), enter in [Merlin's custom command file](#) (right-click to copy the link location), hit Enter, and then grab your new, Merlin-ized Quix app.

But we want our PDFmyURL functionality included, so we'll create our own little text file—which, of course, you could copy Merlin's or anybody's commands into. Grab the PDFmyURL bookmarklet from [its own page](#), drag it to your bookmark bar, and right-click it to copy its contents. You could also just take a look at it by right-clicking it and hitting Edit, but you might want a bit more room to breathe.

Here's the entirety of PDFmyURL's bookmarklet:

```
javascript:pdf_url=location.href;location.href='http://pdfmyurl.com?url='+escape(pdf_url)
```

All it does is use some basic JavaScript to pull down the page the browser is currently looking at, store it as a variable (pdf_url), and then pass it to PDFmyURL in the form of http://pdfmyurl.com?url=pdf_url (the escape() function merely reformats any tricky characters that a web server might have trouble with, but that's not

usually a problem.

I could, if I was better at JavaScript, simply re-work the JavaScript to work inside Quix's [command syntax](#), and keep the character "escape" function intact. But I'm not that code-y, so I simply scanned that page, saw that you could substitute %r for the URL of the page the browser was pointing at, and added that in. After that, you only have to type it into a text file in a certain order, with your quick shortcut first, the command second, and, after a space, a description of what it's doing. Here's how my very simple file reads:

```
pdf http://pdfmyurl.com?url=%r Create a PDF from this page
```

I saved that file and uploaded it to my personal web server, and then entered its web location into the [Quix extender](#). If you don't have one, you can simply upload the text file to a file sharing service like [DropBox](#) and make the file public.

With my new "Kevin-ized" Quix bookmarklet, I can now hit Alt+D, then Q, to pull up my prompt and enter PDF:

And, after a second or two, a PDF of that page is delivered straight to me. As you can see, you can mix and match Quix commands to create your ultimate command file, save it somewhere on the web, and have all your Quix bookmarklets point to it, so you've always got the same commands on hand. Found something new and cool? Update your file, and you don't need to re-install a thing.

We're planning to dig into Quix a bit more here, and offer up our own suggestions on what you can add to make Quix much more helpful. If reading this inspires you to create your own custom command file, or you already know of one, by all means—link it up in the comments!

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/JF6U2vx2xMU/add-universal-keyword-control-to-all-of-your-browsers-with-quix>

Grill a Perfect Grilled-Cheese Sandwich [Food Hacks]

If your grilled-cheese sandwiches never achieve that perfect diner-style golden grill but instead end up a shade too far into burnt-marshmallow territory, a simple tweak or two can make your sandwich perfect.

Over at the baby and kid-centric blog OhDeeDoh, they put together a tutorial to help a friend of theirs who has a finicky 3-year old who will reject any grilled-cheese sandwich with even a hint of burnt bits on it. The tutorial is focused on grilling a perfect golden-crust, char-free, gooey-cheese, sandwich.

Their two critical components of the perfect-sandwich grilling process include a pastry brush and a lid for the pan. The pastry brush is a perfect tool for brushing melted butter onto both sides of the sandwich to get an even coating for a more even and consistent browning—not burning!—and the lid helps retain heat in the pan so the cheese will melt before the bread starts to burn.

If you don't have a pastry brush on hand—I don't!—it looks like a silicone sauce brush used for grilling would do the trick too. While you're perfecting your grilled-cheese sandwich, check our previous tips on [how to make a grilled-cheese sandwich healthier and pack in more protein](#). Have a tip or two for making a great sandwich? Let's hear about it in the comments.

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/PEH8TnG7Roo/grill-a-perfect-grilled+cheese-sandwich>

1DayLater Tracks and Graphs Your Time, Money, and Mileage [Time Tracker]

If it's time for a self-assessment of where your workday time or cash go, 1DayLater can help. If you're a freelancer looking for lightweight client tracking, 1DayLater's also got game. It's a really lightweight, web-based tool for watching where everything goes.

After signing up and signing in, you'll see 1DayLater's basic interface: Value, Project, Date, and the optional "Note." If you drove 18 miles earlier to pick up poster supplies for a project, simply enter "18m" in Value, "Smith Account" in Project, and "Today" in date, and type in "Poster supplies" in note if you need to. That's it—your data's entered in. If you're about to start working on something right now, there's an on-site timer that automatically plugs your time into the Value field upon pressing Stop.

When you want to get it out, you can export to Office Open XML spreadsheets, which can be opened by most office apps (including Microsoft, OpenOffice, and the Apple iWork suite). You can also put together a rather neat-looking graph of your time, money, and miles. More options and tools, including automatic invoices and mileage claims, are coming soon, according to the developers, as 1DayLater is currently an open beta test.

1DayLater is a free service that requires a registration, and would've made a worthy addition to our [top 10 tips and tools for freelancers](#), had we seen it earlier.

[1DayLater](#) [via [WebWorkerDaily](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/mTcUeGt2VIA/1daylater-tracks-and-graphs-your-time-money-and-mileage>

Learn Basic Color Theory for Better Designs [Design]

Whether you're putting together a portfolio web site or just slapping together some slides, knowing how colors affect the minds of your audience makes your message more appealing. Smashing magazine offers a post that serves as Color Psychology 101 for would-be designers.

Beyond explaining which colors work as "warm" and "cool," how primaries play off secondary colors, and offering lots of keen examples of every kind of color design, Smashing's post offers some clues on how colors are perceived when images are translated to mental impressions. Here's a little primer on orange that caught me unawares:

Orange is a very vibrant and energetic color. In its muted forms, it can be associated with the earth and with autumn. Because of its association with the changing seasons, orange can represent change and movement in general.

Because orange is associated with the fruit of the same name, it can be associated with health and vitality. In designs, orange commands attention without being as overpowering as red. It's often considered more friendly and inviting, and less in-your-face.

Hit the link for a deeper read. While you've got your monocle and draft paper out, tell us what color schemes you like, and which have never appealed to you, in the comments.

