From the Tips Box: Android Lock Patterns, iPhone Alarms, and iTunes Slowdowns

Readers offer their best tips for securely locking your Android phone, speeding up iTunes, and staying safe when open Wi-Fi networks are about. More »

Remains of the Day: Google Tweaks Their Algorithm for Better Results, Lifehacker Turns Six

Lifehacker celebrates its sixth birthday today, Google alters their search engine algorithm for less spam, and Amazon is readying an unlimited instant streaming service. More »

Is Tech OCD Consuming Your Life?

We're "constantly confronting the onslaught of information, and our brains are trying to make patterns out of the randomness," says TIME's Joel Stein. Obsessively tagged MP3s, meticulous photo folders, whitewashed inboxes—are you too struggling to stay digitally neat? [Gizmodo]

Samba Filesharing for Android Shares Your SD Card Over Wi-Fi

Android: Plugging in your phone and mounting the SD card is inconvenient. If you have a rooted Android phone, free app Samba Filesharing will let you browse its SD card right from your computer over Wi-Fi. More »

Waiting Sucks; Here's What You Can Do About It

Waiting sucks. New research shows that how long you had to do it in childhood makes you less patient now. But just knowing how long you have to wait may make it more bearable. [Jezebel]

Easily Drag Items to the Desktop from Maximized Windows Using the Quick Launch Bar

When you browse the web in a maximized window (say, if you're on a small monitor or netbook), you give up your ability to drag items, like images, to the
Use iPhone Explorer to Back Up Third-Party iOS Applications Without iTunes

iOS/Mac/Windows: Free desktop application iPhone Explorer allows iOS users to export and backup data from their iOS applications without iTunes. More »

How to Build a Car Mount for Your Cellphone from Office Supplies

Reader Ryan Mottau built this awesome DIY smartphone car mount using our favorite DIY wonder-tool, the binder clip. Here’s how he did it. More »

SynthCam Brings Shallow Depth of Field to Your iPhone

iPhone/iPod touch: Small sensors in smartphone cameras always lead to everything being in focus. SynthCam uses some clever tricks to allow your iDevice to emulate the shallow depth of field look you can achieve with DSLR cameras. More »

The New Essential Apps: iPhone, Android, and iPad

iPhones! iPads! Android! You’ve got a screen in your pocket, and we know what you should put on it. To get the most out of your technological revolution, you'll need apps. Lots of apps. Put your tiny hand in ours... [Gizmodo]

The Personal Page Helps You Create a Single-Page, Online Calling Card

With the personal landing page trend taking off, you’ve got a lot of choices (we even made our own). The Personal Page, however, opts for simplicity over functionality, letting you quickly create an attractive online calling card. More »

How First Impressions Work (and How to Use Them Effectively)

Google’s interview process is legendary for several reasons, but they’re not alone in taking hours to get to know their applicants. Despite a trend
towards longer interviews, most people make up their minds after a few seconds. Here's why. More »

Google Docs Gets a Priority Inbox, Makes Finding and Sharing Docs Easier than Ever
Google Docs is rolling out an update that simplifies sorting through files and documents you’ve stored in Docs, including a handy Priority sorting—similar to Gmail’s Priority Inbox—that puts your most important files at the top of the list. More »

InvisibleHand Alerts You When It Finds Cheaper Airfare
Browser extension InvisibleHand has long been great at subtly showing you the best prices for product searches, but now it can suggest cheaper alternatives when searching for airfare as well. More »

Learn to Code: The Full Beginner's Guide
If you’ve been looking to learn how to code, we can help you get started. Here are 4.5 lessons on the basics and extra resources to keep you going. More »

How to Hack Your Brain
You are not who you think you are. Your personality and identity is significantly more malleable than you realize. With a few simple tricks, you can exploit your brain’s innate functionality to change just about anything about yourself. Here’s how. More »

Snooze Your Email Reminds You of Important Emails Later On
Chrome: One of our most wanted email innovations is the ability to "snooze" email messages like we do alarms. Snooze Your Email for Chrome does that for Gmail, alerting you to important messages later on—whether 5 minutes or 5 days. More »

iTunes 10.1.2 Update Adds Support for Verizon iPhone, Stability Improvements
"Keeping a Twitter" as a Public Writing Exercise and Private Timeline
Use Three Kernels to Perfectly Time Your Night School Assignment
Stove-Top Popcorn

