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# 11 Alternative Search Engines That Find What Google Can't

Google Search still can't do everything. These alternative search engines can take care of a few niche jobs for you.

BY DENISE LIM • UPDATED JUN 23, 2023



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Google; what would we do without it? In a world without the most popular search engine, the internet becomes an impenetrable block. Its composition beyond Wikipedia and our own personal inboxes is a complete mystery to us.

Although Google isn't going anywhere anytime soon, if a worst-case doomsday scenario does happen to pan out, you'll need to look for search engines besides Google. There are a few alternative search engines that we can recommend.

You'll find some of these top picks in unfiltered search engines to be very similar to Google. Other obscure search engines might actually show you your search from an entirely different perspective.

## 1. Ecosia

# A better planet with every search

The simplest way to plant trees and be climate active every day

 Add to Chrome — it's free

 **176,594,922**

▶ Discover Ecosia

There are search engines other than Google that also contribute good to the world. Ecosia does its part from a slightly different angle. This search engine uses a modified Bing custom search—no second-rate APIs here.

As you browse, 80 percent of Ecosia's ad profits are diverted into programs that plant trees in Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Indonesia, and Peru. Read through its FAQs; you'll find them opening up about the project, depicting the success and the progress of their planting programs.

Ecosia is an unfiltered search engine, but it does highlight websites that follow sustainable practices with a green leaf icon next to the result. What can we say? We've all got our favorites.

In today's world, it's especially important to be aware of the choices you make and their environmental impact. For example, if you're curious about cryptocurrency, know that [Bitcoin has its negative side](#).

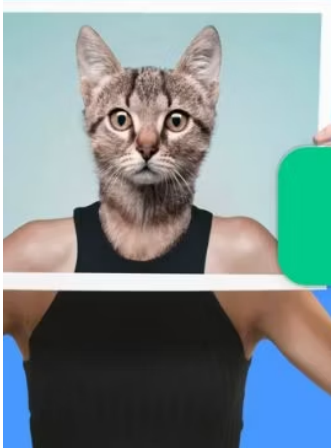
## 2. Qwant

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# Qwant

The search engine that doesn't know anything about you

Search in private mode



Zero tracking of  
your searches



Zero sale of your  
personal data



Zero advertising  
tracking



If you maintain a growing collection of private search engines, this unrestricted search engine is definitely one that you'll want to check out. Qwant is a much more visual search engine when compared to Google, which may also appeal to you for one reason or another.

Local storage on your machine is used to save your settings and data. You can register and log in to create visual boards by bookmarking the results that you like.

Any personal data connected to your ID is deleted if you cancel your account. The search engine also utilizes Microsoft Bing, which means that your privacy when browsing never has to come at the cost of the robustness of the unfiltered search that you enjoy.

### 3. Mojeek

# mojeek

Web | Images | News | Emotions AI



No Tracking. Just Search...



Looking for different results?



Value your right to privacy?



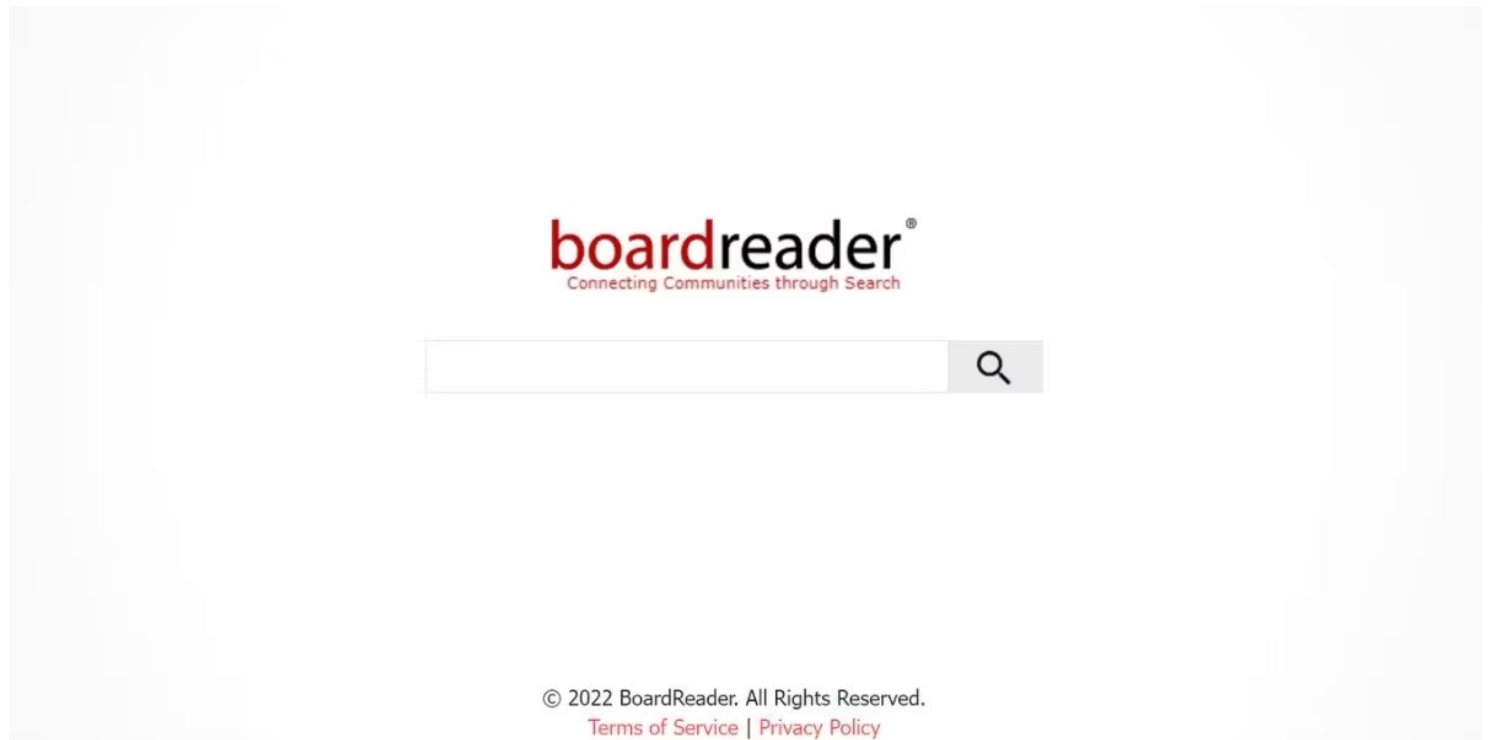
Trying to escape big tech?