[Color Theory for Designers, Part 1: The Meaning of Color](#) [Smashing Magazine via [The Red Ferret Journal](#)]

http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/IFt73U_Zvqw/learn-basic-color-theory-for-better-designs

Dropbox Extension Puts One-Click Access to Your Dropbox Files in Chrome [Downloads]

Google Chrome: If you're a frequent Chrome and Dropbox user, this unofficial Dropbox extension puts one-click access to your Dropbox files right on the Google Chrome toolbar.

Once installed, the Dropbox extension places a small Dropbox icon in your Google Chrome toolbar. After your initial sign-in, clicking on the icon presents the menu seen here. You can select between your recently updated files and your folder structure to quickly navigate to the file you're looking for. Clicking on any given file will either display or play the file in your browser or download it to your computer for local viewing.

Dropbox extension is a free and unofficial extension for accessing your Dropbox files and works wherever Google Chrome does. Have a favorite extension or tool for getting the most out of cloud-based services? Let's hear about it in the comments.

[Dropbox Extension](#) [via [How-To Geek](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/F-JIRpFFJFM/dropbox-extension-puts-one+click-access-to-your-dropbox-files-in-chrome>

Sketchpad Is a No-Flash-Required HTML5 Painting App [Webapps]

Chrome/Firefox/Safari/Opera: Want proof that [HTML5 is the way of the future](#)? Try Sketchpad, a surprisingly robust online painting app that doesn't require Flash, Shockwave, or any other plug-in—just a modern browser and your fingers.

Run by a team that dubs themselves Colorjack, this "Sketchpad" demo shows off the capabilities of modern JavaScript and HTML5 support. You can paint any color in any shade or opacity, take on patterns and "Spirographs," and use all the tools you're likely familiar with from Microsoft's older versions of that old Paint standby.

Sketchpad also offers a handful of control windows you can move around and keep open. If the app supported drag-and-drop file imports, as Firefox 3.6 does, this would be a truly robust, and almost desktop-replacing, webapp.

When you're done with your efforts, hit the save icon and your image pops up in a new tab, ready to be saved. Sketchpad is free to use, and works on any browser that supports HTML5—including, it's been suggested, in some mobile devices, though we had very little luck actually painting with an iPod touch and Android device.

[Sketchpad](#) [Colorjack via [DZone](#)]

http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/L-8IAm7_OLk/sketchpad-is-a-no+flash+required-html5-painting-app

What to Do If Your Toyota's Been Recalled [Cars]

Got one of those [Toyotas with the "sticky" gas pedal](#)? Maybe a [just-recalled Prius](#)? Don't trade in your car or panic if your dealer's booked through next week. Here's a few tips from the experts on saving money and driving safely.

First off, if you're not sure whether your Toyota might be part of the recall or not, here's the read-out. 2010-model Prius hybrids are soon to be called in for a fix to the anti-lock brake software. [Toyota's own recall page](#) has the lengthy details and model list. Otherwise, here's [CNNMoney's thumbnail of the list](#):

Which cars are involved? The stuck-pedal recall of 2.3 million vehicles announced last week affects Toyota's 2009-2010 RAV4, Corolla and Matrix models; the 2005-2010 Avalon; 2010 Highlander; 2007-2010 Tundra and the 2008-2010 Sequoia; and some 2007-2010 Camrys (only those with gas pedal assemblies made by a specific Toyota supplier; your dealer can check). No Lexus or Scion models are involved.

Toyota's starting to send out mailers to affected car owners announcing the recall and providing fix details, but [Canada's CTV notes](#) that it may not reach if you've moved since your car purchase, and it's up to you to get in line for a fix, and update your address for future recalls and notices:

The requirement is that the manufacturer send the notice to the address in their record. If you moved or are the second owner of the car, you might not get the notice, even if you bought the car at the dealer of the same brand. They don't have to find you, and they won't look.

So how do I get in contact with the manufacturer to get my address updated?

The dealer can do it. They may have a customer service phone number that will allow you to do it.

Toyota's certainly taking a hit in the media, and the public's long-admiring eye, for having to issue these safety recalls. If you feel like you might want to trade in your recalled Toyota to try and escape a declining value, don't do it—;at least, not yet. Kelley Blue Book and ALG valuations will [likely drop 5 percent over the life of the recall](#), and the New York Times' Bucks blog notes that [now is not the time to trade in](#). Why? An Edmunds.com consumer advice editor notes that trade-in prices are going to be at significant lows right now, but will recover:

"After the recall of Ford Explorers earlier this century because of tire failures, the resale values of the models dropped 2 to 3 percent or so initially and then gradually caught up again five to six months later, according to a preliminary Kelley Blue Book analysis."

So, the best advice for recalled Toyota owners is to call your dealer and make an appointment for a fix (how surprising, huh?). Still, what if you need to drive your car in the meantime, and you're worried about having your own "unintended acceleration" moment? CTV [offers an emergency stopping maneuver you can test out](#):

Our recommendation is to drive on an empty stretch of road, then put your foot to the floor. You do it for a second or two and then shift into neutral.

It's going to sound very noisy because your engine will be racing. When that happens, take your foot off the gas and bring your car to a stop gently.

After you're done practicing, you should use this technique in case of sudden acceleration while you drive. Do not try to fight the car while it is in gear.

Do you own a Toyota that's been recalled, going to be recalled, or has already received its fix? Tell us about your experience, and any lessons learned, in the comments. Second image by [KOMUnews](#).

MyBookmarks Syncs Bookmarks (and Bookmarklets) to Android Phones [Downloads]

Android: There's no built-in means of syncing bookmarks to your Android phone, unless you open and enter each one. Interactive bookmarklets, too, are generally a no-go. With the MyBookmarks app installed, you can sync bookmarks and install (most) bookmarklets in Android's browser.

To put it simply, you download MyBookmarks from the Android Market to your phone, then run it. You'll get a long string of numbers as your unique ID, and have the option to wipe out all your existing Android bookmarks. Before you hit another button on your phone, export all your bookmarks from your desktop browser to an HTML file, enter in that numeric code you received on your phone, then upload that file to [MyBookmarks' webapp](#) in your desktop browser. You can, of course, edit and remove unnecessary bookmarks from the HTML file, provided you're handy with the syntax.

