



The Giveaway of the Day site offers free software but you have to grab it quick

the day is AnyBizSoft PDF to HTML converter. Just download it and get the free keycode by following the steps.

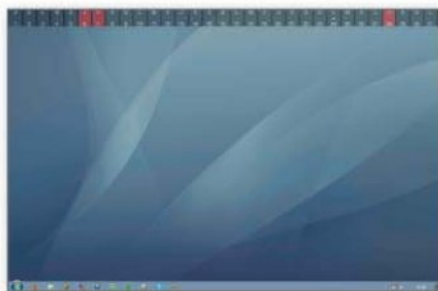
Tomorrow it'll be something different. **Melvinjames18, via Webuser.co.uk/forums**

SOFTWARE

Get Google calendar offline

I find that having all my appointments online using Google Calendar is very handy as I can always access it – even on my very basic mobile phone if all else fails. But when I'm sitting at my PC I'd like to have my appointments at my fingertips, without having to go online. Thin Calendar (<http://mundogeek.net/thin-calendar>) does the job. This is a small download that puts a transparent calendar for the current month across the top of the screen. It pulls your appointments from Google Calendar, which is really handy. It also looks great.

Mark Ball, via email



This discrete Windows calendar will take appointments from Google Calendar

GENERAL PC

Even quicker launching

Just to the right of the Start button is the Quick Launch area and programs often install shortcuts there. It's a handy way to start your favourite programs, but are people aware that they can run programs in the Quick Launch area using the Windows key? Hold it down and press 1 to run the first program, 2 for the second, 3 for the third and so on. This only works in Vista and not XP. A couple more Windows key shortcuts that I use are Windows key+E to open an Explorer window and Windows key+L to log off. If you have a password on your account

then Windows key+L instantly locks your computer. This works on XP as well as Vista.

M Thomas, via email

WEBSITE

Organise tournaments

Having reluctantly become secretary of my squash club's league, I've now got to arrange all the tournaments and ladders. My predecessor did these using Excel, but still seemed to do quite a lot of the work manually. I thought I must be able to leverage the power of the web somehow to make this easier.

Well, I've just stumbled across Konkuri (www.konkuri.com), which I suspect is going to make everything a whole lot easier. It will organise knockout and round-robin tournaments, and publish them online so your competitors can fill in their own results and instantly look at their standings. This is nothing short of brilliant – it'll take all the effort out of organising this sort of thing. Now if I could only find a website that'll take minutes at the AGM...

Harry Carter, via email

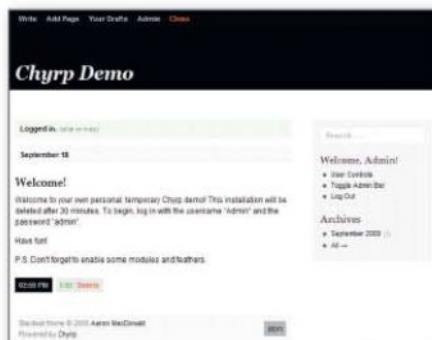


Organise tournaments and share details easily online with Konkuri

BLOGS

A tumble of my own

I've been using Tumblr (www.tumblr.com) for some time as a way of quickly and easily link-blogging videos, pictures and other web snippets. The thing is, I'd like to get more control over it by hosting it at my own site. I know you



Host your own micro-blogging software to get more control over design

can't do this with Tumblr so I went looking for alternatives. I've had a play around with WordPress (www.wordpress.org), but I think it's too sophisticated for what I'm looking for.

What I have found is Chyryp (<http://chyryp.net>). This is a self-installed link-blogging program that's got most of the great things Tumblr has, but you can run it from your own host. This means you can use extensions and change the design more easily, though it takes a bit of setting up. Note that your web host will need PHP and MySQL in order for it to run.

Jamie Jones, via email

VIDEO

Customise YouTube

There are certain things I like about YouTube and some things I don't. For example, I like the fact you can watch movies in high-quality mode but hate the fact that I have to click on that option every time. And I like that it will buffer some of the video and try to play it without jerkiness but I hate the fact that it never seems to buffer enough.

I've found a script for the Firefox Greasemonkey extension that automatically chooses HQ mode when available and will buffer the entire video before starting to play it, guaranteeing that your video won't pause. You can get it from <http://bit.ly/yourtips3224>.

Tim Herbert, via email

GENERAL PC

Scroll to view

Here's a quick tip that often surprises people. In any Explorer window, hold down the Ctrl key and use the mouse wheel to cycle through every view option. Just spin the wheel and stop when you get to the one you want.

D Harris, via email

WEBSITES

Ninja text

You've mentioned ways of hiding text on web pages before, such as your email address if you've got a blog. This means that people can still get in touch, but spambots can't harvest your email address because it's been disguised as an image. There's a new way of doing this at www.txtninja.com, which is essentially the same as previous versions but with added ninja power!



Hide text on a web page by turning it into an image at TxtNinja

Mark Fawcett, via email