

GOOGLE-FREE IN 5 WEEKS

A Week-by-Week Guide for Digital Underdogs

BYE



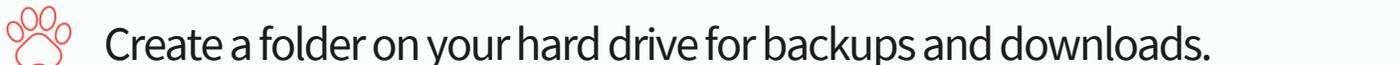
Tired of being tracked, targeted & data-mined?

This step-by-step guide helps you slip Google's leash—without overwhelm.

INSTRUCTIONS

-  Many tasks include a link to a tool or instructions.
-  [This infographic](#) has links to privacy-forward Google alternatives.
-  Print a copy to check off the paws as you complete each task...like this!
-  For even more tools and tips, get the free book [DISENGAGE](#).

GETTING STARTED

-  If you have an external hard drive, get it ready. (Or consider buying one.)
-  Create a folder on your hard drive for backups and downloads.
-  Plan time for research/product searches if needed.

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WEEK 1

EMAIL/CALENDAR

-  Set up a new account at [Proton](#), [Mailfence](#), or [Tuta](#).
-  Create 2 new email addresses: (1) personal and (2) for trusted accounts.
-  [Transfer old Gmail emails](#) to [Proton](#), [Mailfence](#), or [Tuta](#). 
-  [Set Gmail to forward](#) new incoming email to your new private account.
-  [Add auto-reply](#) to Gmail. ("This address is no longer being monitored...")
-  Email key contacts with your new address.
-  Change login emails on important services to your new one. 
-  Create [masked emails](#) or separate addresses for low-trust accounts.
-  Set up Proton, Tuta, or Mailfence calendar. 

These services will help you through the process. You may need to transfer recurring events and reminders manually.

Tuta's tool is only for Legacy subscribers.

Here's a free Excel worksheet to help you keep track!

WEEK 2

BROWSER

-  Install [Firefox](#), [Librewolf](#), or [Orion](#) browser.
-  [Harden privacy settings](#) in your new browser.
-  Add [uBlock Origin](#) and [Privacy Badger](#) extensions to the new browser.
-  [Set the new browser](#) as the default on all of your devices.
-  [Uninstall](#) Chrome.

Here's how to migrate bookmarks & passwords into [Firefox](#), [Librewolf](#) & [Orion](#).

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WEEK 2

SEARCH

-  Choose [Kagi](#), [DuckDuckGo](#), or [SimpleSearch](#) for your searches.
-  [Set your chosen search engine](#) as the default in all browsers/devices.
-  Remove the Google app from your phone and tablet.

WEEK 3

PHOTOS

-  [Download](#) Google photo library to computer and/or external hard drive.
-  Transfer or upload photos to [Proton Drive](#), [Ente](#), or other storage service.
-  [Turn off](#) Google Photos backup and sync on all devices.
-  [Delete](#) photos from Google Photos (once backed up safely).
-  [Uninstall](#) the Google Photos app.

WEEK 3

GOOGLE FILES

-  Export Docs, Sheets & Slides files to computer and/or external drive. →
-  Transfer or upload documents to a new editor. ([Proton Docs](#), [Zoho](#), etc.)
-  [Delete](#) original files from Google Drive (optional; see “Clean-Up” below).

↓
Double-check that they're safely backed up first!

Google Files aren't "real" files—convert to .docx, .xlsx, or .pptx before saving using File > Download or Google Takeout.

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WEEK 3

MAPS

-  Install a private map app ([Organic Maps](#), [OsmAnd](#), or [HERE WeGo](#)).
-  [Set your new map app](#) as the default navigation app on your phone.
-  Add a backup [paper map](#) to your car's glovebox.
-  “[Harden](#)” your map app for privacy.

Also limit network access and deny background location access if those are options in the app's settings or your phone's settings.

WEEK 4

VIDEO

-  Sign up for [Nebula](#) (paid) or try [PeerTube](#) (free).
-  [Clear the watch and search history](#) in your YouTube account.
-  Delete the YouTube app from all your devices.
-  You can still watch YouTube while logged out using [Invidious](#).

WEEK 4

NEWS

-  Create a [Ground.News](#) account (free or paid).
-  Set up a daily or weekly digest and tailor your feed. 
-  Uninstall or stop visiting Google News.

Profile → Settings → Newsletters
or Notifications

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WEEK 5

CLOUD STORAGE

-  Download Google Drive files to your computer and/or external hard drive.
-  Upload your files to Proton Drive, NextCloud, or other cloud storage.
-  Organize new folders and *test file access*—especially internal folders.
-  Delete original files from Google Drive (optional; see Clean-Up below).

WEEK 5

CLEAN-UP

-  Empty trash in Drive and Gmail.
-  Delete unused Google accounts.
-  Reduce Google storage to under 15 GB (to stop paying for storage).
-  Turn off ad personalization and tracking.
-  Disable Google location/history tracking on Android and other devices.

For any Google products you want/need to keep.

WEEK 5

DEVICES

-  If you use a Chromebook, plan to switch to Lenovo or Dell at next upgrade.
-  Store your hard drive safely and update it monthly.

WHO'S a winner? YOU are!
(Yes you are!)