Mojeek is a growing independent search engine which does not track you.

Mojeek delivers fast and unbiased search results, making it another good alternative when you're looking for information on the internet. Besides being privacy conscious, Mojeek crawls and builds its own giant web search index.

For a few other search engines elsewhere, you might notice that the results are simply sourced from Google, and you're seeing a highly similar list of information all over again. But with Mojeek, the results you obtain are generated by the company's own algorithm.

## 4. Boardreader



Boardreader is an unbiased search engine that covers online forums and bulletin boards.

If you search for a topic on Google, the top search results are mostly polished articles from mainstream magazines. But the best places to get thoughts and opinions from real people are online communities. This is where enthusiasts and fans of the subject gather.

So, if you wish to get information through the grapevine and are curious about what people are talking about, use Boardreader to delve into the rabbit hole of forum discussions.

## 5. Kiddle



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Kiddle is not a search engine that shows everything. In fact, it's sort of the opposite of an unblocked search engine. It's family-friendly and perfect for curious kids, as unfiltered search engine results are not age-appropriate for them.

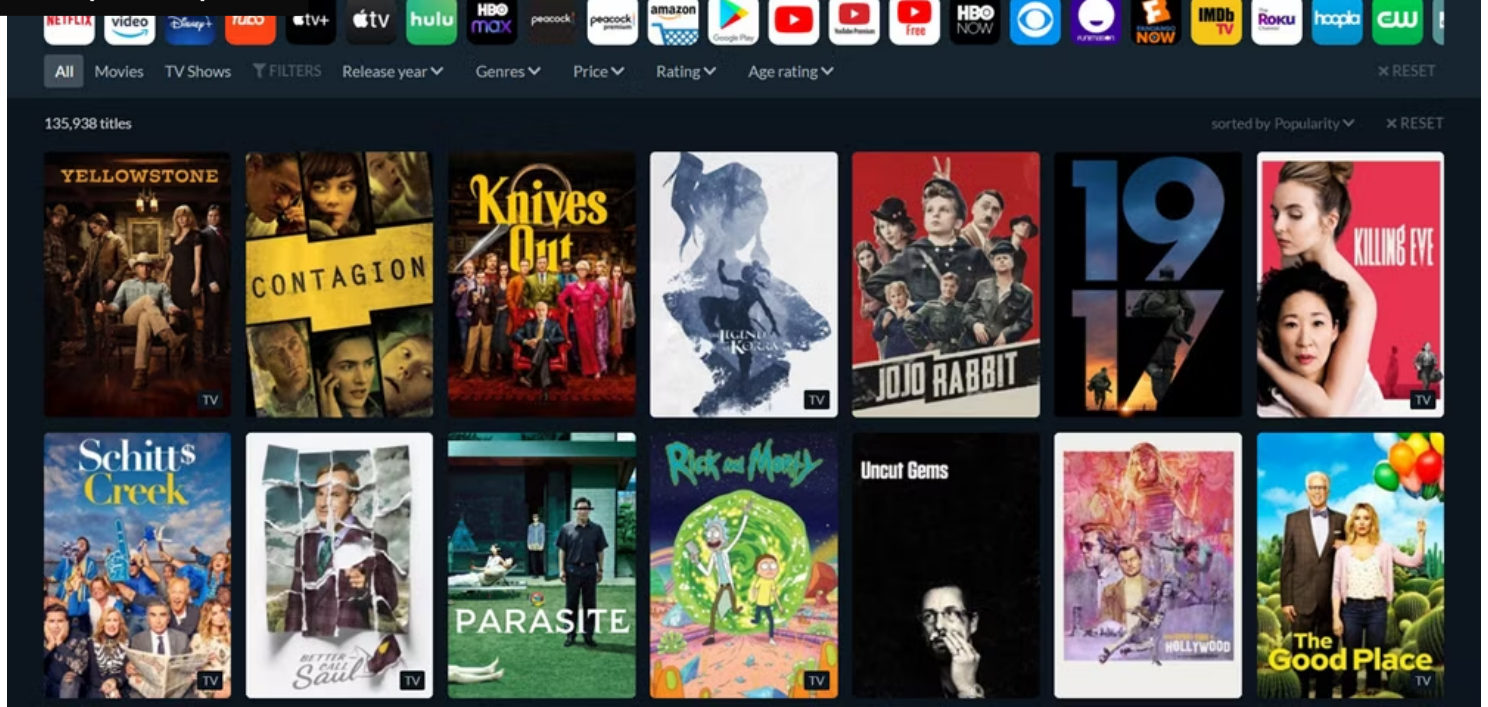
Even though there's a SafeSearch option on Google, it's not exactly sufficient. So, Kiddle is a search engine that's a customized version of Google. Big thumbnails, images, and fonts accompany the kid-safe web, image, and video search.

Kiddle is an awesome alternative if you're trying to keep your kids away from NSFW sites, gambling platforms, and the rest of the black market underbelly of the web.

If you'd like to directly provide learning resources for children, check out these [best free online encyclopedias for kids](#).

