



All Things Google.

Most of us just think of searches when we hear the word Google but in reality it is a massive company with a large variety of offerings (most of them free) and many of them are truly on the cutting edge of technology.

What do they offer? For an overview of what's available you can visit [Google's Product Page](#). From there you can see that Google has several specialized searches as well as [office software \(Google Docs\)](#) and [Drive](#) for online storage for documents, pictures and music. [Google Chrome](#) is one of the best web browsers available. They offer an [online calendar](#) to keep track of your appointments and [Google Contacts](#) to keep track of friends, relatives, and acquaintances as part of [Gmail which is the most widely used free online email](#). They operate the [biggest video website on the internet – YouTube](#). They've even developed a couple of different operating systems, one for phones called [Android](#) and the other, called [Chrome, to compete with Windows](#). They offer us [Maps and Google Earth](#), [Picasa to organize and manage our photos](#), and even [help us shop](#). [Google Voice](#) can [provide you with phone service](#) or help you manage your phone. There is a [social network called Google+](#) that competes with Facebook and includes video conferencing, called "[Hangouts](#)" and is even available for your smart-phone. I've used [Google Translate](#) on a website of mine when I wanted to [offer it in Spanish](#). Looking to break with iTunes? Well there's [Google Play Music](#). It's cloud-based and there's room for up to 20,000 music files for free. It's also capable of uploading direct from iTunes and Google Play Music is available for your Android phone.

How do I start? That list of services looks extensive so I suppose I will need to set up many accounts. Not true! If you already have Gmail then you have a Google account and that's all you'll need. [If you don't already have an account just get one](#). They're free.

Google hardware. Google provides the Android operating system to smart-phone manufacturers. In conjunction with Asus they produce the [Nexus tablet computers](#) and along with HP, Acer, and Samsung, they produce the [ChromeBooks to compete with conventional laptop computers](#), and the [Chromecast device to make your TV a smart TV](#) that can surf the Internet.

What's in the future for Google? The company is developing [high-tech glasses so you can be on the internet at all times](#), [a car that drives itself](#), [low cost, high speed internet access for much of the third world](#), and [contact lenses that monitor blood-sugar levels for diabetics](#).

Additional Resources:

1. [Google's channel on YouTube.](#)
2. [Google Product Website.](#)
3. [Google Manuals and Cheatsheets on MakeUseOf](#) (*download password = "makeuseof"*).

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