On your phone, you can now hit "Import your bookmarks from RerWare.com," and it looks for the latest HTML file uploaded under your ID number. When it matches up, you can import them all at once, or approve each bookmark, one by one. When you're done, you're done—all your approved bookmarks and bookmarklets are loaded in your browser.

As far as which bookmarklets work and which don't, those that mostly pass information between sites—Evernote, Readability/Instapaper, and translation tools—seem to work, while those that activate the browser's pop-up input window seem stuck in the mud. Still, something is better than nothing, since Android's browser doesn't let you natively save bookmarks without some kind of http:// at the front, and most bookmarklets start with just javascript:.

MyBookmarks is a free download for Android systems, and it's made by the same crew as the [MyBackup tools](#), so it doesn't seem like an attempt to steal your private bookmark data. Still, go ahead and edit out any bookmarks from your export file that you don't feel like making semi-public.

Know of a more elegant bookmark syncing solution for Android phones? Tell us about it in the comments.

[RerWare MyBookmarks](#)

[How to enable bookmarklets in Android](#) [Android Forums]

From the Tips Box: Backyard Igloos, Sink Mats, and Taskbar Arrangement [From The Tips Box]

Readers offer their best tips for making effective sink mats, rearranging your Windows taskbar for quick program switching, and writing important information on dried food containers.

Don't like the gallery layout? Click [here](#) to view everything on one page.

About the Tips Box: Every day we receive boatloads of great reader tips in our inbox, but for various reasons—maybe they're a bit too niche, maybe we couldn't find a good way to present it, or maybe we just couldn't fit it in—the tip didn't make the front page. From the Tips Box is where we round up some of our favorites for your buffet-style consumption. Got a tip of your own to share? Add it in the comments, share it [here](#), or email it to tips at [lifehacker.com](mailto:tips@lifehacker.com).

Build a Backyard Igloo

[Reknaps](#) shows us how to [beat the snowpocalypse](#):

This is a time-lapse video I made with all the snow we got this weekend. I was inspired by another Igloo how-to using Ikea storage bins that was circling the blogs a month or two back. This turned out wayyy better than I could've imagined.

Use Silicone Baking Mats in Your Sink

Karen shares another piece of kitchen equipment with multiple uses:

I was tired of clear plastic sink mats yellowing and curling and generally looking gross after only a couple of months, so several years ago I sprang for 2 silicone baking sheets, cut out holes for the drains, and have used them as sink mats ever since.

They come in so many colors now that it should be easy to find some that match or coordinate with your kitchen colors, and they can be cut down for smaller sinks with a pair of scissors (as I did for the right one in this photo).

They still need to be scrubbed just like your sink does, or put in the dishwasher, but they have the added benefit of doubling as a safe place to put hot pans.

Rearrange Taskbar Icons For Quick Program Switching

[rpjrugby](#) shows us his [alternative to alt-tabbing](#) between many applications:

Don't be hesitant to reorder your Windows 7 taskbar icons when working on tasks. I've found that simply moving around the 3-4 applications I'm using to complete a task to positions 1-4, and learning where they are, allows me to quickly switch between windows by using Win+(1-4) without alt-tabbing through several windows and hoping I don't pass the window I want and having to cycle through them all again (or using the awkwardly positioned shift key to go back one). For instance, if I'm studying notes I've made in OneNote, using Firefox for research, and chatting on Skype all at once, I'll just drag each of those icons to positions 1, 2, and 3 on the taskbar, respectively. I know where each one is now on the taskbar, and can just hit the win+# combo to switch to the window (or hit it again to choose which of the multiple open windows I want).

The best part is that when you're all done, it's just as easy to move the icons back to where you keep them normally!

Label Food Containers with Cooking Information to Save Time
Photo by [Katherine Raz](#).

[Sean Walker](#) tells us how he keeps his food [fresh and properly cooked](#):

Write the ratios of dry:liquid on the outside of dried grain/rice/bean containers to avoid having to look them up. I hate having to search how much water I need every time I want to cook a batch of oatmeal. Throw the cooking time on there while you're at it!

Take Pictures of Moving Boxes Instead of Lengthy Indexes
Photo by [Katie Tegtmeier](#).

[CalsualSubversive](#) comes up with another great use for Evernote, [when moving](#):

I'm packing to move right now. It's especially important for me to know what's in each box, because I'll be in a small space for six months or so. I'll leave most of my stuff behind and send for it later, as needed.

Instead of writing out an inventory of each item, I'm taking photos of what's in each box and putting them in Evernote. This works really well for my large library-Evernotes OCR picks up most of the text on the books, so I can do a text search to find out what box a specific book is in.

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/aRBhn1Ke5xQ/>

Remains of the Day: Netflix Streaming's 1080p Upgrade Edition [For What It's Worth]

A 1080p streaming upgrade is on its way for Netflix users later this year, Adobe is promising faster Flash for Macs, and boredom can kill you.

[ANI 'Boredom can kill you'](#)

According to a study at University College London, extremely bored people are 37% more likely to have died a year after their boredom was measured for the study. So, um, find something exciting to do! [Yahoo News]

[Netflix Streaming Getting a 1080p Upgrade](#)

1080p HD coming to Netflix instant streaming—we just don't know much about what devices it's going to support, but Gizmodo guesses it's coming to the Xbox 360 and PS3. [Gizmodo][2010 Super Bowl: Some search touchdowns](#)

Google shares most searched-for terms during yesterday's Super Bowl, including team, player, coach, party-planning term, and so on. Pretty interesting. [Official Google Blog][Google Translate Integrated In Google Chrome 5](#)

Pretty snazzy if you're on the bleeding edge. [gHacks][Moto Droid's 2.1 Update Coming Soon](#)

Droid users should soon get an update introducing many of the features introduced in [the recent Nexus One update](#), including lots of multi-touch.[Adobe promises faster Flash on Macs](#)