## 6. JustWatch

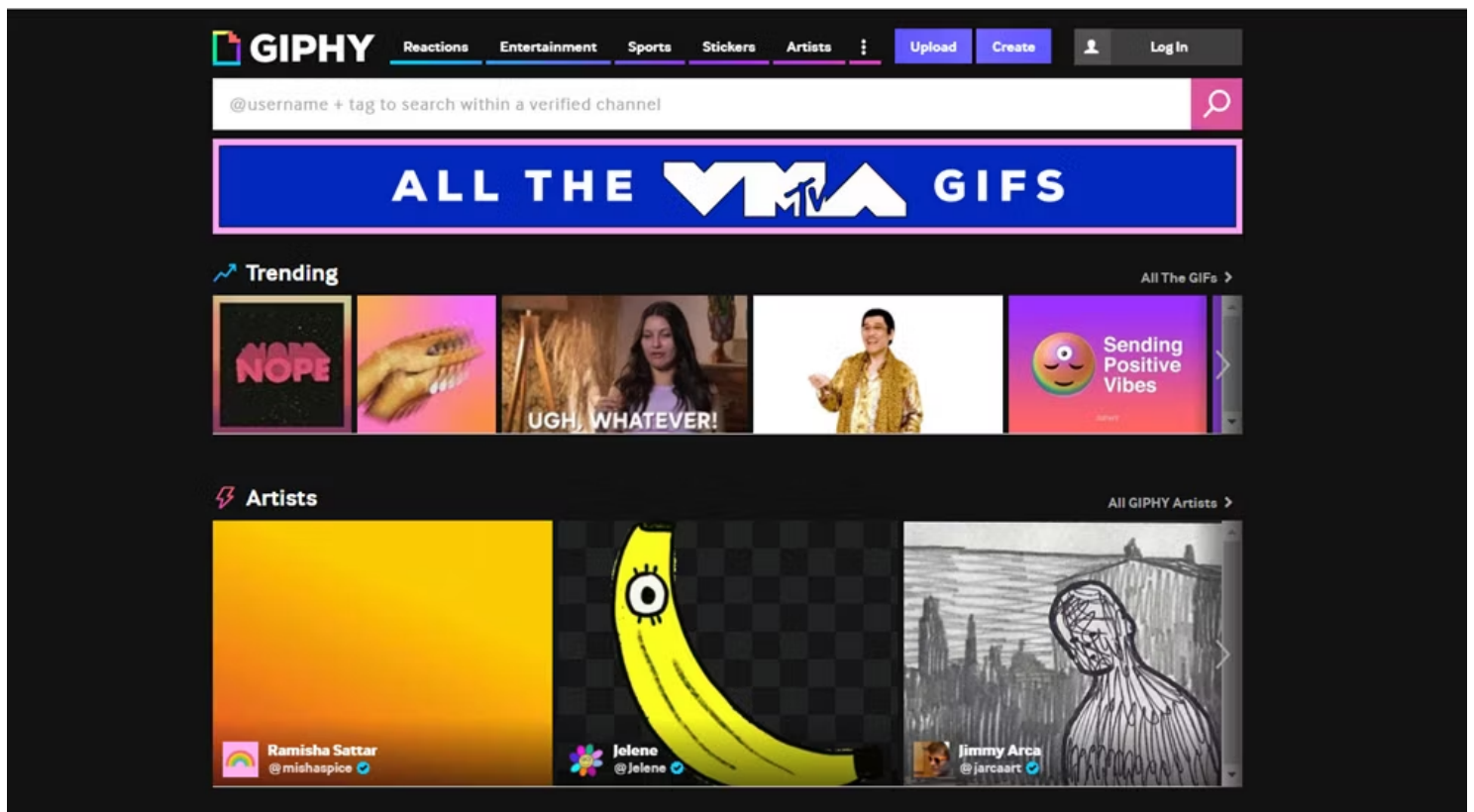
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Online streaming has already replaced cable in many households. If you're a cord-cutter, and you want to discover where your favorite shows are hosted, this site's unfiltered search results will be able to provide you with the full disclosure. It's a search engine other than Google which you can use to find out what's new on each streaming platform.

You can customize your preferences to narrow down your results by different genres, IMDb or Rotten Tomatoes ratings, prices, quality, or release year.