Stove-top popcorn is the best. To get better results every time, put three kernels in oil as it's heating, then add the rest of your popcorn once those three kernels pop for just-right oil temperatures. More »

Get More from Evernote with Advanced Search Syntax

Evernote is a nifty place to stash notes, images, and other information for retrieving later. But you might know just how advanced you can get in searching and retrieving. Altitude-based searching? Handwritten notes only? Yep and yep, and much more. More »

Use a Plastic Bag to Keep Your Feet Dry in the Snow Without Boots

Whether you live in an area that doesn't get a lot of snow, or you just haven't prepared for this winter's onslaught, here's an old trick that will help you keep your feet dry when trudging through the winter snow. More »

Create a Connection-Free Walden's Pond in Your Home

William Powers writes about finding a middle path between constant connectedness and a rich inner life in Hamlet's BlackBerry. One of his suggestions, pulled from Thoreau, is to create a room in your house where no tech is allowed. More »

LastPass Browsers Autofill Logins on iPhone and iPad

What We Use: Kevin Purdy's Favorite Gear and Productivity Tips
All this week, Lifehacker’s editors will be sharing the hardware, software, and tips and tricks they use to do their jobs here. I’m kicking things off with a heavy dose of Chrome/Android utilities, plus some writer’s tools and productivity basics. More »

YESTERDAY - JANUARY 30, 2011

White on White: Inside the Offices of Yummygum
If you’re going to go for the monochromatic/minimalist look you might as well go all out. Today we take a peek inside the spartan offices of design firm Yummygum. More »

Whip Up Some Hot and Fresh Homemade Tortilla Chips

Ask the Commenters Roundup

Open a Locked Suitcase without Leaving a Trace
Whether you’ve lost the key to your own suitcase and need to get it open in a hurry or you’re trying to plant some contraband in your dodgy roommate’s bag, this clever hack has to be seen to be believed. More »

LEGO Coffee Tables Showcases LEGO Bricks as Pixel Art

DOF Calculator Turns Your Android Phone into a Photographer’s Helper
**Five Best Windows Timer Applications**

Whether you're timing the perfect cup of tea or counting down to your next break, a good timer application is invaluable. Here's a look at the five most popular Windows timer applications. More »

**DIY Touch Screen Jukebox Puts a Modern Twist on Old School Tunes**

SATURDAY - JANUARY 29, 2011

**This Week's Top Downloads**

**Build a Pirate Box for Mobile and Secure File Sharing**

PirateBox is a self-contained file sharing device that blankets the area around it with an anonymous and secure file sharing network. Build one and set up a free and anonymous wireless network wherever you go. More »

**DIY Lazy Susan Supply Organizer Keeps Office Supplies at Hand**

**Harvest Rain Water to Water Your Garden for Free**

**Use a Paint Roller to Create Perfect Light Circles in Your Photos**

We highlighted some pretty clever light paintings and how to create them earlier this month. If you're looking for a way to make them less free form and more...
geometric this clever and inexpensive hack will help you "paint" circles. More »

Know Your Bolts; An Infographic Guide to Fasteners

Top 10 Tips and Tricks to Train, Exercise, and Better Your Brain
While we’re always using our brains, we’re not necessarily doing much to keep them in good shape. Here are the top ten sites and tools to train your brain and exercise your mental muscles. More »

Upcycle an Empty CD Spindle into a Desk Lamp
We’ve shown you how to turn your CDs into a lamp, now we’re back to highlight an easy technique for turning the spindle itself into a neat little bit of ambient lighting for your desk. More »

Learn to Code Epilogue: Best Practices and Additional Resources
Congratulations, you’ve learned the basics of programming! That’s wonderful, but you'd better not go out into the world and write crappy code. Before we set you free, here are some best practices and good things to keep in mind. More »

From the Tips Box: Multi-Page Articles, Google Chrome Instant, and iPhone Banking