



BROWSER NO 224

SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Table of contents:

- New office bearers
- Notes from committee members
- General meeting minutes
- Roster
- Committee members
- Financial statemen
- 5 Things You Can Connect to That Extra HDMI Port
- How the Heck Do QR Codes Work, Anyway?
- Why I Stopped Using Third-Party Antivirus on Windows
- Why Vinyl Records Are Making A Comeback in 2025
- Your Guide to Keeping WiFi On During Power Outages
- Six Weirdly Prophetic Movies
- Eight Best Free Plant Identification Apps for Android & iPhone (2025 Guide)
- Materials that Block WiFi Signal (and What to Do

The AGM was very well attended so thank you to all who came and took part. Welcome to our new president and secretary and thank you to our treasurer for continuing his great work on our behalf. Thank you too to the committee members and technicians who continue to support our club. The list of office bearers is on page 5..

The next general meeting will be in November.

Spring is here, our wetter than usual winter has gone so we can look forward to warmer weather. Stay safe everyone and take care.

Pam and committee



Eight Best Free Plant Identification Apps for Android & iPhone (2025 Guide)

<https://www.tech2geek.net/8-best-free-plant-identification-apps-for-android-iphone-2025-guide/#:~:text=This%20guide%20dives%20into%20the%20top%208%20free,to%20help%20you%20identify%20plant%20species%20with%20ease.>

Do you find yourself captivated by the diverse beauty of the plant kingdom? Are you a budding botanist, a passionate gardener, or simply curious about the flora around you? Identifying plants can be a fascinating journey, and thankfully, you don't need a degree in botany to embark on it! Thanks to the power of mobile technology, a wealth of plant identification apps are at your fingertips, ready to transform you into a plant identification expert.



This guide dives into the top 8 free plant identification apps available for both iOS and Android devices. These apps utilize image recognition technology and extensive databases to help you identify plant species with ease. From snapping a quick photo to receiving detailed information and care tips, these apps are invaluable tools for plant enthusiasts of all levels.

Just in case you are tempted to be out and about more as the weather warms up and the gardens and the bush beckon.

Materials that Block WiFi Signal (and What to Do About It)

<https://www.signalboosters.com/blog/materials-that-block-wifi-signals/>

We love [WiFi](#). That is, until it stops working in a certain room, during meetings, or when we're streaming. Weak or spotty connection isn't just annoying, it can impact work and even home security. While we're quick to blame internet providers most of the time, the culprit can actually be your surroundings and the materials they're made of.

For the full article please go to the website.

Six Weirdly Prophetic Movies

<https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4202528131349-6-weirdly-prophetic-movies>

A lot of fiction seems to be written by people who can see the future. It happens in sci-fi novels all the time, but there are plenty of movies that have turned out to be pretty prophetic too.

Of course, in many cases it's just because we're interpreting them broadly, or just the luck of the draw (most movies don't predict the future), but with these movies they really do seem eerily prescient.

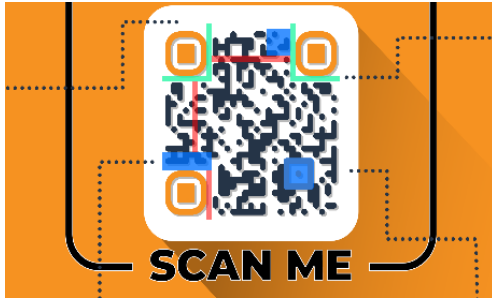
For the full article please go to the website above. I thought it surprising and interesting. Hope you do too.



"Next time you blow out the dust from the back of your computer, do it outside."

How the Heck Do QR Codes Work, Anyway?

https://www.howtogeek.com/how-the-heck-do-qr-codes-work-anyway/?utm_source=HTG-NL&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=HTG-202508090645&user=cGFtZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&ictg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e



QR codes are pixelated black and white squares that perform magic when we point the cameras on our phones at them—but what’s going on that makes this little spell possible?

QR codes are akin to the kind of barcodes you see scanned at the checkout line in a store. Masahiro Hara, working for the Japanese company Denso Wave, invented QR codes in 1994. Tasked with streamlining the process of labeling automotive parts, Hara was inspired by the black and white patterns in the strategy game Go.

