

**Return address:**  
 Busnet Computer Club Inc.,  
 22 Peel Terrace  
 Post Office Box 1109, Busselton WA 6280  
[busnet.org.au](http://busnet.org.au), [info@busnet.org.au](mailto:info@busnet.org.au)  
 Busselton Senior Citizens' Club email address  
[manager@bscc.net.au](mailto:manager@bscc.net.au)  
 Web maintained by [kg@kgweb.au](mailto:kg@kgweb.au)

The Busselton Constitution is available on the Busnet website at [busnet.org.au](http://busnet.org.au). This is a very useful and interesting site with lots of up to date information about our Club.

### Table of contents:

- Notes from committee members
- General meeting minutes
- Roster
- Committee members
- Financial statemen
- 5 Gadgets You Didn't Know Support USB Headphone5 Underrated Android Features I'm Constantly Showing People
- How Google Tracks You Across the Web (And How to Prevent It)
- How To Tell If You Are Talking To A Chatbot Not A Human
- Top 5 Portable WiFi Hotspot Devices in 2025
- What is the problem with cloud storage?

Hope you are all keeping warm, well and dry everyone. This winter seems to have been so much colder and wetter than last year.



**Don't forget the AGM on Thursday, 21st August at 1.30pm in the Senioir Cits dining room with special celebration cake, sandwiches and scones and tea/coffee.**

I have been doing the browser now for more than ten years now and my right hand is giving me trouble when I'm working on my computer so I am looking for someone to take over this task for me. You don't have to follow this format. It would be good to see some new ideas after all this time. Please let me know if you can help out.

Pam, editor

### Top 5 Portable WiFi Hotspot Devices in 2025

[https://avasreview.com/best-5-mobile-wifi-hotspots-in-2025-aus/?gc\\_id=22133136229&h\\_ad\\_id=729256092401&gad\\_source=1&gad\\_campaignid=22133136229&gclid=Cj0KCQjwMHEBhC-ARIsABua5iRr\\_8XtMVz1R6VQqdsZv4kzit3RkMe30tsgghrXARxpr1zGhwWt](https://avasreview.com/best-5-mobile-wifi-hotspots-in-2025-aus/?gc_id=22133136229&h_ad_id=729256092401&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22133136229&gclid=Cj0KCQjwMHEBhC-ARIsABua5iRr_8XtMVz1R6VQqdsZv4kzit3RkMe30tsgghrXARxpr1zGhwWt)

In today's world, staying connected is more important than ever.

Whether you're a digital nomad, a remote worker, or simply someone who needs to stay connected while on the go, a mobile WiFi hotspot is an essential tool. With so many options available, it can be challenging to find the right one that fits your needs.



We've researched 27 different devices to bring you the top portable WiFi hotspots on the market and review pros and cons of each one.

#### WHAT IS MOBILE WIFI HOTSPOT?

A mobile wifi hotspot is a device that allows users to connect to the internet using a wireless connection. It works by using cellular data to provide internet access to other devices such as laptops, smartphones, and tablets. It creates a portable wifi network that can be used on the go, providing internet access wherever there is cellular coverage.

**Here are this year's top 5 picks:**

#### 1. Osmo SpeedSpot is by far our favorite choice on the market.

What separates SpeedSpot from other similar devices is its innovative TopSignal technology that achieves lighting-fast speed in 140+ countries worldwide.

This mobile wifi hotspot can support simultaneous connections, making it ideal for use with multiple devices. The SpeedSpot has a long-lasting battery life of 8hours, ensuring that you stay connected all day long.

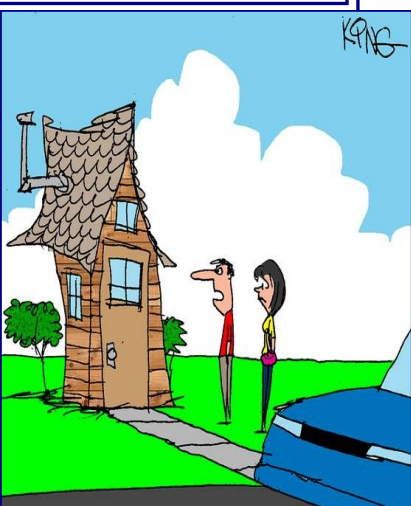
This Osmo SpeedSpot also boasts impressive speeds of up to 150 Mbps, providing a fast and seamless internet experience – even faster than some provider plans. The device is also lightweight and portable, making it easy to carry in your bag or pocket.

Unlike other brands who charge monthly subscription for using their hotspot device, SpeedSpot does not have any monthly charges.

Additionally, the SpeedSpot has an intuitive and easy-to-use interface, allowing users to manage their connection and settings with ease.

Overall, the Osmo SpeedSpot is an excellent choice for those looking for a reliable and feature-packed mobile wifi hotspot. Its impressive speed, long battery life, and easy-to-use interface make it an ideal device for staying connected on the go.

