

## Discussion comments

### Social Media

We had a discussion about Social Media, to discover that few of us use it, and no one very much. Almost no one publishes much.

I use Twitter as a news feed, but only by being careful to find experts I subjects that may be of interest. This means I can keep my use down to 15 minutes at the beginning of each day.

E-mail is more direct as a communication medium, and gives the recipient time to consider their reply. Text messages have a similar characteristics, and are more accessible if you need to be on the move.

### Firefox security improvements

Firefox announced that from version 69, they are implementing DoH, (DNS over HTTPS), which means that when it looks up how to find a website you are looking for, it can do so over an encrypted protocol. The current version on Linux Mint is 69.0.1.

Third parties cannot then listen in to discover what sites you are visiting. Secure access to pages already prevents them knowing what pages on the site you see, but does not protect you from leaking information about which site it is.

In particular, when a government wish to block access to certain sites, they typically do it by asking ISPs to block access to the DNS entries for that site. However, if the look-up is encrypted, they cannot see which ones you are looking up.

By default, Mozilla do not enable this Firefox feature in the UK, due, they say, to the government requesting the ability to see what is going on as part of their fight against terrorism and child abuse. But Mozilla will enable it in the US by default.

Mozilla have come to an arrangement with Cloudflare to use their DNS services for this feature, which is a good choice as they must have an enormous number for DNS searches each second, and can support sustained high traffic. Also they do not keep logs of these accesses.

### To turn the feature on

To turn the feature on, go to Menu (use the three line icon top right, also known as the 'hamburger') → Preferences. Then select General from the left side, and scroll down to Networking Settings, and click the Settings button. At the bottom of the pop-up window, tick the box by Enable DNS over HTTPS. The greyed out drop-down list will sharpen, although there is only one they know about by default. If you are lucky enough to have an alternative secure DNS server, then you can select Custom and add it in.