QR codes can communicate more data than barcodes. While complex automotive parts required a barcode on each individual component, a single QR code could list all the included parts, reducing the number of codes that needed to be printed.

In a barcode, the thickness and spacing between lines translates into information. A barcode can only communicate up to twenty alphanumeric characters, and they can only be scanned vertically or horizontally. QR codes communicate via squares rather than lines. Unlike the bars in a barcode, the squares in a QR code also communicate their position, allowing them to be scanned from any angle and enabling them to communicate longer strings of information. QR codes aren't limited to alphanumeric characters, either. They can also encode information in binary and kanji.

Advantages of QR codes over barcodes:

QR codes have spread across the globe, because they offer much more than conventional barcodes.

QR codes can store longer strings of information, exceeding the 20-character limit of barcodes.

Barcodes are limited to alphanumeric characters, whereas QR codes can also include binary and kanji.

QR codes can be scanned from any direction. Barcodes have to be scanned vertically or horizontally. The frustration of this can be felt every time you go through a self-checkout line.

QR codes transfer information more quickly, meaning they can be scanned faster and in more rapid succession.

What Are QR Codes Commonly Used For?

As you already know, QR codes are no longer confined to the automotive industry. QR codes are a quick way to share a lengthy URL pointing to a website, so they’ve appeared everywhere, from slips of paper that ship alongside products in place of instruction manuals to inside restaurants as a way to replace paper menus and pay for things digitally.

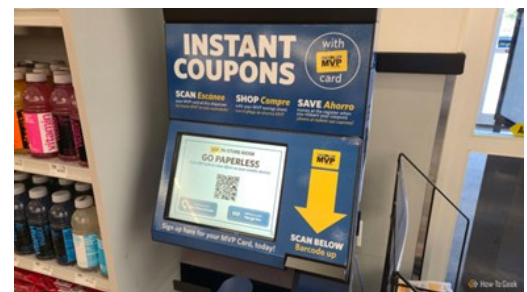
QR codes now provide ways for devices to communicate with each other. You can [generate a QR code to share a Wi-Fi hotspot](#) with someone, saving you both the pain of typing in lengthy passwords. Matter-compatible smart devices use QR codes to communicate their unique setup code needed to add the device to your smart home network. Netflix lets you turn your phone into a game controller by scanning a QR code.

QR codes communicate tracking information when shipping products, and they appear on signage as a way to point pedestrians toward a video or a website with more information. Airlines now provide QR codes inside mobile apps that passengers can present when boarding a plane. QR codes have also replaced tickets for concerts and theater events. Some grocery stores use QR codes as a way to provide customers with coupons.

QR codes are increasingly being used in more diverse and complicated ways. Since 2016, India has used QR codes (through a system known as BharatQR) to make payments from one bank account or credit card to another. The system works with all RuPay cards along with Mastercard, Visa, and American Express. Unlike tap-to-pay, it doesn’t require phones to have specialized hardware like NFC chips, making it a system accessible to virtually anyone with a phone.

How to Scan a QR Code

QR codes once required their own standalone app, but those are only necessary now if using a particularly old phone or you’re looking for additional features. That’s because QR code scanning is now baked directly into the camera apps that ship on modern phones.



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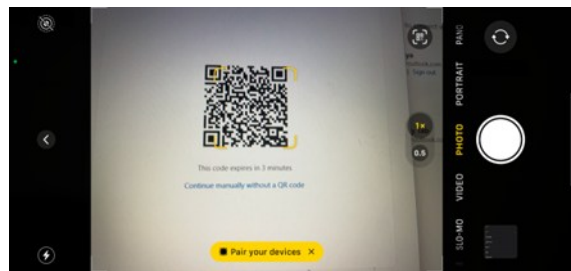
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To scan a QR code:

1. Open your phone's camera app.
2. Point the camera at a QR code.

Tap the resulting URL or information that appears in a small pop-up.

If the string of information is a website, tapping the URL will immediately open the website in your default browser. If the encoded information is not a URL, tapping the pop-up will copy the text for you to paste elsewhere.



Sometimes apps will open the camera for you. For example, when adding a Matter device, your smart home app will often launch the camera in order for you to scan the QR code within the app you're in.