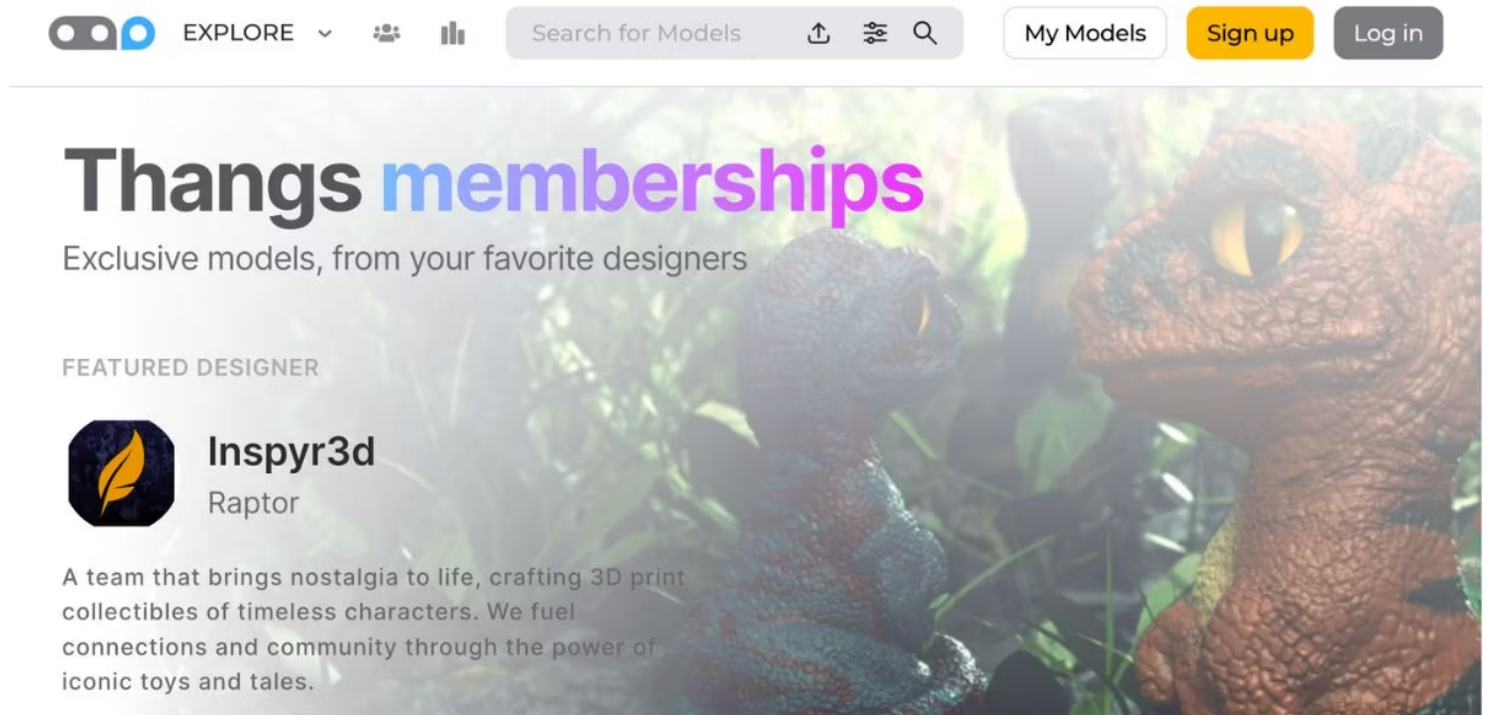
## 7. Giphy



In the future, our grandchildren will be communicating via Facebook chat using emojis and GIFs exclusively. [Link copied to clipboard](#) yourself for this animated, dystopian future with the help of Giphy, the beloved unfiltered image search of merrymakers everywhere.

Giphy really is one of those unrestricted search engines. Prepare yourself; you might stumble across some NSFW search results, not that we're complaining.

## 8. Thangs



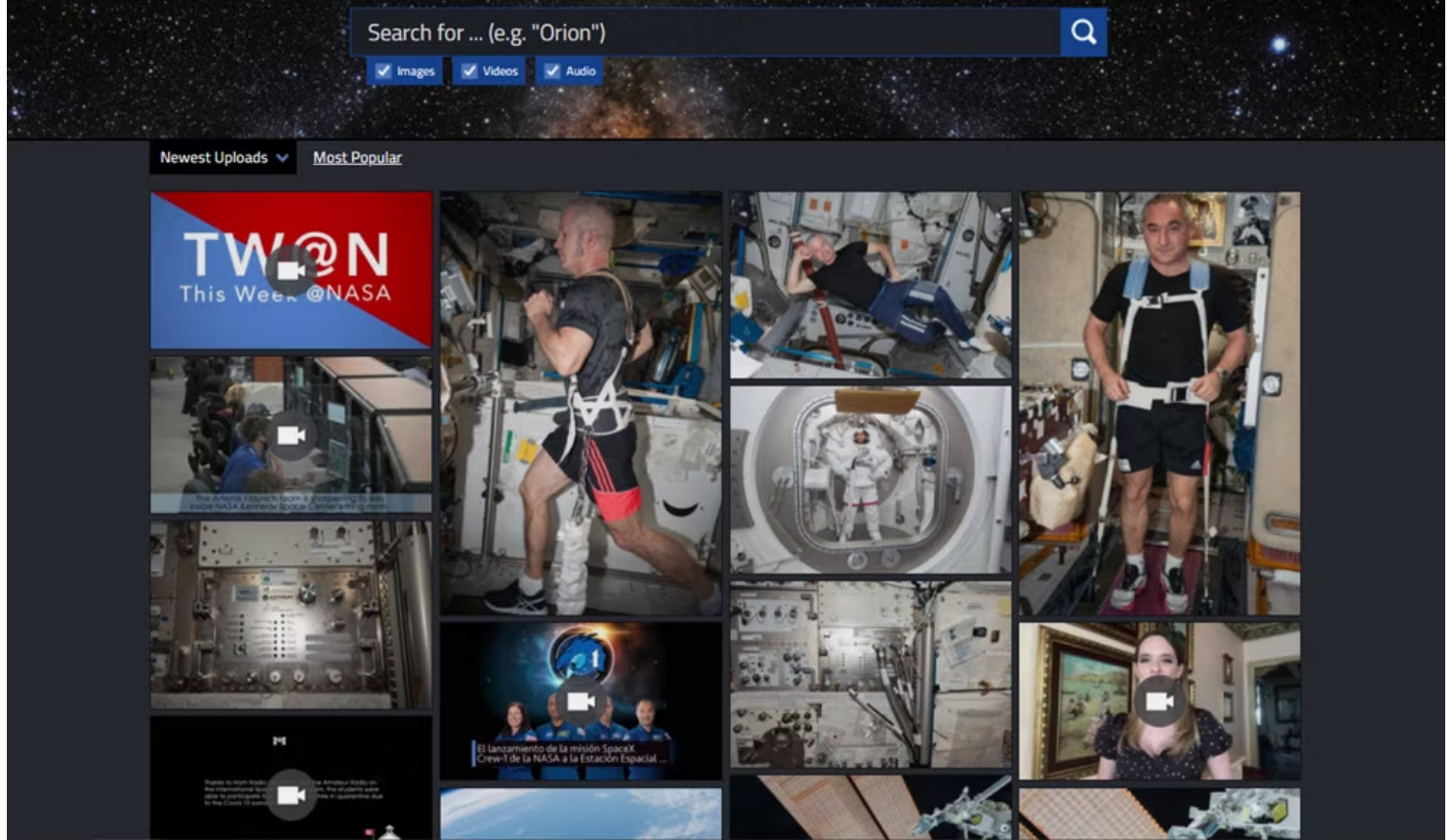
Google Search still isn't great when searching for models designed for 3D printing. Thangs steps into that niche; this site is an online community of 3D designers.

Its search engine is an offshoot of their desire to share their work with one another. From here, you can get ideas for your own [awesome 3D printing projects](#).

Thangs claims to be a "geometric search engine", powered by AI. It can recognize 3D models, see how the parts can be assembled together, and then make accurate predictions about each object's function, cost, materials, performance, compliance, and more.