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*"It may be small but I was told it has a ton of smart features."*

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They even offer a 1-year warranty and free shipping in whole Australia. **Osmo SpeedSpot** is fairly priced for a **market-leading mobile wifi HotSpot device** with super-fast internet connection and **no monthly subscriptions**.

The VSVABEFV Mobile WiFi Hotspot is a pocket-sized, easy-to-use device that lets you connect to the internet from anywhere. With download speeds of up to 150Mbps, this hotspot is ideal for streaming videos, downloading files, and browsing the web on-the-go. The device supports up to 10 simultaneous connections, making it perfect for sharing with family and friends. It's also compatible with most mobile carriers, so you can use your own SIM card.

## **2. VSVABEFV Mobile WiFi Hotspot**

The hotspot features a compact design that fits easily in your pocket, making it ideal for travel. It comes with a 3000mAh battery that provides up to 8 hours of continuous use, and can be charged using the included USB cable. The VSVABEFV Mobile WiFi Hotspot is also incredibly easy to set up, with a simple user interface that makes it easy to connect to the internet in just a few minutes.

## **3. Total Wireless Mobile Wifi Hotspot by Moxee**

The Total Mobile WiFi Hotspot is a reliable device that can deliver a stable and secure internet connection for those who need it on the go. With download speeds of up to 150Mbps, it's great for streaming, browsing, and keeping up with work. The hotspot is portable and easy to use, making it a perfect travel companion.

One of the great things about this device is its ability to connect to up to 10 devices simultaneously, making it perfect for sharing with friends and family. It's also unlocked, which means it can be used with any SIM card from any carrier. The built-in 2100mAh battery provides up to 6 hours of continuous use, and it also has a power-saving mode to extend battery life.

On the downside, the device doesn't have a display screen, so it can be difficult to check important information like signal strength and data usage. It also doesn't have a microSD card slot for additional storage, which may be a drawback for some users.

## **4. Franklin Wireless R717 LTE Hotspot**

The Franklin Wireless R717 LTE Hotspot is an excellent mobile wifi hotspot device that delivers fast internet speeds, up to 150Mbps. It's a sleek and compact device that's easy to carry around and can connect up to ten devices. The device is also unlocked, so it's compatible with all major networks.

One of the standout features of this hotspot is its long battery life, which can last up to 10 hours on a single charge. It also has a microSD card slot, allowing you to share files with other devices on the network.

In terms of cons, one of the downsides is that it only supports 4G LTE bands, so it may not work in areas with no coverage or in areas with 5G networks. Also, the initial setup may be a bit complicated for some users.

Overall, the Franklin Wireless R717 LTE Hotspot is an excellent mobile wifi hotspot that delivers fast internet speeds and has a long battery life. It's an excellent choice for anyone who needs reliable internet on the go

## **5. EVDO LINK ZTE Velocity MF923 HotSpot**

The EVDO LINK ZTE Velocity MF923 is a powerful mobile Wi-Fi hotspot that offers fast and reliable internet connectivity on-the-go. The device is compact and easy to carry, making it perfect for travelers and remote workers who need a reliable internet connection. It supports up to 10 devices, including laptops, smartphones, and tablets, and has a long-lasting battery life of up to 10 hours.

The hotspot is easy to set up and use, with a simple interface that allows users to monitor their data usage and manage their connections. It supports 4G LTE speeds and has a range of up to 150 feet, making it ideal for outdoor use.

The PEAKPULSE Golf Rangefinder also features a clear, easy-to-read LCD display, making it simple to see the readings even in bright sunlight. The rangefinder also has a flagpole locking function for enhanced accuracy when targeting pins.

In addition, the rangefinder has a compact and lightweight design, making it easy to carry around the course, and it comes with a durable carrying case to protect it when not in use.

See also

- [ASUS RT-AX57 Go AX3000 Dual Band WiFi 6 Travel Router officeworks.au](https://www.asus.com/au/networking/wireless-networking/routers/ASUS-RT-AX57-Go-AX3000-Dual-Band-WiFi-6-Travel-Router)
- [https://www.reviews.org/au/internet/best-pocket-wifi-dongles/?utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_campaign=%5BG%5D%5BPM-MOB%5D%20SIM%20Only%20%5BPMMax%5D&gad\\_source=1&gad\\_campaignid=22791639296&gbraid=0AAAAAoaJMAFQYrUiiUQboi-DbKLI07KiP&gclid=Cj0KCQjwMHEBhC-ARIsABua5iRtYQ5SUtnGegibu\\_30rbmLnozB5k586vEnQQoMexs8DT1V\\_wOabCkaAgFaEALw\\_wcB](https://www.reviews.org/au/internet/best-pocket-wifi-dongles/?utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=%5BG%5D%5BPM-MOB%5D%20SIM%20Only%20%5BPMMax%5D&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22791639296&gbraid=0AAAAAoaJMAFQYrUiiUQboi-DbKLI07KiP&gclid=Cj0KCQjwMHEBhC-ARIsABua5iRtYQ5SUtnGegibu_30rbmLnozB5k586vEnQQoMexs8DT1V_wOabCkaAgFaEALw_wcB)
- [https://www.reddit.com/r/australia/comments/mebivu/best\\_portable\\_internet\\_hotspot\\_devices\\_for\\_au/](https://www.reddit.com/r/australia/comments/mebivu/best_portable_internet_hotspot_devices_for_au/)