QR codes aren't without their downsides. Since QR codes can lead to virtually anything, there are now [malicious QR codes you need to avoid](#). Phishing can even take place via QR code, a [scam known as quishing](#).

That doesn't mean you should fear QR codes. This is a technology you can put to good use like any other, and the possibilities are genuinely endless. You can even [stick QR codes on boxes to organize your home](#), if you're so inclined.

Why I Stopped Using Third-Party Antivirus on Windows

https://www.howtogeek.com/why-i-stopped-using-third-party-antivirus-on-windows/?utm_source=HTG-NL&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=HTG-202508290630&user=cGFtZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&lctg=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e

Not so long ago, running a Windows PC without some kind of special antivirus would have all but ensured that your PC got infected with malware. Now, however, the situation is different. Microsoft has made huge improvements to the operating system, and you probably don't need to pay up for antivirus.

Why Did You Need Third-Party Antivirus Originally?

If you remember any version of Windows from the early 2000s, you'll remember just how rampant malware was. Downloading and trying out new programs often felt like tiptoeing through a virtual minefield.

The problem boiled down to two big things:

1. Windows gives users a lot of freedom to download and install whatever they want from wherever they want.

Windows didn't have comprehensive integrated anti-malware

The combination of a fairly open operating system, combined with no native antivirus, made Windows an easy target. The fact that the number of people using Windows to access the internet was growing exponentially made it an extremely appealing target.

As a result, you basically had to run some kind of third-party antivirus, or you'd quickly find your PC inundated with more malware than you can shake a stick of RAM at.

Windows Defender Changed It All

Despite those initial setbacks, I haven't run any kind of third-party antivirus on Windows in more than 10 years, and I don't recommend it for most people either. It's unnecessary.

Microsoft, seeing a pressing need to better protect the operating system "out of the box," eventually created Windows Defender and integrated it into Windows 8.

Subsequent Windows versions, so far Windows 10 and Windows 11, have included Windows Defender BT default, though with a different name. After a few tweaks, Microsoft finally settled on renaming Windows Defender to Microsoft Defender Antivirus, which is included in Windows Security.

Despite the branding mess, it is actually a fantastic piece of software.

Windows Security Is Great

Despite the fact that it is completely free, Microsoft Defender Antivirus is actually fantastic. It provides both [real-time protection](#), which scans downloads and apps as you open them, or they run for malware, and provides the ability to run a traditional virus scan whenever you want.

When you look at [data from AV-Test](#) that analyzes how effectively it detects and blocks viruses compared to competitors, it is usually at least on par, and regularly nudges them out to claim top place.

Critically, the performance impact on most PCs is pretty negligible. I quickly shut it off and played a few games, launched [Blender to mess around with a bit of rendering](#), unpacked a few large ZIP files, and ran a local AI (Gemma 3 12b) to see if there was any noticeable performance gain with it disabled. I noticed absolutely no difference at all—which is exactly how it should be.

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Windows Security also makes all the usual important settings, like setting up exclusions and your preferred default actions if malware is detected, quite easy. All you need to do is (settings).

If you want to run a scan, all you need to do is head to Virus & Threat Protection and hit "Scan." If you want more control, you can customize what files, folders, and drives are included in the scan, and how thoroughly it'll go through files by clicking "Scan options."

Though you won't usually need it, it also provides the ability to run a malware scan at boot time, which can be invaluable if you find you have a particularly difficult piece of malware, like a rootkit, on your PC.

Windows Security also includes integrated [ransomware protection](#) in the form of Controlled Folder Access. Controlled Folder Access, as the name suggests, just limits which applications can modify important folders on your PC.

Of course, there are some times where third-party antivirus can be helpful.

If you need something with more granular control, or if you just dislike the interface for Windows Security, then some of the third-party options might appeal to you more. Additionally, while Windows Firewall is perfectly functional, interacting with it feels like fighting with a Windows XP computer—clunky. Many third-party antivirus solutions also include packages that provide a more helpful, intuitive interface for Windows' integrated firewall.

Additionally, some antimalware software functions well just as an extra scanner if you want "another set of eyes" to check your PC after an infection. Malwarebytes has been my go-to option for a second opinion for years, and it is completely free to use that way.