## 9. NASA Images





NASA Images brings you unfiltered search results depicting some of the most iconic achievements in space exploration of our lifetimes. Search through a treasure trove of more than 140,000 NASA images, videos, and audio files from across the agency's many missions through history.

Any science lover will fall in love with this one. This is a massive amount of content to explore from more than 60 different locations, all in one searchable index.

## 10. SearchCode



# Search 75 billion lines of code from 40 million projects

Those in need of a search engine for open-source code will love SearchCode. If you need an unbiased search engine that doesn't filter results, the ones that you find here are gathered from all over the internet, covering more than ten sources and 90 languages.

Searching for code can be hard. This site helps you narrow it down to a specific source, repository, or language. Your results will be displayed with the relevant lines highlighted.

## 11. Ludwig

A screenshot of the Ludwig AI dictionary interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the word "architecture" entered. Below the search bar, there are several tabs: "DICTIONARY" (selected), "AI FEEDBACK", and "Show more...". The "DICTIONARY" tab shows the word "architecture" with a speaker icon, its part of speech "noun", and a definition: "The art and science of designing and managing the construction of buildings and other structures, particularly if they are well proportioned and decorated." Below the definition is an example sentence: "The architecture throughout NYC is amazing." To the right of the definition, there is a "synonyms" section with a button labeled "computer architecture". The "AI FEEDBACK" tab is active, showing a green checkmark and the text: "The word 'architecture' is a correctly spelled and usable word in written English." On the left side of the interface, there is a vertical sidebar with various icons, including a keyboard, a magnifying glass, a document, a folder, and a crown.

Ludwig is an interesting alternative to Google Translate. Here, you don't need to type the sentence that you want to translate. Instead, you type your best guess of the English translation that you need.

This search engine compares your approximate sentence with a database of contextualized examples taken from sources like The New York Times, PLOS ONE, BBC, and scientific publications.

Compare the list of results against your input query to learn the correct way to write it colloquially. Besides using English grammar apps to improve your language skills, utilizing Ludwig is a great way to learn the English language on the internet.

## Utilize Search Engines Besides Google

These alternative search engines aren't aiming to replace Google, but, rather, to challenge the status quo.

Think of these search engines without filters as “specialty” search tools. For web searches in general, Google still has the rest beat. For niche searches and anonymous private searches, however, search engines that don't filter results still reign supreme. But what about the search engines that have been around since before Google?

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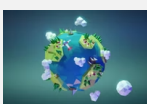
**Denise Lim** • Senior Writer For iPhone

(150 Articles Published)

Denise is a Senior Writer for MUO's iPhone section. She has been an avid user of Apple's devices for almost a decade, with her first gadget being the iPhone 6. She graduated with a double major in Marketing and Management and is currently researching and writing about films for her Master of...

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# 8 Search Engines That Rocked Before Google Even Existed

Google wasn't always the king. These nostalgic search engines paved the way and we'll never forget them.

BY DAN PRICE    UPDATED APR 22, 2021

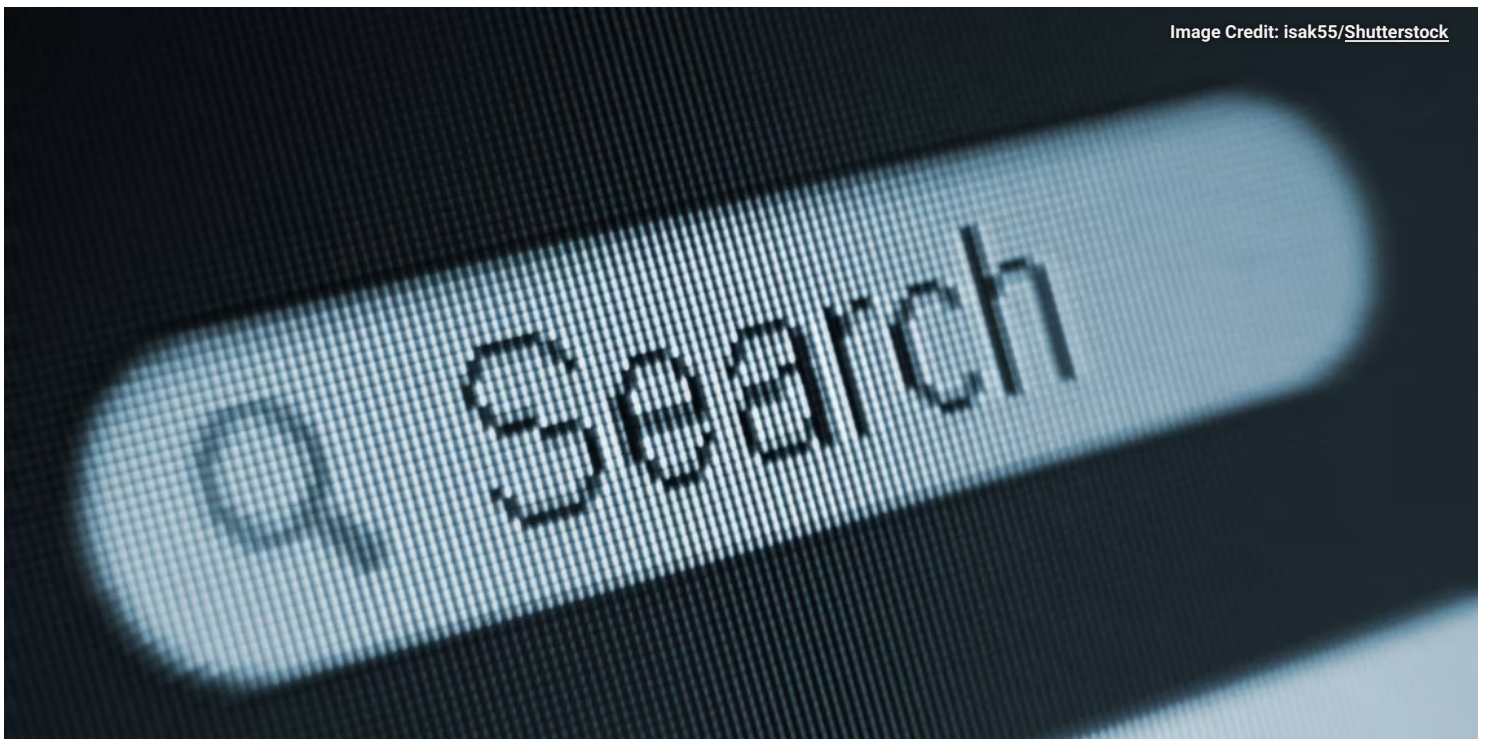


Image Credit: [isak55/Shutterstock](#)

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Though the web became publicly available in 1990, the first web search engine didn't arrive until 1993. Up until then, all websites were manually tracked and indexed by people.