## It's Not Just You, Wireless Earbuds Are Designed to Fail

[https://www.howtogeek.com/wireless-earbuds-are-designed-to-degrade-quickly/?utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=HTG-202506020600&utm\\_source=HTG-NL&user=cGFTZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&ictg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e](https://www.howtogeek.com/wireless-earbuds-are-designed-to-degrade-quickly/?utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=HTG-202506020600&utm_source=HTG-NL&user=cGFTZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&ictg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e)

Ever since Apple removed the headphone jack and introduced AirPods in 2016, wireless earbuds have become a must-have accessory. Their compact and lightweight design makes them the most versatile consumer-grade audio gear, used both indoors and outdoors, and for work and recreation. But all this convenience comes at a cost: the absurdly short lifespan.

### Ergonomics Get In the Way of Fitting Bigger Batteries

The easiest way to increase the longevity of any tech gadget is to fit a bigger battery in it; the more capacity you have from the get-go, the longer it takes for degradation to become bothersome. Unfortunately, wireless earbuds are at a massive disadvantage here because of their exceptionally small size and ergonomic shape.

Nobody wants their earbuds to feel uncomfortable, fall out during workouts, or cause fatigue during long phone calls or music listening sessions, so manufacturers have to minimize the size and weight to conform to these demands.

Larger batteries could offer more playtime and extend lifespan. There are admittedly earbuds out there that promise several days worth of battery life, like the HMD Amped Buds, but their cases are bigger and heavier, and can feel more obtrusive when stowed in your pocket.

Product designers are well aware that when it comes to wearable tech, comfort takes precedence over performance in most cases, even if it's at the cost of reduced longevity, forcing you to replace your earbuds sooner than other tech products like your phone or tablet.

The good news is that tech companies around the world are actively working toward improving battery tech; the recent surge in [phones with silicon-carbon batteries](#) is a great example. It's still early, but once this tech reaches other tech gadgets, it'll allow us to keep them for a bit longer without having to bear any added heft.

### Earbuds Sit Fully Charged Inside the Case for Several Hours

Lithium-ion batteries degrade the quickest when they are left empty or fully charged for several hours in a row. Conversely, they are best preserved when you keep them hovering around 50%. This applies to your wireless earbuds just as much as it applies to your phone.

The problem is that while you can manually unplug your phone when it reaches 50%, earbuds sitting inside the case are always either charging or fully charged—both of these accelerate degradation. Whether you like it or not, the case will keep pushing power to the earbuds until either it is completely drained or the earbuds have reached capacity.

In other words, if you're actively trying to [maintain your phone's battery health](#), you can *choose* to be meticulous about it, but you can't do the same with your earbuds. It's a strange design because the case is where the earbuds are supposed to go, so they don't get lost, but at the same time, it also creates ideal conditions for battery degradation.

### People Keep Their Earbuds Fully Charged for Convenience Anyway

If your phone is low on battery, you can use its power-saving mode to slow down battery consumption dramatically, which means even if it's only half full, you don't always feel the urgency to recharge it right away.

Such is not the case with wireless earbuds because they don't really have an equivalent battery-saving feature. The best that you can do is turn off [active noise cancellation](#) or [transparency mode](#), which admittedly prolongs battery life a bit, but these energy savings aren't big enough for any of us to risk foregoing charging our earbuds before heading out.

Keeping your earbuds fully charged is just too convenient, and companies are more than aware of this consumer preference. This is why [reverse wireless charging](#) exists so that you can keep your earbuds topped up using your phone when there's no power outlet nearby, although this can generate excess heat, which further damages your battery.

### Wireless Earbuds Don't Get Any Battery Health Features

All modern smartphones allow you to stop charging at 80% to prolong battery health. On Samsung phones, you can disable fast charging in the settings to minimize heat generation. On the iPhone, you can keep track of your battery health via a dedicated menu.

No such features exist for wireless earbuds because, again, people like to keep them fully charged anyway. But this also means there's no way for you to prolong the overall lifespan of your earbuds even if you wanted to.

### Battery Replacement for Wireless Earbuds Isn't Common

Battery replacements are very common for smartphones, and if you have an iPhone or Samsung phone, it's as easy as walking into a nearby authorized repair shop and waiting for like half an hour or a little longer while the technician hooks you up with a fresh new battery. If all other components of your phone work just fine, getting the battery replaced is the easiest way to get a couple more years of use.

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Battery replacement does technically exist for wireless earbuds, but it's very rare, presumably because not enough people actually bother to do it. Replacing a smartphone battery is a pretty straightforward procedure, but wireless earbuds come in all shapes and sizes, making repair harder. They're also quite cheap and are hence perceived as more disposable, unlike phones, which are a long-term commitment.

