

# Website advert blocking, emails and updates

**G**oogle Chrome will soon include an ad-blocker that is designed to prevent annoying and intrusive adverts being shown on web pages. After surveying thousands of internet users, Google first announced plans to curtail full-page and auto-playing video adverts last year. This will be a popular move I'm sure as it should reduce one of the annoyances online. There's nothing worse than trying to read a web page only for the text to suddenly move and be replaced by an advert! On that subject, another third-party ad-blocker I have found very effective is called Adblock Plus. It is free to install and use on all browsers. <https://adblockplus.org/en/>

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**KCOM has changed the address of its \*webmail page recently**, so if you always had a favourite or bookmark to go straight there, it may not work now. The new address is <https://webmail.kcomhome.com/>. Go to this page and then add it as a new favourite or bookmark.

**Types of email access methods explained.** There are basically two ways to access and read emails. Many people use a program such as Windows Live Mail, Outlook or the newer eM Client. These work on the 'pop box' system; in other words as you open the program, it goes to the email provider (in this area Kcom) and then downloads messages and saves them into your inbox. Alternatively if you use a \*webmail system, you go online to a webpage like that described above, and your inbox (and other folders) open within that page. Other examples of this system would be Hotmail, Gmail and Ymail. The advantage of this system is that you are going directly to your inbox, so the page looks exactly the same on whichever device you are using. *Tip: If you want to send Kcom emails outside this area on your laptop or other mobile device, use the webmail service. Live Mail or Outlook etc will not work once you leave the Kcom area.*

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**Windows 10 has finally edged ahead of Windows 7 (now 8-years old) as Microsoft's most popular operating system (most popular in terms of numbers anyway!!)** Launched back in late summer of 2015, Windows 10 ran on 42.7% of Windows computers in January 2018—versus 41% for Windows 7. In raw numbers, Windows 10 has been installed on over 500 million devices as of last May, which is impressive, though still short of the 1 billion goal Microsoft's head of Windows and devices predicted at in 2015. (news first published online by Gizmodo).

**Windows Updates – the bane of most computer users lives!**

It is an unfortunate fact of life that these are important security updates, so it is critical for everyone to always keep their systems up-to-date. Research apparently says there is frequently a substantial lag between when people receive updates and when they actually implement them. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's cyber-emergency unit, US-CERT, as many as 85 percent of all targeted attacks can be prevented with – among other things – regular system updates."

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**Equifax has been sending out letters regarding a major hack** of their systems which could affect nearly 700,000 UK customers. Equifax is a major credit rating agency so although you may never have dealt with them directly, another lender or organisation may have checked your credit rating with them, so don't be too surprised if you receive a letter. Fortunately for most UK customers, the only information stolen was possibly names and email addresses.

**Eset Internet Security includes an anti-theft module which you can activate free of charge.**

Just open the Eset window and click Set up, and you can activate it in there by entering your email address and creating a password. It works in a similar way to 'find my phone' so it is very useful on mobile devices like laptops. For more info just go to the Eset website here: <https://anti-theft.eset.com/?wrfsts=true>

**Security Central:**

**If you haven't already upgraded to ESET Internet Security**, now is the time to do it. And for anyone who hasn't tried ESET yet, don't just take my word what an excellent product it is, 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.

**Telephone scam – yes, I must mention this again.** There has been another spate of unsolicited calls to computer users in this area purporting to be from Microsoft (who they are not) offering to fix problems with your computer (which they won't) and then fraudulently taking money for their non-existent services. If you get such calls, and they can be very persistent, tell them you are not interested, or that you have a local computer specialist, or that you don't have a computer!

**Remember to look on my website for copies of the current and previous two articles where they can be read, downloaded or printed. And if you are considering investing in a new computer you will also find on there my popular article on 'things to consider when buying a new computer. Or if you would like a copy sent by email, just drop me a line.**

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