And while we now recognize Google as the king of web search, Google wasn't even in the game until 1998. During that five-year gap, a number of other search engines had their chance at glory, and most of them failed. You might even remember some of them.

Here are some of the most famous search engines before Google.

## 1. **WebCrawler**

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## Today on WebCrawler

- [Woof! Dog Park Stories](#)
- [Sick of Your Job?](#)
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WebCrawler started life in January 1994. Designed by Brian Pinkerton at the University of Washington, it was originally a desktop app. It wasn't until April of the same year that the web version went live.

At launch, it had 4,000 websites in its database and it took just six months for the engine to search for its one-millionth query.

Of all still-surviving search engines, WebCrawler is the oldest search engine that is still active. Today, it aggregates results from Google and Yahoo; it abandoned its own database in 2001.

Of course, it's no longer really a viable Google alternative; there are better options out there.

## 2. Lycos

**LYCOS** [Get Online](#) - [Check Email](#) - [My Lycos](#)

[Prom Fashions at Lycos Shop!](#) [Order from chaos! Win \\$50,000](#)

Search for

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Lycos is another old-school search engine that still has a functioning site.

It was born out of Carnegie Mellon University in May 1994 when creator Michael Loren Mauldin turned his university project into a full-fledged company.

Venture capitalists were quick to see the benefits; the site went live with more than \$2 million in funding. It's a drop in the ocean when compared to the valuations of tech companies that we see today, but back then it was a phenomenal amount of cash.

Like WebCrawler, Lycos is still going strong. It owns several other nostalgic internet brands, including [Engadget](#), [MapQuest](#), and [Gamesville](#).

### 3. AltaVista



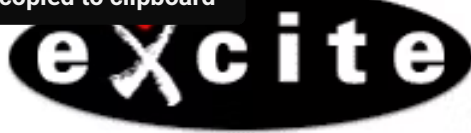
AltaVista went live in December 1995 and quickly became one of the most popular search engines in the 1990s. Its popularity was down to the search engine's design; it was the first fully searchable, full-text database on the web that had an accessible and easy-to-use interface.

On the day of its launch, the site amassed more than 300,000 visitors. Within two years, it was seeing daily traffic of 80 million.

Famed for its no-frills interface (Google might have been taking notes!), it was the 11th most visited site on the web in both 1998 and 2000. Indeed, at the turn of the millennium, 17 percent of all web users visited the site every week. In comparison, Google was at just seven percent.

In 2003, Overture bought the site for \$140 million, with Yahoo subsequently acquiring Overture later in the same year. The site finally went offline in 2013.

### 4. Excite



## Personalize your page!

Choose: [Content](#) | [Layout](#) | [Colors](#)  
 Account: [Login](#) | [New User](#) | [Email](#)  
 My Stuff: [Hide It](#)

### Today on Excite:

- [Golf with Jack Nicklaus](#)
- Poll: [School Shootings?](#)
- [Cannes Highlights](#)
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Excite is another of the oldest search engines. It was founded in 1994, with the site officially launching the following year. The creators were six students from Stanford University—Graham Spencer, Joe Kraus, Mark VanHaren, Ryan McIntyre, Ben Lutch, and Martin Reinfried.

Excite was one of the first search engines that provided more than just search. When the site went live in 1995, it also offered portals for news and weather, an email service, an instant messaging service, stock quotes, and a fully customizable homepage.

In 1996, Excite purchased WebCrawler and signed exclusive agreements with many of the largest tech companies of today, including Microsoft and Apple.

Excite was famously offered the entire Google business for just \$750,000 in 1999 after Sergey Brin and Larry Page decided it was taking up too much of their study time. The then-CEO, George Bell, decided it was too expensive and pulled the plug on the deal. Today, Google is worth \$900 billion, making Excite's decision one of the most expensive business mistakes of all time.

## 5. Yahoo



[Yahoo! Auctions](#) - 1000's of items to bid on - [Pokemon](#), [Beanie Babies](#), [video games](#), [Furbys...](#)

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Yahoo was founded in 1994 with its site going live in 1995. It is the most well-known of all the pre-Google search engines.



Despite several rocky periods, including multiple buyouts, poor visitor numbers, and questionable product decisions, it remains a search giant.

As of 2021, some of its other services include Yahoo News, Yahoo Mail, Yahoo Finance, and Yahoo Sports, all of which rack up tens of millions of views per day. Like Google, Yahoo also has a litany of failed products in its back catalog, including Yahoo Games, Yahoo Music, Yahoo Messenger, and Yahoo Directory.

According to [Alexa](#), it is still the 11th most-visited site in the world as of 2021.

## 6. Dogpile



Dogpile went live in November 1996. It has a terrible brand name, but maybe that's what made it memorable.

The creator, Aaron Flin, was frustrated with the lack of consistency in results from other providers, so set about making a metasearch engine. At launch, it pulled queries from Yahoo, Lycos, Excite, WebCrawler, Infoseek, AltaVista, HotBot, WhatUseek, and World Wide Web Worm. It also had the ability to search Usenet, making it one of the most comprehensive search tools on the web at the time. At least it helped you find something new to read.

Today, Dogpile aggregates results from Google, Yahoo, and the Russian search engine, Yandex (which is also older than Google!).

## 7. Ask Jeeves

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PERSONAL Jeeves is here!