### **Earbuds Undergo More Wear During Workouts and Outdoor Use**

It's not just the battery degradation that contributes to the rate at which wireless earbuds wear out; it's also how often and where we use them. Unlike over-ear headphones that are used mostly indoors, given their size, and are designed to deliver the most immersive listening experience possible, wireless earbuds are small enough that you can carry them everywhere and versatile enough that you can use them for all audio-related tasks.

Thanks to transparency mode, it's not uncommon to see people keep their earbuds on almost all the time, and only take them off when they need to recharge.

Over time, outdoor use can lead to dust and debris clogging the speaker grills. Occasional drops on the sidewalk due to an improper seal can damage the outer shell. Prolonged exposure to sunlight can cause the plastic housing to discolor. Lint and microplastics in your jean pocket or backpack can enter the case's USB-C port. And during workouts, sweat can sweep into the internal components, accelerating corrosion.

Wireless earbuds are a little too versatile for their own good. Everything we love about them, sadly, also comes with trade-offs that contribute to quicker degradation.

From the constant charging cycle within their cases to the lack of battery health features and the physical strain of daily wear, these devices are simply not built to last. Unlike smartphones or laptops, earbuds are rarely serviced or repaired. Companies aren't deliberately designing their earbuds to degrade this quickly; it's a limitation baked into their form.

Realistically, the only thing you can do to prolong your earbuds' lifespan is to minimize the number of charge cycles they go through by minimizing your use of power-hungry features like ANC. You can consider getting foam eartips to get a tighter seal for better passive noise isolation. It still won't be as good as ANC, but it'll do the job. The less the battery depletes, the less often you need to recharge, slowing down battery decay.



### **What is the problem with cloud storage?**

<https://www.esecurityplanet.com/cloud/cloud-storage-security-issues/#:~:text=Common%20cloud%20storage%20security%20challenges,stored%20data%20security%20and%20functionality.>

Common cloud storage security challenges include data transfer speed, availability and reliability, data portability, integration, and lack of control and visibility. Compliance issues, vendor lock-in concerns, and lack of skilled personnel also pose potential threats to stored data security and functionality.

We've identified the top cloud storage security issues and risks, along with their effective mitigation strategies. We'll illustrate these concepts below with real-life examples of events highlighting vulnerabilities in cloud storage.

***For the full article please go to the website.***

## BUSNET COMPUTER CLUB INC ROSTER AUGUST 2025

DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician
	Monday	Heather Maclean	30/07/25	Wednesday	Peter Ralph	01/08/25	Friday	Trevor Gray
28/07/25		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis			Tony Hill			
04/08/25	Monday	Maureen King	06/08/25	Wednesday	Heather Maclean	08/08/25	Friday	Jane Buckley
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis			Tony Hill			
11/08/25	Monday	Cyndy Glencross	13/08/25	Wednesday	Phyl Peach	15/08/25	Friday	Ursulam Hillman
		Peter Quinby			Bill whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis			Tony Hill			
18/08/25	Monday	Peter Ralph	20/08/25	Wednesday	Michelle Chaplin	22/08/25	Friday	Sheila Higham
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis			Tony Hill			
25/08/25	Monday	Heather Maclean	27/08/25	Wednesday	Rosalie Roberts	29/08/25	Friday	Pam Shanks
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis			Tony Hill			

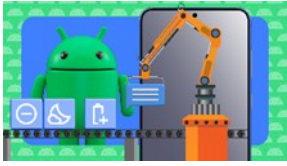
All enquiries regarding the roster. Email: [treasurer.busnet@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.busnet@gmail.com) Phone: 0429 185 066

Category	1/07/2025-30/07/2025
<b>INFLOWS</b>	
Activity Fees	262.00
Home Visit	25.00
<b>TOTAL Activity Fees</b>	<b>287.00</b>
Computer Sales	590.00
Membership	920.00
Printing	42.10
Raffle Sales	35.00
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>1,874.10</b>
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>	
Bills & Utilities	
Internet	139.00
<b>TOTAL Bills &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>139.00</b>
BSSC Rent	274.30
Fees & Charges	
Square	16.20
<b>TOTAL Fees &amp; Charges</b>	<b>16.20</b>
Insurance	16.14
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>445.64</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,428.46</b>



## 5 Underrated Android Features I'm Constantly Showing People

[https://www.howtogeek.com/underrated-android-features-im-constantly-showing-people/?utm\\_source=HTG-NL&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=HTG-202508010630&user=cGFtZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&lctg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e](https://www.howtogeek.com/underrated-android-features-im-constantly-showing-people/?utm_source=HTG-NL&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=HTG-202508010630&user=cGFtZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&lctg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e)



Android has come a long way since its early days, and whether you're a long-time user or recently switched from iOS, tons of excellent features are hiding in the shadows. I'm constantly showing friends and family several lesser-known Android features, and here are a few of my favorites.

Your Android phone receives updates throughout the year, including bug fixes, new features, and yearly operating system upgrades. It's hard enough to keep track of those new features, let alone older ones that don't get as much attention. Either way, these are some features you're probably not using enough, if at all.