BUSNET COMPUTER CLUB INC								
ROSTER			September 2025					
DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician
1/9/25	Monday	Kerry Mclements	3/9/25	Wednesday	Rosalie Roberts	5/9/25	Friday	Trevor Gray
		Peter Quinby Jake Challis			Bill whipp Tony Hill			Bill whipp Tony Hill
8/9/25	Monday	Cyndy Glencross	10/9/25	Wednesday	Phyl Peach	12/9/25	Friday	Jane Buckley
		Peter Quinby Jake Challis			Bill whipp Tony Hill			Bill whipp Tony Hill
15/9/25	Monday	Peter Ralph	17/9/25	Wednesday	Heather Maclean	19/9/25	Friday	Pam Shanks
		Peter Quinby Jake Challis			Bill whipp Tony Hill			Bill whipp Tony Hill
22/9/25	Monday	Heather Maclean	24/9/25	Wednesday	Michelle Chaplin	26/9/25	Friday	Ursula Hillman
		Peter Quinby Jake Challis			Bill whipp Tony Hill			Bill whipp Tony Hill
29/9/25	Monday	Peter Ralph	1/10/25	Wednesday	Heather Maclean	3/10/25	Friday	Trevor Gray
		Peter Quinby Jake Challis			Bill whipp Tony Hill			Bill whipp Tony Hill

Why Vinyl Records Are Making A Comeback in 2025

<https://indiepulsemusic.com/2025/02/24/why-vinyl-records-are-making-a-comeback-in-2025/#:~:text=Previously%2C%20people%20were%20rapidly%20switching,a%20surprising%20comeback%20in%202025.>

Vinyl Records

In recent years, music formats have evolved significantly. Previously, people were rapidly switching to digital formats because they're easier and more accessible. However, people clamor for nostalgia leading many to switch to older and more proven musical formats. Thanks to this consumer shift, vinyl records are making a surprising comeback in 2025.



Consumers are buying vinyl records for an array of reasons that will be explored in more detail below.

Growing Accessibility

It'll always be easier to download music than to buy cassettes, records, and CDs. After all, downloading means that the music can be accessed online from home. Nevertheless, more companies are adopting vinyl records making them a bit more accessible in 2025. For instance, America's largest retailer Wal-Mart sells vinyl records.

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Furthermore, record stores are reopening across the country. With the COVID pandemic over and mostly forgotten, stores have reopened their doors. Now, many consumers reside relatively close to a record shop. Finally, online shopping means it's easier than before to acquire rare and common vinyl records.

It takes a few clicks to have your favorite band's record shipped to your door.

Superb Quality

Consumers are eager to get the best audio quality possible. Although MP3 files are impressive, they require expensive radio equipment for the best audio results. At the very least, the household should have a high-quality stereo system. Otherwise, the digital music file is not going to sound great. Many audiophiles agree that vinyl records are better in terms of musical performances.

They're only topped by classical reels. Nevertheless, consumers will enjoy the deep, high-quality sound produced by records. They'll agree that the sound quality is sharply better than CDs and digital music. Just remember that the overall performance will depend on the consumer's record player and speakers.

Undeniable Valuable

CDs tend to be very cheap while cassettes aren't very popular. Unfortunately, these musical formats have become less common and less popular. As a result, the typical value of a music CD is going to be very low. Vinyl records are unique because they tend to maintain their vinyl. In fact, consumers will be shocked to learn that some records are worth thousands. You just need to properly care for your vinyl records to ensure that they maintain their value.

Regardless, it makes more sense financially to collect and maintain vinyl records. Doing so could ensure that you own many valuable vinyl records in the future.

Building A Collection

People enjoy the idea of building a collection whether they're collecting sports cards, gaming cards, video games, or music. In terms of collectability, it is hard to beat the trusty vinyl as how a player in the casino games applies the [craps strategies](#) probably wins the most bets. Records have been around for many years. Nevertheless, the durability of vinyl means that many vintage records are still in superb condition. You can purchase records printed in the 60s that are still in mint condition. They'll play without any pops or hisses.

More importantly, these vinyl records will be great to bolster your current collection. They'll add value, esteem, and originality to your music collection. If you're a fan of a certain band, collecting the band's records is wise.