Who doesn't like faster everything? [CNET]

[Universal sues Grooveshark music service](#)

It must be Monday! [Download Squad][Is it possible to opt out of social networking?](#)

Mozilla employee Jono DiCarlo explains his efforts to avoid social networking, and the long arm of Facebook. [Not The User's Fault]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/8EoMKOeJTIE/remains-of-the-day-netflix-streamings-1080p-upgrade-edition>

TweetDeck Updates with YouTube and Flickr Support, Improved Column Navigation [Updates]

Windows/Mac/Linux (with Adobe Air): TweetDeck—[the most popular Twitter client among Lifehacker readers](#)—just released an update to version 0.33, bringing with it more support for viewing media inline without opening a page in your browser (including YouTube videos and Flickr images) and a nice new column navigation tool. Sound good? Check out the video above for more details or just grab the latest [here](#). [[TweetDeck Blog](#) via [Mashable](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/R-7I094mVlo/tweetdeck-updates-with-youtube-and-flickr-support-improved-column-navigation>

Today Is National PC Cleanup Day, So Let's Tidy Up Your System [Computers]

The Web Worker Daily blog [reminds us](#) that today is National Clean Out Your Computer Day. Want to do some serious PC cleaning but not sure where to start? We've got your back, so let's get with the purging.

Photo by [karindalziel](#).

Clean Out Your Inbox

One of the first places you'll probably find bogged down with a bunch of junk you don't need is your email inbox. If you use Gmail to manage your email, follow [these simple steps to free up loads of space](#) without losing important emails. Once you've wrestled your inbox into submission, assign a [Trusted Trio](#) of three folders to keep your inbox clean: Follow Up, Archive, and Hold.

Daring productivity mavens may want to take this tip a step further and try out our own Gina Trapani's idea and [eliminate the Archive folder](#):

Gmail comes with an archive area built in: click on the "All Mail" link to see it. When you archive a message in Gmail (either by clicking the Archive button, selecting the menu option or hitting the E key), the message gets yanked out of your inbox and archived in the "All Mail" view. That means there's no need for the Trusted Trio's Archive folder. That is, you only need Follow Up and Hold buckets.

Give Your Filesystem a Thorough Once-Over

Now that your inbox is looking svelte, let's move on to the stuff going on around your PC's system. If you think your computer may have been infected with some form of malware but have been putting off hunting it down, you'll want to find a [solid, deep-cleaning malware-removal tool](#) and get rid of what ails you. Once you've done that, get a better deadbolt on your system with some [reliable antivirus software](#). (In fact, around Lifehacker HQ we tend to think that [Windows security tools are pretty great](#).)

Even after you've removed the malware, you may still have quite a few uninstalled-then-forgotten apps sitting around cluttering up your system. To completely get rid of your unwanted apps, try [previously mentioned Revo Uninstaller](#) (we're happy with the free version).

Once you've relieved your PC of all the garbage that was weighing it down, make sure it stays in pristine condition with an automated Windows file cleaner like [CCleaner](#) (which you can [automate to run nightly](#)), and keep your oft-used folders organized with Adam Pash's [Belvedere](#). Use Windows' built-in [Scheduled Tasks](#), to make sure your hard drive [performs regular health maintenance tasks](#).

Clean Out Your Hardware Dust Bunnies

Now that your PC's brain is purring along, let's give its innards a good cleaning, too. Don't be intimidated at the thought of opening its case to [evacuate PC dust bunnies](#). Grab a Phillips head screw driver, some mechanical oil with a dropper, and a can of compressed air, then get to work.

These are a few of our favorite ways for cleaning up our PCs in honor of National Clean Out Your Computer Day, but we know you've got your own great suggestions, too, so let's hear them in the comments.

[Feb. 8 is Clean Out Your Computer Day](#) [Web Worker Daily]

http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/0_684ZTuB6I/today-is-national-pc-cleanup-day-so-lets-tidy-up-our-system

The Majority of You Aren't Interested in Paying More than \$10 for an E-Book [What You Said]

Last week we [asked you how much you would pay for an e-book](#), and just shy of 10,000 votes later, it looks like most of you (70%) aren't interested in paying any more than \$10 for an e-book. The basic voting breakdown, from top to bottom, looks like this:

45% would pay \$5 to \$10
25% would pay \$1 to \$5
15% say it depends on the book
7% never plan to buy e-books
5% are willing to pay \$10 to \$15

It's worth noting that the \$10-to-\$15 range is exactly what [Macmillan is aiming for](#) with their e-book price hikes.

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/XO8VGzdctxo/the-majority-of-you-arent-interested-in-paying-more-than-10-for-an-e+book>

AudioBox Puts Your Music Library in the Cloud So It's Accessible Anywhere [Media Players]

When you bop between your work and home computers all the time, it's tough keeping your favorite music at your fingertips ("Which computer has my Once More, With Feeling soundtrack on it?"). AudioBox lets you listen to your music from anywhere.

(Click the image above for a closer look.)

AudioBox is a web-based media player that puts your music (and, eventually, movies) in the cloud so you can access it from any computer with an internet connection and standard browser. Just upload your favorite media files to AudioBox's secure server, and stream them anytime you want to hear one of your favorite tunes. In fact, you can also access your music via your mobile browser (the company says an official iPhone app is in the works).

Uploading files is easy-peasy. Just locate music on your computer's hard drive and send files to AudioBox in batches or one at a time. Create and delete playlists, shuffle and repeat songs, or filter by artist, song, or genre. The app supports drag and drop, so organizing your media files is a snap.

Currently AudioBox is free while it's in beta, and you're limited to 250 MB of storage with file size limits of 50 MB. Once the service is ready for prime time, various pricing plans will let you buy more storage and upload larger files.

AudioBox is still a little buggy during the testing phase and, of course, you shouldn't use it to store files that are super-important to you. If you're looking for a way to grab some of your favorite music whenever the mood strikes though, then AudioBox is definitely worth checking out.