### *See Your Notification History*

Have you ever accidentally swiped away a notification and wished you could see what you missed? That feature has been available on Android since 2020 with Android 11. It's called [Notification History](#), and once enabled, it's a game-changer.



Notification History on Android makes it easy to review any and all notifications you've received over the last 24 hours. It keeps a complete log for you to peek at. This feature is disabled by default, which I think is silly, but you'll love having the option once you turn it on.

While things vary a little from phone to phone, or OS version, head into **Settings > Notifications > and look for Notification History or Advanced Settings**. Once you find it (or search for it), flip the switch to "On" and enjoy.

### *App Pinning*

One of my favorite privacy and security features is an oldie but a goodie. I'm talking about App Pinning, which isn't new, but most people don't know it exists. Have you ever handed someone your phone to make a call, take a photo, or do something else, and in the back of your mind, you're praying they don't open any apps or scroll through your gallery?

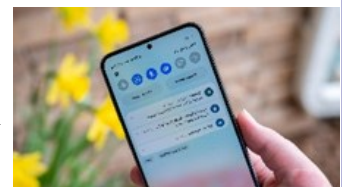


App Pinning ensures only a specific app stays on the screen, and you can even set your phone to lock when leaving the app. This is great for parents who give children a phone for YouTube or games, and is an excellent all-around privacy feature you'll probably love.

To turn it on, go to your phone's Security and privacy settings, look for or search for "Pin app" or "App Pinning," and turn it on. Then, once you open an app, you can hit the recent button (or swipe up) and tap the pin icon to lock your screen to that specific app.

### *Long-Press Quick Setting Icons For Easy Access*

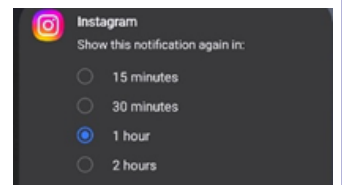
The way all those quick-setting buttons work in the pull-down bar has changed between Android releases. I'm talking about quickly turning on Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Airplane or Silent mode, etc., by swiping down from the top of your screen. And while that's a great way to toggle Bluetooth, did you know you can instantly jump into the full BT settings menu from this area?



Instead of tapping Wi-Fi or Bluetooth to toggle it on/off, long-press the icon. Now, you'll have access to more details and more settings. For example, instead of turning on Bluetooth, heading to settings, and then searching for a specific connection so you can pair some headphones, press and hold the icon, then find it from the list all in one tap. It's faster, easier, and just a smarter way to use your phone.

### *Postpone or Snooze Notifications*

While I love the notification history feature at the top of this list, another wildly helpful one is the ability to postpone or snooze notifications. Honestly, this has been part of Android for so long, and pull-down or lockscreen notifications have changed so much that many people forget it exists.



Pull down your notification tray, then expand a notification from Gmail or another app. Typically, you'll see quick actions, like the option to instantly delete or reply to an email right from the notification. There's also a small bell icon near the bottom right of each one. Remember that little bell?

I rarely, if ever, hear anyone talk about this feature, but I use it almost daily.

By tapping the little bell inside a notification, you can "show this notification again" in 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour, or 2 hours, depending on the app. So, if you're too busy to interact with a notification at any given moment, but don't want to completely forget about it, just snooze it for a while.

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### *Double-Tap the Power Button*

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Finally, I want to discuss your Android phone's power (or side) button. The feature I probably use more than any other is one that I'm shocked everyone doesn't know about or use. Yes, I'm talking about the [fastest way to open your camera](#) by double-tapping the power button.

Sure, you can wake up the screen, hold up the phone to your face, and find the camera icon. Or, you can simply double-press the power key and start snapping photos instantly. I've shown this to dozens of people over the years, and it surprises me every time that it's not a known feature.

Most Android phones let you customize the side power button into two shortcuts. Naturally, one click will turn the screen on or off, while a double tap can launch your camera, turn on the flashlight, or open any app you choose. Secondly, long-pressing the power button will either pull up your power off/reset options or launch your digital Assistant, such as Gemini or Bixby.

I've been using the power button to quickly open my camera for years, dating back to the Galaxy S9 or my Pixel 3 XL, if not longer.

While some of you may already be aware of these features, I'm sure many will find something they never knew existed or completely forgot about. There are a lot of underappreciated or [underrated Android features](#), as long as you remember to use them.

## How Google Tracks You Across the Web (And How to Prevent It)

[https://www.howtogeek.com/how-google-tracks-you-across-the-web-and-how-to-prevent-it/?utm\\_source=HTG-NL&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=HTG-202507270640&user=cGFtZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&lctg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e](https://www.howtogeek.com/how-google-tracks-you-across-the-web-and-how-to-prevent-it/?utm_source=HTG-NL&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=HTG-202507270640&user=cGFtZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&lctg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e)

Almost everyone tries to track you on the internet these days. Google tracks your location, ad preferences, and your online activity. If you value your privacy, you can stop Google from gathering this information, but you have to know the right steps.

