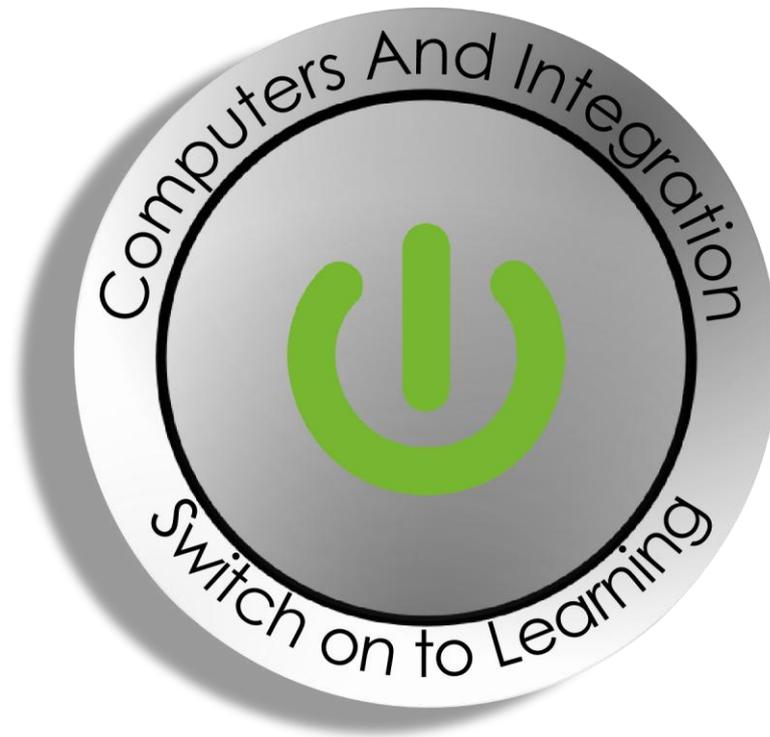85 Most Useful Websites
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Preface

There are 980 million websites on the web, according to computational knowledge engine Wolfram Alpha. Some of them are extremely popular and you are likely to know them already. For example, Google and Wikipedia are useful on a daily basis.

That said, there are numerous websites that are useful, but they aren't known to most people. Whether you want to fill in a PDF form, send a really big file to someone across the web or get medical information trusted by doctors, there's a website for it.

This book lists the 85 most useful websites to a UK audience. All the websites have been organised into 8 categories. In a nutshell, the websites in this book will allow you to:

- boost your productivity
- play music and watch videos effortlessly
- find postal services and fix local problems with your street
- shop online securely
- keep your personal details secure
- get the latest news and weather
- find information
- learn something new

Contents

Chapter 1 — Be productive

http://www.alternativeto.net/ - find great software you can use instead of crappy apps

http://www.dropbox.com/ - sync your files to the cloud with 2GB of storage space for free

http://www.freeimages.com/ - download free photos

http://alpha.wallhaven.cc/ - be inspired with awesome wallpapers for your computer's desktop

https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/17780/featured-wallpapers - download beautiful wallpapers for your computer's desktop from Microsoft

http://translate.google.com/ - translate web pages, PDFs and Office documents

http://www.justgetflux.com/ - fade your computer screen at night so that you don't get blinded

http://www.ninite.com/ - install and update popular apps in one go

http://www.office.com/ - download templates for your Office documents

http://www.outlook.com - free e-mail and access to Microsoft's suite of Office apps

http://www.pdfescape.com/ - quickly edit PDFs in your browser and fill in forms

http://www.pdfonline.com/ - convert Word files to PDFs and vice versa

http://www.picmonkey.com/ - edit images in your browser

http://www.portableapps.com/ - get portable versions of your favourite software

http://ctrlq.org/screenshots/ - capture screenshots of your computer's desktop

http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/ - create screen recordings as videos and upload them to YouTube

http://www.visualbee.com/ - automatically design PowerPoint presentations in a single click and create a powerful showcase

http://www.wetransfer.com/ - send really big files across the web

http://www.printwhatyoulike.com/ - print web pages without adverts and other annoying stuff

https://www.draw.io/ - create diagrams in your web browser

https://www.google.com/docs/about/ - create documents, spreadsheets and presentations via the web and store them safely online

https://wordpress.com/ - create a website or a blog or just show off photos with this powerful blogging platform

http://www.speedtest.net/ - check to see what your broadband speed is

https://www.zoho.eu/ - use an online suite of business class productivity software

https://soundiiz.com/ - transfer music playlists from one platform to another. For example, transfer iTunes playlists to Spotify