What are some ways you access your media files remotely? Share what works for you in the comments. [AudioBox](#) [via [Appscout](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/eZnvWn5vKGw/audiobox-puts-your-music-library-in-the-cloud-so-its-accessible-anywhere>

UltraDefrag Is a Portable and Open-Source Disk Defragmenter [Downloads]

Windows: If you like your software open-source, you'll definitely want to check out UltraDefrag, a snappy open-source Windows disk defragmenter.

UltraDefrag is available as a portable application and in a GUI and ultra lightweight command-line only version—the lightweight version is designated as "micro" in the download list and is at the top of the screen, make sure to scroll down for the GUI version if you want to interact with the program like in the screenshot above.

With UltraDefrag you can defragment your entire disk, defragment based on the file and folder—handy if your disk defragmentation is limited to a handful of frequently edited and altered files—and set it up to defragment during the boot process to access files Windows usually has locked.

UltraDefrag is open-source and available for 32-bit and 64-bit editions of Windows. Have a favorite tool for managing your disks? Let's hear about it in the comments.

[UltraDefrag](#) [via [DownloadSquad](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/T2LLfjYYPpQ/ultradefrag-is-a-portable-and-open+source-disk-defragmenter>

Quickly Back Up Your Firefox Profile with about:support [Firefox Tip]

Navigating to the directory where Firefox stores your profile has always been a bit of a pain, but the recent release of Firefox 3.6 makes finding that folder—and from there backing up your bookmarks, extensions, or entire profile—a breeze.

That's because Firefox 3.6 added a helpful new about page for support and troubleshooting. Just type about:support in your Firefox address bar to give it a look. The new page separates a ton of useful troubleshooting information into sections, including Application Basics (name, version, profile directory, installed plug-ins, and build configuration, followed by all of your installed extensions, and then ending with your profile's modified preferences. Mozilla put this all together as a helpful tool for finding important information for users elbow deep in troubleshooting, but as Nirmal over at Life Rocks 2.0 points out, it also serves as a great shortcut for quickly backing up your Firefox profile.

Just click the Open Containing Folder (or Show in Finder in OS X) button to go straight to the profile folder for that Firefox installation. Once you're looking at it, backing up your profile is as simple as copying that folder. Windows users, you can also give [previously mentioned MozBackup](#) a look if you'd like help with the backup-and-restore process for everything from Firefox and Thunderbird to Songbird.

[Backup Your Firefox Profile Easily using about:support](#) [Life Rocks 2.0]

http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/rWxJyy1fG_8/quickly-back-up-your-firefox-profile-with-aboutsupport

A week ago we [asked readers to tell us how they're using Google Wave](#) in their daily lives, and despite a bit of "ha! no one's using Wave!" snarking on the Twitter, we got lots of interesting responses.

Unsurprisingly, most Wavers use it as a real-time wiki, but some take advantage of features unique to Wave, like inline and private replies, public tags, and gadgets. I featured the most unique use cases I got in a brand new chapter just added to [The Complete Guide to Google Wave](#). The following is the text of the [just-published Chapter 10](#), which describes ways in which a few people who don't work for Google are using Wave to get things done—with screenshots.

So far you've learned the finer workings of Wave in great detail, but there's a big difference between understanding how to swing a hammer and building a house. In this chapter, you'll meet regular people who are already getting things done with Wave in their daily work and life. You'll learn the Wave techniques they've developed through trial and error, and the specific Wave features they use to get certain jobs done. Finally, you'll create wave templates you can use and reuse for your own purposes.

Take a look at some real-world case studies of Wave in action.

Wave as a Group To-do List and Daily Work Log

Justin Swall runs Swall's Associated Services, a small company which provides computer repair and consulting for small businesses. Justin uses Wave as a daily to-do list that he and his co-workers update to track who has done what. He makes use of the "Copy to New Wave" feature to transfer undone items from one day to the next, as shown in Figure 10-1.

Here's Justin's Wave workflow: every day he uses a fresh wave that contains that day's tasks, ordered by priority, and what time they're due. Over the course of the day, Justin's group updates the wave to reflect the current status of each task.

Justin says:

During the day either the initial wave is edited (usually by me) to add additional items to the list, and everyone else uses inline replies to update when items are completed, or if additional information needs to be conveyed back and forth. At the end of each day I copy the day's wave to a new wave, change the date to the next day, remove the items that were completed the day before, add new items or notes to the list, or move items from secondary to primary. Wash, rinse, repeat.

By creating a new wave that carries over the outstanding tasks left on yesterday's wave, Justin leaves behind a daily work log that he can reference later.

Justin prefers Wave to discuss tasks because it's a single, hosted conversation.

For various reasons, Outlook tasks never seemed to work for us. Emailing is a nightmare (I either keep thinking of more things to add to the list and end up sending out five or more messages by morning, or I'm so afraid of doing that I keep it open as a draft so I can keep adding to it then forget to send it at all).

If you're interested in using Wave to manage projects beyond daily tasks, see the later section in this chapter, "Wave for Project Management."

Wave as an Event Planner

Wave is a fine productivity tool, but it also can help you have fun, too. Fifteen-year old Sean Caschetta uses Wave to organize weekend get-togethers with his classmates.

Sean explains:

If I'm formatting a Wave for organizing an event, it usually comes with a basic list of the details (like who,

what, where, etc...) as well as a Yes/No/Maybe gadget, which is perfect for these events as we can both constantly check on the RSVP status of people, and they can use the status feature to give any extra details (like if they're bringing along some party favors, electronics or such).

Sean used Wave to create an invitation to a viewing of *The Goonies*, as shown in Figure 10-2.

Brunch-lover Jed McClure uses Wave to organize his weekly "Brooklyn Brunch Club," a group of friends who brunch somewhere different in Brooklyn each week, and RSVP whether or not they can make it.

Jed describes the process:

We have a pretty dedicated group of brunchers here in Brooklyn, and many brunch options. But the onerous task of coordinating usually ended up resulting in people getting left off the email list. With Google Wave, the idea was to maintain a permanent Brunch wave, where people in the group could check in with and see where the next brunching would happen, and then reply if they were going to try to make it. We also set up a map widget and filled in all the spots we like to hit, to help when making suggestions (and to avoid the dreaded brunch rut).