Old School Feel

Baby Boomers and Gen X are returning to their roots by switching back to vinyl records. There is just something special about the look and feel of vinyl records. Unlike CDs, some music genres in record form are hard to come by. Contemporary classical music is just one example.

Rare Vinyl Record Collectables

A rare classic album is a hot commodity in the vintage world. Collectors will gladly pay several thousand dollars for a rare LP like the 1968 "The Doors" album.

A good place to find classic vinyl records in prestige condition is estate sales. Consumers can also find good used LPs at secondhand stores, yard sales, pawn shops, and online auction sites.

Summary

If you're getting prepared to collect music, you should strongly consider picking vinyl records. They provide consumers with the best audio quality and they're worth more than any musical alternatives. Plus, you're going to enjoy the nostalgic experience provided by vinyl records. When you're listening to your music, the records and the playing experience will take you back in time.

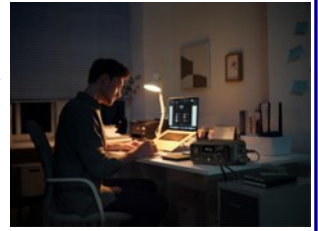
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Your Guide to Keeping WiFi On During Power Outages

<https://www.ecoflow.com/us/blog/keep-wifi-on-power-outages>

When the power goes out, your WiFi usually goes with it, leaving you disconnected from work, news, and entertainment. The good news is, your internet service is likely still active; it's just your modem and router that have lost power. This guide will walk you through simple solutions, from small battery backups to powerful portable power stations, that can keep your home network running smoothly through any outage, ensuring you stay connected when it matters most.



Why Your WiFi Dies With Power

First, let's clear up a common misconception. When your power goes out, the internet itself—the massive network of fiber optic and [coaxial cables](#) running to your home—is usually still working. Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) has its own backup power systems to keep their network online.

The real problem is in your house. Your internet connection relies on two small but crucial devices: the modem (which brings the internet signal into your home) and the router (which creates your WiFi network). Both of these devices need to be plugged into a wall outlet for electricity. When the power goes out, they shut off, and your home network disappears with them. The solution, then, is to give them their own private power source.

The Simplest Solution: The Mini-UPS

If you're just looking to keep your internet on for a few hours, the easiest and most affordable option is a mini-[UPS \(Uninterruptible Power Supply\)](#). Think of it as a small, dedicated power bank designed specifically for low-power devices like your modem and router.

This device is essentially a specialized battery backup for the modem and router. You plug the mini-UPS into the wall, and then plug your modem and router into the mini-UPS. It will continuously charge its internal battery. When the power goes out, it seamlessly [switches over to battery power](#) without your devices ever shutting down. They are compact, silent, and incredibly simple to set up. For short outages, a mini-UPS is a fantastic and budget-friendly choice.

The Classic Choice: A Traditional UPS

A step up from the mini-UPS is the traditional UPS—the kind you often see connected to a desktop computer. These units are bigger, heavier, and offer standard AC wall outlets, making them more versatile. Finding the best UPS for router and modem in this category depends on how much runtime you want.

A traditional UPS works the same way as a mini-UPS, acting as an intermediary that provides instant battery power during an outage. The advantage is that a larger unit can power more than just your internet. You can plug in your modem, your router, and maybe even a small lamp or use it to charge your phone. This makes it a great central hub for staying connected and having a little light during a short-term power failure.

The Ultimate Fix: Portable Power Stations

For those who want a truly robust solution for long outages or who want to power more than just the basics, a portable power station is the ultimate answer. These modern devices are essentially high-capacity, intelligent batteries with multiple types of outlets (AC, USB-A, USB-C) that can power a wide range of electronics and even small appliances.

A portable power station provides reliable portable power for home internet, and it can do it for days, not just hours. This is the perfect solution for anyone who works from home, has smart home devices they want to keep online, or simply wants to maintain a normal level of comfort during an extended outage. A unit like the [EcoFlow DELTA Pro 3](#) is a complete home backup solution that can keep your internet, refrigerator, and lights on. With its expandable battery and multiple fast-recharging methods, including solar, you'll be prepared for anything.

EcoFlow DELTA Pro 3 Portable Power Station (UL9540 Certificated)

EcoFlow DELTA Pro 3 offers 4000W and dual 120V/240V output. Easy setup, ultra-quiet operation. Perfect for home or on-the-go. Shop today!

