

# Russell Brennan Keane

## SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH WINDOWS 7

Whether you've just bought a new PC running Windows 7 or you've been using it for a while, there are bound to be things you didn't know you could do. Whether it's tweaks to get the desktop the way you want it, tips for troubleshooting or ways to squeeze more performance from Windows 7, we've got it covered.

### 1. Parental control

Tired of the kids installing dubious software or running applications you'd rather they left alone? AppLocker is a new Windows 7 feature that ensures users can only run the programs you specify. Don't worry, that's easier to set up than it sounds: you can create a rule to allow everything signed by a particular publisher, so choose Microsoft, say, and that one rule will let you run all signed Microsoft applications. Launch GPEDIT.MSC and go to Computer Configuration > Windows Settings > Security Settings > Application Control Policies > AppLocker to get a feel for how this works.

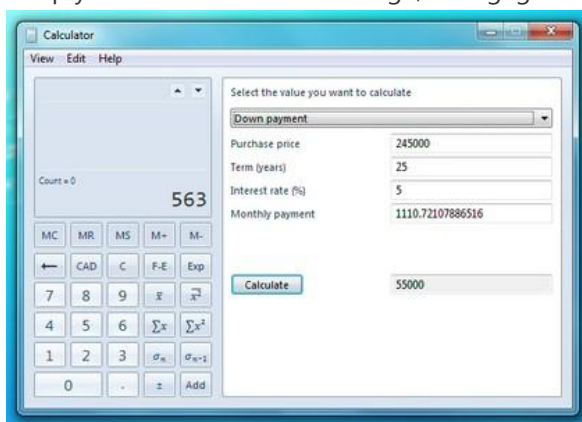
### 2. Help prevent loss or theft of data with BitLocker and BitLocker To Go

With the continued growth of the mobile workforce, protecting sensitive data on mobile computers continues to be a major concern of IT decision makers. In Windows 7 BitLocker helps keep everything from documents to passwords safer by encrypting the entire drive that Windows and your data reside on. This option is available in the Ultimate and Enterprise editions. Once BitLocker is turned on, any file you save on that drive is encrypted automatically. Encryption is a way to enhance the security of a message or file by scrambling the contents so that it can be read only by someone who has the right encryption key to unscramble it. For example, if you purchase something from a website, the information for the transaction (such as your address, phone number, and credit card number) is usually encrypted to help keep it safe. Use encryption when you want a strong level of protection for your information.

Another option is BitLocker To Go—a new feature of Windows 7 gives the lockdown treatment to easily-misplaced portable storage devices like USB flash drives and external hard drives.

### 3. Calculate more

Calculator has a powerful new Statistics and Programmer views. These options offers many different unit conversions (length, weight, volume and more), date calculations (how many days between two dates?), and spreadsheet-type templates to help you calculate vehicle mileage, mortgage rates and more.



*CALCULATE MORE:* The new Calculator is packed with useful features and functionality.

#### **4. Switch to a projector**

Windows 7 now provides a standard way to switch your display from one monitor to another or a projector - just press Win+P or run DisplaySwitch.exe and choose your preferred display. (This will have no effect if you've only one display connected.)

#### **5. Pin Favourite Folders**

Want to add a favourite folder to Windows Explorer to be able to access them faster? Just drag and drop the folder to the favourites menu. It will remain there until you delete it with the delete key again.

#### **6. Automatically switch your default printer**

Windows 7's location-aware printing allows the operating system to automatically switch your default printer as you move from one network to another. To set this up, first click Start, type Devices, and click the Devices and Printers link. Select a printer and click Manage Default Printers (this is only visible on a mobile device, like a laptop - you won't see it on a PC). Choose the "Change my default printer when I change networks" option, select a network, the default printer you'd like to use, and click Add.

Repeat the process for other networks available, and pick a default printer for each one.

And now, as you connect to a new network, Windows 7 will check this list and set the default printer to the one that you've defined.

#### **7. Troubleshoot problems**

If some part of Windows 7 is behaving strangely, and you don't know why, then click Control Panel > Find and fix problems (or 'Troubleshooting') to access the new troubleshooting packs. These are simple wizards that will resolve common problems, check your settings, clean up your system and more.

**Disclaimer:** Depending on the version of Windows 7 OS some options may not be available on your device.

**For further information or advice contact us at**

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