### ***Why Does Google Track Your Info?***

I don't want to perpetuate a fear mongering myth that there are no upsides to all of the personal data tracking that Google does. When Google logs your online activity, your location, and the ads you do or don't click on, it uses this information to make things a little more convenient for you. It's just a trade off between convenience and [your personal online privacy](#), which is pretty important considering how often data breaches occur online.

Google uses this information to speed up your internet searches and provide you with more relevant results. If it knows your location and you're looking for a restaurant to eat at, it can give you nearby places right away. If it knows your ad preferences, Google can make it so the ads you see while online are more relevant to your interests. I don't like ads much either way, but I'd prefer to see ads relevant to me than random products I don't care about.

So there are some benefits to letting Google track your information. But that doesn't mean you can't turn it all off if you don't like the idea of being monitored that closely. Privacy has intangible value of its own, after all, and that peace of mind may be worth more than a little bit of convenience. Here's how to stop Google from tracking all of this information about you.

### ***How to Stop Location Tracking***

Google keeps your location data stored in a place called "Timeline." Here, it keeps maps of routes you've traveled, places you've visited, and so on. The information is specific enough that you can find out where you were and where you went on any specific day within the Timeline, with exact driving routes and other information. For a time, this information was synced across all of your devices, but Google changed it so Timeline data is stored on an individual device and deleted after three months.

Still, that's a lot of information Google is keeping about your movements in the real world. To manage this data, open the [Google Maps app](#) on your phone, click on your profile icon in the top right corner, and select "Your Timeline" to see accumulated location data. First, make sure the cloud icon in the top right corner is turned off to make sure your location data isn't being synced across multiple devices. Not only will you be able to view all of that data here, but you can edit it as well, removing anything you wish at the press of a button. You can use the trash icon to delete an entire day's worth of data. You can also click on the three dot menu next to any specific location and select "remove stop from the day" to delete it. It's a bit time-consuming, but there's no way around it if you only want to delete very specific pieces of data.

If you want more control over what data is accrued in the first place, you'll want to open the three dot menu and then select "Location and Privacy Settings." Here, you can turn on and off a bunch of different settings. You can turn [Google Photos](#) off to keep any pictures you take off of your timeline. You can also navigate to Location Is On > Maps (Android) or Location Is On > Location (iOS) to access even more settings, like precise location tracking.

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If you want to just completely stop Timeline from gathering information at all, tap "Timeline is on" (Android) or "Timeline settings" (iOS). From here, you can tap the "Turn off" drop-down to disable Timeline completely. There's an option here that will, by default, allow businesses to use your data for ads, so you should turn that off too. For timeline data, you can choose to delete it at all just delete a certain range of it.

### How to Stop Google Activity Tracking

Whatever it is you're doing on Google Search or any associated apps, the things you do through these platforms will be tracked under the Web & Activity of your account's data and privacy. To get there, click on your Google profile picture in the top right corner of the web browser, then select "Manage your Google Account." On the following screen, select "Data & Privacy" from the menu on the left, then scroll down until you see the "Web & App Activity" section.

Once you are in that section, select the drop-down menu and choose "Turn off" to stop further activity tracking. If you want to delete all saved information from Google's servers as well, choose "Turn off and delete activity."

You also have the ability to delete data from specific Google services, such as Maps, News, Play, and so on, from the Web & Activity section. You can pick specific Timeline events to delete from each app, or you can use the same drop-down menu as before to delete all activity from any particular Google app. You'll also be able to set Google to automatically delete certain information at different intervals, if you'd like to automate the process.

Of course, if you turn off activity tracking entirely, you'll never have to worry about periodically coming in to do this yourself or waiting for some sort of interval to pass. But if you want to leave some sort of activity tracking on and not others, you will have to come back periodically to clear out data you don't want out there, or trust Google to delete it every few months or whatever other interval you choose. You can set it to as few as 3 months or as many as 18.

### How to Turn Off Personalized Ads

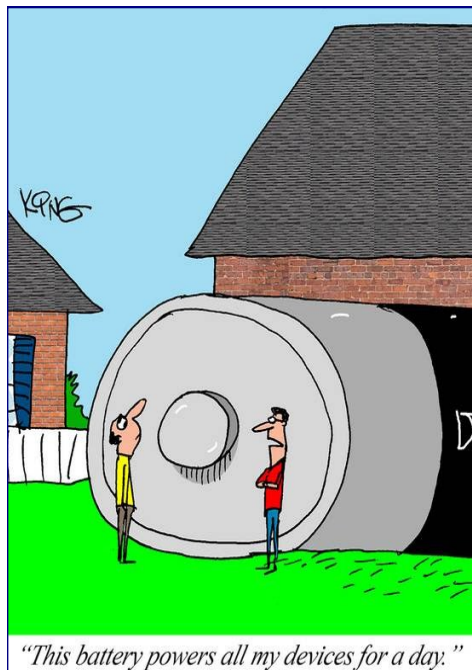
Google uses your history and activity from many sources to [personalize ads](#) for you. This includes your Google Search, YouTube, and location data. While this can be nice, if you want to prioritize your privacy instead of these personalized ads, you'll need to find the Data & Privacy section of your Google account, then go to the Personalized ads section, where you'll be able to find all of the options you need to get this matter squared away.