- PERSONAL JEEVES
- ANSWER POINT
- MONEY
- TRAVEL
- HEALTH
- COMPUTERS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- HOME & FAMILY
- SHOPPING

ASK JEEVES FOR Kids!

WANT TO BUY A TOY? Jeeves can help!

Ask Jeeves™  
Ask.com

Have a Question?  
Just type it in and click Ask!

Ask!

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Ask Jeeves started in 1996 and immediately found popularity thanks to its unique question-and-answer format. The vision was to create a search engine that allowed users to get answers using natural language as well as keyword searching. While many of us now take that for granted thanks to Google, at the time, it was revolutionary.

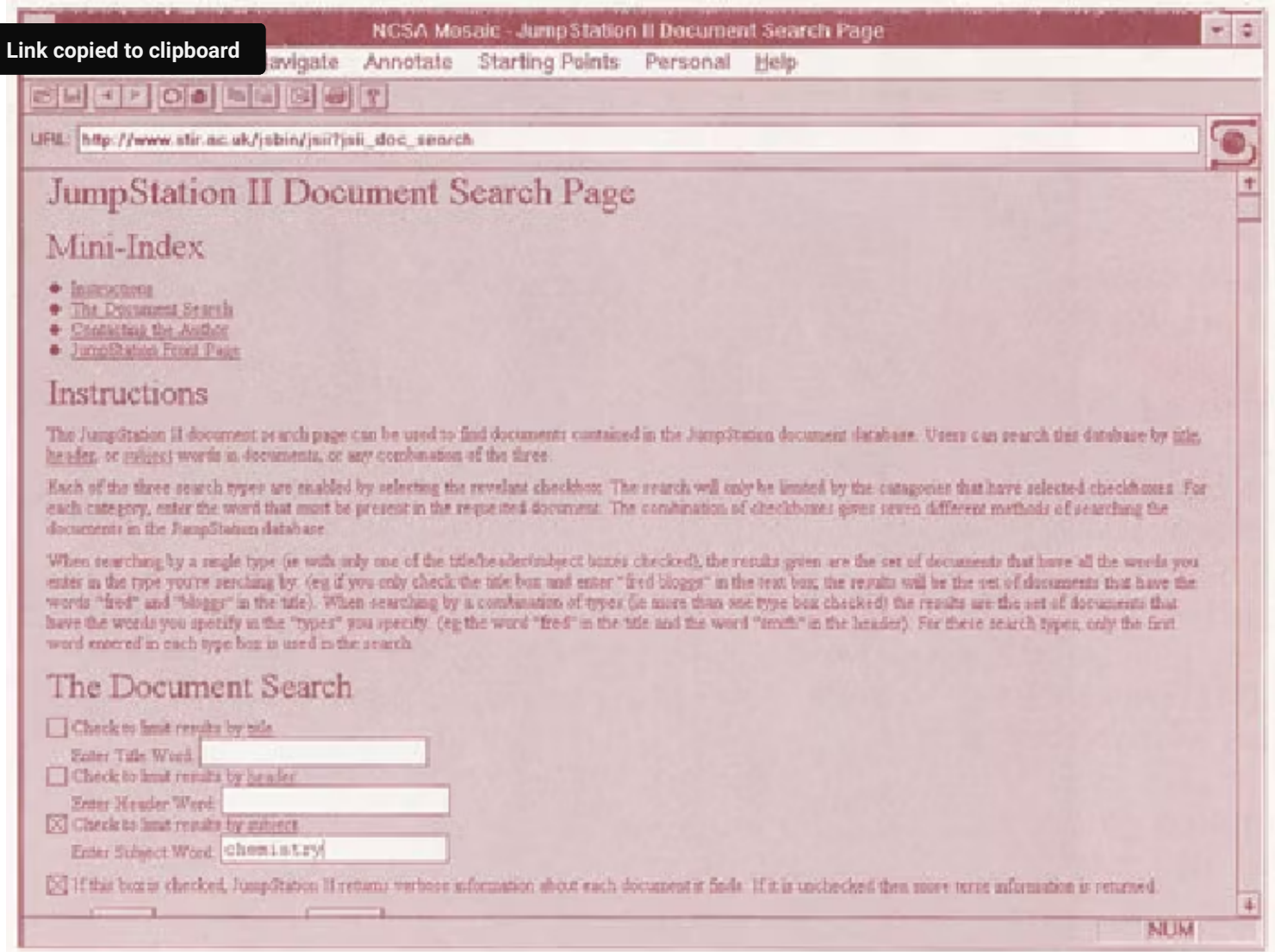
Of course, the fact that Ask Jeeves had a memorable mascot in Jeeves the Butler also helped branding. Sadly, Jeeves was eventually phased out in 2006 amid increased competition and declining fortunes.

The site rebranded to Ask.com and went back to a simple question-and-answer format, an approach it still uses to this day.

## 8. JumpStation



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Often considered to be the first "modern search engine," JumpStation went live in December 1993. Hosted at the University of Sterling in Scotland, to an end-user, it behaved and looked like you would expect a search engine to do so.

Under the hood, however, it worked a little differently. The site used document titles and headings to index web pages and did not provide any form of ranking, meaning it could be an arduous task to find the exact result that you were looking for.

## These Old Search Engines Will Always Be Remembered

The internet was much different before Google became the king of the world wide web. Although these old search engines tried to make it big, they were eventually forgotten or stamped out by Google's massive growth.

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Dan joined MakeUseOf in 2014 to use his knowledge of technology to educate and inform millions of MUO readers.

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# Goodbye Google: The 15 Best Alternatives to Search, News, Docs, and More

Do you want to switch away from Google for good? These are the best alternatives for all the major Google apps and services.

BY MIHIR PATKAR PUBLISHED MAR 20, 2018



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Had enough of Google and want to switch away from it for good? These are the best alternatives for all the major Google programs and services.

Since its debut in 1997, Google has consistently launched new apps and services that change how we use technology. Most of them are really good too, and so you end up using Google apps by default for several needs.

But all of these free services do cost something: privacy. Google is notorious for collecting and storing data on you. So if you're concerned about privacy, it's a good idea to switch from Google services to their best alternatives.