The Brooklyn Brunch Club wave consists of maps, inline discussions debating which brunch place to hit up next, and a Yes/No/Maybe gadget to collect RSVPs, as shown in Figure 10-3.

Jed says:

So far it has worked pretty well. The threaded nature of the dialog means that it needs to be 'pruned' after each brunch, so that the relevant info remains at the top of the wave. And also train people to look in the history for past brunch details.

With maps and Yes/No/Maybe built in, party, vacation, brunch, or any event planning is one of Wave's most obvious use cases.

Wave as Holiday Gift List Tracker

Hal Wilke has two young children, and when the holidays approach, he gives gift suggestions for his kids to their grandparents. This past year he and his wife used Wave to share and update the list.

Hal explains:

We always email Christmas lists to Grandparents, and then get emails back sometimes to me, sometimes to my wife. Or phone calls at odd times telling us what they bought, so we have to track notes that we write about the phone calls. It was much easier this year [in Wave] because the grandparents could edit the wave as they purchased gifts, and we did not have people buying duplicate gifts, and didn't have to track multiple lists of purchased gifts. Pretty cool that the grandparents were cool with using Wave.

The kids' gift wave included Hal's wife, but Hal used Wave's private reply feature to discuss a surprise gift for her with the kids' grandparents, as shown in Figure 10-4.

Wave for Collaborative Meeting Notes

One of the most common suggested uses of Wave is taking collaborative notes^[1] during meetings, classes or conference sessions, and Indiana University employee Manjit Trehan does just that. Manjit's meetings usually have about 10 people attending, and four or five are in Wave, taking notes.

Instead of everyone co-editing a single blip, Manjit separates agenda items into their own individual blips.

Manjit says the process evolved from trial and error:

What I learned after a few meetings [of taking notes in Wave] is that it is best to enter one agenda item per blip. This allows a separate thread to progress below each item. Say we are meeting about ordering some hardware, and there are three open items to be discussed. Vendor selection, Installation schedule, and deployment schedule. Each of these would end up in a separate blip.

Manjit says meeting note waves can get lengthy, but he created a sample meeting wave with separate agenda blips, shown in Figure 10-5.

Wave for Project Management

You've already seen one way to use Wave as a daily task tracker; you can also manage a more complex group project in Wave. This very book, produced by a team of six people—including the authors, our copyeditor, designer, tech lead, and project manager—used Wave to track and manage its production process.[\[2\]](#)

Create a project workspace in Wave using an agreed-upon tag and a saved search for waves with that tag. For example, when we started managing the book project in Wave, our group decided that every book-related wave would get the "cwg" tag (short for CompleteWaveGuide.com). Each of us also saved a tag:cwg search and referred to it to see only project-specific waves, as shown in Figure 10-6.

When you're managing a project in Wave, create a new wave to discuss each topic, task, or facet of the project. For example, for this book project, we used one wave per chapter to discuss chapter-specific questions and edits. For each new edition, we'd clean out the chapter wave of old blips, and start anew, knowing that old conversation was still archived in the wave's playback should we need to see it. We kept other separate waves to draft the style guide, discuss pricing, and see cover image revisions.

Wave as a Conference Backchannel

A smart use of wave tags works well in public waves as well as private ones. Tagged public waves make it easy for anyone to find a relevant place to discuss news or a current event, as it happens, in real-time. In fact, many tech-savvy conference organizers publicize a unique tag for its attendees to use when they post status updates to Twitter or photos to Flickr about the event. Attendees can use that same tag in Wave to create and add to event-specific discussions, too. (Those who aren't at the event can eavesdrop on those public waves, ask questions, and add to the discussion from afar.)

For example, at the Web 2.0 Expo in New York in November of 2009, I (Gina) gave a keynote presentation called "Making Sense of Google Wave,"[\[3\]](#) and invited attendees to wave about it using the public, agreed-upon conference tag w2e. Before I took the stage, I started a public wave and tagged it w2e so that anyone who searched for with:public tag:w2e could discuss my keynote or any other session they attended, as shown in Figure 10-7.

This technique has been used at events beyond Web 2.0 Expo; bloggers at both eComm Europe[\[4\]](#) and the MediaWiki conference[\[5\]](#) noted that attendees used Wave to take minutes, discuss sessions in real-time, and collaborate on notes.

(Watch a video of the 15-minute "Making Sense of Google Wave" keynote at <http://goo.gl/7cK3>.)

Wave for Breaking News

The live, real-time nature of Wave makes it a natural fit for collaborating on breaking news as it happens. In fact, when Seattle police were on the hunt for a man suspected of shooting four cops, the Seattle Times used a public wave to rapidly publish updates about the manhunt^[6] and solicit information from readers in the process, as shown in Figure 10-8.

Granted, most people aren't conducting a manhunt for a suspected killer, but we all have a reason to broadcast and get live updates on events as they happen to us—like when your sister-in-law goes into labor, or Aunt Martha's undergoing surgery, or Mom in New York is worried about how close the forest fires are to your home in San Diego and whether you've been evacuated.

Wave for Q&A

Wave's inline reply feature makes it a solid choice for having conversations that require back-and-forth on individual points: like an interview. Question and answer interactions can happen very easily in Wave, because the interviewer can start a wave with multiple questions. Then, the respondent can reply to each question inline, and the interviewer can optionally follow up to the response right below it without disrupting the flow of the series. The result is a readable Q&A in the correct order, as shown in Figure 10-9.

Create Wave Templates for Reuse

If you create waves with the same formatting and gadgets often, create a "template" wave for reuse to save yourself repetitive work. For example, if you plan a recurring event in Wave, create a new wave, and format your event title, description, and details area to your liking, and add the Yes/No/Maybe and maps gadget. Save that wave in a "Templates" folder you create.

Then, the next time you need a wave to plan the event, open the template, and select "Copy to new wave" from the timestamp drop-down. Fill in the details for the event in the new copy.