Find the Right WiFi Router Battery Backup for You

So, how do you choose? It really comes down to your needs and budget.

For short-term outages (1-4 hours): A dedicated mini-UPS is likely all you need. It's a simple "set it and forget it" solution that will keep you online long enough for the power to likely return.

For powering more than just WiFi (4-8 hours): A traditional UPS is the best UPS for router and modem plus a few other small devices. It gives you more flexibility to charge a laptop or keep a light on.

For long-term outages (8+ hours or multiple days): A portable power station is the clear winner. It offers the longest runtime and the versatility to power much more than just your internet connection, making it an essential part of any modern home emergency plan.

The Backup to Your Backup: A Mobile Hotspot

It's always good to have a backup plan. If all else fails, or if you haven't set up a battery backup for your modem and router yet, you can use your smartphone's [mobile hotspot feature](#). This turns your phone into a temporary WiFi router, using its cellular data to create a network that other devices, like your laptop, can connect to.

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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=cGFtZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWwslmNvbQ&ictg=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.

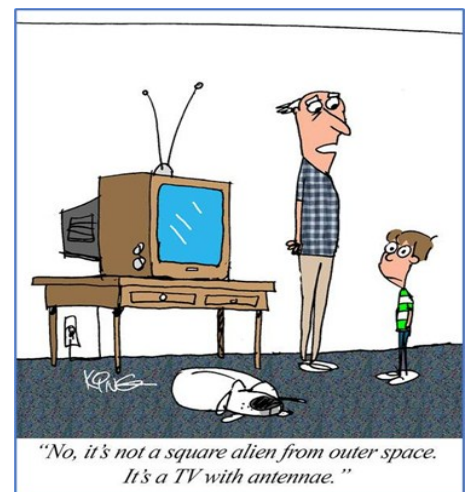
Still, that's a lot of information Google is keeping about your movements in the real world. To manage this data, open the [Google Maps app](#) on your phone, click on your profile icon in the top right corner, and select "Your Timeline" to see accumulated location data. First, make sure the cloud icon 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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Did You Know:

- ◆ The T-Rex roar in *Jurassic Park* was created by blending the sounds of an alligator, a baby elephant, and a tiger.
- ◆ the world's first ancient computer is known as the [Antikythera mechanism](#), an ancient Greek analogue computer from around the 2nd century BC that used gears to predict astronomical positions and eclipses



5 Things You Can Connect to That Extra HDMI Port

https://www.howtogeek.com/things-you-can-connect-to-that-extra-hdmi-port/?utm_source=HTG-NL&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=HTG-202508070545&user=cGFtZWxhLnNoYW5rczQ0QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ&utm_source=9ec3a7490a198b65e8ca4fe6a0c113e4796a52216f21c41cda68047d4a864f1e

Switch to a Sleek Soundbar Instead of Speakers

[Channel speaker systems](#) have their place, but it's mostly in the past. If you've got a free HDMI slot, you should consider switching to a small soundbar instead, which can not only save you desk space but also provide you with better sound quality. It'll save you a ton of room on cable space since it only needs one, and soundbars come in a huge range of prices, so it's not difficult to find one within your budget.



Just keep in mind that some cheap soundboards might only support USB connections. But you'd really be better off with HDMI, since it supports many audio formats and generally offers pretty good bandwidth for high-fidelity audio. HDMI is the standard for most soundbars, even the cheaper ones, but you'll want to double-check to make sure.

Older VR Headsets Can Work With an HDMI Connection

Admittedly, most modern VR headsets use [a USB-C port to connect to your PC](#) to play PCVR games, but there are a few older models—such as the Oculus Rift CV1 or HTC Vive—that use an HDMI port instead. If your monitor is already using the DisplayPort on your graphics card, nothing is stopping you from using the newly freed HDMI port to connect to a VR headset that uses HDMI. Admittedly, older headsets have a more limited game library, but it's still worth considering.

I'm not saying you should go out of your way to buy a VR headset that you don't have, but if you have an old one lying around gathering dust or can get an old one for cheap because you want to try out some VR games, it's not a bad idea to use that HDMI port for this.