Chapter 2 — Play music and watch videos effortlessly

http://www.deezer.com/ - play music songs for free

https://open.spotify.com/browse - play millions of songs in your web browser for free

https://play.google.com/music/ - upload all your music files to Google servers and stream them over the web

https://www.last.fm/ - get the lowdown on your favourite singers and songs

http://www.filmflow.tv/ - find out what films are on TV tonight and up to 7 days ahead

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/ - download TV programmes from the BBC

http://www.keepvid.com/ - download YouTube videos

http://www.listentoyoutube.com/ - convert YouTube videos to MP3 song files

http://www.midomi.com/ - hum a song and discover its name

http://www.zerodollarmovies.com/ - find feature-length movies on YouTube

http://youtube.com/tv - watch YouTube channels just like seeing them on TV

http://www.netflix.com – download movies and TV programmes over the web

Chapter 3 — Find postal services and fix local problems

http://dracos.co.uk/made/nearest-postbox/ - find your nearest postbox on a map

http://www.fillthathole.org.uk/ - report potholes to your local Council

http://www.fixmystreet.com/ - report problems with your street to your local Council

http://www.postoffice.co.uk/postcode-finder/ - find a postcode for a given address

Chapter 4 — Shop online securely

http://www.amazon.co.uk/ - choose from millions of items and shop online securely

http://www.gumtree.com/ - buy items from sellers near you and don't part with cash until you see what your buying

http://www.paypal.co.uk/ - shop online securely without revealing either your card details or your bank account details

Chapter 5 — Keep your personal details secure

http://www.avast.com/ - keep your computer secure from viruses with the world's most trusted antivirus

http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner/ - clear junk files from your computer and protect your privacy

http://www.hotspotshield.com/ - surf the Web anonymously and view blocked sites

http://www.lastpass.com/ - log-in to all your websites automatically and just remember one password

http://www.malwarebytes.org/ - scan and remove malicious software from your computer

http://safeweb.norton.com/ - check the trust level of any website

http://www.virustotal.com/ - scan any file or email attachment for viruses

http://www.tpsonline.org.uk/tps/ - stop nuisance phone calls

https://www.mpsonline.org.uk/ - stop junk mail through the post

Chapter 6 — Get the latest news and weather

http://news.bbc.co.uk/ - get national and international news from the BBC without adverts

http://www.weatherspark.com/ - get beautiful weather graphs and maps

http://www.facebook.com/ - keep in touch with friends and family

http://www.twitter.com/ - keep track of the news from various outlets

Chapter 7 — Find information

http://www.google.co.uk/ - search the entire Web for anything

http://www.howstuffworks.com/ - find out how everything works

https://www.gutenberg.org/ - choose from thousands of free ebooks

http://www.imdb.com/ - find information on movies, TV programmes and actors

http://www.mouseprice.com/ - find out the value of your home or another property

http://www.patient.info/ - get medical information that is trusted by doctors

http://www.skyscanner.net/ - search flights by date, price, and budget — even if you don't know where you want to go

http://www.whois.net/ - discover the owner of any website

http://www.whoishostingthis.com/ - discover who is hosting any website

http://www.wolframalpha.com/ - get fact-based answers to fact-based questions

http://en.wikipedia.org/ - search an online encyclopedia for information about anything

http://www.webopedia.com/ - get definitions for computer and Internet terms

www.qClock.com - get the local time for a city at the other side of the world

http://new.myfonts.com/WhatTheFont/ - find out what font is used in an image

http://www.similarsites.com/ - find similar sites to ones you like already

www.dictionary.com - find out what words mean

http://shipfinder.co/ - track the movement of ships across the world

https://www.yell.com/ - look-up the Yellow Pages for UK businesses

https://www.thephonebook.bt.com/person/ - find a phone number for a specified person

https://www.royalmail.com/find-a-postcode - find a postcode or an address for a registered building in the UK

https://www.instantstreetview.com/ - easily look-up an address and get an instant result with Google's Street View technology

https://archive.org/ - go back in time and view past versions of websites

http://gs.statcounter.com/ - find out what web browser is the most popular

Chapter 8 — Learn something new

https://www.coursera.org/ - get online learning courses from top Universities for free

https://www.udemy.com/ - undertake a wide range of courses from marketing to photography

https://www.khanacademy.org/ - teach yourself mathematics, science, computing, economics, arts and humanities

http://www.w3schools.com/ - learn how to create web pages

https://www.codecademy.com/ - learn to code