## 1. Ditch Google Search, Use **DuckDuckGo**


Duck Duck Go is all about privacy while giving you as good of a search experience as Google does. You actually won't miss Google Search if you switch, and in fact, you'll find exclusive DuckDuckGo features that Google doesn't have. The keyboard shortcuts alone are reason enough to use it.

## 2. Ditch Gmail, Use **Outlook.com**

Gmail has long been the best email service you can use, but there has been one good contender since Microsoft revamped Outlook.com.

The new Outlook.com is packed with features and accomplishes almost everything Gmail offers. In fact, its in-app features are better than what Gmail gives you, like the ability to make alias emails and how it helps you achieve inbox zero.

### 3. Ditch Google Maps, Use **Here WeGo**

 google alternatives - here we go

This is one service where Google is still far ahead of any competitors. Waze, Maps.me, Apple Maps, and other map services do the basics well but aren't as feature-filled as Google Maps. For now, the best alternative is Here WeGo. The maps are as accurate as Google's own, and live traffic information is updated as regularly too.


### 4. Ditch Google Docs, Use **Office Online**

Google's Docs, Sheets, and Slides make an excellent productivity suite, but why use those when you can get the original office suite, Microsoft Office, for free? Docs and Word are both as good, but when it comes to Excel Online, Microsoft's offering is miles ahead of Google. And there are plenty of other reasons to use Office Online, including the fact that it works with Dropbox too.

## 5. Ditch Google Drive, Use **Dropbox**

Google Drive gives you more free space than Dropbox, but don't forget, Dropbox has been doing this for a lot longer than Google does. Plus, it's a company with only one job: cloud storage. That's a little more reassuring than someone like Google or Microsoft, who have diverse interests.

## 6. Ditch Google Alerts, Use **Talkwalker Alerts** or **Mention**

 google alternatives - talkwalker alerts and mention

Google Alerts is excellent to track any word popping up on a new page on the internet, especially in news. There are two excellent alternatives for this. Talkwalker Alerts is a free service that mimics Google Alerts, and even offers an RSS feed. But if you don't mind paying, Mention is better at monitoring news as well as social media. In fact, it's better than Google Alerts.

## 7. Ditch Google News, Use **Yahoo News**



Google News doesn't make news of its own, but aggregates articles from various publications. Ideally, you should switch to a proper news organization to read news that is censorship-free. But if you want a similar experience as Google News, then Yahoo News is the oldest and best alternative news aggregator, while also adding its original articles into the mix.

## 8. Ditch Google Calendar, Use **Fruux**

If Microsoft hadn't bought and shut down Sunrise, that would be the best calendar around today. But now that it's gone, Fruux is the perfect Google Calendar alternative. It's cross-platform, works mostly like GCal does, and integrates with other sites and apps too. This actually lets you use a single calendar for events from Outlook, Gmail, Facebook, and other services. Not bad, eh?

## 9. Ditch Google Translate, Use **Microsoft Translator**


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I never thought I'd see a day where some app is better than Google Translate, but you need to check out Microsoft Translator to believe how good it is. This is one app which you should switch to right now, whether you hate Google or not. And hey, it works really well as an add-on for Microsoft Edge too.

## 10. Ditch Google Chrome, Use **Opera**

If you're still using Google Chrome, you need a reality check. Forget about alternatives like Edge and Firefox, **they aren't worth it**. You should make the switch to Opera. It's pretty much like using Chrome, but better, since it comes with several useful built-in features like VPN and battery-saving mode. Plus you can install Chrome extensions on Opera, so you won't miss out on your favorite add-ons. I switched and I'm never going back.

## 11. Ditch Google Domains, Use **Flame Domain**

 google alternatives - flame domain

Google Domains lets you buy and register domains, manage them, add email, and even turn them into short URLs. But you don't necessarily need Google Domains to do all that. There are plenty of sites which let you do all this, but try out Flame Domain for an interface and experience similar to Google's. Plus, it works really well with Google Apps.

## 12. Ditch Google Sites, Use **Weebly**

You don't need to be a web developer to make your own page with Google Sites. But there are other (and better) website creators for non-coders, like Weebly. Just check out some of these awesome Weebly web pages to see the possibilities with this free website creator.

## 13. Ditch FeedBurner, Use **FeedBlitz**

Since Google bought FeedBurner, the RSS creator for sites, webmasters have been looking for good

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should be your first stop. It gives you everything FeedBurner does, including automated newsletters and statistics. It's not free, but you will pay only as much as you use. The pricing is sensible in that it increases only as your subscriber base increases. And importantly, you aren't charged extra for features like mailings, funnels, and lists. If you absolutely don't want to pay, then check out these free FeedBurner alternatives.

## 14. Ditch Google Groups, Use **Facebook Groups** or **Mobilize**

<https://www.anrdoezrs.net/links/7251228/type/dlg/sid/UUmuoUeUpU27143/https://vimeo.com/249240129>

Google Groups let you create private discussion groups. It's the same concept as Facebook Groups or Mobilize, but both these alternatives give you many more features. You will get instant messaging, analytics, event management, and other such abilities that are essential to managing a large group. Unfortunately, to use Google Groups, Facebook Groups, or Mobilize, you need to register for an account on their respective sites. Sigh...

## 15. Ditch Google Photos, Use **Amazon Prime Photos**

 best alternatives to google apps and services

The new Google Photos is the best photo management app around. Nothing else matches up, but the only one to come close for a regular user is Amazon Prime Photos, which offers similar unlimited photo storage



and sharing. All you need is an Amazon Prime account, so it's not technically free. But hey, why would you want anyway?


## Are You Scared of Google?

It's convenient to use Google for all your needs, but don't forget, this is a corporation. How much do you really trust it with your data and private information? It's advisable to diversify your needs across several apps than under one brand.

Are you scared of what Google would do with your data, or do you trust Google to do the right thing?

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**Mihir Patkar**

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Mihir Patkar has been writing on technology and productivity for over 14 years at some of the top media publications across the world. He has an academic background in journalism.

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