Connect a Capture Card for Dual-PC Streaming

Streaming is more popular than ever, and if you're already into it or looking to get started, you may want to use a dual-PC setup. Making [that work requires a capture card](#). Connect a capture card to your free HDMI port, and it can send the feed from your streaming PC via USB. This removes the burden of streaming from your graphics card, removing any hits to game performance while you're capturing your video game adventures for the masses.

Change Your Visual Experience With a Projector

Some people like seeing things on the big screen. Others prefer keeping things a little smaller, at least when it comes to the PC. If you're in the "big screen" camp, you might be able to achieve that experience without actually buying a screen at all. You can [consider a projector](#) instead of using your regular monitor, which can give you a way more immersive gaming and media experience. It's great for anyone who enjoys movie nights or gaming on huge displays.

Some projectors come with built-in speakers, but they might not be as good as a pair of dedicated speakers you already have.

Double Screen Space With a Second Display

Perhaps the most obvious, yet most useful thing you can do with a free HDMI port is get yourself a second display. Having a second monitor is much better for efficient multitasking, and even if your GPU only has one HDMI port, you can always use a DisplayPort-to-HDMI adapter to connect that second display.

Granted, having a second monitor isn't for everyone. You might not have the desk space, or maybe you prefer [a single ultra-wide screen instead of two separate ones](#). Still, there are many fields of work where two separate monitors are pretty great: coding, video editing, photography, and anything else that might require you to hop back and forth between multiple programs to get the job done. It might not be for everyone, but it can be life-changing for productivity.

There are probably plenty of other things you could hook up to a free HDMI slot on your PC. Really, the more ports you have, the more versatile your entire setup can be. Why even stop with the ports in your PC? There are also plenty of ways to [make use of ports on your monitor](#). At the end of the day, it's just about discovering what nifty thing you could add to your setup, even if you don't strictly need it.



(Copied from page 6)

Keep in mind that this has its downsides. It will drain your phone's battery very quickly and can use up a lot of your mobile data plan, which can get expensive. The connection might also be slower than your home internet. It's a great temporary fix in a pinch, but it isn't a sustainable solution for a long outage.

Stay Connected Through Any Outage

Losing power no longer means being disconnected from the world. The solution for how to get internet during a power outage is simply a matter of providing your essential equipment with its own reliable power source. Whether you choose a simple mini-UPS, a versatile traditional UPS, or a powerful portable power station, you are taking a proactive step toward staying connected, informed, and productive.

With the right wifi router battery backup in place, the next time the lights go out, you can stay calm, flip on a battery-powered light, and get right back to streaming your favorite show, confident that your connection to the digital world is safe and sound.

WiFi & Power Outage FAQ

Q1: Will my internet still work if the power is out?

Yes, most likely the internet service coming to your house is still working. Internet service providers have their own robust backup power systems for their networks. The problem is that the two devices inside your home that you need to access—your modem and your router—have lost power. The solution is to give those devices their own power source.

Q2: Is a battery backup the same as a WiFi booster or extender?

No, they do very different jobs. A wifi router battery backup provides electricity to your router and modem when the power is out. A WiFi booster or extender, on the other hand, takes your existing WiFi signal and rebroadcasts it to cover a larger area or reach weak spots in your home. A booster won't help you at all during a power outage if your router has no power.

Q3: How long will a battery backup keep my router and modem running?

It depends entirely on the size of the battery in the backup unit you choose. A small mini-UPS designed specifically for routers might give you 2-4 hours of runtime. A mid-sized traditional UPS could last anywhere from 4 to 8 hours. A larger portable power for home internet solution, like a [portable power station](#), could keep your network running for a full day or even longer.

Category	1/08/2025-31/08/2025
INFLOWS	
Activity Fees	145.00
Donation	260.00
Membership	400.00
Printing	9.50
Raffle Sales	84.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	898.50
OUTFLOWS	
Bills & Utilities	
Internet	139.00
TOTAL Bills & Utilities	139.00
Computer	
Equipment	143.80
TOTAL Computer	143.80
Food Supplies	54.70
Insurance	115.88
Public Liability	99.74
TOTAL Insurance	215.62
Raffle Purchases	27.42
Square Terminal	-1.76
Stationary	13.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	591.78
OVERALL TOTAL	306.72



BROWSER NO 224

SEPTEMBER 2025



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