From here, click on "My Ad Center," open the personalized ads drop-down menu in the top right corner, and choose "turn off." This will delete your ad center preferences and prevent any ads you see from being personalized with data that Google has been tracking. You can take it one step further in the Personalized ads section and select "Partner ad settings." There is an option here that you can turn off to stop Google's third-party partners from using your data as well.

Personalized ads can be kind of nice; ads are an inevitable part of being online these days, and I think I speak for everyone when I say that seeing ads tailored to your interests is better than seeing ads about services and products you don't care about. That said, maybe you use an ad blocker, or maybe you don't really care either way. Regardless, you can control whether or not your data gets fed to other companies trying to advertise to you online.

By following these steps and [personalizing your privacy settings](#) to whatever you desire, you can either stop Google from keeping data about you altogether or at least limit them to only getting information you are comfortable with. On today's internet, data and information is worth a lot, and you never know when a data breach will happen. The more you can keep your data safe, the better, even from pretty reputable companies like Google.

For the graphics and instructions please go to the website.



## Committee members for 24/25

President	Pam Shanks	<a href="mailto:pamela.shanks44@gmail.com">pamela.shanks44@gmail.com</a>	041 889 8207
Vice President	Joyce Jol	<a href="mailto:joyce@albanyis.com.au">joyce@albanyis.com.au</a>	042 745 1252
Secretary	Phyl Peach	<a href="mailto:phylpeach@gmail.com">phylpeach@gmail.com</a>	0400 787 789
Treasurer	Peter Ralph	<a href="mailto:treasurer.busnet@gmail.com">treasurer.busnet@gmail.com</a>	0429 185 066
Technicians	Bill Whipp	<a href="mailto:uuruu46@gmail.com">uuruu46@gmail.com</a>	0435 651 488
	Peter Ralph	<a href="mailto:treasurer.busnet@gmail.com">treasurer.busnet@gmail.com</a>	0429 185 066
	Peter Quinby	<a href="mailto:pquinby@protonmail.com">pquinby@protonmail.com</a>	0419 047 714
	Tony Hill	<a href="mailto:tonyhill@mac.com">tonyhill@mac.com</a>	0422106119
	Jake Challis	<a href="mailto:adude490@gmail.com">adude490@gmail.com</a>	
Committee Members	Cyndy Glencross	<a href="mailto:cyndyglenx@gmail.com">cyndyglenx@gmail.com</a>	0400 953 718
	Ron Grigg	<a href="mailto:ron2grigg@gmail.com">ron2grigg@gmail.com</a>	9752 4210
	Bill Whipp	<a href="mailto:uuruu46@gmail.com">uuruu46@gmail.com</a>	0435 651 488
	Michelle Chaplin	<a href="mailto:michelle17@inet.net.au">michelle17@inet.net.au</a>	0417 189 394
	Barbara Ruscoe	<a href="mailto:barbararuscoe@bigpond.com">barbararuscoe@bigpond.com</a>	0428 902 733
	Peter Quinby	<a href="mailto:pquinby@protonmail.com">pquinby@protonmail.com</a>	0419 047 714



## 5 Gadgets You Didn't Know Support USB Headphones

[https://www.howtogeek.com/gadgets-you-didnt-know-support-usb-headphones/?utm\\_source=HTG-NL&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=HTG-202508020630&user=cGfTZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&lctg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e](https://www.howtogeek.com/gadgets-you-didnt-know-support-usb-headphones/?utm_source=HTG-NL&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=HTG-202508020630&user=cGfTZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&lctg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e)

While we all miss the headphone jack, these days Bluetooth and USB headphones are commonplace, so it's not that big a deal. However, it might not occur to you that some devices that have a headphone jack, can also work with USB headphones.

In some cases, even if there is a headphone jack, you might prefer using USB instead. Especially if that's what you have. It turns out some gadgets you might not have thought support USB audio

### ***Nintendo Switch and Switch 2***

Both generations of Nintendo Switch consoles have a perfectly servicable headphone jack, but if you plug a set of USB headphones into the USB-C port (even with a USB-A to USB-C adapter) it works great.

Most importantly, it works whether plugged directly into the console or into the dock. This means that any wireless headphones that use a USB audio dongle should work perfectly.

Of course, Nintendo enabled Bluetooth audio support late in the lifecycle of the original Switch, but to be honest, it doesn't work very well. It's prone to latency and the performance varies greatly based on which headphones you're using.

The Switch 2 has much improved Bluetooth performance, but it also has two USB-C ports instead of one, and now you can choose to plug your USB headphones into the top of the console if that's more comfortable.

### ***PlayStation 4 and PlayStation 5***

Maybe it's obvious to you since Sony itself sells a wireless headphone set for the PS5 that inexplicably requires a USB dongle to work except *you literally have wireless audio built in Sony*. Yeah, I have no idea why Sony's PS5-specific wireless headphones can't just connect to the console using the same wireless audio the DualSense controller use, but it turns out the console will work with any USB audio compliant device.

