De-Google Your Life!

(at least a little bit)

Why De-Google?

Privacy

- "I don't have anything to hide." Okay, so can I have your unlocked phone for 10 minutes?

Decentralization

- Do you really want one company in charge of everything in your life?
- Want everything hacked by one password guess?

Supporting Better People

- Google is complicit in, honestly, most of the Bad Guy stuff.
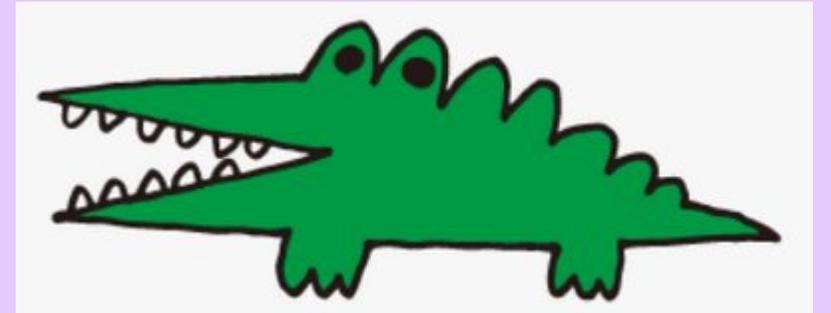
Personalization

- Make your services yours again! Have everything just how you like it again.

Where do I start?

Challenge Questions:

- How will you know things are better?
- What Alphabet/Google products do you use?
- What alternatives are available for each one?
- What are your non-negotiable features?
- How long do you want to give yourself to do this?
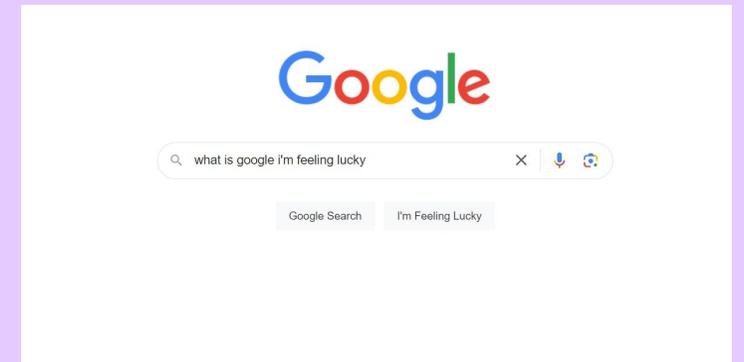- How can we make sure we only trade up?

Google Search

How will you search online?

Alternatives:

DuckDuckGo – Reportedly No Tracking/Logging

Brave Search - Fully Open Source, Efficient, Less Ads

Presearch - Decentralized Search HIstory

Google Chrome

How will you go online?

Alternatives:

    Brave - Efficient, Privacy-focused, Built on Chromium

    Firefox - Does not use Chromium, Open Source

    Librewolf – Hardened security, Based on Firefox

    Tor - Three-node encryption that obscures identity

    Mullvad Browser – Built on Firefox, Integrated with Mullvad VPN

Gmail

How will you message online?

Alternatives:

ProtonMail - Secure, Use Own Domain, Freemium Model

Mail.com – 25 years old, Free except for some features

Preveil - Enterprise software, Free, Encryption

Tuta - Encrypted, Cross-platform, Free option

Google Drive

How will you store and share things online?

Alternatives:

Cryptpad - Encrypted, Open source

Proton Drive - Bundled with Proton Mail

Syncthing - Open Source, peer-to-peer, encryption

NextCloud - Open source, Integrations, self-host

Google Workspace

How will you make, view, and share documents online?

Alternatives:

      Cryptpad - Variety of document types

      NextCloud - Self-hosted with many integrations

      Collabora – Open source office suite, freemium

Google Calendar

How will you keep and share your schedule?

Alternatives:

Etar – Free and open source android calendar

Fossify Calendar – Free and open source

Tuta Calendar – Open source, freemium, cross-platform

Proton – Convenient ecosystem, some features not free

Google Keep

How will you track notes and to-do lists?

Alternatives:

      Notes Foss - Freemium, open source, desktop/laptop app

      Obsidian – Personal interconnected wiki, can pay or self-host to share

      Logseq – Similar to Obsidian, focus on privacy
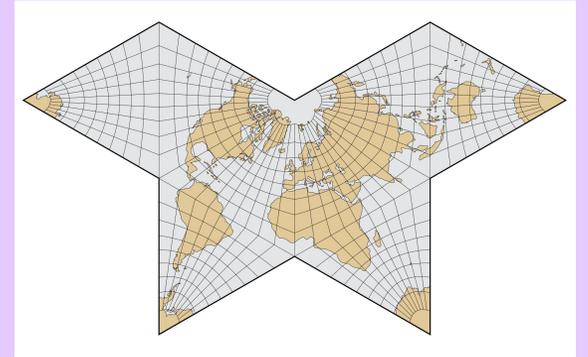
Google Maps

How will you get from place to place?

