

Eset Which? magazine award, updates and holiday apps.....

Eset 'is the new King of anti-virus' according to *Which?* Magazine that has awarded Eset Internet Security its best buy award. A fitting award for an excellent product that I am pleased to have been promoting and selling for over 11 years now.

Windows updates are an automatic feature nowadays, but occasionally, as has been the case several times this year, there is a big 'feature update' which requires your permission to install. Just for information, the latest of these is number 1903.

Laptops can be known to overheat, especially during the hotter summer months. To try and keep yours ventilated keep the side vent/s uncovered, i.e. not blocked by fabric or upholstery. Also, it is an idea to blow through the side vent and/or the one on the base where a fan is sometimes located to dislodge any dust, or you could carefully use a vacuum with a small attachment. Some people vacuum their keyboard to have a clean-up, but the only problem there is the risk of losing one of your keys!

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So, there I was standing in a long taxi queue at Penang airport, so I got out my mobile and decided to download the *Grab* app. This is the equivalent of *Uber* in Southeast Asia, and works brilliantly. I just typed in our hotel name as the destination, and the name and picture of a driver came up as available in 3 minutes, and at half the price of a long wait taxi! The moral of the story is, if you are lucky enough to be going off on holiday and will need a taxi to get to your resort, check if one of these companies operate in that country, and download and sign up with the app before you leave. Because some airports offer free Wi-Fi, but not all.

Talking of apps and holidays, a couple of good free apps for holiday weather are *BBC Weather* and *AccuWeather*. Also check if the airports you are flying in and out of have their own apps, as these will usually give you up to date flight information and flight announcements etc. And of course, airlines will often let you check in and select seats etc., via their own apps. If your family want to track your flights, download *Flightradar24* which

gives live information on all worldwide flights.

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Facial recognition technology has been in the news recently citing the pros and cons and possible misuse. But for the home user, this is a neat little tool available in Windows, Google's Picasa, and of course from Apple on the Mac, iPad and iPhone. Basically, with your permission, the program scans all your stored photos looking for face matches which it then builds into a database. It will then ask you to put a name to each face, and check that there are no mismatches. It is surprisingly accurate even with peoples' differing hairstyles and facial features over the years. Handy if you ever want to do a collage of someone for a special birthday or other celebration.

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Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft and now famous philanthropist, once said during the launch of *Windows 98* "The PC and the Internet are going to be fundamental. They're not there yet, but we're certainly on a course to do that, and it will be just like the automobile". How right he was. However, it is (unfortunately) and **urban legend** that he then went on to say: "If General Motors had kept up with technology like the computer industry had, we'd all be driving \$25 cars that did 1,000 miles to the gallon!" To which the boss of GM at the time retorted that "if Microsoft had built cars we'd all have to buy a new model every few years and learn to drive again, and the airbag would say 'are you sure you want to do this?' before deploying!" Ah, the stuff of legends!



I posted this last month to try if you have never used a QR code before, and said to point your phone's camera at this one to go straight to the RDM website. This works fine if you have an iPhone, but if you use an Android mobile you may need a QR reader app, or you can use Google

Lens. Try it out!

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Scam telephone calls - I would again like to remind everyone, to NEVER let an unknown caller take over your computer remotely, even if they say they are from *Microsoft* or *Windows*. These companies, or any other reputable firm, will NEVER make unsolicited calls to home users. The other thing to watch out for is that these scammers have started cloning UK numbers, so in other words instead of your telephone caller display showing 'International' or 'out of area', they may now show a London, Leeds or Sheffield number for instance. If you give them access to your computer, they will cause all sorts of mayhem, and then ask for a credit card number, so they can extract your hard-earned cash

If you haven't already upgraded to ESET Internet Security, now is the time to do it. Go to the website <https://www.eset.com/uk/home/free-trial/> and download a **free one-month** trial! Just make sure you uninstall any existing anti virus you may have, even if it has expired. For prices, upgrades and licences – just give us a call.

If your Eset licence is up for renewal, just email or call for the price, and we can sort it out for you.

Remember to look on my website for copies of the current and two previous articles where they can be read, downloaded or printed.

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