Public Wave Templates

Googler Pamela Fox did just that and made her templates public and read-only, available for anyone to copy for their own purposes. Visit the read-only, public wave which lists her templates at <http://goo.gl/GNUw>, like the event planner wave template shown in Figure 10-10.

References ? [When to use Google Wave](#), Google.com? [How to Manage a Group Project in Google Wave](#), Lifehacker.com? ["Making Sense of Google Wave": Web 2.0 Expo New York 2009](#), Web2Expo.com? [How to Use Google Wave for Collaborative Conference Notes and Conversation](#), Emerging Tech Talk? [MediaWiki conference uses Wave to work on minutes](#), Mediawiki Wave? [Another Google Wave Use: Manhunt](#), TechCrunch.com

http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/kF_XSSVdnb4/google-wave-in-action-real+world-use-case-studies

StorageFront Catalogs and Compares Self-Storage Facilities [Storage]

You'll find no shortage of self-storage facilities in most US locales but it's tricky figuring out which one is the best value and has the best amenities. StorageFront lets you sort and compare storage facilities.

StorageFront searches thousands of listings—nearly 4,000 listings for the state of California alone—to help you find the perfect match. You can search by address, browse by state and city-region, and then further narrow your results by using by amenities. You can specify which features are important to you—like 24-hour surveillance, climate controlled storage, drive-in access, and other features.

In addition to searching for a self-storage facility, StorageFront has a storage calculator. The storage calculator can help you calculate how much space your items will take up, what size storage locker you'll need, and will even print labels to help you organize and manage your stored items.

StorageFront is free and requires no signup. Have a tool comparing storage, apartments, or other home-related searches? Let's hear about it in the comments.

[StorageFront](#) [via [MakeUseOf](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/UqgaWyszTCs/storagefront-catalogs-and-compares-self+storage-facilities>

PwnageTool 3.1.5 Jailbreaks iPhone 3.1.3 [Downloads]

Mac OS X: Last week Apple pushed out a [minor update to the iPhone OS](#), and, naturally, the update re-jailed any jailbroken devices. Yet again, the iPhone dev-team is back with a new version of PwnageTool that's compatible with the latest update.

Take note that the dev-team's official stance on the iPhone 3.1.3 OS update is "skip it" unless you've had battery problems (the update offers little more). If you wanted to go ahead with the update anyway, this new version of the PwnageTool (3.1.5) will help you safely upgrade your jailbroken device.

Be sure to read the full dev-team post for details concerning your model before diving in. PwnageTool 3.1.5 is a free download for Mac OS X only.

[Pre-game show](#) [dev-team via [9 to 5 Mac](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/34Lsk56tOqc/pwnagetool-315-jailbreaks-iphone-313>

Google Adding Social Feature to Gmail? [Rumors]

Google may unveil a new social feature to Gmail as early as this week, [according to the Wall Street Journal](#). The feature would closely mimic status updates like those popularized by Facebook and Twitter, and while Google hasn't confirmed anything at this point, we'd guess such a feature would also tightly integrate with your Google Profile—in much the same way as they used Google Profiles to [integrate your friends' social content in your search results](#). From the WSJ:

The change is a new module that will allow Gmail users to view a stream of status updates from people they choose to connect with, according to one of these people.

Google also plans to integrate content that is shared through its YouTube video-sharing service and its Picasa photo-sharing service into the stream of status updates, according to one person familiar with the matter. But whether Google will launch those features in the coming days remains unclear.

[[WSJ](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/Sv1Zt97-eyA/google-adding-social-feature-to-gmail>

How to Separate Stuck Drinking Glasses [Cleaning]

If you dumped all your glassware into a sink full of water last night and went to bed after the big game, you might find some of the glasses nested tightly together this morning. Here's how to get them unstuck without breakage.

Photo by [evelynishere](#).

DIY Life's Diane Rixon recommends first drizzling some vegetable oil or dish soap in between the two drinking glasses and wiggling gently to see if they'll pop apart. If that doesn't work, try a hot and cold one-two punch:

Hot water and ice water. Submerge the bottom glass or bowl in very hot (but not boiling) water. Fill the uppermost glass or bowl with ice water. Presto! The simultaneous expansion and contraction of the layers should unstick even the most stubborn glassware.

Check out the post for more ideas on how to release stuck glassware. If all the time you spent unsticking your glasses has made you realize they're dingy and cloudy, [scrub them with toothpaste](#) to restore their sparkle.

What morning-after cleaning hassles have you encountered after hosting a bash? Share them—and your best cleaning tips—in the comments.

[The Daily Fix: How to Separate Stuck Glassware](#) [DIY Life]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/Wkdv2k0QCkA/how-to-separate-stuck-drinking-glasses>

Modified Tab Ordering Enables Firefox-like Tab Handling in Google Chrome [Downloads]

Google Chrome: If you've recently moved from Firefox to Chrome, you probably miss the way that Firefox orders tabs. This small Google Chrome extension switches the tab ordering in Chrome to mimic how Firefox handles new tabs.

The default behavior for Chrome is to group tabs together—new tabs open relative their parent tab. If you prefer new tabs to open at the end of the row in the order in which you have opened them, as they do in Firefox, Modified Tab Ordering can make that happen.

In the screenshot above you can see how we opened Chrome, visited Liferhacker.com, then Google, and then returned to the original tab to open a few links from Liferhacker—all the new tabs appeared at the end of the row as they opened instead of appearing, grouped, beside the original Liferhacker tab. It's a small tweak, but if you've got a routine for how you open tabs and read them a little thing like the order they appear in can really throw you off. Note: As several sharp-eyed readers pointed out, as of version 3.6 Firefox has adopted grouped tabs instead of ordered tabs. This extension gives you the old-school-Firefox experience in Chrome for those who prefer ordered tabs over grouped ones.

Modified Tab Ordering is a free extension and works wherever Chrome does.