I've been doing it since the PS4, and it's literally as easy as plugging your USB headset into the front of the console, whether it's wired or wireless.

### ***USB-C iPads***

Apple's transition away from the Lightning connector is going well, and the only Lightning devices I have left is my iPhone 14 Pro and AirPods Max. My iPads have been USB-C for many years now, and with every update of iPadOS the things you can do with that port expands. Basically, iPads are nearly as versatile as Macs and PCs when it comes to peripherals.

I generally use a clip-on USB hub to expand my iPad's connectivity, but if you're on the go, you can simply directly connect a set of USB headphones to the tablet, and it will work just fine. When you think about it, it seems obvious, but it does feel weird to plug USB headphones into a big 13-inch tablet. Nonetheless it's handy for when you can't use Bluetooth, and the iPad has enough juice to drive a big pair of phones well without tanking its battery.

### ***Some TVs and Streaming Boxes***

While you won't find a USB port on an Apple TV, most Android TV boxes have at least one, which you can use to connect external storage to play media files, among other things. In this case, the "other things" is USB audio.

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Again, most Android TV boxes offer Bluetooth audio, so you might not think of the USB port for audio, but in my experience the lag is horrible in most cases unless you've sprung for a more expensive model with the latest version of Bluetooth. Alternatively, pop the wireless USB headphones you already own in the back, and you're good to go.

As for smart TVs, it's a mixed bag. Some smart TVs [support USB audio](#) if you're lucky. Sadly none of my TVs do, but if you have this option it could be better than using Bluetooth.

### **Meta Quest**

I discovered this one completely by accident. I have some of those wonderful AKG-tuned USB-C headphone buds that came packed in with certain Samsung Galaxy S phones. When I got my Meta Quest, the only wired headphones I had were big and bulky, so I took a chance and plugged in my little USB-C buds—they worked!

Since then, I much prefer to use this solution with my Meta Quest, since most of the time the USB-C port isn't occupied while I'm playing, so why not? It might be just my imagination, but I feel the amplification and is better over USB than the headphone jack anyway, but I can't prove it.

*It seems you can find USB audio support in surprising places, so if your device has a USB port and you have a set of USB headphones, why not just plug them in and see what happens?*

### **How To Tell If You Are Talking To A Chatbot Not A Human**

To identify if you're interacting with a chatbot, look for signs like repetitive responses, unnatural phrasing, and difficulty with unexpected topics or nuanced language. Bots often excel at tasks within their programmed scope but struggle with complex or open-ended conversations. You can also test the bot by asking it nonsensical questions or questions requiring common sense; if it fails these tests, it's likely a chatbot.

*Here's a more detailed breakdown:*

#### **1. Observe the response pattern:**

Speed: Bots often respond very quickly, almost instantly, because they're relying on pre-programmed responses.

Repetition: Bots may repeat phrases or keywords from your questions in their answers, or they may stick to the same phrasing even when you change the topic.

Consistency: A bot's responses on a specific topic should be consistent, while human responses might vary slightly depending on context and mood.

Scripted language: Look for repetitive phrases or language that seems overly formal or unnatural.

#### **2. Test for common sense and emotional intelligence:**

Nonsensical questions: Throw a curveball question at it, like "Why did the pickle cross the road?" or "What's the capital of the moon?".

Emotional scenarios: Ask it to react to an emotional scenario, like "I just lost my dog, what should I do?".

Personal experiences: Ask it about personal experiences, like "What was your favorite childhood toy?".

Unexpected topic shifts: Try changing the subject abruptly or asking about a topic it hasn't been trained on.

#### **3. Other Clues:**

Grammar and spelling: Bots may have perfect grammar and spelling, but some may also mimic human errors to seem more natural.

Profile information: On social media, bots may have generic names, stock photos, or unusual profile details.

Direct questioning: You can simply ask, "Are you a chatbot?" or "Are you an AI?".

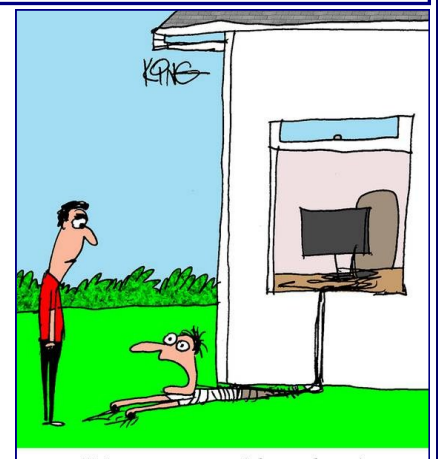
Verification tools: Some platforms offer tools to detect bots, and you can also check profile metadata or cross-reference conversations on different platforms.



*"I traveled 150 million light-years through a wormhole to teach you about technology, not learn from you."*



*"Don't worry, Jim. I'll have your wife track you on your phone to its nest."*



*"My computer won't let me leave! Go in and unplug it!"*

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