

TECH TIPS

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Google Apps You May Not Know About

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We are all familiar with searching for information on the internet using Google. However, in addition to searching, Google has more than 100 different apps and information in specialized databases that are all available to you — if you know where to find them.

From offering help with driving on busy freeways to translating foreign languages into English, these apps can make life easier and more entertaining.

Some examples of the most popular apps are Gmail, Search, Maps, YouTube, Drive, Photos, Images, Books, Blogger, Alerts, Calendar, Meet, Waze, Voice and Translate. With a few exceptions including YouTube and Waze, most of these apps can be accessed directly from a web browser by typing the app name followed by a period, then google.com (an



example: www.images.google.com).

Many are available through the Google Play store as apps for mobile devices on Android phones and tablets, including a lot of free and paid apps (like YouTube and YouTube Premium) that run on your computers, as well.

Some of these apps are variations on Google Search which focus on specialized databases and can give results that are often buried in a general Google search. Two examples are Books (including popular, technical, and government publications) and Scholar (for papers published in technical journals).

Find a full list of Google apps

A Google (Gmail) account is needed to access most of these apps. Those who need one can get one for free at www.mail.google.com – Google will help with creating a Gmail address that hasn't already been taken. Then create a password and turn on "2-Factor Authentication" to help protect that Gmail address and password. One doesn't have to use the new Gmail account for email - no problem! Use the Gmail address to sign into Google.

Once signed in, a round icon with the user's initials in it will be visible at the top-right corner of the screen - clicking on that will allow signing out.

To the left of the icon with the initials is another icon with nine dots arranged in a square pattern. Click that to view the scrollable, drop-down list of 38 Google apps, including Gmail. (☰)

But wait – there's more. Visible at the bottom of that list will be a link, "More from Google." Click that, then scroll to the bottom of the page to see three groups of icons – "81 apps for all," "31 apps for business" and "19 apps for developers." Clicking on any one of these leads to a new web page with a description of what the app does, and also provides some examples, a short video or some templates to help a user get started with the app.

Some specific examples

Here are two examples:

Voice – assigns a phone number with calling, texting and call blocking. It can be used on multiple smartphones or on a computer. It is free in the U.S. but there are fees for international calling;

Translate – makes it easy to copy or enter text in one language and immediately translate it into any one of 100 other ones.

Find out more

Check out "How to Get Better Results out of Google" in the Oct. 23, 2019, issue of the Rossmoor News on page 19A. You can find the article by going to www.rossmoornews.com and searching the News's archives.

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