[Modified Tab Ordering](#) [via [How-To Geek](#)]

<http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/dJSO4aBztP4/modified-tab-ordering-enables-firefox+like-tab-handling-in-google-chrome>

The Complete Guide to Windows System Restore (It's Better than You Remember) [Windows]

Most of us remember Windows System Restore as a lame-duck feature from Windows XP; when it seemed we might benefit from using it, it never quite worked how we expected. That's no longer the case.

Windows System Restore is an awesome system recovery tool, and it's included with Windows for free. It's the ideal solution for rolling back bad drivers, fixing when buggy software breaks your PC, or simply rolling you back to a previous point in time. If you've still got a bad taste in your mouth from the lackluster XP version of System Restore, it's time to take a look at it again if you've upgraded to Windows 7 or Vista.

System Restore in Windows 7 Is Better than XP

If you've ever tried the XP variety of System Restore, the uselessness of it probably left a bad taste in your mouth. Setting a system restore point was often agonizingly slow, and when it came time to actually attempt a system restore, it rarely did what you wanted it to do. But if you've upgraded to Vista or Windows 7, you should really give System Restore another chance.

Back in the XP days, system restore simply used a file filter and copied files around, but since Vista, it uses the [Shadow Copy](#) features built into Windows—essentially, Windows can create a snapshot of your drive as of a certain point in time, which can then be used later to restore your PC should anything go wrong. The Shadow Copy feature is also used by backup software to take snapshots of files even while they are in use, and it powers the Previous Versions feature built into the Professional and Ultimate version of Windows. Using Shadow Copy instead of simple file copying makes System Restore much more effective and comprehensive—while the XP version could only really roll back from certain Windows changes and generally didn't work that well, System Restore in Vista or Windows 7 can actually roll back to a previous version of an installed application.

System Restore snapshots [are automatically created on a periodic basis using a Task Scheduler job](#), triggered at system startup and at midnight each day. Before you start to think it's a contributing factor to your system boot speeds, the Conditions tab specifies that it won't actually start until the PC has been idle for more than 10 minutes—and if you don't like the schedule, you can [tweak the Task Scheduler job to run more \(or less\) often](#). When you install (or uninstall) a piece of software, a new System Restore point is also triggered, or snapshots can be created manually if you're about to make a change and want to be sure that you can roll back.

Create a Manual System Restore Snapshot

If you're going to be making changes to your system, like upgrading drivers or tweaking settings, you should create a snapshot before you do anything, so if it all goes horribly awry, you can roll it back to normal. If you're using Windows 7, just use the System Protection tab in the System Properties window—or you can search for "create restore point" to get there directly. Once you're there, click the Create button, type in a descriptive name for the restore point, and then let it run—it shouldn't take longer than a few seconds. If you're a fan of the step-by-step walk-through, we've written up a quick guide to [manually creating a System Restore point](#) over at How-To Geek.

If the manual method is too many steps for you, you can [make a shortcut that creates a system restore snapshot](#) in a single step without having to go through any other steps. Regardless of the method you choose, you should make a point of creating system restore snapshots before you start doing any major tweaking on your PC.

Restoring from a System Restore Snapshot

All these snapshots don't do you much good if you don't know how to restore your PC using them, and it's just as easy as creating a snapshot. While you can restore from a snapshot by simply finding the System Restore screen in Control Panel, you're not going to have a lot of luck actually using the snapshot unless you've restarted your PC into Safe Mode. Normally, you can just restart your PC and hit the F8 key really quickly right when Windows is starting up, which will show you the boot menu and allow you to choose to boot into Safe Mode, but if you have problems triggering this, I've previously written up a guide to [force Windows to boot into Safe Mode using the msconfig utility](#).

Once you're in Safe Mode, head into System Properties ?> System Restore or just search through the Control Panel to pull up the wizard, choose the restore point that you'd like to roll back to, and then choose Next to start the restore process. If you're not sure which one to choose, however, you can select a restore point and click the Scan for Affected Programs button, which will analyze the restore point to figure out what applications will be rolled back if you choose that restore point.

You should note that System Restore isn't going to roll back your documents, it's just going to operate on internal operating system files, program files, and system settings. If you had a document on your desktop, it shouldn't be removed, but if you roll back to before you install an application, the shortcut to that application would probably go away.

If your PC won't even boot, you should also note that you can access the System Restore features from the Windows installation disc, which can be very helpful when you've completely broken your PC.

There's No Performance Drain From System Restore

One of the [most common performance-tweaking myths](#) that you'll find on all the amateur tweaking sites says that you should disable System Restore for maximum performance, but that's just ridiculous. We've already shown you that System Restore only kicks in once a day, and only runs when the system is idle—so the only drain on your resources is a little bit of extra drive space being used, not to mention that snapshots take virtually no time to create.

If you're really worried about the use of your drive space, you can easily [tweak System Restore to use less space in Windows 7](#)—just head into System Properties ?> System Protection ?> Configure and drag the slider to choose exactly how much space you want to use. For Windows Vista, it's a lot more difficult—you'll need to use a [command-line hack to force Windows Vista to use less space](#).

The much better solution, however, is to simply [clear out all restore points but the most frequent one](#) whenever you're in need of some extra drive space using the Disk Cleanup utility. Just run it as administrator by right-clicking on the utility in the start menu and choosing the Run as Administrator option, or you can open it normally and click the "Clean up system files" button—once you've done so, you can choose the More Options tab where you'll find a Clean up button to remove all the old restore points except for the most recent one. This keeps you safe just in case you need to restore, but doesn't keep the older, more unnecessary restore points around.

At this point hopefully you can see the benefit and learn to love how System Restore can fix your PC easily, but if you really insist, you can [disable System Restore](#) easily from the System Protection tab.

What about you? Have you used System Restore to fix your PC problems? Share your experiences in the comments.

[The How-To Geek](#) deleted his system32\drivers folder for fun, and used System Restore to easily get the PC running again. His geeky articles can be found daily here on Liferhacker, [How-To Geek](#), and [Twitter](#).

http://feeds.gawker.com/~r/lifehacker/full/~3/yymRYien7_E/the-complete-guide-to-windows-system-restore-it-s-better-than-you-remember