Alternatives:

      OpenStreetMap – free and open source, crowd-sourced data

      OSMAnd – freemium GPS navigation and other features

      Organic Maps - free and open source, privacy focused
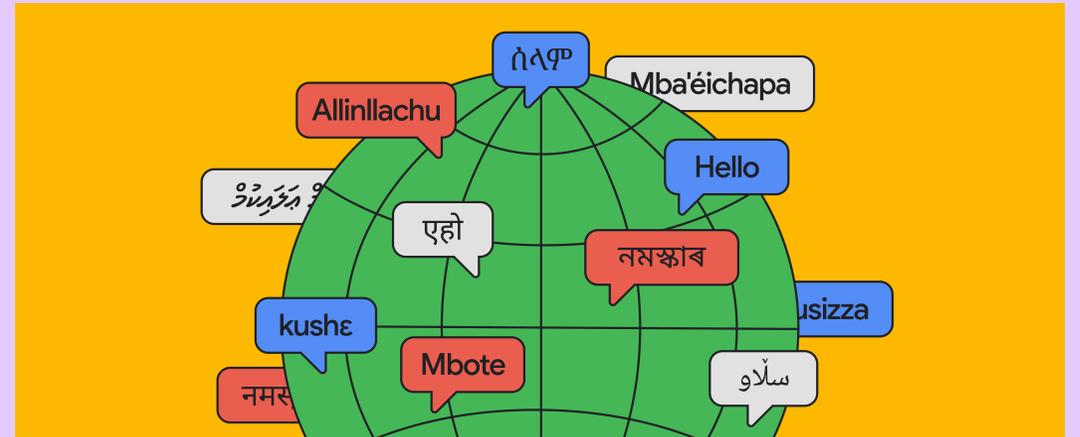
Google Translate

How will you interpret another language?

Alternatives:

  Human Translators/Guides

Google Scholar

How will you research online?

Alternatives:

   Local/School/University Library and their website

   Field-specific Journal subscriptions

   Academic Institutions' search engine

       ERIC (Education Resources Information Center)

       iSEEK Education, BASE, CORE

Google News

How will you get updates online?

Alternatives:

      Make your own RSS Feeds from websites you trust

Google Meet

How will you connect online?

Alternatives:

    Jitsi Meet – free and open source

    Big Blue Button – free and open source

    Discord – freemium, widely available, cross-platform

YouTube

How will you watch and share videos?

Alternatives:

  Internet Archive – free archive of many kinds of media, including videos

  Peertube – Similar features as youtube, but independent video website

  Patreon – Support creators directly and get access to content and bonuses

  Self-hosted blogs – watch and post content with complete control

  Local theaters, concerts, and events!

Android TV/Chromecast

How will you watch stuff on your TV?

Alternatives:

     Connect computer with local or self-hosted media files

     Create an entertainment center with an old PC using

          Kodi

          Lineage OS

          Plasma Big Screen OS

Android OS

How will you run your phone?

Alternatives:

     GrapheneOS - Pixel devices only for now

     Lineage OS – More devices compatible

     PostMarketOS - Linux

Play Store

Where will you get the apps for your phone?

Alternatives:

      F-Droid – download free and open source apps

      Sideload apps yourself – manually add apk files to your android phone

      Installing apps for iOS – you can download apps that will let you sideload apps on iOS

Play Books

Where will you get your digital books/audiobooks?

Alternatives:

       Libby – get ebooks and audiobooks from your local library!

       Libro.fm – Buy audiobooks while supporting independent book stores

       Bookshop.org – paper books and ebooks supporting independent book stores

Play Movies

Where will you get your streaming media?

Alternatives:

      Purchase physical media and rip it to a media PC using MakeMKV and handbrake

      Jellyfin – Free and open source self-hosting for your own media

      Plex – Freemium and open source self-hosting for your own media

Nest/Google Home

How will you manage your smart home devices?

Alternatives:

      Home Assistant - self-hosted smart home hub

      Home Assistant Green – plug and play HA hub

Google Messages

How will you text on your phone?

Alternatives:

      Fossify Messages – Free and open source SMS with full features

      Quik SMS – Free and open source minimal SMS

      Signal – Free encrypted messaging

Blogger

How will you run personal websites?

Alternatives:

Self host or purchase hosting for your own website

Ghost – Open-source blog hosting

HTMLy – open-source website and blogging platform

FitBit/WearOS

How will you manage your wearable devices?

Alternatives:

AsteroidOS – run linux on your smartwatch

GadgetBridge – open source android app for
connecting to smart wearables

Other resources

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techlore.tech – website with resource guides on internet privacy
alternativeto.net - comparisons of open source/proprietary alternatives
unplatform.fromthesuperhighway.com – guide on detaching from social media
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